**AGEPP Case from Nepal**

# Improved Cooking Stove : Environment Friendly Appropriate Technology for Healthy Life in Rural Areas of Nepal

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## Executive Summary

Majority of people (88%) live in the rural areas in Nepal. Of the total energy requirements of the country, rural areas account for 80%. Accessibility of the electricity, LPG gas and kerosene oil in the rural areas is very limited. The vast majority of the people have to depend on fuel wood for cooking, heating, and lighting as their basic energy consumption.

In 1995/96, 80% of the national energy consumption was based on the fuel wood. Almost all (98%) of the 80% energy consumption was based on traditional energy such as fire wood, agricultural residues and animal dung. As a result of continuing deforestation, the scarcity of the fuel wood is increasing. The current energy consumption pattern had implications not only on the rural energy sector but also on the agro forestry sector, rural economy, health, and particularly to those who directly involved women and children in the collection, and consumption of fuel wood etc. for cooking.

Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC)/ Ministry of Environment Science and Technology executed National Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) Programme under Energy Sector Assistance Programme (ESAP) funded by the Government of Nepal DANIDA in 1999. The first phase of ICS Program was up to 2003/04. The programme of ESAP/AEPC had been implemented in thirty different districts in the mid hill region (Nepal has total 75 districts.). In the second phase of the programme, it has target to install 250000 additional ICS during 2003-2007. On top of that, effort will be made to develop cost effective and appropriate models/and designs of ICS that could be disseminated in large scale in mountains, hills and plain regions.

Overall objectives of the programme was to improve the living standard of community people in rural areas promoting the use of renewable energy technology for protecting the environment through developing commercially viable alternative energy industries in the country. The main target beneficiaries of the project were rural community

people of 30 districts in mid hills of Nepal who had been using wood as fuel for cooking their daily meals in the traditional cooking stoves.
Out of 75 districts of the country, 30 districts of mid-hill region were covered in the 1st phase and it was extended in other mid hill districts in the 2nd phase. The districts covered by the program is shown in the following map.

The appropriate technology had been developed by modifying the traditional cooking stoves which consume more fuel woods as well as are smokeful & harmful for health. With the technology of smokeless stoves, various types of ICS were designed. The ICSs were installed by the community people in rural areas influencing by the merits of the ICS programme. AEPC also published Promoters manual and Users' manuals for wider dissemination under the ICS Programme.

NRC-NFE itself is also working for the promotion of Education for sustainable development through environment education. It Promoter's manual for ICS User's manual for ICS is building awareness among the community people about the ICS in different parts of the country through different awareness raising activities and literacy NFE programs through Community Learning Centers (CLCs).

Therefore, we had selected this ICS Program for the good Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as Case Report on Asia Good ESD Practice Project (AGEPP). We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC)/ Ministry of Science and Technology, Energy Sector Assistance Programme for supporting and providing necessary information to prepare this case report.