eCooking CoP & Clean Cooking SIG Learning and Networking Workshop

Theme: eCooking Market Development, Priorities, Partnerships, and Influence

12th August 2025, Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi

1. Background

The eCooking Community of Practice (CoP) was launched in 2022 to foster collaboration and innovation between the clean cooking and electricity access sectors. It is co-led by Gamos East Africa (GamEA), the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Kenya Power (KPLC), and the Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK), with support from the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme. Membership has grown rapidly, from 280 members in 2023 to more than 665 in 2025. This growth is attributed to monthly dialogues, participation in Clean Cooking Week, and sectoral engagement.

The Clean Cooking Special Interest Group, established in 2021 at the request of the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum (MoEP), has worked alongside the Community of Practice to develop the Kenya National Cooking Transition Strategy (KNCTS) 2024-2030 and the Kenya National Electric Cooking Strategy (KNeCS) 2024. These strategies provide Kenya's roadmap to achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030.

The workshop convened stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, private sector, and development partners to review sector progress, identify challenges, and chart priorities for scaling eCooking solutions. It was also an opportunity to launch new initiatives and strengthen collaborations across the sector.

2. Objectives

The workshop set out to:

• Reflect on progress and milestones achieved in the implementation of the Kenya National eCooking Strategy (KNeCS).
• Discuss emerging challenges, opportunities, partnerships, and engagement with innovative platforms such as the Electrify Cooking Series.
• Strengthen networking and partnerships within the Community of Practice and SIG 5.
• Highlight ongoing projects and mobilize support for upcoming sectoral initiatives, including Clean Cooking Week 2025.

Expected outcomes included:

- Enhanced shared understanding of sectoral achievements, challenges, and priority actions.
- Stronger partnerships and visibility for eCooking innovations in Kenya and East Africa.
- Expanded digital and professional networks among participants for co-creating entrepreneurship initiatives
- Official launch of the Electrify Cooking Series and its digital engagement platforms.

3. Summary of Sessions

Opening Session

The workshop opened with introductions and welcome remarks from Dr. Faith Odongo Wandera, Director of Renewable Energy at Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, State Department of Energy. And Mr. Martin Mutembei, Project Coordinator Strathmore Energy Research Centre.

Dr. Faith Wandera highlighted Kenya's commitment to transitioning 1.4 million households to electric cooking by 2030 and the role of partnerships in achieving this. She acknowledged the support of partners including Gamos East Africa, MECS, KPLC, Access Coalition, Practical Action, SNV, EnDev, GIZ and CCAK. An CCG Kenya was recongnised for the unique role and contribution to the Clean Cooking initiatives in Kenya through in-kind, time and finances like in supporting the validations workshops during development of the strategies, developing forums that bring together Inter-ministerial members from various government departments and the time given in coordination of the clean cooking SIG.

In her detailed address, Dr. Faith highlighted that electric cooking has evolved into a central component of Kenya's energy transition, driven by strong collaborations. She stressed that eCooking is now embedded in the Kenya National Energy Compact 2025, to be presented at the UN General Assembly in September 2025, and integrated into the upcoming National Energy Policy 2025–2034, the Clean Cooking Implementation Unit, and the Integrated National Energy Planning process. She praised the Community of Practice and SIG members for their active contributions in shaping these policy instruments and acknowledged their seriousness and dedication in advancing Kenya's clean cooking agenda.

She also noted the important role played by the Climate Compatible Growth (CCG) programme, whose coordination and technical support within the Clean Cooking Special Interest Group has helped generate evidence-based insights, inform the KNCTS and KNeCS, and strengthen collaboration with partners such as government, MECS, Gamos East Africa, Kenya Power, and CCAK—further anchoring eCooking within Kenya's broader energy and climate strategies.

Martin Mutembei, Project Coordinator Kenya CCG Network also delivered remarks emphasizing CCG's role in coordination and knowledge sharing. He shared insights on how

co-creation is a powerful tool to use in achieving personal, business and government objects in the clean cooking and broader energy sector. He showcased the other SIG that from the CCG network which include National and County Energy Planning SIG, Low-carbon Transport SIG, Policy Pathways SIG, Climate Entrepreneurship SIG, Climate Land Energy and Waters systems SIGs. He also shared other works delivered by CCG in Kenya and other partner countries in research, policy and capacity building with the government, academia and industry partners.

