



Productive Uses of Energy and Gender in the Informal Food Sector in Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa

Webinar invitation

22 February 2018 – 15.00 – 16.30 am CET (GMT +1)

Background

The 'Productive Uses of Energy and Gender in the Informal Food Sector in Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa' project is conducted by a research consortium led by the University of Twente with the university of Cape Town's Energy Research Centre, MARGE and ENDA Energie as partners. The project is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and is part of the ENERGIA Gender and Energy Research Programme. This webinar is organised with support from [The Integrated Assessment Society](#) (TIAS).

Since the beginning of our project in 2015, our research team has been collecting and analyzing information from literature and data collected in the our three countries of focus. As part of the wider programme' aim to come up with evidence based policy influencing research, this project attempts to respond to various questions about gender and productive energy use in the Informal Food Sector (IFS). We aim to find out whether there are differences in energy use preferences between men and women operated enterprises in the IFS. We also explore our data to find out whether use of modern energy services is preferred than traditional energy sources and the factors that influence these preferences. Lastly, with the mission to influence policy through providing evidence, we also show how (energy and business development) policy can be misled or misdirected based on assumptions made concerning women owned enterprises in the IFS.

We invite you to attend our webinar session whose objectives are:

- To highlight some of the findings from our research project and share with you our preliminary results that answer some of our research questions about the gender issues in the Informal Food Sector concerning energy access and use.
- Based on the presentations, to have an open discussion about the best way forward in policy influencing strategies based on gender and energy research.

To set the scene, we have invited Dr. Mary Njeri Kinyanjui from the University of Nairobi, to provide us with a brief historical perspective of the Informal Sector in Africa, based on her years of research.

Agenda

15:00	<p>Joanne Vinke-de Kruif – Introduction to Adobe Connect and TIAS</p> <p>Nthabi Mohlakoana - Welcome and introductory remarks</p>
15:15	<p>A historical perspective of the Informal (Food) Sector in Africa.</p> <p>Dr. Mary Njeri Kinyanjui, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya.</p> <p>The presentation will be based on Dr. Kinyanjui's 2014 publication – 'Women and the informal economy in urban Africa: from the margins to the centre'. The focus of this presentation will be on how women, over several decades have moved from the periphery to being the key players in the informal sector and their contribution to the growth of this sector and the economy.</p>
15:25	<p>Linkages between gender, entrepreneurship and access to energy in the Informal Food Sector</p> <p>Dr. Jiska de Groot, Energy Research Centre, University of Cape Town, South Africa.</p> <p>This presentation will explore linkages between access to energy, women's empowerment and entrepreneurship in the context of the informal food sector. Despite expectations that access to energy for productive uses empowers women by enabling them to generate an income, women in developing countries face a range of barriers when establishing and operating enterprises, including access to energy. The presentation is based on a literature review that suggests that, although improved access to energy for women in the informal food sector may create a range of benefits for women, the empirical evidence base upon which such claims are made is limited.</p>
15:35	<p>Q&A</p>
15:45	<p>Gender and energy transition in the Informal Food Sector in Senegal: Narratives from stakeholder meetings</p> <p>Ms. Maimouna Diouf, ENDA Energie, Senegal</p> <p>A World Bank study reveals that the informal sector in Senegal "would generate 97% of job creation" and account for 12% of GDP (World Bank 2015). In addition to collecting data through surveys and in-depth interviews, the research team also held stakeholder workshops to spark a conversation among those working in the informal food sector. This presentation will reveal the context of the informal food sector in Senegal, the energy situation in the informal food sector in Senegal, the blocking factors of the use of modern energy services and the strategies and measures to eliminate energy and gender policy constraints that affect people working in this sector.</p>
15:55	<p>Determinants of energy use in the informal food sector</p> <p>Dr. Nthabi Mohlakoana, Department of Governance and Technology for Sustainability (CSTM), University of Twente, The Netherlands</p> <p>Due to its nature, energy use patterns of the Informal Food Sector are not well understood by policy makers and local level authorities. Here, we present empirical data from the urban areas of Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa on how men and women in the Informal Food Sector use traditional and modern energy sources. In these countries, this sector is important, not only for providing the convenience of selling affordable and readily prepared meals, but also as an important source of income for women and men. Data shows that, similar to developing countries' low-income households, multiple fuel-use is also common among informal food enterprises.</p>
16:00	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p> <p>- How should research evidence be adapted to match policy needs? How to best transfer policy implications?</p>
16:15	<p>Wrap-up</p> <p>Prof. Hans Bressers, Department of Governance and Technology for Sustainability (CSTM), University of Twente, The Netherlands</p>
16:30	<p>Close of webinar</p>

Registration and Participation

Space is limited. Therefore, registration is requested by Tuesday 20 February 2018, midnight. Registrations can be made on: <http://www.tias-web.info/webinar-registration/>

This webinar is organized with The Integrated Assessment Society. The webinar will be hosted on Adobe Connect™. Registered participants will be sent the link to virtual meeting room together with their registration confirmation. An audio-visual **recording** of the webinars as well as the presentations and highlights will be made available within one week of the event.