

Energy for Poverty Alleviation in Sahel

Intelligent Energy Project

Project Newsletter , 01/A, Lisbon, , June 2005



Introduction

This is the first edition of a newsletter about the EC funded project IE4Sahel- Energy and poverty alleviation in the Sahel Region.

The newsletter is intended to be one of the means to reach all of the relevant stakeholders in the region dealing with energy and poverty issues. The scope is to ease the exchange and dissemination of scientific and policy information about energy regulation and poverty alleviation in the Sahelian Countries. Also, the newsletter aims to disseminate the results of the project "Energy for Poverty Alleviation in the Sahel", financed by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Program, and promote a network, both inside and outside the African continent, raising awareness on the cooperation efforts of the EC in this field and region.

The project background

The EC funded project is part of present international efforts that join forces with local partners to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Although access to energy is not a specific MDG it is widely recognised as playing a central role in achieving MDG 1 (eradicating extreme poverty) and MDG 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), as well as being a central issue in the Johannesburg Partnership for Sustainable Development. Based on the experience of previous projects in the region, this activity is focused not only on field and research activities (including development of a series of formal round table sessions and workshops with local players), but also to enhance the capacity of an existing local reference centre, Aghrymet, and extend its activities in the field of energy policies and poverty alleviation.. The project team intends to reinforce the co-operation between international communities and local stakeholders, and also to build the foundations for a long lasting sustainable impact, enhancing the expertise of an already notable reference centre in the Sahel and facilitating the exchange of policy and scientific information on the links between energy and poverty in the region.

Target Countries

The Countries involved are the nine members of CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter Etats de Lutte Contre La Secheressé Au Sahel (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control) Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad.



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Project Description

The IE4 Sahel project has one key objective, which is the development of a local reference centre with the capacity to deal with issues of energy policy regulation, as one of the means to tackle poverty alleviation in the Sahel Region.

This involves the circulation of information, the availability of advanced analysis tools, and the presence of a well-rooted training and research centre in the region as essential prerequisites to the formulation of effective policies aimed to tackle poverty.

Poverty is a multidisciplinary problem and access to energy is a part of it. Without energy there is limited development and limited possibility to escape from the poverty trap.

In this sense, the goal of this project is to contribute to poverty alleviation for a wide variety of energy users through the development and dissemination of appropriate and sustainable energy policies at a regional and national level in the Sahel region. It is understood that much progress has been made in the development of efficient and renewable technologies that can contribute to the sustainable energy policy worldwide.

Such technologies can lead to improved livelihoods in developing countries through reduced impact on the local environment, access to higher quality energy sources, security of supply, improving balance of payments and by encouraging productive uses of energy.

Efficient and effective energy policies and regulations can be a powerful tool in poverty alleviation, by providing support and the necessary institu-

tional frameworks for creating sustainable energy systems and increasing the penetration of renewable energy technologies and efficient energy-use techniques.

Among the various options to achieve these goals, the creation of a dedicated workforce within an existing local reference centre has been identified as having the greatest potential for sustained long term impact to contribute towards existing policy development activities in the respective countries.

This work will be carried out at a regional and local level, with a particular emphasis on networking and sharing of best practice.

The reference centre chosen in the Sahel region is ARC – AGRHYMET Regional Centre, established 30-years ago and already has a strong presence in the search for appropriate technologies and a suitable structures to embrace the task.

The ARC was established by a Sahelian Regional Organisation, the CILSS – Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in Sahel and is made up of representatives of the nine Members States of the CILSS, which are Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad. The ARC, since its creation, is already committed to the regional policies dealing with sustainable development, mainly rural development, agricultural research and protection.

The present project intends to provide the institution with the capabilities to also address energy issues related to poverty eradication in the Sahel region and to play an important role in supporting Sahelian policy makers in identifying new approaches to address the issue of poverty alleviation

The IE4Sahel project is both a **research and a cooperation project**. The research part is aimed to achieve the following results:

1. Inventory of energy stakeholders and key actors
2. Assessment of current energy policies and regulations
3. Assessment of the potential energy sources
4. Creating a handbook containing the appropriate framework for the development of sustainable energy systems in the Sahelian Countries.