Kenya National eCooking Strategy (KNeCS) Overview

Presented by MoEP Dr. Faith Wandera and MECS Dr. Jon Leary, the presentation featured an overview of the strategy and the status so far.

The KNeCS outlines a dual objective: universal access to electricity and clean cooking. Key projections include:

- Having over 10% of households transitioning to eCooking by 2030.
- Cooking demand is projected to surpass all other domestic electricity uses by 2050.
- Strategic initiatives:
  - Strengthening the enabling environment (policies, infrastructure, standards).
  - Validating innovative solutions through pilots and demonstrations.
  - Bridging affordability and access gaps with financing and awareness campaigns.

The presentation also featured the strategic initiatives which are the anchors that provide a roadmap for scaling adoption.

KNeCS Strategic Initiatives:

- SI1: Strengthen the enabling environment for eCooking by addressing policy, infrastructure and capacity gaps.
- SI2: Validate innovative eCooking solutions for broader market adoption through demonstration projects.
- SI3: Bridge affordability and access gaps for eCooking solutions through market development activities.

The strategy status update shows that it requires approximately $55 million in funding, with $7.1 million mobilized so far.

They highlighted key projects aligned with implementation including AfDB-CAW: Kenya eCooking Market Development Programme, EnDev HTC RBF – supply chain development, consumer awareness and MECS – foundational research, market development, venture building, stakeholder mobilisation

Data-Driven Utility Management (Bayes Consulting)

Bayes Consulting, a tech consultancy focusing on emerging technologies, particularly Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Internet of Things and their applications in the energy and climate sector.

As part of learning as requested by CoP participants Bayes Consulting took members through the project that are working on with partners that include EED Advisory, Drive Electric, Gamos EA, KK Advisors and Verst Carbon. The project titled "The Data-Driven Utility Management for Demand Response & Green Energy Transition in Africa project (funded by CIFF) targets demand stimulation via e-cooking & e-mobility to improve utility financial viability. The initiative aims to leverage eCooking and e-mobility to boost electricity demand, improve grid utilization, and ensure financial viability for utilities while fostering cross-sector collaboration among utilities, regulators, policymakers, and financiers.

Their workstreams include:

- Electrification of cooking for demand growth.
- E-mobility integration and vehicle-to-grid innovations.
- Demand-side management platforms using IoT-enabled smart meters.
- Tariff reforms and cost-reflective pricing models.
- Budget-neutral transition strategies through carbon finance.

The MECs team presented on workstream 1 eCooking which seeks to characterize national markets and identify scalable pathways in collaboration with utilities and regulators. This workstream emphasizes co-designing pilots to address key barriers to adoption, such as appliance affordability, consumer awareness, and supply chain readiness and ways of enabling peer-to-peer learning by facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The team demonstrated how demand stimulation is being explored across households, commercial, institutional, and industrial segments. Utility-enabled eCooking approaches

include public awareness campaigns, demonstration projects, training for last-mile entrepreneurs, repair technicians, utility staff and customers, as well as support for innovation challenge funds, appliance sub-metering, integration with utility billing, and after-sales service development.

eCooking Market Assessment: Country highlights

The MECS team presented regional insights on opportunities and challenges for scaling eCooking. Key highlights include:

Kenya: Despite achieving over 90% renewable electricity generation and more than 75% national electricity access, only 1% of households primarily cook with electricity, with around 65% still reliant on polluting fuels such as charcoal and firewood. Kenya has taken important steps to stimulate demand, including creating a new tariff band specifically to support eCooking, piloting rebate schemes, and embedding eCooking in the next phase of the Last Mile Connectivity Programme. The supply chain for efficient appliances is comparatively strong, with local distributors and innovative delivery models (such as utility-linked sales and co-marketing campaigns) already in place. Kenya Power has set a corporate target of reaching 500,000 eCooking customers by 2026, and eCooking has been integrated into school feeding initiatives and televised consumer awareness campaigns (e.g. *Pika na Power*). However, barriers remain—particularly the relatively high cost of electricity for consumers and strong political attention to LPG as the main alternative cooking fuel..

Uganda: Significant progress has been made through utility-enabled initiatives led by Umeme. Over 1,500 EPCs with smart meters were distributed to staff and customers, followed by an additional 2,750 units due to high demand. Monitoring showed households using an average of 9.35 kWh per month, with around 27 cooking events, leading to a 27% reduction in household cooking fuel expenditure. Demonstrations across Umeme offices created widespread awareness, with more than 40 live demos attracting consumer interest. Uganda is also at the forefront of carbon markets, hosting the world's first eCooking Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) project, with several more in the pipeline. The country's National eCooking Strategy targets 18% of households primarily using electricity for cooking by 2030, and ongoing programmes such as the 100+ Schools eCooking Project are embedding eCooking within public institutions. However, challenges remain such as the appliance supply chain is still nascent with limited working capital for distributors, cooking tariffs are not always reaching low-income households, and awareness of eCooking among rural communities is variable.

