

#### Modernization of rural and semi-rural household tortilla businesses with the Ecostove in Nicaragua

## By: PROLEÑA/Nicaragua

### Project Leader: Rogério Carneiro de Miranda

Goal: Subsidize 1/3 of the Ecostove cost to 1,000 women micro-entrepreneurs, improving their sanitary working conditions, their business profitability, while protecting the environment.

### WHY THIS SPECIFIC PROJECT:

1. In Nicaragua too many women takes charge of the family financial responsability, due the unemployment of the husband or even the ausency of one.

2. For many the only income choice is tortilla production, since it is a low skilled job, require very low capital for the investiment, and can be made at home while supervising the family.

3. Their usual working conditions can be seen as unhumane by outsiders: long hours expose to heat and smoke from traditional woodstoves.

4. Improving their working conditions can be easily done by the simple introduction of the Ecostove.

5. The Ecostove is a new state of the art woodstove suitable for developing and underdeveloped countries households.

- 6. With the Ecostove project PROLEÑA aims to:
- reduce pressure over the natural forest with increased fuel efficiency from 8-12 to 20% (>50% fuel wood saving),
- •near eliminate indoor air poluttion (94%) and its negative health effects (Accute Respiratory Infections, Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases, tuberculosis, cronic bronchitis and low birth weight),
- •minimize outdoor air pollution on the surrounding community (<50%) and reduce by 35% emissions of greenhouse gases,
- •Increase business profitability for the hard working women
- Improve working conditions for the women
- Improve sanitary conditions for the food produced
- •Improve women self-esteem and status in the household and in their community.
- •Disseminate and promote the Ecostove concept among rural and peri-urban households in Nicaragua and Central America.

Nicaragua, 2001 socio-economical data (%):			
Source: www.inec.gob.ni			
	National	Urban	Rural
General poverty	74.8	70.0	81.5
(=< US\$ 1.0/day)			
Extreme poverty	44.4	38.1	53.1
(=< US\$ 0.5 /day)			
Fuelwood for household cooking:			
National	Urban	Rural	
60.0	38.2	92.2	
Separated families:			
	Separated	Widow(er)	Divorced
Men	3.6	2.0	0.3
Women	12.9	6.7	1.0
Children that live with one parent :			
	Men	Women	
Rural	2.0	16.4	
Urban	3.1	28.9	
women as self employed: 36.4			
Households with a home business 47.0			
production: 24.0 servicies: 36.0 comm			erce: 44.3
Women as head of the household:			
Urban : 38.8	Rural: 19.3		



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