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Fuel Consumption for Various Dishes for a Wood-Fueled and Charcoal Fueled Improved Stoves used in Rural Northern Ghana



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Abstract

Up to 2.4 billion people (approximately 40% of the earth's population) still depend on biomass as their main source of energy and currently, there are a wide variety of stove technologies and designs aimed at providing better cooking experience to end-users. The study design was cross-sectional, and data was collected between November to March of 2019 in the Kasena Nankana Districts. The study conducted 20 in-field uncontrolled cooking tests designed to assess the fuel consumption performance of the Ace stove and the Jumbo stove. Specific Fuel Consumption (SFC), Per Capita Biomass Consumption (PcBC) and Fuel consumption rate were calculated across a variety of meal types using the two stoves. An independent T-test was employed to determine the mean differences. The results showed that the Jumbo stove averaged 1.43±0.23kg of fuel per a cooking event with a per capita annual consumption of 38.06-274.97kg while the Ace stove averaged 0.31±0.04kg per cooking event with a per capita consumption of 14.6-75.65kg. There was a statistically significant difference between the fuel consumption rate per kg of food prepared (p<0.001) between the Ace stove and the Jumbo stove (Figure 1).

Keywords: Biomass consumption; Ace stove, Jumbo stove; Demographic surveillance survey; Cookstoves; Economic incentives

Introduction

In 2015, the Navrongo health research center with its partners introduced 2 new stoves: The African Clean Energy (Ace) stove and the Greenway Jumbo as part of a study [refer to SD: plate 1 & 2]. Generally, the project aimed to understand the interaction between the following factors on the household's decision to adopt improved cookstoves: economic incentives ("prices"), social learning ("peers") and subjective beliefs ("perceptions") in technology adoption dynamics. The project was in two arms namely the P3 bio which involved rural households and the P3 Gas in the urban areas and involves the use of LPG.

The P3 bio was implemented in 50 clusters within the two Kasena Nankana Districts (KNDs) [1-5].

This paper sort to understand the fuel consumption characteristics of the two stoves in an uncontrolled setting.

Materials and Methods

The stove biomass consumption described herein was completed in the Kassena Nankana Municipal and the Kassena

Nankana West District (KND's) of the Upper East Region of Ghana (Figure 2).

Study area

The KNDs can be located on longitude 10°53′5″ N and Latitude 1°5′25″ W. The climate in the region is arid and hot with an annual rainfall of about 950mm. The vegetation in this area is dominated by woody shrubs and grassland with one rainy season lasting from approximately May to October. Much of the land is used for subsistence agriculture, with corn and millet as the dominant crops cultivated. The study area is within the catchment area of the Navrongo Health Research Center (NHRC) which has conducted a district-wide Health and Demographic Surveillance Survey (HDSS) and several other research studies since 1993 [6].

The KNDs population is organized into settlements known as compounds and comprises multiple households belonging to a single lineage living together and presided over by a compound head (mostly a male figure). Inside these organized settlements are **households** made up of a sub-divided group of people that

usually eat from a common cooking source. According to the Navrongo Health and Demographic Surveillance System (NHDSS), the population of the 2 districts is about 156,000 with about 80% living in rural areas while 20% are in more urban areas such as the central town of Navrongo. About 88% of rural households

rely mainly on firewood as their main cooking fuel, while another 9% rely primarily on charcoal and only about 3% of households cook primarily with gas or electricity. The traditional cooking method in these rural areas is a three-stone open fire, with many households also using charcoal stoves [6].



Figure 1: Firewood harvested by a household to be used.

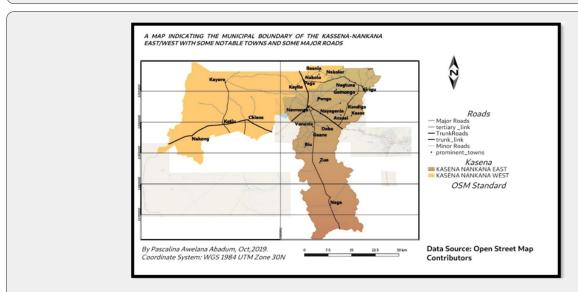


Figure 2: Map of the Kassena Nankana Districts.

