

Knowledge influence and use of biogas among rural communities in Tanzania: a case of Mvomero and Kilombero district.

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Access and use of modern energy for domestic consumption is a critical concern for most household in rural areas in Tanzania. Renewable energy is regarded a particularly promising option for ensuring access to modern energy for both commercial and domestic use. This study in particular had a focus in finding out the influence of knowledge in the use of biogas among rural communities. It has the aim of identifying advantages of biogas usage among rural communities in Tanzania. It also had aim of determining factors that could hinder the use of biogas technology in rural areas. The study was conducted in Morogoro region in Mvomero and Kilombero districts, specifically in Melela and Chita wards. Findings from this study show that knowledge about biogas has influence in the usage of biogas technology. The study further reveals the challenges faced by rural community on biogas usage which include; lack of technical knowhow in operating biogas digester, limited technical knowledge on biogas operations and lack of initial biogas plant installation costs. Several factors that can hinder rural usage of biogas were found including misconception on using animal dung as source of energy for cooking. Some poor families were found with a few numbers of cows to get enough feed for bio digester. This study recommends training local technicians, developing biogas projects, putting sustainability plans in place and financing poor families in installation costs of biogas plants. Also a wider study on biogas has also been recommended.

