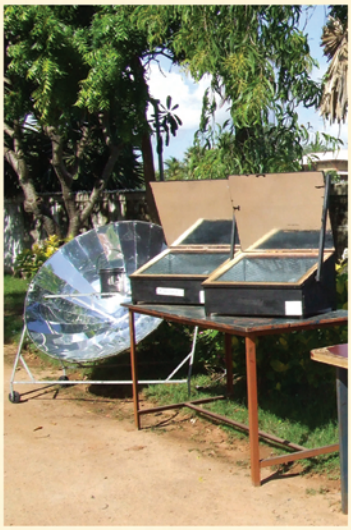
WORKSHOP ON SOLAR COOKING FOR NEWLY RESETTLED FAMILIES IN THE EAST OF SRI LANKA



A workshop on 'Renewable energy at village level' was held in Trincomalee on 25th November 2009 at Grace church vocational training center for 100 newly resettled families under the sponsorship of a local NGO.

The participants represented the worst confict affected areas such as Morawewa, Kuchchaveli, Mutur, and Eachampattu. The workshop commenced with a brief introduction to solar energy and solar cooking and a Power Point Presentation followed with the instructions for cooking in a solar cooker and went on to the practical side of the programme where the participants were given the opportunity of experiencing cooking in the Solar Box Cooker and the Parabolic Cooker. They boiled eggs, cooked rice, dhal and soya meat curries and poured tea as well which was a great experience for them indeed. Another substitute for the normal fire wood stove or a gas stove was the firewood stove which consumed very little firewood and excreted a very low quantity of wood ash.

The second part of the workshop consisted of a discussion on climate change due to global warming and what role we could play towards minimizing the adverse impacts on global warming on earth at village level. The programme was entirely a participatory one where the participants were involved highly in the discussions. A Power Point Presentation provided the guide lines to the discussion and depicted pictures of the results of global warming to create awareness in them of the adverse effects of climate change which is talked much

The third part of the workshop was based on the advantages of solar cooking where the participants were made aware of the easy methods of cooking and easy maintenance. They were also educated on the saving of finances and time factor in cooking with solar power.

Finally, an evaluation of the workshop was conducted which resulted in a very positive feed back and many querries were made for the purchasing of cookers. On the whole, the programme was extremely successful as the participants were made aware of the climate change, what they should do to minimize the adverse impacts on earth and how we should implement substitutes as renewable energy as the total fuel content in the world is sufficient only for another 3 decades. The participants were extremely happy about the solar cookers as it was a cost free mode of cooking which could be utilized on sunny days thereby implementing hassle – free cooking. They also felt that the cooked food tasted much better than the food cooked on firewood or gas stoves as the solar cooker was for slow cooking where the nutrients of food were preserved while the natural flavours were enhanced.

EMACE - Sri Lanka, P. O Box 96, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. emace@slt.lk, sunfuel@sltnet.lk
Tel +94(0)777913393/+94(0)774160291