



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE



UNCTAD TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PROJECT
ON ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE

MoTS-UNCTAD In-person Stakeholder Workshop on Technology Assessment

Concept Note

Thursday, 7 December 2023

Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere

Plot No. 6111, Opp. Manda Hill Mall, Lusaka - 10101

Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has a project promoting technology assessment (TA) in the energy and agricultural sectors in Africa. TA can become a powerful tool for making strategic choices about the procurement, development, introduction, and governance of new technologies. It entails critical and participatory evaluation of the social, economic and environmental benefits and risks of a technology.

The UNCTAD project seeks to strengthen the capacities of science, technology and innovation policymakers and other stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa, and to propose policies and mechanisms to support the learning, diffusion and adoption of technologies in the energy and agricultural sectors.

In Zambia, following a comprehensive review of national development plans and the technological landscape, it has been decided that the focus of the TA will be on small-scale biogas. Despite widespread use in various developed and developing nations, the use of biogas remains limited in Zambia. Small-scale biogas presents a promising avenue for the country to align with its development targets while steering towards sustainability.

In order to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach, essential for generating appropriate policy recommendations for the TA report, the insights and perspectives of stakeholders must be heard. With the objective of garnering valuable perspectives from all relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Technology and Science and UNCTAD have decided to organise a stakeholder workshop.

Participation

The workshop targets the following groups:

- Government officials, particularly those from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Technology and Science, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment;
- Officials from regulating agencies and public utility companies, especially those from the Energy Regulation Board (ERB), the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), and ZESCO Ltd;
- Representatives of academic and research institutions, particularly those belonging to the National Science and Technology Centre (NSTC), the Biofuels Association of Zambia (BAZ), and universities;
- Representative from the civil society, including those from rural communities, grid-connected power users, schools, health centres, municipalities, women associations;
- Representatives from the private sector, particularly those from engineering companies, technology companies, equipment manufacturers, banks, microfinance institutions, and farmers.

Relevant local staff of the TA project and two representatives of the UNCTAD team will also participate in-person.

Given the limited number of available seats, we appreciate your prompt confirmation of participation by emailing: Mr. Edward Chisanga, Independent Consultant, anonym-man@hotmail.com.

Format

The workshop is scheduled to take place in-person at Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere, Lusaka, on Thursday, 7 December 2023, from 08:30 to 16:40. The event will include a presentation on the TA project, and the main activities will involve focus group discussions to gather stakeholders' feedback. More information regarding the agenda can be obtained at the following link: <https://unctad.org/meeting/technology-assessment-person-stakeholder-workshop-zambia>.

Objectives and topics

This workshop aims to garner valuable perspectives from all relevant stakeholders, which are essential to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach that will enable the generation of appropriate policy recommendations for the TA report. More specifically, the objective of the workshop is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current status of small-scale biogas in Zambia, and exploring both its opportunities and challenges from the perspectives of relevant stakeholders from the government, regulators, academia, civil society and the private sector. The topics that will be covered include: I) knowledge of biogas technology and its core feature, II) attitudes towards biogas technology and its risks and

challenges, III) opportunities and benefits of biogas technology, IV) future considerations and support.

Important information

In anticipation of the workshop, we kindly request your input through a survey accessible at the following link: <https://forms.gle/YS4LhAvLqspQpnNn8>. Your responses, which will help shape the discussions in the workshop, should be sent by Friday, 1 December 2023.

For any queries, please contact: Mr. Matteo Ramina, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD, matteo.ramina@unctad.org.