

Promotion of SK14 Solar Cookers through an Eco Center. Case Study of a Unique North-South Co-operation

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1. Abstract :

A project was initiated between School children of Austria and Eco Center ICNEER to make the solar cookers available to those who can not afford them.

The unique feature of the program was that it was joint effort with participants of many folds joining starting with Eco Center ICNEER, their Indian partner NGO Barli of Indore to NEDCAP of AP from North and School Students of Austria, NGOs Intersol and PLage and School teachers of the schools etc

It is a case study of North South co-op and model for replication by adopting to local conditions

2. Introduction:

Eco Center ICNEER is abbreviation for International Center for Networking, Ecology, Education and Re-integration. It is an NGO set up to promote sustainable development which takes both ecology and economy into consideration. It provides a platform for North-South and South-South dialogue.

At ICNEER, we address several target groups ranging from children to youth to adults of various professions including housewives and farmers as well as Government Organizations and Non Government Organizations from rural and urban areas as well as overseas.

Besides creating awareness on conservation of natural resources and sustainable organic agriculture we have also prepared posters and teaching material on Renewable Energies especially solar cooking.

3. Background

During one of our overseas lectures, organized by INETRSOL and PLAGE, the Austrian NGO's, while we were addressing school children in Salzburg, a question was raised about the acceptance and how widespread is the use of domestic parabolic solar cookers. On learning of their limited usage due to its non-affordability, the children decided to help.

4. Project North –South Co-operation with School Children through the NGOs Intersol and PLAGE of Austria



Under the guidance of equally enthusiastic school teachers, the children raised funds to purchase K14 solar cookers. Subsequently the school children prepared solar baked cakes, bread, biscuits and soups and sold them on “Market days” in Salzburg and thus collected the funds for donating solar cookers to India.



When Austrian government heard about this unique initiative, they decided to give matching funds. Hence the first Project “2 X 50 Solar Cookers for Rural India ” was started.

The money collected was given to INTERSOL, On recommendation of Eco Center ICNEER the funds were Barli Development Institute for Rural Women in Indore in State of Madhya Pradesh.



Barli Group in turn trained and distributed the Solar Cookers at nominal cost to tribal girl who were at their Institute so that the Solar cooker reach the remotest corners of Madha Pradesh and also be used not just for cooking but also from Income generation..





School children from St Johann also followed suite. Funds collected by the school children of St Johann and also from Stadt Gemeinde St Johann and other 5 local communities were made available to initiate the first smoke-free village called Bysanavaripalli in Andhra Pradesh in co-operation with Jagadeeswata Reddy District Manager of NEDCAP the State Nodal Agency of State of Andhra Pradesh.



Success of Smoke Free village had multiplier effect and now further three villages near by have also become smoke-free

Now ICNEER has been trying to replicate the project in co-operation with, due modifications to suit local conditions, in other parts of India with local NGOs

e.g.

- Veerayatan in Mumbai, in Maharashtra, Kutch in Gujarat and Rajgadh in Bihar,
- Sisters and Fathers in Dharampur tribal belt in Gujarat, and initiated projects with them and the experience and difficulties faced would be shared so that further inputs from other solar is sought to fine tune the project.



5. Conclusion:

Our experience of how Solar Cookers can be used not just for cooking but for income generation by using the solar cookers for Food Processing for sale of these products for income generation will be shared