

FIRST Forum Meeting of West Central Africa Energy Futures Network (W-CAEN)

The Potential for Biogas Generation in Africa

Date: Tuesday 18th May 2010, at 7.30pm **Venue:** The University of Aberdeen
Kings College, Room NK10

Synopsis:

[Biogas Generators](#) are used extensively in China and in growing numbers in [India](#) and Vietnam. They can provide energy for water heating, lighting and cooking.

The focus of this meeting will be the potential for the generation of energy from biogas generators in sub-Saharan Africa.

In many parts of Africa electricity is expensive and unreliable. Whilst significant challenges exist in terms of population dispersal, access to investment funds and infrastructure deficits there is a great potential for different forms of renewable energy generation such as solar, wind and energy from biomass to help alleviate poverty and improve quality of life.

Panel Members:

[Prof. E. R. Orskov](#) of the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute. Bob is one of Britain's leading livestock nutrition experts and has experience of installing biogas generators. Bob also a sponsor of the [Orskov Foundation](#).

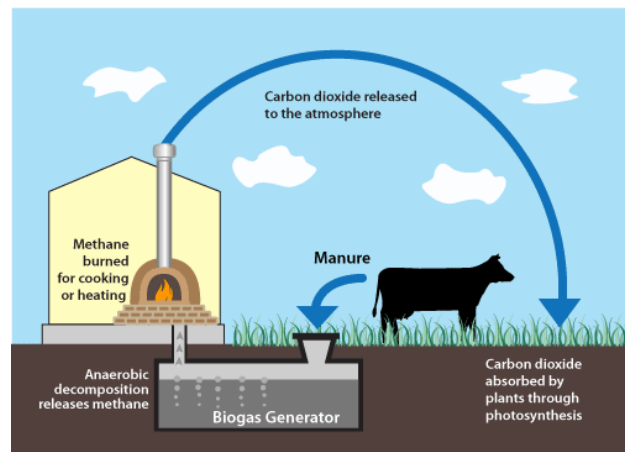
[Dr Jo Smith](#) of Aberdeen University. Jo has recently submitted a proposal for setting up a network of people working on biogas digesters in Sub-Saharan Africa. Jo's interest is in the use of the digested product as a soil improver to provide nutrients, sequester carbon and improve soil structure.

[Debbie Donde](#) - Debbie's project is to explore the architectural potential for sustainable design in Kenya including adaptation to renewable technologies such as biogas and solar power early in the design phase. Debbie has direct experience of her family's biogas generator which has been running with almost no maintenance since it was installed in 1979.

Further Information:

The meeting will be relatively informal with the objective of raising awareness of the potential of biogas generation, encouraging the audience to share any experiences and ideas etc.

There will be two short videos of 1) a biogas generator at work in a Kenyan context and 2) a generator for small scale farmers in Vietnam which was screened by the BBC in 1997.



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