



## MODERN ENERGY COOKING SERVICES (MECS) POLICY DIALOGUES

8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 (14:00 – 16:00 PM)

What policy interventions will ensure inclusion of women and persons with disability in the production of modern energy cooking products and services?

### Background

Inclusivity in the energy sector is important if sustainable energy for all is to be achieved. An analysis of Kenya's policy framework reveals that the rights for women, persons with disability and other marginalized groups are not explicitly set out in the Energy Act even though these are guaranteed under the constitution. Inclusivity is thus left out of policies since the Energy Act is gender neutral. The 2019 gender in energy policy attempts to make up for this shortcoming by outlining various aspects of inclusivity including non-discrimination, support for engagement in energy planning, production and use. One of its objectives is 'to promote cleaning cooking solutions...'. The challenge is that the policy contents are not included in the Act thus presenting an implementation and enforcement gap.

In the modern energy cooking debate exclusions continue to persist with no express provisions on cooking in the Energy Act evidencing the fact that energy initiatives on cooking are mostly left out of discussions and policy frameworks. The Act however references 'labelling for energy efficiency purposes of household appliances' in Article 198 para 2(t) but fails to go beyond this in addressing cooking.

This situation is made worse by government focus on large infrastructure projects for feed-in to the national grid. This focus on large projects means those off the grid still have no access to electricity and even those who have do not use electricity for cooking as statistics from the 2019 cooking sector survey shown that only 3% of Kenyans have access to an electric cooking appliance. The last mile connectivity project which aimed at increased

electricity access is still costly for the poor and other vulnerable groups because of the high initial connection fee of 15,000Ksh and monthly payments averaging 1,000kshs thus they still do not have access.

In terms of production of energy cooking services, most of these are imported with a majority of initiatives in Kenya being foreign-owned and foreign-produced thus leaving little room for innovation to fit local circumstances. The importation of appliances is directly linked to lack of incentives; quality of products; and lack of standards. Despite these challenges, there are several local initiatives and innovations in modern energy cooking services.

This policy dialogue seeks to explore policy interventions that can promote inclusion of women, persons with disability and other disadvantaged groups in the production of modern energy cooking services. At the end of the session participants will agree on the most feasible options put forward and how to ensure that these are incorporated.

### **About MECS**

Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) is project at ACTS which aims to catalyze transformation of clean cooking through technological, institutional and market innovations that enable long-term use of MECs to generate inclusive environmental and development benefits for the poor.

## **PROVISIONS ON ENERGY PRODUCTION**

### **Energy Act 2019**

#### **EPRA**

**Article 10a (iii):** charged with 'production and conversion, distribution, supply, marketing and use of renewable energy'.

#### **Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation**

Article 44 para1(m and n)

(m) provide an enabling framework for the efficient and sustainable production, conversion, distribution, marketing and utilization of biomass, solar, wind, small hydro's, municipal waste;

(n) promote, in conjunction with the agency responsible for forests, the use of fast maturing trees for energy production including bio-fuels and the establishment of commercial woodlots including peri-urban plantations;

#### **Nuclear Power and Energy Agency**

Article 56 para 1 (m) promote local production of energy technologies;  
'promote local production of energy technologies'

Article 75 para 2(b) - responsibility of the CS

'providing an enabling framework for the efficient and sustainable production, distribution and marketing of biomass, solar, wind, small hydros, municipal waste, geothermal and charcoal'

**Article 75 para 2 (j)**

'promoting the production and use of gasohol and biodiesel'

## **Appliances**

### **EPRA**

Article 10 para (mm) develop testing and certification procedures, in conjunction with relevant statutory agencies, for certification and testing for energy consumption of equipment and appliances;

(nn) ensure, in collaboration the Kenya Bureau of Standards, that only energy efficient and cost-effective appliances and equipment are imported into the country;

(oo) certify energy managers and license energy auditors;

(pp) promote, in consultation with the Kenya National Accreditation Service, the establishment of accredited laboratories for energy efficiency'.

## PROGRAM

DATE: TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

TIME: 14:00PM-16:00PM

VENUE: [\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Time	Activity	Facilitator
14:00–14:15	Introduction of participants	ACTS
	Introductory remarks	ACTS
14:15–14:20	Menti Session	ACTS
14:30–15:10	Panel Discussion <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ministry of Energy</li><li>2. Kisumu County</li><li>3. Private Sector</li><li>4. Women/PWD Rep</li></ol>	ACTS
15:10–15:30	Discussion Session	ACTS
15:30-15:50	Way Forward	ACTS
15:50-16:00	Closing Remarks	ACTS

Twitter: [@arin\\_africa](#) [@UKMECS](#) [@ACTSNET](#) [#ModernEnergyCookingServices](#)

## Partners

