

PROJECT GAIA FIELD REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE VISIT TO THE HOUSEHOLDS BY THE MANAGEMENT TEAM ON 23 NOVEMBER 2005.

by Angela Ogbu, CEHEEN

The selections of the households were done using three major locations (Abraka, Warri and Asaba), which were further divided into sub-units. Three surveyors were allocated to each of the 3 major sites, overseen by a Quality Control (QC).



Group photo of the Abraka surveyors and their QC taken after the training. From the left, Esther (team leader), Felix, Doris and QC-Chris (sitting).



Group photo of the Asaba surveyors and their QC taken after the training. From the left, Helen, Wosilat (team leader), Lucious and QC-Emmanuel (sitting).



Group photo of the Warri surveyors and their QC taken after the training. From the left, Ebele, Henry (team leader), Elohor and QC-Godwin (sitting).

On this day, the team comprising of the Project Director, Project Manager, QC-logistics, secretary, Jim and Cheryl left Asaba at about 9.45 a.m. We drove through Agbor where the team stopped briefly at a local restaurant for breakfast and took a few snap shots of the local stove and the primary cook.

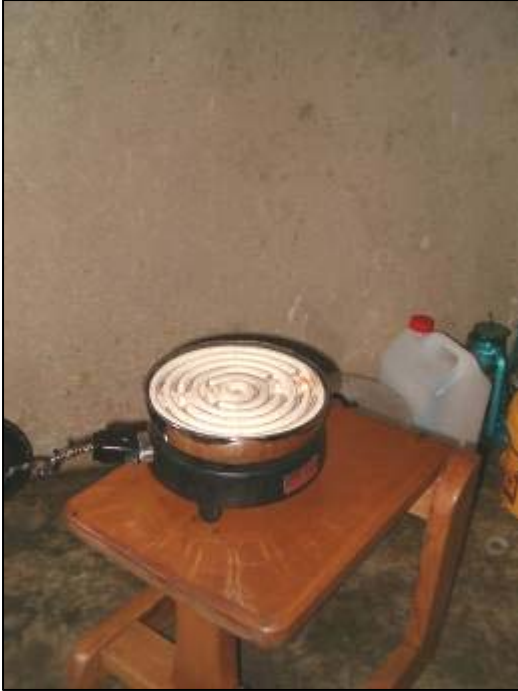


Group photo of some of the management team with the primary cook at the restaurant in Agbor, using the tripod stove with firewood for her large amount of cooking.

At about 10.35 a.m., the team proceeded via Agbor to Abraka where we met Esther (Abraka team leader) and her team, including the QC Chris. In Abraka, the team visited three households. The first primary cook is a lecturer's wife – a middle class earner, who uses both an electric stove and a single burner kerosene stove. She says, "I use the electric stove when there is a power supply and I switch to the kerosene stove when there is a power failure." The second primary cook is a low class earner, who uses firewood only and her kitchen is separate from the residential building. The third primary cook is also a low class earner; she alternates between the firewood and kerosene stoves. In addition, as we were leaving this household, a few neighbor women approached us and asked if they too could be in the pilot study. These are the few households the team could visit in Abraka owing to time constraints. The management team left Abraka for Warri at about 12.20 p.m.



These are the various sizes of kerosene stoves used by the first primary cook in Abraka. The impact of these kerosene stoves could be noticed on the stained wall and the soot on the cooking pots. These are better-quality kerosene stoves.



A photo of the electric stove with which the first primary cook in Abraka alternates her kerosene stoves. It does not have any impact on the walls, but it is not reliable because of an unstable power supply.



A photo of the enclosure where the second primary cook in Abraka has her kitchen.



A closer view of the stove being used by the second primary cook in Abraka: a tripod stove with firewood. The kettle has been covered with soot from the firewood fumes.

The team arrived in Warri by 1.00 p.m., where we met with Henry (Warri team leader) and went with him to DST (Delta Steel Township) to visit the selected households. The first primary cook in Warri is a middle class earner who uses the electric stove, a gas cooker (LPG), and the single burner kerosene stove. She alternates them at her convenience. The second primary cook in Warri is also a middle class earner who uses a gas cooker (LPG) and both the single and double burner kerosene stoves. The third primary cook in Warri is also a middle class earner who uses the electric stove, a gas cooker (LPG), and a single burner kerosene stove. The fourth primary cook in Warri is a low class earner who uses a tripod stove with firewood obtained from a nearby rubber plantation or sometimes it is bought.



A photo of another kind of electric stove being used by the first primary cook in Warri.



A photo of the gas cooker (LPG) also used by the first primary cook in Warri

A photo of another kind of kerosene stove which is still being used by the first primary cook in Warri to alternate with the other two cooking stoves.





A photo of the impact of the kerosene stove on the wall.



A photo of the double burner kerosene stove having a bottle of kerosene at the centre of the stove; it supplies the cooking fuel to the two burners. This is being used by the second primary cook in Warri to supplement the electric stove and gas cooker (LPG).



A photo of a tripod stove with firewood from a rubber plantation being used by the fourth primary cook in Warri.



A photo of the noticeable negative impact of the fumes from the firewood in the kitchen of the fourth primary cook in Warri. This implies that the health of this primary cook is endangered.

At about 2.20 p.m., the team had completed their visits to the households for the day in order to return to Asaba in due time.

Conclusion

The management team visited 7 households in total (3 from Abraka and 4 from Warri); they took time to speak with the primary cooks, see their cooking stoves and took a few snap shots of the cooking stoves.

From the field report and photos, it would be observed that for the short period, the Abraka team was able to cover more of the low class earner group than the middle or high class earners. While in Warri, the middle class was dominant and at the time of our visit, there was little or no difference between their cooking stoves.

Conclusively, the team while on their tour noticed a great prevalence of people fetching firewood and carrying them with their bicycles or on their head. The 7 households' responses were encouraging and they were very happy to receive the Project Gaia team.