

Rural farm households energy consumption pattern in district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh

NEENA VYAS, JATINDER KISHTWARIA, APRAJITA KATOCH AND ARUNA RANA

ABSTRACT

The rising demand for energy has led to prices spiraling up and the deterioration of environment. A study was conducted to assess energy requirements in the farm households of district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh. A sample of 60 households from two villages namely Chandpur and Bharmat was selected through stratified sampling technique. The data were collected through personal interview method using schedule consisting questions regarding energy use patterns in the households. Actual measurements as well as recall methods were used for determining the quantities of different fuels and the costs of fuels were computed at prevailing rates in the area, daily consumption estimates were made in the original units for each energy source and then converted into mega joules (MJ). The data thus collected were statistically analyzed. Firewood, dung cakes, agriculture forest waste, kerosene and LPG were found to be commonly used in the farming families. The majority of farming families spend large amount of human energy consumption so that the farm women can be made aware of the importance of conserving energy by using non conventional energy like solar energy and bio gas.

KEY WORDS : Energy, Consumption, Conventional, Non conventional

Vyas, Neena, Kishtwaria, Jatinder, Katoch, Aprajita and Rana, Aruna (2011). Rural farm households energy consumption pattern in district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 2 (1) : 76-79.

INTRODUCTION

Energy has been termed as the fuel of economic progress. Man has to spend energy in one form or the other to meet these needs. The household sector is one of the major energy consuming units accounting for half the Country's energy demand. Rural energy occupies cent restage in rural development issues (Laksmi *et al.*, 2003) Household activities are one of the most important activities in rural India from the point of view of energy expenditure for human life support. The most important fact about energy consumption in rural areas is that a major part of energy comes from non commercial sources like firewood, animal dung and agricultural/ forest wastes. The consumption of energy is dominated by domestic sector, as in village, energy requirements are often dominated by heat requirements for cooking. Most of the household energy in farm houses is produced locally from human labour, fuel wood, animal and crop residues and a

significant amount of non-conventional fuels is obtained free and collected by final consumers. Kumar et al (2003) studied that pattern of non- commercial energy consumption and availability in the Indian domestic sector and found that dung cakes and firewood were found to be the two main resources for cooking. The household energy needs take up a large position of the resources of many households. Over use of fuels like firewood and coal may create sever environmental problems and effect agriculture productivity. The biomass has traditionally been meeting most of energy requirements for rural domestic activities and manure requirements of animal feed and manure for crop production. The rising demands for energy have led to spiraling up the deterioration of environment.

Keeping in view all the above mentioned factors that the rural farm families may be facing a crisis in meeting their fuel demands from conventional sources. A better understanding of energy consumption pattern and energy

Correspondence to:

NEENA VYAS, Department of Family Resource Management, College of Home Science, C.S.K. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, PALAMPUR (H.P.) INDIA

Authors' affiliations:

JATINDER KISHTWARIA, APRAJITA KATOCH AND ARUNA RANA, Department of Family Resource Management, College of Home Science, C.S.K. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, PALAMPUR (H.P.) INDIA