The cooperation part will be focused on three main issues:

1. Strengthening the capacity of the AGRHYMET Centre to deal with energy issues
2. Facilitating the communication of scientific and policy information between interested stakeholders in the region, and disseminate the scientific results of the project
3. Catalyse the European Commission cooperation efforts in the field of energy and poverty in the Sahel.

through a new energy policy and regulation framework. The ARC will work close with IST (Portugal), ESD (United Kingdom) and CRES (Greece), which are experienced organisations in a wide range of sustainable energy and development issues.

In close co-operation with the relevant Governments, this project will assist in the identification and support the implementation of positive energy policy measures that can contribute to poverty alleviation aspects in all Sahelian countries. The project will focus particularly on:

- Analysis of legal and institutional framework involved in energy policy;
- Development of energy policy tools;
- Dialogues and consultations with policy makers and other key stakeholders in the area of energy and environment;
- Training and dissemination activities.

These activities will be developed to strengthen the capacity of the countries of the Sahel region in energy policy and regulations, in order to assist local, national and regional energy policy makers and regulators in the Sahel. Since ARC has already established links with many key players in its current areas of intervention, in all CILSS Member States, the project will take advantage of this network to gather the appropriate information and data and to address sustainable energy issues in the region.

Meeting the goals of the project requires well oriented reference material and also well trained personnel to correctly address local concerns. Therefore, the main activities are focused on preparing material specifically oriented to the Sahel Region and development of local expertise. To fully perform those tasks, it is necessary to first perform a field survey and consultation of local stakeholders in order to establish the main points to be addressed and prepare the guidelines in the production of the reference material, a Handbook of tools in energy policy and regulation and, later, to provide the structure and conditions to pass it to the

Dissemination activities

The project emphasises the importance of sharing and disseminate information. This will happen in several ways

1. Newsletter (this is the first issue) both in electronic and in paper format, would reach all the interested stakeholders. The newsletter will be both in English and French.
2. A project website, with documents, news, publication on the related subjects
<http://ie4sahel.energyprojects.net>
3. Two round table workshops/ conferences, to be held in Niamey - Niger, the first in April 2006 (mid project), and the second in the first months of 2007
4. A mailing list connecting all the interested stakeholders

The dissemination tools are intended not only for the scientific and policy deliverables of the project but they can host also scientific articles, abstract, news, policy papers related to the subjects and produced by individual and institutions willing to widely disseminate their work.

local stakeholders in training and dissemination activities.

As part of the results, it is expected that the project will produce a structured regional network, focused on policy and regulation towards poverty alleviation, reference material and will enhance the ARC capacities for the appropriation of the project products in order to pursue with the activity after the project completion. Thus, the IE4Sahel activities will contribute to strengthening ARC capacities beyond its current field of expertise, which is mainly focused on food security and resource management in the Sahelian countries, to a further level tackling also issues of energy policy and regulation.

Project Schedule

The project is scheduled to be developed until mid-2007, with the realisation of two main Workshops, from where the project team already ask for interested parties to mark in your agenda.

1st Workshop - Between March & April 2006 – Niger

2nd Workshop - March 2007 - Niger

Besides these two Workshops the project is also committed to involved institutions to build a permanent network between the professionals

The Project Team

Istituto Superior Tecnico RGESD - IST Portugal	ESD - Energy for Sustainable Development ltd UK	CRES - Center for Renewable Energy Sources. Greece	ARC - AGHRYMET Center Niger
Long experienced research team in the field of energy planning and renewable energy systems.	Consultant firm with experience in energy policy and regulation.	The Greek national centre for Renewable Energy Sources, Rational Use of Energy and Energy Saving.	Specialised institution committed with the food security and to help the management of natural resources in the CILSS region..

How to contact the Project Team

to have up to date information on the project visit our website - <http://ie4sahel.energyprojects.net>
to contact the staff, receive the newsletter, contribute with papers or for informations and comments
ie4sahel@energyprojects.net

Or use the following form

Family Name.....First Name.....
Profession.....Company-Institute.....
Postal address.....Postal code.....City.....Country.....
Phone Fax.....E-mail.....

☐ I am interested in the IE4 Sahel project. Send me an invitation for public meetings about IE4 Sahel.

☐ Please add only my name to the mailing list and send me more information about IE4 Sahel

Send to ARC – AGRHYMET Regional Centre P.O.Box 11011 - Niamey – Niger Fax: + 227 73 29 78 or to
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