SENEGAL

In the past 6 months, we significantly improved our Solarcooker Eco3 (parabolic solar cooker). A newly developed holder can now easily carry cooking pots with a weight till 7 kg. Another critical point was to obtain a good focalisation of the reflected sun light with nearly perpendicular sun positions.
We made somes changes which now enable to change the inclination of the parabole and to get a good performance, whatever the position of the sun. We are now able to cook 6l of H20 with a reflecting surface of only 1,25m2. With these adjustments, we are convinced that this solar cooker one of the best priced , quality solar cooker in the world.

Ongoing solar cooking projects.

Our pilot project in the north of Senegal (Djoudj) where more than 400 solar cookers were introduced in 2011 is now concluded. A follow up survey is underway, but early observations stress once again the need for a long term education and the presence of dedicated people living closely with the target group to continue the educational process. The often very large families (cooking together for up to 15 -20 people) and complicated methods for cooking the traditional main dish (the "thieboudiene") make the introduction of new cooking methods like solar cooking very challenging. The solar cooker is used reguraly for side dishes and hot water. This is of course an important first step.

Meanwhile, a new pilot project has started in another area of Senegal, near St Louis in the "Langue de Barbarie". The living conditions here are quite similar as in the Djoudj: villages are in a

semi arid zone, close to a national parc, and depend on wood or charcoal for cooking. Gas is also used but is expense and supply is often not available. Use of firewood puts a strain on the habitats of the protected zone.
A highly motivated group of women will be the promotors of the solar cooking system with our support. This new project should expand our field experience with the solar cooker. We also hope to enlarge the concept by introducing the system of hay basket as a way to save energy. About 250 solar cookers will be introduced by the end of 2012 (after the rainy season).

A second new solar cooking project is underway in Mauritanië with the financial support of the United Nations. Once again the focus is on villages that are located in a national parc (the Diawling). Deforestation is here an important threat to local biodiversity and makes life even more tough for people living there. A combined program of reforestation and introduction of new cooking methods tries to offer durable alternatives. Our organisation will work in close collaboration with local structures and parc autorities, who initiated the demand for a solar cooking project.

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SC Eco 3