Study design

The study design was cross-sectional. The Uncontrolled Cooking Test (UCT) method was also adopted for this study to gain a better understanding of the performance of the stoves and the cooking system over a wider range of variables. This method of cookstove test has been developed by the University of Johannesburg SeTAR center. In this method, the meal is not constrained, therefore the Cook is free to prepare what they want, how they want it, where they want and when they want the UCT allows the cook to prepare a local dish of their size and type using local fuels. The cook's preferences inherently add to the test

variability.

Sampling procedure

The sampling technique employed in this study was the multi-stage sampling method. Ten (10) clusters out of the 50 P3 clusters were randomly sampled (2 each from the 5 NHDSS zones). Twenty (20) households within the 10 sampled clusters were again conveniently sampled.

Cooking systems

In-field stove performance testing was conducted on the two types of stoves (The Ace stove and the Jumbo stove).

Greenway Jumbo Stove

This is a single burner, high-efficiency, portable, metallic and non-chimney cookstove (Plate 1). It is designed to suit large families and small cafeterias. This stove can use any type of solid

biomass fuel such as cow dung, wood, and agricultural waste. It uses less fuel than traditional mud cookstoves and produces less smoke. It reduces the time and/or money users spend buying fuel or collecting and allowing for a more comfortable cooking experience (Figure 3).



Figure 3: The Jumbo Stove.

Features of the Jumbo stove

- a) Size: 12.4" x 10.6" x 11.6".
- b) Materials: Steel and Aluminum with Bakelite Handles.
- c) Loading Capacity: 40kg.
- d) Secondary Air Induction Mechanism: Yes.
- e) Fuel Savings: 65%.
- f) Smoke Reduction: 70%.

g) Ergonomic front-loading design.

ACE 1 Cook Stove

The ACE 1 Solar Biomass cookstove is a multifunctional tool, combining a smoke-free cooking experience with LED lighting and access to energy for mobile devices (Plate 2). The stove comes in different colors and burns a variety of biomass fuels cleanly. The stove saves around 70% of fuel compared to traditional stoves (Figure 4).



Figure 4: The Ace Stove.

Features of the Ace 1 stove

a) Height: 32cm.

b) Diameter (at top of stove): 22.5cm.

c) Weight: 4.6kg.

d) Fuel Chamber Volume: 842cm³.

e) Firepower: Max 4,000 – 5,000 watts, Min 2,000 – 3,000

watts.

f) Stove Body: Stainless Steel (grade 430).

g) Stove Base: Powder Coated Galvanized Steel.

h) Pot Rest: Galvanized Steel.

(Figure 5) The Three-stone-stove using wood and agricultural waste is the primary stove in the study area with others using coalpot as a secondary stove [7]. Cooking fuel in the KND's is mostly firewood (plate 1) and charcoal sourced mostly from *Vitellaria Paradoxa* and shrub-branches. Although both stoves can burn all types of biomass (wood products and agricultural residues), charcoal and firewood were used by participants in this study for the Ace stove and the firewood respectively. A variety of means are prepared in the study area, but the common meal is rice and Tuo Zaafi (TZ). Meals are prepared in cast aluminum pots of different sizes depending on the size of the family.



Figure 5: Firewood collected by a household to be used as cooking fuel.

Performance metrics and fuel measurements

A date was scheduled with the primary cook for the cooking event to be observed. The participant (primary cook) was given enough time to prepare for the day of the measurement. The participant then decides the time of day the meal is to be prepared (Breakfast, Lunch or Supper).

Before the test on the given day, any existing fire was extinguished, and the cooking area was cleared of char and wood. The sufficient wood needed for the meal was separated from the rest of the fuel. This is placed in a pile next to the fire. This was the fuel to be used for the duration of the observation. The pile was then weighed on the digital scale. Fireplace/stove type, cooking

area, and ambient conditions (windy, rainy, etc) were noted.

The participant was then asked to make a fire as they normally would, with the method and start time noted and lighting materials weighed. The participant was left to prepare the meal. The timings and food types were noted. When the participant signaled the end of the meal preparation, the time was recorded. The fire was then put out and any burning wood was extinguished by a moist cloth. The remaining fuel was then weighed (no ash). Any burnt wood was also weighed. Any remaining unburned wood in the pile was also weighed. A questionnaire was then administered to further explain the behaviors of the cook and household characteristics (Table 1).

