



Promotion of Renewable Energy & Energy Efficient Stoves in Tilori, Haiti



Photo Credits: Louise Meyer for SHE (Workshop participants at Sabanas Claras and Tilori)

In the past, the main source of income and subsistence in Tilori, Haiti - a rural community that borders the Sabana Clara Forest Reserve in the Dominican Republic - was harvest from fruit trees and other agricultural activities. With severe deforestation resulting from residents collecting firewood for cooking, the opportunity for income from farming and agribusiness in the area was greatly diminished and paved the way for illegal charcoal trade and environmental degradation.

An integrated cooking project in Tilori, Haiti - In 2010, Solar Household Energy (SHE) partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to implement an integrated cooking pilot project combining solar cookers and fuel-efficient stoves in Tilori, Haiti, to complement TNC's reforestation activities in the area.

SHE's co-founder and trainer Louise Meyer conducted four Tilori site visits over a two-year period to carry out a field assessment, distribute clean cooking technology, provide training and follow-up, and collect monitoring and evaluation data. In 2010, Louise traveled to Tilori and Dajabon, DR to conduct a regional analysis and field assessment, identifying the "Sun Oven" solar cooker and "Stove-Tec" fuel-efficient stove as the most appropriate clean cooking solutions for the Tilori community. In October 2011, she trained 30 local women (25 Tilori women and 5 Dominicans) in the usage of each of these clean cooking solutions. In February 2012, she returned to Tilori to evaluate the impact of integrated cooking in the community and found that all clean cookstove recipients reported less soot and smoke during their cooking process.

*“Before, when I used wood for cooking, I would have red eyes and burning and headaches from the fumes; sometimes I couldn’t sleep at night. Now with the solar ovens I feel better—no headaches and no red eyes.”
-Idamane Supreme, SHE training participant and Tilor community leader (courtesy of TNC)*



Tilor locals cooking with Stove-Tec fuel-efficient stove
Photo Credits: Courtesy of Louise Meyer for SHE



Tilor local cooking in her Sun Oven solar cooker

During the final evaluation mission in September 2012, SHE found that most families preferred larger pot sizes (11 liters) for solar cooking given the larger average household size, which is around six. Overall, participants experienced a 50% reduction in their daily overall fuel consumption (wood/charcoal/other) and in wood collection time (for some, the figure was significantly higher at 80%, e.g. 25 lbs average wood fuel usage reduced to only 5 lbs).

Through the Tilor initiative, SHE and its partners are working to improve the lives of residents by reducing deforestation, expanding access to clean cooking technology, and empowering and training women to use and share solar and fuel-efficient technology. SHE is currently working with TNC to introduce parabolic solar cookers capable of faster cooking, grilling and frying.

Peace Corps training in Dominican Republic - In April 2012, SHE held a separate two-day training for 22 Peace Corps volunteers in Santiago, DR, sponsored by the USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program. The 22 volunteers received instruction in the use and promotion of the integrated cooking system already tested in Tilor - this helped broaden their knowledge of solar, fuel-efficient and traditional cooking methods.

For more information, contact: inquiries@she-inc.org.

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