

8. Promote the decision levels of women in the energy sector.
9. Encourage the implementation of projects that address both the practical and strategic gender needs of both women and men.
10. Establish systematic gender sensitive funding mechanisms.

Strategic Objective 3

To promote gender-related participation in formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of energy policies and practices

Strategic Actions

1. Eradicate negative cultural aspects that impinge on women's effective participation in energy issues.
2. Provide Gender Sensitisation Sessions to both men and women.
3. Enhance the formulation of the energy policy that has incorporated a thorough gendered research and consultation.
4. Promote the involvement of capable women in policy formulation.
5. Identify and address critical training needs of women in specific and strategic issues of sustainable energy utilisation.
6. Promote use of participatory approaches with emphasis to gender analysis in energy projects and programmes.
7. Adopt affirmative action to address specific gender imbalances in the energy sector.
8. Use of gender sensitive indicators

Strategic Objective 4

To identify projects that have positive impact on women

Strategic Actions

1. Remove constraints faced by women in the utilisation of energy and labour saving devices.
2. Enhance the utilisation of participatory research and development.
3. Encourage investment in the energy sector through credit facilities.
4. Strengthen effective monitoring and evaluation systems in energy projects and programmes.
5. Document and use the lessons learnt from pilot projects.

6. Promote sound natural resource management practices for energy and nutritional needs.
7. Encourage use of gender disaggregated data.
8. Encourage the use of gender experts in energy planning.

Strategic Objective 5

To increase women's participation in decision making in the energy sector at all levels

Strategic Actions

1. Integrate rural women's traditional knowledge and practices of sustainable energy use and management in the development of energy management policies and programmes
2. Increase women professionals in the field of energy.
3. Provide leadership and management skills training to women at all levels.
4. Promote the involvement of capable women in policy formulation.

Strategic objective 6

To increase women's contribution to the development of, and their access to, energy technologies.

Strategic Actions

1. Develop and promote appropriate and affordable technologies that effectively reduce women's work load while protecting the environment
- 2 .Develop appropriate, acceptable, and accessible alternative sources of energy through thorough consultations and needs assessments.

10.0 CASE STUDIES/PROJECTS

The case studies/ projects that were identified in the consultative process are as follows;

- Ceramic stoves project

The opportunity that was identified is the existence of already trained tinsmiths who can be used to train others.

The constraint that was identified with this project is that the financing mechanism that was put in place in order to allow tinsmiths to have access to credit facilities to enable them buy the ceramic liners that were being made by the women was not implemented effectively.

- The biomass briquettes technology

Opportunities that were identified are availability of local and cheap raw materials, the willingness of women to adopt the technology and easy adaptability of the technology itself.

The constraint that was identified with this project is that the women who were trained on the use of the presser did not have adequate finances to buy the presser.

- The Biogas project

Opportunities that were identified are availability of trained personnel, animal waste and locally available installation materials. At the same time, the residues from the biogas plant can be used as manure for agricultural production.

Constraints that were identified are high capital costs involved in small biogas plants and difficulties in distribution of the gas to the households at a larger scale.

- The wood lots project

Opportunities that were identified are a feeling of ownership to the communities which leads to proper management of wood lots and availability of readily trained personnel in natural resource management.

- The Chikangawa softwood charcoal production

Opportunities that were identified are availability of softwood trees at Chikangawa Forest Plantation and availability of markets in urban centres there by promoting entrepreneurship.

The constraint identified with this project is that there was a lot of competition between charcoal made from indigenous trees and softwood charcoal. The soft wood charcoal failed to survive the high competition.

In view of the above case studies the Malawian experience has shown that the projects that were successful were those that were demand driven by the community, thereby acceptable for the communities. Through effective research approaches, the projects built on local initiatives and utilised indigenous knowledge and resources.

ACROYNMS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| AIDS | Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome |
| ESCOM | Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi |
| CBNRM | Community Based Natural Resource Management |
| GOM | Government of Malawi |
| MASAF | Malawi Social Action Fund |
| MIRTDC Centre | Malawi Industrial Research Technology Development |
| MRFC | Malawi Rural Finance Company |
| NABW | National Association of Business Women |
| NASME | National Association of Small and Medium Enterprise |
| PCC | Petroleum Control Commission |
| SADC | Southern Africa Development Community |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNISE | UNDP Initiative on Sustainable Energy |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WWB | Womens' World Banking |

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