

UNCTAD TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PROJECT  
ON ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE

**MoTS-UNCTAD National Validation Workshop on  
Technology Assessment of Biogas**

**Concept Note (draft)**

13-16 February 2024

Lusaka

## **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 particular technology. The UNCTAD project will seek 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 utilization 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 December 2023, the Department of Technology and Science of the Ministry of Technology and Science, in collaboration with UNCTAD, organised a key stakeholder workshop. This collaborative effort aimed to foster a participatory and inclusive approach of the TA, gathering valuable perspectives from various stakeholders such as government representatives, regulatory bodies, academia, the private sector, and civil society.

Following the workshop, the collected data underwent thorough analysis. The insights derived from this analysis and the resulting policy recommendations have been incorporated into a comprehensive TA report, which also outlines the research carried out in the previous months. Additionally, a draft action plan is currently being formulated to delineate the measures and activities that stakeholders are expected to undertake over different time periods.

A crucial step in finalising this endeavour is to validate the findings and recommendations of the TA report and proposed action plan. Recognising the significance of stakeholder input in this validation process, the Ministry of Technology and Science, in collaboration with UNCTAD, is organizing a joint national validation workshop. This workshop is designed to provide stakeholders with a platform to offer feedback on the TA report and action plan before they undergo final validation by the TA steering committee.

The workshop is structured into three main sessions:

1. Feedback Session. Stakeholders will be provided with a platform to offer comments and suggestions on the proposed TA report and action plan.
2. Revision Session. Following the feedback session, the UNCTAD staff, along with a team of local and international consultants, will revise the TA report and action plan.
3. Validation Session. The final phase involves presenting the revised TA report and action plan to the TA steering committee for endorsement.

Following the validation of the TA Report and Action Plan, a special launch event will be organised featuring the presence of Hon. Minister Felix C. Mutati and Hon. Minister Peter Chibwe Kapala at a biogas site.

## 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.
- Members of the TA steering committee.

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 spots, we appreciate your prompt confirmation of participation by emailing:

Mr. Edward Chisanga, Independent Consultant, [anonymman@hotmail.com](mailto:anonymman@hotmail.com).

## Format

The workshop is scheduled to take place on 13-16 February 2024, according to the following structure:

Date	Venue	Audience	Activities
Tuesday, 13 February	Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere, Lusaka	All stakeholders	Feedback on TA Report by stakeholders
Wednesday morning, 14 February	Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere, Lusaka	All stakeholders	Feedback on Action plan by stakeholders

Wednesday afternoon, 14 February	MoTS	UNCTAD staff and local and international consultants	Revision of TA report and action plan
Thursday, 15 February	MoTS	UNCTAD staff and local and international consultants	Revision of TA report and action plan
Friday morning and early afternoon, 16 February	Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere, Lusaka	TA Steering Committee	Presentation to TA Steering Committee and endorsement
Friday late afternoon, 16 February	Biogas site, TBD	Some TA steering committee members and some stakeholders	Launch of TA report and action plan

More information regarding the agenda can be obtained at the following link: [XXX](#).

### Objectives

The validation workshop is geared towards achieving three key objectives. First, it aims to produce a conclusive TA report that provides a rigorous analysis of the potential benefits and challenges associated with the adoption of small-scale biogas in Zambia within the context of the country's development priorities, while also including the feedback received from stakeholders.

Second, the workshop seeks to formulate an action plan for the adoption and diffusion of small-scale biogas that is not only effective but that is also informed by the feedback received from stakeholders and reflects their interests and concerns. The intention is to create a practical and actionable plan that can be implemented successfully, taking into account the insights and concerns of those directly involved in or impacted by this technology.

Lastly, the workshop is strategically designed to fulfil the objective of having the TA steering committee validate and endorse both the TA report and the action plan. This endorsement ensures that the findings and proposed measures are in alignment with the overarching goals and priorities established by the committee.

### Contacts

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