



Solar Cooking KoZon

Solar Cooking The Netherlands - KoZon NEWSLETTER

No. 2, december 2016



Nakivale refugee camp Uganda

In September, a Solar Cooking project was started in the Nakivale refugee camp in South West Uganda. After its formal launch in the presence of the governor and the camp commander, the first 20 persons received training in the use of cooking appliances.

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Substantial expansion for Togo Tilé in Mali

The Togo Tilé project in Ségou, Mali started two years ago. It is now a thriving business with 30 staff members. After getting off to a flying start, the business needs to be expanded, i.e. the construction of a new workshop and the acquisition of a saw and a welding machine.

>> [Read all about Togo Tilé on page 4](#)



Solar cooking now also for disabled in Sikasso

During a demonstration of solar cooking appliances in Sikasso, the disabled people organisation FERAPH was so enthusiastic, that they wanted to start a project immediately. There was considerable interest in the first project and there is a waiting list for a second one.

>> [Read more on page 4 and 5](#)



Other topics in this newsletter

• Clara Thomas says goodbye • Our first project in Kenya • Start of an ISC business in Tanghin, Burkina Faso • Finances • How you can support us



We have almost completed the first year

On 1st January 2016 we started our new, joint venture with enthusiasm. From two small boards, where everybody was aware of everything and lived nearby, we changed into a club of almost 20 people, and what's more spread throughout the country. The 'old' staff members in particular had to get used to this. For the new volunteers it was sometimes difficult to get a clear picture of the many activities in East and West Africa. Praise is due to the resilience, enthusiasm, knowledge and experience of all volunteers: we can actually say 'we did it!' We now have a large and strong organisation that promotes and further shapes its objectives with enthusiasm together with its partners in Africa.

Our African partners

In Africa it took some getting used to it as well. Not so much because of the merger but because of the shift from purely charitable projects to commercial businesses, including small businesses. Thanks to the coaching by our project coordinators, most partners were able to make the change. But we continue to subsidise disabled people and refugees so that they may also use integrated solar cooking.

Thank you to our donors and sponsors

We are pleased that we can continue to count on your involvement and support. Only this support enables us to accept more requests. Our deepest thanks.

Lucretia Gijssen-Boerebach, president

Clara Thomas says goodbye

To our regret Clara Thomas, member of the board and country coordinator East Africa, has decided to give up her activities after 13 years Solar Cooking The Netherlands (SCN) and Solar Cooking KoZon. Her departure is a great loss to us and to our partners in Africa.

Founder and president of SCN

In 2004 Clara Thomas founded Solar Cooking The Netherlands (SCN). Until the merger, she was president and project leader,



Clara has held many training sessions, as here in Uganda

first in Uganda and later on in Ethiopia. Thanks to her boundless dedication and expert knowledge, she made a very important contribution to the dissemination of solar cooking means and techniques in East Africa. Not only was she active in Africa, but also through her many contacts both nationally and internationally she successfully advocated the need to use sustainable energy, and in particular solar cooking.

She contributed extensively to the preparations for the merger. During this past year she has transferred her knowledge and experience to our project coordinators and she has fully coached her successor, Alewijn van Asperen.

We will miss Clara. But it is good to know, for Clara as well as for us, that Solar Cooking The Netherlands – KoZon is, also thanks to her, a new, sound and strong foundation that is ready for the future.

Jacomine Immink

Clara is not the only one who is leaving after many years. Indeed, Jacomine Immink, who with Clara has worked for SCN since the beginning, is leaving us as well. She provided all the manuals written by Clara, with clear drawings that illustrate the entire production and cooking process, including for people who cannot read the texts. For many years she handled PR for SCN and organised the solar cooking workshops for our two institutions.

On behalf of all Solar Cooking KoZon staff members and partners in Africa:

Clara and Jacomine, our heartfelt thanks and many, many good and healthy years!

Projects in East-Africa

UGANDA

Theo Sinke, project coordinator

Nakivale refugee camp

A very prominent project right now is the Nakivale refugee camp. It is located in South West Uganda in the Isingiro district. Approx. 60,000 refugees from neighbouring countries live in the Nakivale camp and have lived there for many years. Our programme, in cooperation with other organisations, contributes to better living conditions. The project objectives have been set down in a Memorandum of Understanding and its formal launch was held on Thursday 22 September 2016. The kick-off took place in a celebratory mood in the presence of the district governor and the camp commander. This is a 12-month project, a period during which at least 1,000 Solar Cookits will be supplied. The refugees will thus have access to solar cooking tools.

At the same time a group of about 20 people received training in the use and upkeep of Cookits, hay baskets, WAPIs and eco stoves. The 'instructors' represent their village(s) and will in turn pass on their knowledge to others.