Tanzania: The national utility, TANESCO, has become a strong champion of eCooking and is spearheading efforts to scale adoption. Awareness campaigns and capacity-building activities are ongoing, targeting both staff and customers, alongside institutional programmes that promote eCooking in schools and public facilities. TANESCO is also piloting on-bill financing using pre-payment meters—which are widely used across the country—to make appliances more affordable and accessible. eCooking has been embedded in the Tanzania National Clean Cooking Strategy as the least-cost cooking option, supported by donor-funded initiatives such as the £3.5 million eCooking Scale and Support Programme. Additionally, carbon market

activity is expanding, with companies like Burn and UpEnergy receiving authorisations to develop eCooking carbon projects. Despite these advances, uptake remains limited by affordability barriers, misinformation about the cost of electric cooking, and a nascent appliance supply chain that is still developing to meet growing demand.

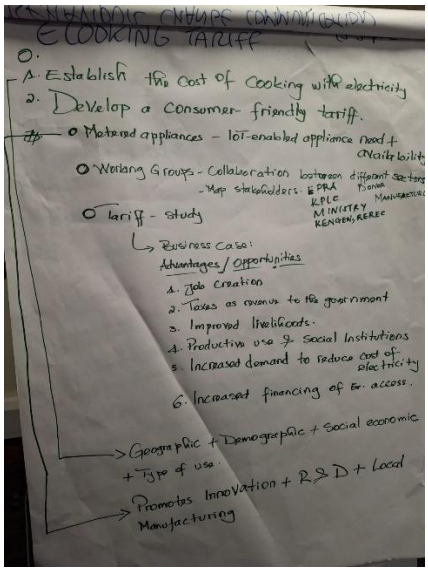
Ethiopia: Already records 4% of households primarily cooking with electricity, largely enabled by very low hydropower tariffs and high renewable penetration. The country has also developed a local appliance manufacturing industry, producing eCooking devices tailored to local cuisine. Importantly, eCooking is already integrated into electricity sector planning, supported by the Draft National Carbon Market Strategy (2025), which positions carbon finance as a key enabler for scale.

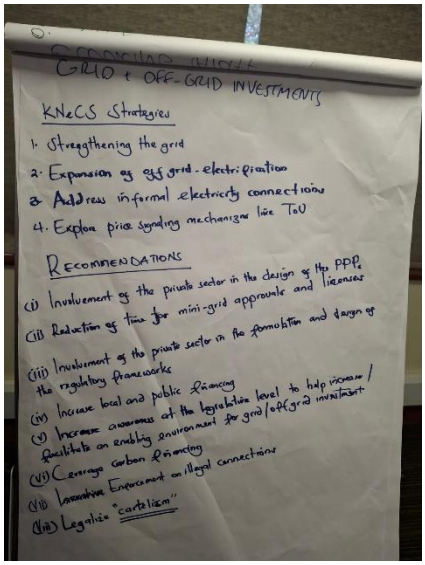
Malawi: Launched its eCooking Roadmap in 2024 and has attracted international investment to strengthen grid infrastructure, especially solar and storage, to address load shedding on its hydro-dependent grid. While the policy and investment environment is becoming supportive, the eCooking appliance supply chain remains limited and heavily reliant on imports from South Africa and China. Despite these challenges, Malawi is positioning eCooking as part of its broader energy transition strategy.

