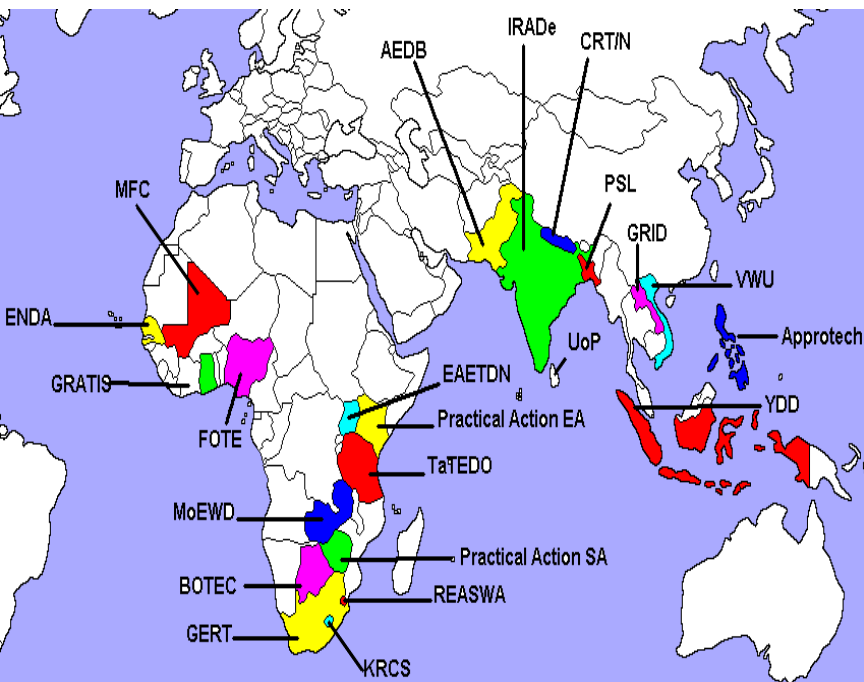




ENERGIA is the international network on gender and sustainable energy.

A direct presence in 22 countries in Asia & Africa



We contend that projects, programmes and policies that explicitly address gender and energy issues will result in better outcomes, for women and men.



About TIDE

Facilitates sustainable development in communities through technology intervention

Annual saving of about 45,000 tons of CO₂ by communities and small businesses through biomass based energy efficient interventions.

About 46 women earning livelihoods through micro entrepreneurship with RE

- **‘Gender in energy is not only a women’s issue, it is a development issue**





What is Gender Mainstreaming?



The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action,

...in any area and at all levels

Strategy for making women's and men's concerns an integral dimension of the design, implementation, M&E

..... of projects, & programmes In all spheres

so that women and men benefit equally.

This would ultimately result in higher acceptance of RE by women



Why Gender in Energy...

- ✓ Men and women have different energy usage and needs
- ✓ Acting against socially accepted gender roles can be a challenge!
- ✓ Interventions in energy technology have different effects on men and women
- ✓ Well-intentioned energy projects may even increase women's drudgery without meaning to do so.
- ✓ Women are an important target group in developing countries & projects may have failed in the past because of lack of participation of women,
- ✓ A gender approach can help reduce poverty and help support livelihoods



Addressing Gender Concerns through Renewable energy



a) Provide basic services

- Frees woman's time from domestic tasks
- Home lighting permits leisure, education, communication
- Enables access to educational media in schools
- Mitigates the impacts of indoor air pollution on women
- Allows access to better medical facilities for maternal care

b) Increase productivity and comfort at work

- Permits income generation activities
- Opens up new entrepreneurial opportunities
- Improves energy efficiency of micro-enterprises, increases productivity, profitability and quality of work & output
- Provides better and safer working environments

c) Empower women

- Increases disposable income
- Has multiplier effect on families
- Enables social transformation



RE penetration: Women stove builders of TIDE



- Launched in 2002 as a market based approach involving only women after closure of the NPIC of Gol.
- Conceived as a combination of awareness creation, soft skills, technical training in stove construction and micro enterprise training
- Forest department, Govt. of Karnataka, adopts the programme but exclusively with women stove builders; supports TIDE for training
- TIDE recommends the mainstreaming approach by also training men also but Govt. prefers a women only approach





Women stove builders

- Women stove builders construct 20,000 smokeless stoves in Karnataka, India
- A third party survey shows that more than 80% of the stoves are working, significantly higher than stoves constructed by men
- A woman stove builder wins the women exemplar award of CII





Impact on women

Women initiated by TIDE into RE linked enterprises

- Are self reliant
- Invest in the education of their children and children of other family members
- Are eating better and so are physically stronger; do more work than most women
- Are role models; motivate other women
- They are good communicators and manage media and PR well





What worked

The communication strategy - motivating women into RE linked entrepreneurship

Mid course correction process when working with women is well understood. This leads to higher %age of women in RE

Successful women entrepreneurs learn to manage their success. Families learn to accept successful women

What did not work

Complete livelihood migration to stove building not possible. Women try to combine stove building with agri labour . This is unsuccessful & creates conflicts

Social handicaps and pressures associated with marketing inhibit women from profitably engaging in sales

Men ignored in the women only stove building approach of govt. with some repercussions on women



Barriers and Constraints

- ✓ **Practical and social constraints in involving women in energy planning**
 - Lack of ownership and control over productive resources
 - Restrictions on decision-making
 - Education and information barriers
 - Informal nature of women's enterprises

- ✓ **Traditional institutional set up in energy institutions**
 - Lack of women in energy profession
 - Existing institutional mechanisms not women friendly
 - Gender concerns : 'Add and stir' approach

- ✓ **Gaps in knowledge base on the subject**



Limited experience with gender sensitive RET programmes



- Special technology-driven programmes related to cooking
- Most renewable energy programmes not moved beyond pilots
- Gender impacts of other energy interventions neither recognized nor monitored
- Focus on strictly quantifiable data, M&E not designed to measure socio-economic and gender related impacts
- Insufficient tools and capacities within existing energy institutions
- Centralized nature of current monitoring and evaluation procedures



Policy Lessons



Gender sensitive energy interventions are all about processes.

Policy must address **women's basic energy needs** for labour and time-saving, improved health and income

There is a need to offer a **bundle of services** to (a) enable women to access improved energy, (b) enhance their entrepreneurial and technical skills, and (c) self-confidence.

Specific **gender strategy** in energy projects: mainstream gender concerns throughout the project cycle



Policy Lessons

Capacity building for practitioners to integrate gender concerns

- **Developing skills** in employing gender sensitive tools, especially gender sensitive M&
- **Sharing information** on successful instances of involving women in energy project
- Realistic expectations from renewables in meeting women's productive energy needs