

ALLIANCE FOR EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES (AERC) INTRODUCTION OF THE MEWARI ANGATHI COOKSTOVE IMPLANT TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IN GHANA

In Ghana, the cooking is done in the kitchens which are either room on the inside of the home or small separate buildings. Most often, the kitchens have little ventilation. Black residue covers the walls, evidence of years of cooking. A study carried out by AERC GH has proven that women who stay by the fire during the cooking process, along with some who do not, report having eye problems as a result of the smoke. Additionally, some women complain of respiratory problems from the smoke. Along with the health problems noted, sixty-two (62%) percent of women indicated that the firewood was becoming either more expensive or harder to gather. This change was attributed to both the deforestation and the increase in gas prices. When gas prices increase, it is more expensive to transport the large quantities of wood from the villages where the wood is collected to the users, causing the price increase. Despite the health implications and cost increase, firewood continues to be the main source of fuel.



The Mewari Angathi implant is very efficient and simple implant used for traditional rounded clay stoves which uses firewood fuels and it reduces wood usage by 63% and also decreases soot produced from by 89%, increasing in thermal Efficiency and Power rating by 2.7 times 2. This is a cookstove implant that is efficient in reducing the amount of firewood fuel used in cooking and also the smoke which has serious health implications of the women who cook in the kitchen. Unlike other stove, this cookstove implant has been very well received by the Ghanaian women, and the implant has dramatically decreased the amount of smoke produced by the fires.