



VERC – VILLAGE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

Disseminate Improved cookstoves to improve health for mother and children.

Context and challenges

In Bangladesh, biomass fuel is the most widely used fuel for domestic cooking.

As a consequence, **indoor air pollution**, resulting from combustion of biomass fuel in inefficient cooking stove is widespread, especially in poorly ventilated kitchen environments.

Women and young children involved in cooking are the first victims of this type of air pollution. According to UNICEF, Indoor air pollution kills an estimated **two million women and children** every year.

Since 1980's, BCSIR has designed **different models of more efficient cookstoves** that the NGO VERC has disseminated in the country. From its testing, VERC has found that these Improved Cookstoves (ICS) are **29-50% more fuel efficient** than traditional cookstoves. This results in money savings to the user, a cleaner kitchen environment, and a significant reduction in CO₂ emissions.

More than **47,000 families** have benefited from improved cookstoves over the past ten years thanks to VERC ICS Program and the NGO commits itself to **disseminate 114,000 ICS in 13 districts until 2015 for 592,800 people.**

Scope

The project aims especially to:

- **All the families in rural as well as urban areas with low incomes**
- **Food producers**
- **Restaurant owners**

Location: 13 areas

Number of beneficiaries: 592,800 people

Objectives of the project

Fight indoor air pollution and improve communities' everyday life

- **Reduce cookstove users' health hazards**
- **Protect the environment** by reducing CO₂ emissions
- **Reduce families' fuel expenses**
- **Mobilize the community**
- **Develop and apply behavioural change communication** to ensure adaptation of improved behaviours
- **Protect national forests**



Impacts and benefits of the project

Environmental:

- **reduction in smoke and CO2 emissions** compared to traditional cook stoves
- **protects national forests** from deforestation

Social:

- **improvement of cookstove users 'health** – especially mothers and their children
- **time saving** could be dedicated to children's education
- **gender implications**, as almost all stove users are female

Economics:

- **money saving on fuel expenses** which could be spent in health or education
- **creation of small-scale businesses and new jobs** such as stove producers or grate manufacturers
- **improved technology is transferred** to the local people



Village Education Resource Center

Non governmental organization created in **1977**, VERC works with **the poorest people** for **the improvement of their everyday life** by promoting self reliance.

VERC leads actions in seven fields **programs** such as education, environment, livelihood development or water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

As national NGO, VERC employs **1,500 people** and has **24 office areas** all over the Bangladesh.

www.verc.org

Project activities

- **Capacity building:** training for local stove builders
- **Social marketing and behaviour change communication:** posters, motivational films, meeting and roundtables
- **ICS installation:** 5 models of ICS (including an industrial one) are disseminated, continuous monitoring
- **Entrepreneurship development:** Training for local entrepreneurs (grate or chimney manufacturers), credit support and stove production center.
- **Stove performance:** Efficiency tests and quality control to guarantee ICS results.

Networks & Partners

Networks: **NEXUS** – a global alliance that uses carbon finance to alleviate poverty and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases / **ARECOP** – Asia Regional Cookstove Program / **ICS National Network of Bangladesh** / **HEDON** - Household Energy Network/ **PCIA** – Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Pollution
Financial partners: **SIMAVI** Netherlands / **World Bank**-Bangladesh Office / **ARECOP**-Indonesia / **GTZ** / **Winrock**

VERC –Village Education Resource Center

Yakub Hossain / Team leader

Anowar Hossain Mollah / Project Manager

B-30, Ekhlas Uddin Khan Road, Anadapu, Savar, Shaka-1340, Bangladesh

anowarhossain2001@yahoo.co.uk