



Web Article

Norway's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs visits Tanzania Domestic Biogas Programme

On Wednesday 9th of March, the Tanzania Domestic Biogas Programme (TDBP) had the honour to receive a visit from the Norwegian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Tone Skogen, as part of her official visit to Tanzania. Ms. Skogen's areas of responsibility include development policy and finance, international economic cooperation and business promotion. Energy is one of the core cooperation areas of Norway and Tanzania. [Since January 2016, the Norwegian Government is supporting biogas market development through Tanzania's Rural Energy Agency \(REA\).](#)

The support from Norway through REA in the biogas programme is mainly targeting investment discounts to households who plan to buy a biogas plant, as an incentive for them to invest in this technology. These discounts are channelled through the private enterprises that construct the biogas plants, and will gradually decrease over the years. In addition to the investment discounts, the financing from Norway through REA is aimed to expand biogas market development to new areas and to engage in institutional biogas; using biogas in schools, prisons and other institutions.

During her time in Tanzania, Ms. Skogen was able to visit one of the 184 biogas plants as constructed with support from Norway through REA in the first two



Norwegian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Tone Skogen, in dialogue with the representative from Tanzania's Rural Energy Agency, Mrs. Justina Uisso. In the middle, the owner of the visited biogas plant in Kipande Ngwawele village, Mrs. Sarah Kaaya.



From left to right, Mrs. Justina Uisso from Tanzania's Rural Energy Agency, the owner of the visited biogas plant Mrs. Sarah Kaaya, the Norwegian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Tone Skogen, and the Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania, Mrs. Hanne-Marie Kaarstad.

months of 2016. The visit took place in the village of Kipande Ngwavele in Meru District, Arusha region. Impressed with the results achieved so far, she particularly stressed the importance of biogas to improve health conditions of women by using this clean energy source. The Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania, Mrs. Hanne-Marie Kaarstad, remarked the contribution of biogas in avoiding deforestation –a cooperation area in Norwegian support to Tanzania– due to reduced use of firewood and charcoal for cooking. Asked by the Deputy Minister, the manager of OSES company who constructed the biogas plant, confirmed to her that biogas is good business for him, and sales are only expected to increase with the investment discount provided by the Norwegian Government through REA. On REA's behalf, Mrs. Justina Uisso indicated that off-grid energy is an important priority for the Tanzania government, and biogas for clean cooking a keen alternative REA is glad to support. Indeed, Mrs. Sarah Kaaya, the owner of the biogas plant, confirmed that the use of firewood and charcoal will be history now that she is able to cook with clean gas.



Overview of the biogas site during the visit. As the plant was only finished some days ago, it was an opportunity to see the infrastructure before being covered underground. [also a disadvantage as cooking and bioslurry use could not be shown, but it was important for the Embassy to visit a Norway-supported plant close to the main road; none of these are producing gas yet, as Norway and REA support only started in January 2016]



Mrs. Sarah Kaaya, as she explains the benefits of biogas to the Deputy Minister, and why she and her husband decided to invest in a biogas plant. On the left hand of the Minister, Mr. Lehada Shila, Programme Coordinator of the TDBP.

The Tanzania Domestic Biogas Programme (TDBP) started operations in 2009, as part of the Africa Biogas Partnership Programme (ABPP). ABPP is a joint venture between the Netherlands Directorate for Development Cooperation (DGIS), the Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries (Hivos) and the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV). The aim of the ABPP is to initiate and assist large-scale dissemination of domestic biogas to benefit rural households, through a market-based approach. The TDBP is hosted in the Centre for Agricultural Mechanization and Rural Technology (CAMARTEC), a parastatal under the Ministry of Industry, Trade & Marketing, based in Arusha. The Norway-funded project is managed by SNV, while building on the operational capacity of the TDBP.

Results of the Tanzania Domestic Biogas Programme (TDBP) have been very encouraging so far. An implementation structure with partners throughout the country, more than 60 newly established biodigester construction enterprises and more than 600 masons

trained, has resulted in over 12,000 digesters installed so far, benefitting more than 70,000 people.

More info:

http://www.norway.go.tz/News_and_events/Energy/Biogas-plants-installation-in-Tanzania---supported-by-Norway/#.VuB8XPI97IU

http://www.norway.go.tz/News_and_events/News/Norwegian-Deputy-Minister-of-Foreign-Affairs-Ms-Tone-Skogen-to-visit-Tanzania/#.VuBwCfI97IW