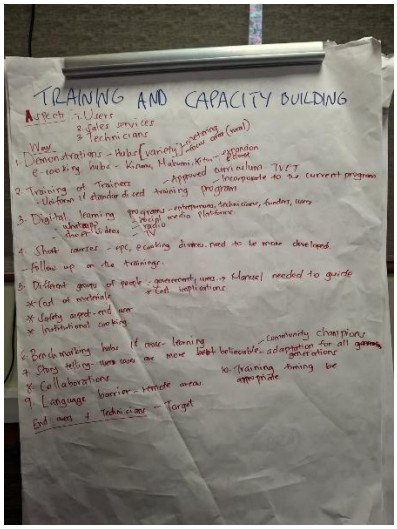
Activity I: Prioritization of KNeCS Actions

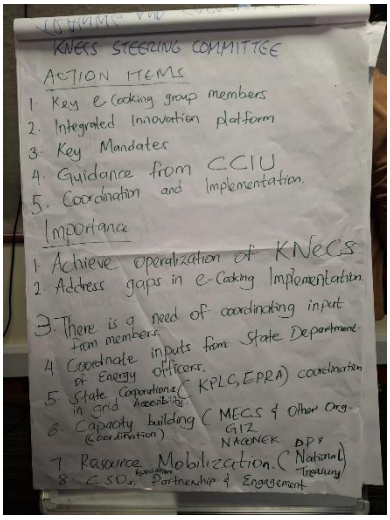
Participants engaged in group discussions to prioritize actions under the KNeCS strategic initiatives. Discussions emphasized affordability, financing, policy alignment, and capacity building as key enablers of scaling eCooking adoption.

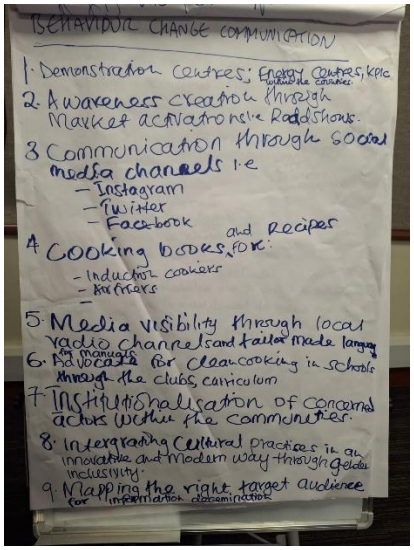

Demonstration centres
Awareness creation through
Market activations
Communication through social media channels i.e
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Facebook
Cooking
- Induction cookers
- Burners
Media visibility through local radio channels
Institutionalization of concerned actors within the communities
Integrating Cultural practices in an innovative and modern way through fields
Mapping the right target audience

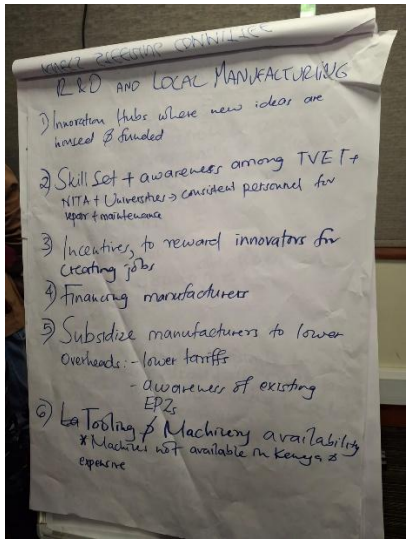

COOKING TARIFF
0.
A. Establish the cost of cooking with electricity
2. Develop a consumer-friendly tariff.
Metered appliances - IoT-enabled appliance need + Availability
Working Groups - Collaboration between different sectors
Map stakeholders:
PPA
KPLC
MINISTRY
RENGEN/REREC
Tariff - study
Business case:
Advantages/Opportunities
1. Job creation
2. Taxes as revenue to the government
3. Improved livelihoods.
4. Productive use & Social Institutions
5. Increased demand to reduce cost of electricity
6. Increased financing of En. access.
Geographic + Demographic + Social economic + Type of use.
Promotes Innovation + R&D + Local Manufacturing


GRID + OFF-GRID INVESTMENTS
KNeCS Strategies
1. Strengthening the grid
2. Expansion of off-grid electrification
3. Address informal electricity connections
4. Explore price signaling mechanism like ToU
RECOMMENDATIONS
(i) Involvement of the private sector in the design of the PPPs licenses
(ii) Reduction of time for mini-grid approvals and
(iii) Involvement of the private sector in the formulation and design of the regulatory frameworks
(iv) Increase local and public financing
(v) Increase awareness at the legislative level to help increase / facilitate an enabling environment for grid/off-grid investment
(vi) Leverage carbon financing
(vii) Intensive Enforcement on illegal connections
(viii) Legalize "cartelism"









Influencing AfDB Investments & Civil Society Participation

ACCESS Coalition presentation outlined why clean cooking must feature in large-scale financing conversations. With ~75% electricity access in Kenya but <1% of households primarily cooking with electricity, the presentation framed a persistent gap between power access and clean cooking uptake. It introduced Mission 300 (targeting 300M additional electricity connections by 2030 via blended finance) and stressed the importance of localizing investment plans so allocations reflect country priorities and on-the-ground realities.

