



Solar Cooking The Netherlands-KoZon

Newsletter

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Cooking with a cone: a new, affordable and effective solar cooker

We are proud to announce that we have recently added a new solar cooker beside the CookKit and the Solar Box. Together with Henk Blok (project coordinator Solar Cooking KoZon), our partner Samuel Odhiambo in Nairobi developed a conical cooker. The principle is the same as that of a parabolic cooker: the sun's rays bounce off a reflective surface towards a blackened pan. However, a conical cooker is much easier (and therefore cheaper) to make. You cut a piece out of a thin sheet of iron, bend it into a cone and cover it on the inside with reflective aluminium foil and make a bottom in it. On top of that a blackened plate with the blackened pan on top. And for convenience, a base made of wire steel. By insulating the pan with transparent plastic, you shorten the cooking time and achieve a higher temperature. A cone with a diameter of 80 cm brings 1 litre of water to the boil in 20 minutes. You can also bake cake or sandwiches because the maximum temperature is more than 150°C.

Cone and base can be made by a good local tinsmith, while the rest can be done by our partners. Total costs (material and labour) are about €15, slightly more expensive than a CookKit, but a cone lasts longer, has a much shorter cooking time and higher maximum temperature.

The original model was vertical. This works well when the sun is high in the sky. But even at the equator the sun is not that high early in the morning and late in the day and further away from the equator it is the same for the whole day. That is why there is now also a version that is tilted 20 degrees. This can be used when the sun is at more than 40 degrees above the horizon.

Introduction

At the end of this year dominated by the Coronavirus, we would like to tell you how our local partners in East and West Africa have fared. If you look at the figures, the Coronavirus pandemic seems to have less impact in African countries than in Europe and North and South America. However, the economic damage caused by the lockdowns is catastrophic and it is the poor and vulnerable who suffer most. In addition to the consequences of the virus, the impact of climate change (including floods and crop failures), terrorist violence in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso and locust infestations in East Africa is enormous. Our local partners are trying as hard as they can to get through this difficult period. With your support and our assistance to the partners, we can do our bit to ensure that progress made in the field of integrated solar cooking in recent years will not be lost. Fortunately, you have already responded generously to our call for donations. We are grateful to you for that, but of course more money is always needed to accomplish our mission.

In this short update, we will tell you how our local partners and their projects have fared over the last few months.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a happy and especially healthy 2021!

Caspar Baltussen

President Solar Cooking The Netherlands - KoZon



The team in Tanghin (Burkina Faso) full of enthusiasm, before COVID-19

How can you support Solar Cooking KoZon?

You can transfer a donation to one of our two accounts. Solar Cooking KoZon has been recognised as an 'Institution for General Benefit' (ANBI).

Bank account numbers:

NL 06 TRIO 0254 7056 34 in the name of Foundation Solar Cooking KoZon

NL 57 ABNA 0404 8116 71 in the name of Foundation Solar Cooking KoZon

Contact:

e-mail: secretariaat@solarcookingkozon.nl



West Africa

Burkina Faso - News from the project in Tanghin in the Covid year 2020

You may think that all activities were suspended, but despite bans on meetings and gatherings and a general slump in the market, the team in Tanghin has remained active despite these restrictions, by training itself and keeping the quality of supplies in order. In the meantime, they have of course been thinking about how to proceed in the future, as top sales dived during the high season of the past project year. They came up with a proposal to give the information side and the marketing of the project a strong boost through the use of other media such as radio (still an effective social medium in these parts), local drama groups, which can give educational performances, for example about climate change and the positive role that solar cooking can play in this, and multiple quizzes to increase knowledge about the use of solar cookers. These activities can have a positive impact on sales figures. Early next year during the right season they hope to sell well.

Following the results of a short evaluation study, the team is now also thinking of the feasibility of shifting its attention to urban areas. Delays in activities due to the pandemic will allow the team to take a step back and come to new insights. We will see whether focusing on a slightly different target group in Burkina Faso will lead to more results.