Olivia Kanyesigye, chief field officer, gives explanations to the inhabitants of the Nakivale refugee camp

Expansion of SCA points of sale

The Solar Connect Association's (SCA) production centre in Biharwe (Mbarara, South West Uganda) became operational at the beginning of 2016. At this point in time the focus lies on the creation of more points of sale throughout Uganda. In Gulu (North Uganda) as well as in Kasese (West Uganda) points of sale are under preparation. Solar Connect Association Uganda has at present about 30 staff members, full-time and part-time.

ETHIOPIA

Clara Thomas, project coordinator

Alewijn van Asperen, project coordinator

Is a Solar Cooking re-launch going to succeed in Ethiopia?

A visit in August to the two existing Solar Cooking KoZon projects in Ethiopia by our present project coordinator, Clara Thomas together with her successor Alewijn van Asperen, was interrupted prematurely. Since the unrest in the country during the first week of the visit became rather serious, the Netherlands Embassy advised them against travelling to Bahir Dar, Amhara district in Northern Ethiopia. Therefore the programme planned for the second week, including a visit to ORDA in Bahir Dar was cancelled. The visit to ANCEDA programmed for the first week did take place as planned.

Awura AMBA

SCN has cooperated since 2012 with ORDA, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), as its local partner and advisor for an ISC implementation plan in and by the Awura Amba community. As the visible embodiment of this cooperation, a small ISC production workshop was built in 2014 with the financial support of SCN. After production had started in 2015, a supply of 400 high quality CookKit sets was produced. The visit to ORDA was aimed at finding out how to set in motion the marketing and sale of the existing supply of ISC appliances. Awura Amba's authorities had paid no or insufficient attention to this aspect. Since our visit had to be cancelled we are at present attempting to resume

consultations with ORDA in a different way, but so far without any success.

Arsi Negele

ANCEDA is an NGO engaged in environmental protection and the development of the Arsi Negele district. As far back as 2011 SCN has been in contact with them within the framework of a large EU Project. That project focuses among other things on developing ISC throughout Ethiopia. At the beginning of 2016, ANCEDA requested that we provide financial support for a follow-up project. Since, after an exchange of correspondence, there still was a lack of clarity about the status of this EU project as well as about the starting point of the proposed new project, we decided to pay them a visit, jointly with a visit to ORDA (see above). This enabled us to hold direct discussions with ANCEDA about the project proposal as well as to visit their ISC production centre, the central point of their proposal. During the visit it became clear that a number of essential parts as well as the ISC centre's functionality had not yet been realised. We intend to support ANCEDA's follow-up project with a modest financial contribution in order to enable them to get the ISC production and distribution off the ground. But with the understanding that the production centre has to be fully operational. ANCEDA has let us know that the improvements will be realised shortly (and paid for by the EU project). The latest reports are positive; we are expecting concrete data soon.

Recently contact with ANCEDA as well as with ORDA has been unusually slow, possibly because of constant unrest in Ethiopia. It is therefore uncertain whether we will be able to reach specific agreements on further support for both projects in 2016.

KENYA

Henk Blok, project coordinator

New project in West Kenya

In October, a pilot Integrated Solar Cooking (ISC) project was started in West Kenya in Bumala and vicinity. This is the first time that Solar Cooking KoZon is present in Kenya. It is a one-year pilot project that includes ISC demonstrations in various places in the region, among others in churches and schools. At this stage of the project, no CookKits, boxes, hay baskets and wood-saving ovens will be produced on site; they will be purchased and sold with a surcharge.

Contact through schools

Contact came about through Mr. Dorstijn, a physics and chemistry teacher at the 'Hervormd Lyceum Zuid (HLZ)' in Amsterdam. He has since 2007 been in contact with Mr. Odhiambo, a primary school teacher and president of 'Farmers with a Vision' in Bumala. Together they created teaching materials in order to teach pupils how they can use the sun for sustainable cooking.

Strong interest

Henk Blok, who participated in the Togo-Tilé project, came across this project by accident. He contacted Mr. Odhiambo. Subsequently Mr. Odhiambo made a number of Solar Boxes. He then proceeded to demonstrate the solar boxes together with a CookKit, wood-saving ovens and hay baskets (borrowed from the local Ministry of Energy) in his village and vicinity. There was a great deal of interest and several people acquired a wood-saving oven and/or a hay basket.

Solar Cooking Kozon's financial contribution amounts to € 3,500. This year the project is part of the 'Hervormd Lyceum Zuid's good causes list' again.

