

Rotary International Three Way Stove Project Turkey and Armenia September, October, 2005

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Introducing the Rocket Stove into the Solar cooking program in Turkey.

Of the six and a half billion people who live in the world, seventy million live in Turkey, and another three million live in Armenia. Most of these people use gas and electricity to cook, but for the few millions too poor or too unfortunate to have gas or electricity, only wood and sticks, and agricultural waste remain for them to use as fuel for cooking their food, and for heating.

That's why the Rotary International three way stove project is so important. Solar cooking was introduced to Turkey four years ago by the Seyhan Rotary Club, and now its dissemination is underway. But most biomass cooking remains in its primitive state: people cook on open fires or with unimproved stoves. They have never heard of another way. The recently developed idea of the Rocket stove, of cooking with improved combustion has not yet made its way to this part of the world. That's why teaching the Rocket stove principles and using these principles to build practical, useful stoves is so helpful and so important.

The Rocket stove is an idea based on ten rules of combustion. If you follow these rules when you design and make a stove, this stove will be twice as good as the open fire. You will burn one half of the wood to cook your food and you will make one half of the smoke and fumes of the open fire. This means that the family can cut and collect one half as much fuel. This saves time and work and helps to slow the omnipresent deforestation. It means that your family will breathe less smoke and fumes. You will have better health, and be exposed to less risk from burns.

So our recent Rotary International project has introduced the Rocket stove idea along with solar cooking (And I should also mention the insulated cooking box). Like any new idea the Rocket stove has been accepted reluctantly, but it has been accepted. Now it remains to be developed. Hopefully this is the next challenge of the Seyhan Rotary Club, and hopefully these ideas will work their way into Armenia and all of the other unmentioned places where people cook with wood but have not yet heard of these alternatives to cooking with the open fire.

The first step has been taken and the path is being created down which cooking practices will be improved for thousands of people in Turkey and Armenia. Also we shouldn't forget that one half of the people in the world still cook on open fires.



Cooking in Turkey with Rocket Stoves

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