

Saving time, money and the environment with improved cook stoves

A villager who is participating in the project creates a new stove from a mould.



Times Reporters

In July 2015, the Improved Cook Stoves project, implemented by the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, Oxfam and ARMI, and funded by the EU, celebrated a major milestone.

The project celebrated the production of its 50,000th improved cook stove in Laos since the project began in 2013.

This is truly a landmark in the work of orienting the stove sector in Laos towards using less fuel, which brings multiple layers of benefits to users and to the community.

More efficient cook stoves lower risks from smoke inhalation and help the environment by producing fewer carbon emissions as they consume less fuel.

Higher durability and lower

fuel consumption also provides economic benefits to consumers, as the fuel savings puts an average of US\$2 per month back in the pocket of the consumers.

In addition, the stoves last four times longer than the average stoves on the market.

Higher efficiency also saves about 20 minutes of cooking time, giving cooks in the household more time to engage in other activities.

The programme started in 2010 by taking lessons from similar projects in the region and adapting them to the Lao context.

The project supports all levels in the market, from producers, retailers, to consumers, and also works to build the capacity of government bodies such as the Department of Science and Technology and the Lao Women's Union to quality

test and promote the stoves.

There are currently 19 ICS producers and 750 retailers across the nation. The more efficient stoves are recognisable by their blue label.

"We are halfway towards our goal and making great progress, especially now that we have introduced more stove models to the market that are for both wood and charcoal," explains Bastiaan Teune, the Renewable Energy sector leader for SNV in Laos.

"Interestingly some retailers find it easier now to sell improved stoves than the traditional ones because many customers ask for them," says Amphone Souvannalath, the director of ARMI.

Following this milestone, the project is looking toward the future, with the aim of distributing over 100,000 stoves in Laos by early 2017.