



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: March 2009

Programme No. 1174

Duration: 3'53"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

BIOGAS IN CHINA

VIDEO

AUDIO

PAN DOWN VILLAGE HOUSE
WOMAN SWEEPING

NARRATION:

Guangxi province in Southern China. (2.5")

C/U FARMER XIE'S FACE
W/S XIE BURNING WOOD

Until recently poor farmers here burned wood for cooking and heating ... now they're leading a sustainable energy revolution. (7.5")

C/U CAULDRON COOKING FOOD
XIE LIFTING LID OF CAULDRON
W/S PIG
XIE OPENS DOOR OF SHED
W/S HEN DRINKING FROM
BIOGAS DIGESTER

Thanks to some help from a government project supported by IFAD, a UN agency working to adapt technology to the needs of poor rural people, farmers like Xie Oi Shun is now capturing methane from animal droppings and human waste and using it to produce their own fuel. (17")

XIE SHOWS BIOGAS DIGESTER
C/U. BUBBLES ON BIOGAS
DIGESTER
C/U BIOGAS TUBE
XIE POINTING TO BIOGAS TUBE

XIE OI SHUN: (Chinese) **M**

"It all flows into a biogas digester...a large tank buried underground. The waste comes in here and, as it ferments inside, the gas builds up and travels back out through this tube. It takes the gas into the house where we use it to cook."
(18")

WOMAN COOKING
TWO CHILDREN WAITING FOR
FOOD
XIE LIGHTS THE GAS LAMP

NARRATION

In capturing and using methane for cooking and lighting, Xie not only has an abundant supply of inexpensive fuel but he's reducing its global warming effect. (10")

W/S XIE W/ EMPTY BUCKETS
XIE GETTING ORGANIC
FERTILIZER/PUTTING
FERTILIZER ON CROPS

At the same time, as waste decomposes inside Xie's new biogas digester...he's left with another fuel – an organic fertilizer high in nitrogen. (10")

XIE OI SHUN ON CAMERA

XIE OI SHUN: (Chinese) **M**

"Since applying the fertilizer to my cucumber plants, they've grown much bigger than before, when I used chemicals. They even taste better."
(9")

M/S GRAVEL IN WHEELBARROW

NARRATION

Although biogas technology has been available in China for decades, a growing income gap between city dwellers and farmers has fuelled its recent revival. (10")

W/S GRAVEL IN WHEELBARROW

In the last two decades 200 million rural people have moved to China's cities. (5")

W/S FARMERS CONSTRUCTING
BIOGAS DIGESTER

One of the ways the central government is trying to make rural life more appealing is by offering farmers cash incentives to build biogas digesters so that they can produce their own fuel cheaply. (13.5")

LIU CHUN XIAN LEAVING HER HOME W/ BASKET
CHUN XIAN ARRIVING AT HER TEA FARM

Since Liu Chun Xian's family began producing biogas on their farm, she no longer spends three hours a day collecting wood for cooking. (8.5")

CHUN XIAN PICKING TEA LEAVES

Instead, she's taken training that's helped her make improvements to the family's tea farm, which now earns more money. (7.5")

C/U TEA LEAVES BEING THROWN INTO BASKET

Thousands of poor farmers across the province have done the same, contributing to a drop in rural poverty, according to IFAD. (7.5")

C/U CHUN XIAN PICKS TEA LEAVES

Thomas Rath is IFAD's Programme Manager in China. (3")

THOMAS RATH, IFAD'S PROGRAMME MANAGER IN CHINA, ON CAMERA

THOMAS RATH: (English) **M**

"This project started in 2001 and three years later we could see overall the households had moved up from poverty to low income, and even out of poverty. After three years we observed already that about 10 percent had already moved on, so about 20,000 households." (17")

W/S VILLAGERS GATHERED AROUND BIOGAS DIGESTER
C/UVILLAGERS OBSERVING
VILLAGERS WALKING TOWARDS PIG SHED

NARRATION

Thanks to government financial incentives and educational tours like this one supported by IFAD, there are now three million biogas tanks in operation across Guangxi, making the province the largest producer of biogas in China...if not the world. (16")

GUIDE POINTS TO PIGS
M/S PIGS EATING

As each one routes animal and human waste into biogas digesters they not only prevent vast amounts of methane from escaping into the atmosphere but an estimated eight million tons of standard coal and 13 million tons of firewood from being burned each year...making Guangxi one of the greenest provinces in China. (21)

GUIDE POINTS AT GASFIRE
W/S GUIDE LIGHTS GAS LAMP
W/S GREEN MOUNTAIN
LANDSCAPE

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by James Heer for the United Nations. (4)