

Advantages of improved mud stove as perceived by rural women

B. YADAV, R. DAHIYA AND P. KUNDU

Accepted : February, 2009

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

B. YADAV

Department of Home Science Extension Education, Faculty of Home Science, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA

ABSTRACT

Present study, an action-oriented research was undertaken in randomly selected Singran and Bhojraj villages of Hisar district to assess the advantages of improved mud stove covering 45 households wherein improved mud stoves were installed. The two direct advantages reported by quite high majority of the respondents were equal distribution of flame and decrease in soot deposition on utensils. Other direct advantages in descending order were consistency of fire burning, increased ease in cooking, better quality chapatis and decrease in fuel and time consumption. In terms of reduction in smoke generation and feasibility of using any size utensils were top ranked indirect advantages very closely followed by decrease in blowing frequency to burn fire and reduction in wavering of flame. Decrease in contact of flame with hands and reduced health hazards were other indirect advantages of improved mud stove.

Key words : Mud stove, Fuel, Flame, Direct and indirect, Advantages

Women are the head cook of family cooking system who bear the responsibility of not only cooking meals but also collecting fuel for meeting cooking needs. Cooking is done in smoky environment on traditional mud stoves with high fuel consumption and lower thermal efficiency. Firewood, crop residues and dung cake are the major fuel sources for meeting household level cooking purpose energy needs. Of these, the single most important source for fuel is firewood. Due to deforestation, women have to travel longer distance by spending many hours in collecting firewood to burn mud stoves. Batliwala (1995) observed that one of the most serious costs of energy scarcity for poor women and children is the range of health problems caused directly and indirectly. Srivastava and Rajput (1999) further reported that on an average health of 23.50 per cent households' women was affected due to cooking on traditional mud stoves and maximum percentage of them were affected by eye diseases. In order to provide an alternate cooking device with high fuel burning and thermal efficiency, department of Family Resource Management, CCSHAU, Hisar developed an improved stove for rural homes. Adoption of any technology is largely governed by the views /opinion of end users about its advantages therefore present pilot study was undertaken with the following objectives to study direct advantages of improved mud stove, to assess indirect advantages of improved mud stove.

Perception of regarding low cost solar bed:

Rural women play a significant and contributory role in production and management activities of crop production, animal husbandry, horticulture, and forestry

in addition to their traditional responsibility as homemakers. Women are believed to be pioneer in agriculture but with the advent of mechanization women have been displaced by mechanization, which are generally operated by male folk. In spite of their displacement in various operations, grain storage still remains the domain of rural women. Grains are stored either for household consumption or for seed. Large amount of grains are lost every year due to faulty storage practices. Spoilage contamination or attack by insect pest. Pulses especially gram is very sensitive to infestation and being measure protein providers to vegetable population. Efforts are required to prevent storage losses.

Drying of grains is the most commonly followed practice to increase shelf life. This method is a slow process requires considerable amount of attention in order to provide an alternate low cost drying technology (Grover, 2000) developed low cost solar technology for safe storage of gains and was found effective in checking infestation in grains in order to promote this technology among actual users and to assess the perception of respondents, present study an action research was conducted with the following objectives to assess the perception of the respondents towards solar bed and to assess adoption feasibility of solar bed.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana state where the only Agricultural University of the state is located. Considering the ease in approach and familiarity with the area, two villages of Hisar district *i.e.* Singran and Bhojraj were purposively selected to carry out the research activities under state funded research project.