



## **Summer 2006 CEDESOL Testing Procedures**

### **Clayton Rohman & Zach Steffens**

### **ETHOS volunteers**

#### Week 2

During this past week, we had the opportunity to attend a solar cooker workshop sponsored by the Bolivia Project, which is headed up by Michael Vehar and Collin Whelley. Michael has worked with ETHOS before, but they are down here working in cooperation with the Bolivian micro enterprise - Sobre La Roca: Alternative Energies, in order to make solar cookers a possibility for families that previously could not afford them. The solar cooker class was a three-day course in which all materials for the cookers were provided and we showed each person taking the course how to assemble their own cooker. One reason for this was that once they use their cooker and other people in their village want a cooker these people can show them how to assemble it. Also included with the course, the Bolivia Project provides lunch everyday to show the different kinds of foods that you can cook with these cookers and how long it takes to cook. Once the food is prepped and placed inside, it takes about 2 hours for the cooker to fully cook chicken and potatoes. And if something is done cooking but it is not time to eat yet, then by simply closing the lid will retain enough heat in order to keep the food hot for as long as the lid is closed.

This was really a great experience for Zach and I. Putting together these cookers piece by piece with the people taking the workshop was very gratifying, knowing that these cookers were going to create a healthier environment for them to cook in. It was the first time that we actually got to see the difference these cookers could make in someone's life. We have not experimented with solar cookers yet, but that is something we hope to do in weeks to come. These solar cookers may not be as rapid cooking as the biomass stoves that we have been testing, since their power source is the sunlight it uses absolutely no fuel and is very easy to operate. Once we finished the course, the members of the village gave us gifts, food, and drink in appreciation for helping them make this new way of healthier cook for them a reality. We took several pictures of the workshop that are posted below. The Bolivia Project will plan on having workshops close to every other week, and hopefully we will get to assist them a few more times. Next week we will continue our tests with the 2 burner rocket stove and basic rocket stove.



At the start of each day, Ruth (left) and Carmen (tan hat) would show everyone how to setup up the cooker in order to cook chicken, meatloaf, potatoes, and cakes.



Next would come the constructing of the cookers. Freddie and Felix (kneeling) would show everyone each step of the assembly.



After showing them how to put it together, the people taking the class would then work on assembling their own cooker.



We had to make 25 different cookers for 20 different families.



The best part about these cookers is the ease that you can cook on them. (Above) All you have to do is set the banana cake in the cooker, and (below) then an hour or so later it is baked to perfection.



And they always come out brown and moist.



The villager's kids were a lot of fun to have around, but not the best workers I must say ;).



We also brought the 2 - burner plancha rocket stove in order to cook the rice and also show the people a little of what CEDESOL has to offer them.



This is Ruth, the owner of Sobre La Roca, presenting a cooker to one of the ladies taking the course. Each person that took the course signed a contract in order to pay for his or her share of the cooker over the next couple months.



Once the course was finished, they gave us all kinds of gifts that they made for us to show us how much they appreciated what we were doing.



Clayton here has kind of a large head so it was a little bit of a struggle to get it on, but after some effort it finally fit.



Also at the end of the course, the organizer of the event and his boss gave us a very formal thank you for all the work that we were doing for their village and their community.



And of course, just one of the many benefits of the cookers, really good eating!!!



So this is the work of the Bolivia Project, and it was a really great chance for us to see how our work is improving people's lives.