The presentation emphasized integrating eCooking into national and sub-national planning i.e. CIDPs, CEPs, and the INEP framework by leveraging Kenya's devolved system where

counties act as implementers and major institutional customers. It highlighted that KNeCS calls for stronger coordination between national and county levels and capacity building to mainstream eCooking.

On civil society, ACCESS Coalition focused on the role of CSOs in ensuring equity and meaningful participation in decision making. The slides called for visibility of financing flows from MDBs (how much, what type of finance, where it goes, and associated SDG7 impacts) so stakeholders can monitor results and assess energy-poverty outcomes.

Activity II: LinkedIn Networking

Participants were encouraged to connect digitally via LinkedIn to expand professional networks, enhance visibility for eCooking expertise, and strengthen digital engagement beyond physical convenings.

This was an intentional networking session where individuals were able to

1. The structured format of speed networking encourages participants to engage with a wide range of individuals, potentially leading to valuable connections and collaborations
2. Initiate connections and facilitate the building of rapport, especially for new CoP members. The focused conversations help create familiarity and a sense of community within the clean cooking sector and CoP
3. The format encourages concise and impactful communication as participants need to quickly introduce themselves and their work. This can help individuals refine their elevator pitches and improve their ability to articulate their ideas effectively as report back was expected after the session
4. For new members who were looking to expand their professional network, the forum was a great way to gain visibility in the industry and CoP. It provided an opportunity to showcase their skills and personality in a low-pressure environment which could be leveraged in research for policy development and industry development.
5. In the spirit of developing a well cohesive SIG network the session was designed to be fun and engaging to break the ice and foster more positive and collaborative engagements

Launch of the Electrify Cooking Series

The Electrify Cooking Series was officially launched as a joint effort by MECS, KPLC, CCAK, and Panoram. The series documents innovations across six categories: product, service, programme, event-based, community engagement, and innovator profiles. Four episodes are already in production, with the first premiered during the workshop. The new platform that aims to spotlight eCooking innovations and foster collaboration in Kenya and beyond.

Click the title to view the first Episode. Electrify Cooking Ep 1: eCooking Appliance Repair & Maintenance Training at Kisumu eCooking Hub

Activity III: Slido Engagement

Participants used Slido for interactive feedback, capturing preferences for communication platforms, innovations of interest, and reactions to the Electrify Cooking Series. This digital engagement enriched the workshop outcomes. Gamos will share insights once analysis has been finalised.

Spotlight on Clean Cooking Week 2025

The Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK) shared updates on the upcoming Clean Cooking Week, scheduled for 26th–28th August 2025 in Kilifi County. The event theme is 'Implementing Clean Cooking Strategies and County Energy Plans: Transformation, Inclusivity, and Empowerment.' Planned features include:

- Launch of county energy plans and clean cooking policies.
- Policy and investment dialogues on clean cooking strategies.
- Exhibitions and demonstrations by innovators.
- Field visits to local initiatives.
- Public awareness campaigns and media engagement.

Closing Session

Dr. Jon Leary of MECS closed the workshop by summarizing the key outcomes and emphasizing the need for sustained partnerships, financing, and innovation. He reaffirmed the role of the CoP and SIG 5 as vital platforms in Kenya's energy transition and scaling of eCooking adoption.

4. Conclusion

The workshop successfully convened over 80 stakeholders and reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to achieving universal access to clean cooking. It highlighted the integration of eCooking into broader energy and climate strategies and launched the Electrify Cooking Series to showcase innovations. The deliberations underscored the importance of policy support, financing, and partnerships. The outcomes set a strong foundation for the upcoming Clean Cooking Week and for accelerating progress towards universal clean cooking access by 2030.

1. A fun moment where sme play was done to make the sessions lively and fresh

A Photo showing the Cake cutting session on the launch of Electrify Cooking platform

More photos to the event can be accessed via the following link

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h_LNh9mr4x-XLsAhjS6G0EnzYnVHthMx?usp=sharing

Link to the event presentation

https://gamoseastafrica.sharepoint.com/:p:/s/GamosEastAfricaShare/EbPsiNL8hIVPqok7T9QlNj8BgFkyZO7_4xaI_FebVrtRqA?e=Qemx1zs done can be accessed via the following link