

## **Actions to set-up a biogas programme in Africa**

**By: J.F.M. de Castro**

There are a number of actions or initiatives that have to take place at country level to develop a biogas programme.

### **1. Preliminary assessment of the potential of biogas in a country:**

- Availability of cattle per household and geographical spread.
- Lack of firewood and/or difficult to collect and/or cooking fuels are purchased.
- Water availability
- Conducive (energy) policy environment

By whom: DGIS/ workshop participants/ local organisations and or consultants

Timeline: October 2006.

Decision: Choice of a first batch of the most promising countries.

### **2. Get the political commitment of the governments of the chosen countries.**

By whom: DGIS.

Timeline: October-November 2006

### **3. In-depth country feasibility study of the introduction of biogas:**

- (Energy) policy background and former biogas initiatives.
- Intensive analysis of all necessary conditions.
- Need for credit, grants and own contribution (cash).
- Promotion needs
- Training needs.
- Management structure.
- Institutions involved.
- Government counterparts.
- Funding needs.

This will result in a detailed outline for a National Biogas Programme.

By whom: Consulting organisations, SNV, NGOs, other.

Timeline: November 2006 – January 2007.

#### **4. Funding and management of the programme.**

Programme period is 10 years and three years of phasing out. At global level the following steps need to be taken:

- Get commitment from public and private donor organisations.
- Organisation of the funding.
- Promotion of the Initiative.
- Coordination of the Initiative (management structure).
- Dissemination of knowledge and experiences.

By whom: DGIS, others.

Timeline: December 2006 – February 2007.

Second batch of countries to begin one or two years after first one: repeat steps (1), 2, 3 and 4