

THE EASE NEWSLETTER

EASE – Enabling Access to Sustainable Energy - aims to enhance the access by low-income groups to sustainable energy services in rural areas. The programme wants to improve insights into the poverty situation and energy needs, and to promote the importance of energy and poverty issues to the national actors in developing countries and to the international development community.

EASE is being implemented in three countries: Tanzania, Bolivia and Vietnam.

EASE is being funded by the Government of the Netherlands and is a collaborative effort involving the ETC Foundation in the Netherlands, Energética in Bolivia, the Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation in Tanzania (TaTEDO), CERES in the Netherlands, and ETC-UK in the United Kingdom. The identification of a partner organisation in Vietnam will shortly be concluded.

ACCESS, the EASE newsletter, is distributed free of charge and is available through the EASE website. To subscribe, please contact Catrin Höhmann at the EASE Secretariat.

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VOICES

From electricity to diesel

Mr Bishan Singh Adhikari is a miller in the village of Majkali, where he works together with his brother's son. The mill was established forty years ago as a flourmill, but was extended in the following years with wood sawing equipment, a mustard grinder, a rice husker and polisher, and a machine for grinding spices. These machines operate one at a time, driven by one central engine. The mill was powered by an electric motor until four years ago, when it was replaced by a diesel engine because of the increasing costs of electricity. The current expenditure on diesel is about half of the previous expenses on electricity.

Competition for the milling of grains and mustard has increased in Majkali and surrounding villages. Further, the wood-sawing business has been drastically reduced by the limitations on wood processing imposed by the state government. The business used to be good, now there is not enough for even one person to make a living.

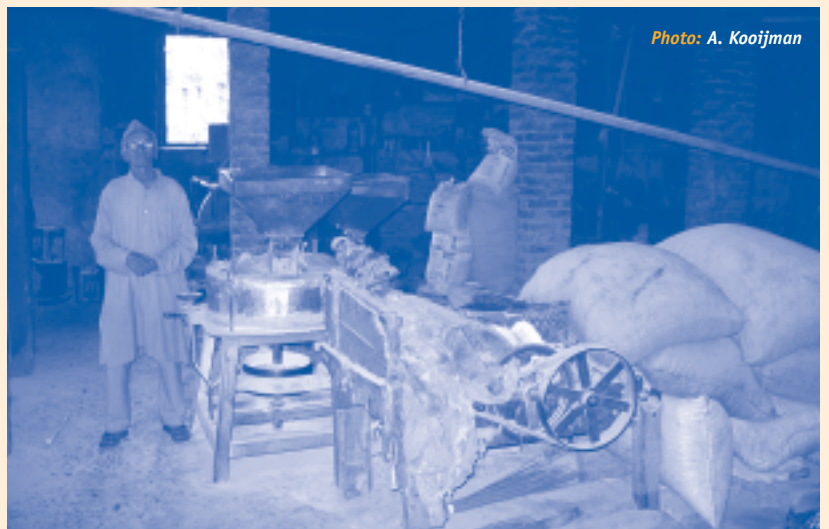


Photo: A. Kooijman

This material is drawn from Annemarije Kooijman's pilot field study in Uttaranchal, India as part of her PhD research on the impacts of modern energy on micro- and small-scale enterprises.

