Efficient Stoves Reduce Deforestation

The village's women fill the gaps with sand and clay so that a stable construction is created.

The climate protection project in Eritrea supports the villagers in building smokeless, efficient ovens. The reduction of the smoke and greenhouse gases benefits the climate and at the same time promotes the health of women and children.

Project type: Efficient cook stoves
Project location: Debub and Gash Barka, Eritrea
Project status: In operation, credits available
Annual CO₂ reduction: 2,600 t
Situation without project: Use of non-renewable biomass fuels

100% of stove users report better health conditions
3,000 women trained
2,900 cook stoves installed

The project in Eritrea is being carried out by the Swiss support committee for Eritrea (Schweizerischen Unterstützungskomitee für Eritrea, SUKE) together with the Eritrean partner organization Vision Eritrea.

Until now, every household in Eritrea has a so-called mogogo oven with which the traditional flatbread (injera) is prepared. However, the ovens do not have a chimney or smoke outlet and consume large quantities of firewood, which is scarce in that region. The new smokeless and energy-saving mogogo oven model was developed and tested by the Eritrean energy ministry. With the new ovens, no more health-damaging smoke accumulates in the house during cooking, which benefits the health of the women and children. Moreover, the new mogogo saves about 50 per cent of the wood.
of firewood. The consumption of firewood, and therefore also the deforestation and the emissions of greenhouse gases, are consequently reduced.

The project also includes other social advantages: The population saves itself the tiresome gathering of firewood and the cooking time is reduced. This way, more time remains for other tasks. Since less money has to be spent for the purchase of the expensive firewood, the project supports the poorest families in Eritrea and thus leads to a social balance. Project implementation was successfully completed by the end of 2011.

**Impacts and benefits achieved so far:**

- 16,000 people benefit from efficient and clean cooking.
- 2,900 cook stoves have been installed.
- 340 temporary jobs have been realised.
- 3,000 women have been trained.
- Each stove avoids about 1 t CO₂ and 0. t wood per year.
- In annual monitoring surveys 100% of stove users report improved air quality in the kitchens and better health conditions.
- 17,000 t wood saves so far
- 500 ha of forest area saved