

## Concept Note

### **Advancing renewables-based clean cooking solutions: Solutions deep dive on biodigesters**

**Date: 19 April 2023, Time: 1-3 pm CEST**

#### Background

The Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) targets on achieving universal access to clean cooking fuels and technologies remains elusive. The latest 2022 SDG 7 Tracking Report finds that over the past decade, access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking rose by only 12 percentage points globally, and under business-as-usual, a quarter of the world's people will still lack access in 2030. The present levels of investments in deploying clean cooking solutions are extremely inadequate resulting in a net growth in the number of people living without access in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa. Delayed action poses a significant social, economic and environmental cost borne disproportionately by women and children.

Over the next decades, as outlined in IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook, the world will need to accelerate its shift to renewable cooking solutions aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. This will involve both cleaner bioenergy solutions (including biogas and bioethanol) and renewables-based electric cooking.

Biogas-based options represent an important part of the solution, particularly in rural areas where there is often an abundance of organic waste. IRENA statistics find that nearly 125 million people globally, used biogas for cooking: the majority of them in Asia, with Africa registering the strongest growth in recent years. In fact, several African countries have implemented market-oriented biodigester programmes leading to growing adoption. Regional initiatives have also emerged, including the Alliance for the Biodigester in West and Central Africa, to strengthen cooperation and to support to build an enabling ecosystem for the scale-up of household and institutional biodigester solutions. However, there is a huge further potential.

Important co-benefits of biogas-based solutions include improved environmental outcomes through waste management; mitigated emissions and deforestation; enhanced agricultural and economic outcomes, through the use of bio-slurry/bio-compost and associated food security/livelihood implications. Resilience benefits are also becoming evident, particularly in the light of price and supply shocks that other fuels and agricultural inputs have been susceptible to, in recent years.

This webinar will take stock of the current progress in the adoption of biodigester solutions and facilitate in-depth dialogue on such solutions scaled-up, as part of a holistic strategy to accelerate clean cooking access and advance rural development. It is the second in a series of [virtual knowledge exchange webinars](#) being organized by IRENA in partnership with leading institutions covering different renewables-based clean cooking solutions, including bioethanol, biodigesters, electric cooking and solid modern biomass.

## Proposed agenda

### 13.00 – 13.10 **Opening remarks**

Ute Collier, Deputy Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA  
Saroj Rai, Global Technical Advisor – Biodigester Market Development, SNV

### 13.10 – 14.00 **Regional and national programmes: Is the ambition set right and what are we learning?**

Scene-setting presentation by moderator (7-8 minutes)

Saroj Rai, Global Technical Advisor – Biodigester Market Development, SNV

Panelists:

Esther Altorfer, Chief Strategy Officer, Sistema.bio  
Jean-Marc Sika, Senior Programme Manager, Hivos  
S. R. Meena, Senior Scientist, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India  
Kevin Kinyangi, Managing Director, African Bioenergy Programme Ltd

Audience Q&A

### 14.00 – 14.50 **Structuring financing for biodigester market development: What is missing?**

Moderator: Alexander Haack, Head of Programme, EnDev (tbc)

Panelists:

Anshuman Lath, Co-Founder, Gram Oorja  
Zijun Li, Carbon Finance Specialist, World Bank  
Steven von Eije, Coordinator, African Biodigester Component, Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) (tbc)  
Rebekka Angelyn, South-South Biogas Community/Executive Director, Yayasan Rumah Energy

Audience Q&A

### 14.50 – 15.00 Reflections/Closing remarks