Burkina Faso - Five women trained in Gorom Gorom



Hassane Cissé is project coordinator of Association Dagnal Roobé (ADR) in Gorom Gorom in the North of Burkina Faso. He works a lot with women groups. Gorom Gorom is located in an extremely vulnerable area. At the moment the political situation there is tense. Due to frequent attacks, refugees from the entire region are moving to the city and the population of Gorom Gorom has doubled. As a result, the city's already scarce natural resources are being severely tested: there is an acute shortage of water and wood. The area around Gorom Gorom is becoming increasingly barren, with almost no wood left for cooking.

When Hassane heard that HSB, one of our partner organisations in Burkina Faso, was working on solar cooking, he saw an opportunity for the ADR women groups. Hassane visited HSB in Pabré and this visit resulted in a 3-day training session for 5 ADR women at the beginning of November 2020. The training was organised by HSB and

financed by our foundation with an earmarked donation from Soroptimists Utrechtse Heuvelrug. The women were very enthusiastic and at the end of the training they were able to tell how the different solar cooking products (CookKit, solar box and hay basket) can be used. They will now give demonstrations in Gorom Gorom to promote the use of solar cooking products and to stimulate sales.

Mali - Togo Tilé - Pasteurisation with the sun

Even though the sales figures are not at all disappointing, Togo Tilé is also affected by the Covid crisis. Transportation has become much more expensive and the cotton factory, which normally supplies the cotton for the hay baskets, is closed, which means that they have to buy more expensive cotton elsewhere. The work is organised in shifts, so that not too many people are present in the company at the same time, in order to reduce the risk of contamination. Despite these restrictions, Togo Tilé's sales have barely fallen in the first half of 2020. Togo Tilé sold slightly fewer hay baskets, but sales of solar dryers quadrupled compared to the second half of 2019 and sales of the Dibi (solar box) also increased considerably. The Dibi is used to pasteurise tomato paste and fruit juices, which can then be stored for 8 months without loss of smell or taste. Togo Tilé seeks to extend the storage period to one year.

Togo Tilé's manager, Seydou Coulibaly, is also active on a broader basis: he is a member of the quality mark commission for improved wood-fired ovens, which is headed by SNV. Thanks to a partnership with the Office du Niger and the GIZ (a German development organisation), Togo Tilé has secured major contracts for GIZ-subsidised sales of solar

cooking products to farmers' groups in this large rice irrigation area. Thanks to his impressive marketing skills, he has been asked by VIA/Aqua for All to develop the marketing of water filters.

East Africa

Kenya - Creative entrepreneurship in Coronavirus times

In Kenya, very strict coronavirus measures were initially announced, often forcibly enforced by the police. As a result, many people no longer had an income and went hungry. Today there is still a curfew, but meetings with appropriate distancing and face masks are possible again. Apparently, the pandemic is not as widespread as it is, for example, in Europe, but it seems to be on the increase again. Our partners in Bumala (Didacus Odhiambo) and Homa Bay (Daniel



Yongo) have committed themselves to provide information on the coronavirus and to ensure that people are given soap and face masks. Gradually, like Samuel Odhiambo in Nairobi, they are able again to go to markets and to sell solar cooking products in their shop. All the while, they observe the 'one metre rule' and often wash their hands and wear face masks. Didacus benefits greatly from his car,

which has enabled him to visit villages in the area and has kept sales up to some extent. He is more or less breaking even this year. In the beginning of this year, with our support, he was able to build a dryer/carbonator and a garage as well as space for the production of briquettes on his property.

