

Sustainable Efficient Energy Solutions for Agrifood System



Date: 13/February/2023

Venue: State Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Maiduguri

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Background

Access to clean energy plays an important role in ensuring food security. Increasing productivity and the modernization of agricultural production systems are the primary drivers of food security. The overdependence on dirty energy has become a cause for concern globally because of its link with the emission of CO₂ which is the one of the causes of climate change. In BAY states, where more than 1.8 million people remained internally displaced, and more than 1.98 million people reported to have recently returned to their areas of origin. Access to fuel and energy is very constrained; the fuel-wood extraction is causing a serious climate threat of deforestation and land degradation. The lack of access to fuel energy is resulting in the underutilization of food and nutritional issues. Similarly, households who have access to irrigation facilities in areas with irrigation potential that practice dry season farming also utilize irrigation pumps and drilling of tube wells that use diesel to facilitate and diversify nutritious food, these activities contribute to CO₂ emission and consequently climate change.

Therefore, to mitigate these problems and reduce the acceleration of climate change, it has been good to adopt renewable energy technologies and hybrid systems energy services, Which neatly support cooking with solar cookers and the food production process, by displaying and making accessible irrigation (pumps) , post-harvest treatment (cooling) or processing (drying, milling, pressing).

In view of the above, the Food security Sector through the SAFE WG organized an exhibition which is aimed at displaying to partners and beneficiaries SAFE products and creating networks. It was also an opportunity for a large number of buyers and sellers to come together to open up competition. Which is good for the market linkage. Moreover, it was also a fact findings mission, the exhibitions offered the opportunity for partners/beneficiaries to present and shared their products.

Purpose of the exhibition

The purpose of this exhibition was to showcase various and alternative SAFE items with their respective usage, in efficiently providing energy for various purposes including lighting, cooking, and agricultural production among others. FSS Partners that have been active in the SAFE WG coordination in areas of clean energy utilization on agro-food production and cooking in a humanitarian setting displayed to partners and beneficiaries SAFE products, creating networks among the large number of buyers and sellers coming together. In addition it opened up the competition of goods for the market.

Exhibition Objectives

The exhibition provided an opportunity for government, UN agencies, INGO's and NGO's implementing SAFE activities or participating in the SAFE WG:

1. It explored and utilized for agricultural, safe access to efficient cooking stoves by partners and beneficiaries from the displayed products. Cooking fuel, briquetting of agricultural and organic waste and solar.
2. It created networks - it was an opportunity for a large number of buyers and sellers to come together for the purpose of buying and selling thereby establishing relationships for access to the products.
3. It opened up competition among the SAFE products producers which was good for the market and ensure quality products and value for money.
4. It created fact findings mission, and exhibitions offer you the opportunity to go on fact-finding missions, inquiries, etc.

Exhibition:

The Exhibition /program commenced at 9:00 am with registrations of participants. The permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture gave the welcome speech and declared the exhibition opened and wished everyone a fruitful exhibition.

An overview of Food Security & SAFE was given by the FSS lead – highlighting the role of the food security sector, the activities done, and the importance of safe access to energy and fuel. The SAFE specialist gave a brief on SAFE and its importance in being efficient and costing less amount.

The goodwill message was given by partners present which includes the government ministries, UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs. Then the remarks were given by the by Honorable commissioner for environment who also wished for a fruitful exhibition. The exhibitors' presenters were Green Code, Faaby Briquettes, GEPaDC, Xpedient Global, ICEED/FAO, and AISVIP. They presented their SAFE products to the participants and made demonstrations with regard to the usage, product guidance, limitations, and prices among other things.

Generally, Participants were delighted to be part of the event. They expressed their happiness through a comment by saying that “the event is a first of its' kind”, and “it will further strengthen the collaboration among partners and government”. Above all, some participants also negotiate and purchased the fuel-efficient cooking stove on the site.



Picture 1: Safe cooking stoves and Briquettes



Pictures 2: Exhibitors' present which includes Green Code, Faaby Briquettes, GEPaDC, Xpedient Global, ICEED/FAO, and AISVIP.



Pictures 3: Cross Section of participants at the Exhibition.

Key recommendations

Above all positive responses from the participants, the following points were raised as a recommendation:

1. The permanent secretary of the ministry of Environment emphasized the need for close collaboration with the FSS, SAFE WG, and the ministry. Especially in the area of SAFE. The Permanent secretary also suggested the ministry to the leading actors in such a program not restricting as a participant only.
2. It was also recommended to have a similar event annually. So that new ideas and solutions can be showcased, which will positively affect the local population and reduce global warming.

Conclusion

The FSS will continue to advocate for SAFE, which is a major mechanism to promote climate resilience solutions. FSS in collaboration with our partners will ensure beneficiaries are reached with the most appropriate solutions even in emergencies. Moreover, based on the permanent secretary's suggestion, discussions for partnership with the ministries commenced to bring on board the ministry to as a chair/ Co-chairing places for the SAFE working group task forces.

Attendance

The total number of attendance at the exhibition reached 243 individuals from 47 partner organizations (government offices, the exhibitors and UN agencies, ICRC, INGOs, and NNGOs.

Table 1: Exhibitors' attendance by gender disaggregation

Type	Number of Men	Number of Women	Total
Government offices	57	45	102
UN agencies	15	6	21
ICRC	1	-	1
INGOs	28	16	44
NNGOs	37	21	58
Exhibitors	9	8	17
Total	96	147	243

Table 2: Exhibition attendance by organization

Government/UN/Donors /Others	INGOs	NNGOs	Observers/ Exhibitors
FAO	AAH	CDHI	ICRC
Ministry of Environment	CRS	APADE	Faaby Briquettes
Ministry of Agriculture	CARITAS	AUN	Green Code
WHO	DRC	CRUDAN	Xpedient Global
IOM	ITERSOS	Green Code	ICEED/FAO
INGO Forum	Mercy Corps	SALIENT	AISVIP
OCHA	Christian Aid	Care for Future Foundation	GEPaD
	Plan International	Thlama Peace Foundation	
	SHI	Pride Initiative	
	NRC	Initiative for Resilience and self-reliance	
	FHI 360	T Action	
	Inter-Action	ABISO	
	ZOA	GHO Africa	
		NASC	
		JNI	
		Rescue Mission	
		BABDI	
		FOURCI	
		DCR Ambassadors	
		GWMN	



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