Projects in West Africa

MALI

Sandra van der Berg, project coordinator

Sunny news from Mali

In 2014 KoZon decided to grant the solar cooking business Togo Tilé, run by Seydou Coulibaly, an initial subsidy of 13,300 Euro spread over a period of two years. It took off to a flying start! Now, two years later, we are looking at a thriving and officially recognised business with 30 staff members and an average monthly business volume of 4,000 Euro. The hay basket continues to be the leading product: Togo Tilé sold 2739 baskets in two years. To produce the hay basket, the business works with two cooperatives, which at this stage produce exclusively for Togo Tilé. Other solar cooking appliances are equally well marketed by Togo Tilé: the business sold 761 CookKits, 206 Dibi (a wooden solar box), 377 Titi (a sturdy cardboard solar box), 49 WAPIs and 9 parabolic reflectors. Next to Ségou, Bamako and Sikasso there are now also points of sale in Koutiala, Sévaré and Gao and a point of sale is expected to open soon in Niono.

Attention to the environment and follow-up

The environment constitutes an important incentive for the manager as well: sales demonstrations are held in schools and universities and close attention is paid to the environmental aspects of solar cooking. Seydou Coulibaly was even invited by the prime minister and his wife to give a demonstration. As far as Seydou is concerned a contribution to the environment does not stop at the sale of the product: even after a sale has been made Togo Tilé continues for some time to support its customers to ensure that the products are truly integrated in the daily cooking and hence provide a structurally positive contribution to the environment.

Visit to The Netherlands

End September Seydou announced that he wished to come to The Netherlands to enhance his technical knowledge of production, knowledge transfer and business management. Followed an intensive week with many meetings with members of Solar Cooking KoZon where a keen Seydou acquired useful knowledge for the running of his business. In Wageningen, Pieter Sluimer organised and led a workshop in the production of Titi.



Sale of Togo Tilé's cooking appliances

New opportunities

But Seydou had another mission as well. In Mali he had been approached by PACEPEP, the Programme d'Appui à la Croissance Economique et Promotion de l'Emploi par le Secteur Privé (Programme in Support of Economic Growth and the Promotion of Employment by the Private Sector), a government programme focused on stimulating private enterprise. An extensive analysis of the business by PACEPEP led to the conclusion that Togo Tilé cannot meet the demand for solar cooking appliances in Mali in its present form. It is therefore important to invest in increasing its production capacity as well as its competitiveness. A business expansion plan was established that included the construction of a workshop and the acquisition of a saw and a welding machine. Expenses: close to 47,000 Euro.

Co-financing

PACEPEP's evaluation commission has approved of this plan, it being the only programme approved so far. However, conditions stipulated that Togo Tilé had to contribute about 5,000 Euro and that co-financing had to be found for 50% of total expenses before 5 December 2016. His own contribution did not constitute a problem but he called upon us to provide the 50% co-financing. Extremely impressed by what this inspiring, very motivated and versatile manager had been able to achieve in two years with modest funds, Solar Cooking KoZon board unanimously and whole-heartedly decided to support this expansion and co-finance the project.

Solar cooking for disabled people in Sikasso

In Sikasso, in the South of Mali, the Fédération Régionale des Associations de Personnes Handicapées (FERAPH) (Regional Federation of Disabled People Associations) and Togo Tilé organised on 22 October 2016 an information day on the use of solar cooking appliances. 30 FERAPH members had registered but in the end more than 40 interested members were present.

The day started with an introduction on the importance of solar cooking and an explanation of the roles of Togo Tilé and Solar Cooking KoZon. Then followed a demonstration of the various CookKits, hay baskets, Titi (a solar box made of sturdy cardboard) and solar parabolic reflectors.



As much attention as possible was given to the disabilities of the FERAPH members. A sign language interpreter was available for participants with a hearing disability and visually impaired people were given the opportunity to touch the appliances.

Participants' own contribution

The 30 FERAPH members, who during the first phase of this project were eligible for a subsidised purchase, had placed their order well in advance of the actual day and had paid the required 50% contribution. This enabled Togo Tilé to deliver the following products to FERAPH: 20 Titi, 10 CookKits, 30 hay baskets and 30 WAPIs. All three Togo Tilé vendors in Sikasso as well as the president and secretary of FERAPH will for the time being stay in contact with the buyers in order to advise them on the functioning of the products, and to follow-up on and stimulate their use.

Waiting list

Solar Cooking KoZon contributed 875 Euro to this project: 50% subsidy for cooking appliances and FERAPH administrative costs. Togo Tilé paid for the training and gave a 10% discount on the purchase of cooking appliances. As soon as we have received the final project report FERAPH can request a follow-up phase in which other members will get the opportunity to purchase subsidised cooking appliances. There is sufficient demand: interested FERAPH members now need to put their names on a waiting list.

BURKINA FASO

Carja Butijn, project coordinator

Start of an ISC business in Tanghin

After an enthusiastic solar cooking start by Jean Marie Koalga, from the village of Tanghin, we are now, two years later and after careful preparation, at the stage that a social business project for the production and sale of ISC products can get off the ground.