Samuel Odhiambo in Nairobi has been unable to do much because of the coronavirus. They did make hay baskets. At present things are starting to get off the ground again. Last year already, Samuel had said he would like to have his own car, so that he would no longer be dependent on a taxi or renting a car, with the high costs that entails. We always were compelled to tell him that there was no room for a car in our regular budget. Thanks to contacts with the Swedish organisation Engineers Without Borders (EWB), who were ready to contribute 25%, a number of sponsors in the Netherlands and a contribution of €1000 from our current budget, he has recently bought a car. With this car he will be able to extend his range (e.g. to schools that are interested in solar cooking) and better serve his customers.

He will also be able to use the car for a new solar cooking project in Kitui which came about through his contact with EWB. Samuel will provide the technical support and the integrated solar cooking products during the start-up phase of the project.

In consultation with Henk, Samuel made not only the 'vertical' but also a 'tilted' conical solar cooker (see the cover of this newsletter, cooking with a cone). This cooker can also be used when the sun is low. An extensive manual for those interested (also in French-speaking countries) is being worked on.

Because Daniel Yongo's one-year pilot in Homa-Bay did not yet lead to sufficient results, but prospects were good, we extended the pilot for one year until 1 April 2021 with an extra contribution as working capital and to get through these Covid times. His organisation TOOL (The Oasis Of Life) does a lot of community building. He himself recently obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Community Development.

Briquettes made from charcoal waste are produced everywhere. Especially in these Covid times, they are very popular because more efficient and cheaper than charcoal itself. Cooking with the sun is of course better, but that is not always possible.

Congo - New project in Uvira



A new project has started in Uvira (East Congo, near Lake Victoria). Guillaïn Nabahya of the Teachers Corporation DRC wants to stimulate integrated solar cooking by selling solar cookers, hay baskets and locally made wood-saving ovens.

In March, he was in Nairobi for consultations, but due to coronavirus measures he could only return to Uvira by the end of October. Because of this (and the coronavirus measures), the project was delayed considerably. His team was able to provide information and sold a number of wood-

saving ovens. They also held a “Town Hall” meeting with 35 people from the local community about preserving their forests through solar cooking, and how to get this on their agenda.

Uganda - Start of a new partner JRCL, difficult times for SCA and encouraging results in Kamuli

At the beginning of this year, our newest partner Maimuna Nangobi started promoting and selling integrated solar cooking products with her company Jinja Renewable Consult Ltd. (JRCL) in Jinja. She buys the products from our partner Solar Connect Association (SCA) in Biharwe. After reasonable sales figures in January and February, she had to stop her activities completely in March due to the coronavirus lockdown until early June. Since then, she has resumed her promotion and sales activities, but the sales figures from June onwards are significantly lower than she expected at the start. Due to a lack of income, potential customers are increasingly asking her if it is possible to pay in instalments. As a starting entrepreneur, she does not have the financial capacity and it was not included in the wording of the project plan.

Solar Connect Association has gone through a difficult period. The sales point and SCA office in Nasana (Kampala) have been closed to save costs. Our SCA contact Kawesa Mukasa also informs us that during the lockdown, the SCA

premises in Biharwe were broken into and many valuable items were taken. A big blow for SCA, which has been struggling for some time now to become sufficiently profitable. To boost sales of solar cookers and compensate for travel restrictions in these coronavirus times, Mukasa wants to focus more on online sales. He asked us for support in setting up the online sales facility and we found an enthusiastic website designer willing to build a simple website for SCA free of charge. A first draft of the website is now ready.

The project in Kamuli, Solar Solve Ltd, has so far only had financial support for the first project year in 2018. It is admirable that the entrepreneur Robert Kyabirye - without any financial contribution from us - managed to end 2019 with a small positive balance. We are now waiting for a sound business plan in which he describes how he wants to proceed and what he needs from us to do so.

Finally, Maimuna Nangobi and Kawesa Mukasa participated in September in the training "change the game academy" in Kampala. This training is a wonderful initiative by the organisation Wilde Ganzen together with a local partner. The training is aimed at a *change in mindset*, whereby organisations learn to rely on the strength, knowledge and possibilities within the local community. Local fundraising, for example, is part of this.