



Gaia Association and Stockholm Environment Institute Launch New Initiative to Produce Clean Cooking Fuel from Waste Feedstocks for Addis Ababa Households

December 1, 2011 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On November 23, Gaia Association, in partnership with Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, launched the new project, "Fuel from Waste: Demonstrating the Feasibility of Locally Produced Ethanol for Household Cooking in Addis Ababa."

Ethiopian non-profit Gaia Association will implement the two year initiative supported by a grant from the Nordic Climate Facility (NCF), financed by the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), implemented jointly with the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), which will fund the installation of an ethanol microdistillery on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The project will demonstrate the feasibility of ethanol micro distilleries (EMDs) in Ethiopia based upon a market that serves urban household cooking needs.

This builds upon an initiative funded by the World Bank in December 2010 through its Energy Sector Management Program (ESMAP) Clean Energy Investment Framework (CEIF) multi donor trust fund (MDTF), called the Biomass Energy Initiative in Africa (BEIA). The additional resources provided by the NCF will strengthen the BEIA project and permit an expanded scope, including the development of carbon finance for the ethanol stoves and study of the life cycle carbon benefits achieved by the EMD. Impact Carbon, affiliated with the University of California at Berkeley, joins the project team for this work.

The NCF project was launched on November 23, 2011 with a workshop facilitated by the implementing partners, Gaia and SEI. Approximately thirty participants including Ethiopian government, civil society and private sector stakeholders attended. The workshop included presentations on the environmental and sustainability issues of clean cookstoves and fuels.

The distillery will be run by a local women's cooperative, the Former Women Fuelwood Carriers Association (FWFCA). It will produce ethanol from collected fruit and vegetable waste from Addis Ababa's markets and from other low-value feedstocks. It will produce ethanol for household cooking for cooperative members and eventually for other households. This ethanol fuel will be used in the Dometic CleanCook stove, which is being commercialized in Ethiopia by Makobu Enterprises PLC. A grant was

received from the United State Environmental Protection Agency to assist with the stove commercialization.

Pilot studies with the CleanCook stove, conducted city-wide in Addis Ababa between 2004 and 2006, with support from the Shell Foundation, showed high consumer acceptance and willingness to switch from other stoves and fuels, including wood, charcoal and kerosene. Gaia Association and local energy experts will now determine the feasibility of serving very low income households in Addis Ababa and will demonstrate strategies for reaching these households. The Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment of the project. SEI will manage the project, conduct a detailed socioeconomic impact analysis, and coordinate the overall feasibility study.

The project is a “triple win,” designed to replace the traditional use of biomass in households, improve health and improve livelihoods in the community. The project will support the Ethiopian Government’s efforts to mitigate climate change and deforestation by replacing traditional biomass with clean-burning, locally produced ethanol used in modern stoves. The project will enhance the Government’s Import Substitution strategy by helping to establish ethanol as the substitute for kerosene. The project aims to create a model for replication, which will be communicated to Ethiopian and African policy makers. The micro distillery will be built on a small farm at the outskirts of Addis Ababa less than 2 kilometers distant from the African Union headquarters.

Gaia Association is an Ethiopian non-profit, non-governmental organization working to provide clean-burning stoves and alcohol fuels to families in Ethiopia since 2005. Gaia Association is a 2008 Ashden Award winner for its ethanol stove program in Ethiopia’s Kebrebeayah Refugee Camp as a UNHCR Implementing Partner.

###

Contacts:

Wubshet Tadele - Managing Director, Gaia Association

+251-116-18-3540 wubshett@projectgaia.com

Mahder Alebachew – Project Coordinator, Gaia Association

+251-116-18-3540 mahdera@projectgaia.com

Web Address: <http://www.projectgaia.com/>