Official kick-off meeting

In July the contract was signed between Solar Cooking KoZon and the representative of the village association 'Bon Samaritain'. My trip to Burkina Faso had been planned for a few days later and I was able to visit the village. My presence served as the official starting point of the project. Many

women, but also men and village elders (the traditional governors of the village) came to listen to the speeches and to wish the project a positive future. The women in particular will be offered a chance through this project but they are also receiving the full support of the men of the village. The idea is to make a slow start so that everybody can get used to this new knowledge that they are confronted with and to teach them how to work with these methods. But everybody has been looking forward to this moment for a long time now. During the first months however the agricultural season was still in full swing, which meant that the entire workforce was needed in the fields. The harvest is needed to survive for another whole year. The rains have stopped now and most of the crop has been harvested. The construction of a production hangar has started and the first class in the making of CookKits, hay baskets and WAPIs went well.

Possible new initiatives

During my stay in Burkina Faso I met many more people who are clearly interested in ISC products as well as in the opportunity to start a social business with an existing group. Some contacts seemed to offer serious possibilities. In the coming months we will find out if there are people who are as much motivated and courageous as our partner in the village of Tanghin.



The results of the class in the making of cooking appliances

SENEGAL

Wilma Goppel, project coordinator

ISC follow-up project in Ndondol

Caritas Thies' follow-up project in Ndondol, Senegal has not started yet. In August 2015 Caritas' intended project leader, Simon Faye, participated in the training sessions at Togo Tilé in Ségou, Mali. In December we received a project proposal based on the business plan as handed out during the training sessions. Unfortunately we thought that the plan did not meet our requirements. Neither are we happy with the new plan. With Caritas we are now looking into the possibility of reaching a sound agreement.

From the board

In Memoriam Henk Crietee



On 16 August of this year Henk Crietee passed away.

Right up until his death Henk continued to be involved in the foundations' developments.

In January 2016, Henk wrote to the foundation that he was saying goodbye 'with a heavy heart'.

In 2005 Henk became the treasurer of Solar Cooking Foundation The Netherlands. As of 2009 he also took on the task of project coordinator for Uganda. Together with Solar Connect Association, our partner in Uganda, Henk put integrated solar cooking on the African map. His enthusiastic and expert coordination, helped to develop the project into a successful business.

Henk carried out his tasks as treasurer and as project coordinator with commitment, professionalism and motivation during more than ten years.

We have lost a good colleague and a great friend.

Clara Thomas

New staff members

A number of new volunteers have joined the Solar Cooking Kozon team:

Sandra van der Berg is the new project coordinator for Mali and Henk Blok for Kenya. Three new staff have reinforced the PR commission: Pia Wissel, Regina van Tongeren and Thijs van den Berg.

After Clara Thomas' departure as of 1-1-2017, Alewijn van Asperen, who is already project coordinator for Ethiopia, will take over her position as board member / country coordinator East Africa.

We offer them a warm welcome. We are very glad that these new, enthusiastic people are joining us.

Finances

On the basis of income and expenditure of both foundations in 2015, we have drawn up a budget of donations and expenditure for Solar Cooking KoZon in 2016.

1. Donations (in Euro)

	Income-SCN 2015	Income KoZon 2015	Budget SCN KoZon 2016	Status donations as at 25-11-2016
Individuals	6,273.00	21,248.15	25,000.00	8.775,00
Organisations	12,300.00	2,250.00	12,000.00	7,897.10
Total	18,573.00	23,498.15	37,000.00	16,672.10

2. Expenditure (in Euro)

	Budget SCN-KOZON 2016	Actual expenditure as at 25-11-2016	%
Projects	52,600.00	51,371.95	91.8 %
Overheads	7,500.00	4,592.28	8.2 %
Total	60,100.00	55,964.23	100 %

The largest amount (€ 21,798.30) went to the Togo Tilé project for its follow-up project, which we are financing together with PACEPEP and Togo Tilé itself. See page 4.

Overheads are slightly higher than usual. These extra costs can for a large part be attributed to the merger (notary, new PR materials, etc.), but also to storage costs of our materials.

Thank you for your support

For the time being income from donations lags behind our budget estimate. But we do appreciate your support enormously and are extremely pleased that you are willing to help us attain our objective. Our sincere thanks.

Gaudence Havyarimana, treasurer

How can you support Solar Cooking KoZon?

In the event you wish to make a donation, you can transfer it to one of our two bank accounts. You can also download a tax authority form on our website if you wish to register an annuity donation. Solar Cooking KoZon has been recognised as an 'Institution for General Benefit' (ANBI).

Bank:

NL 06 TRIO 0254 7056 34 in the name of Solar Cooking KoZon
NL 57 ABNA 0404 8116 71 in the name of Solar Cooking KoZon

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