

Harmonizing insights from intervention studies, contextual information and resource availability to develop policy advocacy for clean cooking and domestic fuel adoption in Africa

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More than 3 billion people worldwide rely on polluting energy sources such as wood, dung and charcoal for cooking. Over a billion people still lack access to electricity and must rely on polluting candles and kerosene lamps to light their homes. Household air pollution produced by polluting fuels and technologies is a cause of some 4 million deaths from noncommunicable diseases (including heart disease, stroke and cancer), as well as pneumonia. Inefficient household energy use is a health and livelihood risk for women, children and infants (WHO, 2018). Access to clean energy will save lives, stimulate socio-economic development and poverty eradication. The 2016 World Energy Outlook report showed that if policies on energy access for poor countries do not change radically, particularly in Africa, there will be little or no further reduction in the numbers of people relying on polluting solid fuels and kerosene.

The session objectives are to provide insights from cooking fuel intervention studies in sub-Saharan Africa to provide health benefits, evaluate contextual information on current efforts on provision of clean fuel, outline steps to initiate advocacy for faster adoption of clean fuel technologies in Africa and provide evidence-based recommendations to regional policymakers.

The symposium is being organized by members of ISEE Africa chapter. The session will be rounded up with an interactive session on how solid fuels were replaced with natural gas and renewable energy in developed regions. The near-term goal is to work with the ISEE Policy committee to develop and issue policy statement to regional policymakers (through the African Union etc.) to support domestic use of natural gas resources and promote the use of cleaner cooking and lighting fuel. This will boost the goal of the ISEE Africa chapter to translate research findings into timely and effective policy frameworks in the continent.

This symposium is about discussing the future of a major environmental health issue in Africa. It is in line with the meeting theme - 'On Airs, Waters, Places' and goal to discuss the future of Environmental Epidemiology in the world.

The symposium will support research collaboration among different groups working on domestic energy and cooking fuels in Africa. It will promote formulation of consistent message and evidence-based recommendations to regional policy makers in Africa. It will also provide opportunity for ISEE to contribute to advocacy on improving air quality in Africa and contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous Africa.