Table 1: Instruments used in the study for data collection.

Activity	Instrument	Description
Household expenditure on biomass and other related items	Survey ques- tionnaire	A well-structured questionnaire was administered to households (primary cook or financial decision-maker). It was used to measure household composition and demographics, attitudes and priorities, cooking behaviors (including type(s) of stoves used, fuel used, foods cooked and perception on environmental degradation and climate variability
Cooking time	Stopwatch	Cooking time was calculated starting from the point that fire was lit to the point all the fire was put out.
Weight of biomass	LCT tree Digital scale	The mass of fuel will be checked before and after a cooking session
Record taking	Log sheet	These are 2 forms that the researcher recorded every activity done in the field.

Fuel Consumption Rate (FCR), Per capita Biomass Consumption (P_cBC) and Specific Fuel Consumption (SFC) was calculated using:

$$\textit{Fuel Consumption Rate} = \frac{\textit{Fuel used (KG)}}{\textit{Time used to prepare meal (MINS)}} \dots \dots \text{ (Eqn. 1)}$$

Per capita biomass consumption
$$(P_CBC) = \frac{total\ energy}{number\ of\ people\ in\ household}*$$
 (Eqn. 2) number of meals prepared in a day* number of days in a year

Specific fuel consumption =
$$\frac{Mass\ of\ Consumed\ fuel}{Total\ mass\ of\ cooked\ food}$$
...... (Eqn. 3)

Ethical approval

The study protocol was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Navrongo Health Research Centre. Oral Informed consent was obtained from all study participants before any data collection.

Results and Discussion

Twenty (20) UCT's (Ace: n = 12 and Jumbo: n = 8) were completed between November 2018 and March 2019 [see SD table 2]. The data was normally distributed therefore allowing for the use of means and standard deviation to statistically calculate for the difference in consumption. Statistical significance was assessed at a 5% significance level.

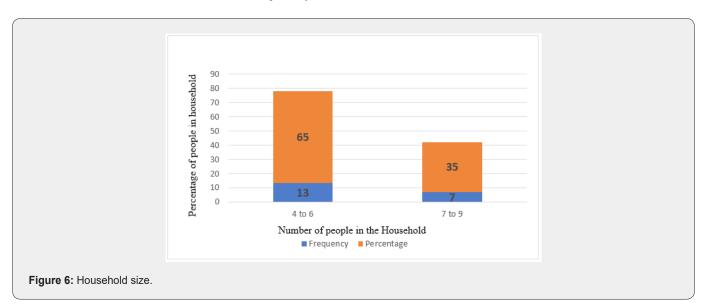
Characteristics of the primary cook and the household

The social characteristics of the primary cook and the household can be seen in table 2. Most of the primary cooks

(30%) were between the ages of 36-41 years with all being females. The culture of the people of Northern Ghana frowns on the male gender to be engaged in domestic chores which are seen to be reserved to the female gender. 75% were Christians, 15% Muslims, 5% Traditionalists 5% had no religious affiliation. This conforms to the national data where 71.2% of the population are Christians with 17.6% and 5.2% being Muslims and traditional religion respectively [8]. Economically, 45% were self-employed (petty trading (35%) or in small scale industry (10%)). About 35% of the remaining participants stated they were farmers with 10% stating they were students. 5% did not engage in any economic activity and 5% also said they were engaged in casual labor.

45% of the primary cooks had no formal education which is about the same as estimated by the Ghana Statistical Service (44.5%) [8]. 40% had basic education with only 5% and 10% attaining secondary education and College education respectively. 65% of them were married, 10% were single while 20% and 5% were widowed and divorced respectively. Altogether, 35% of them were single that is, they have never been married, or have lost their husbands, or divorced. Most of the participants who cook were married. This may be attributed to the fact that they have nuclear families and must cook for them.

In terms of the household size of the participants which is the same as the number of people the meal prepared was going to feed, 65% of them had a household size of 4-6 people while 35% represented households with 7 - 9 people (Figure 6).



This correlated with the average household size of the area [8] and the relatively large household size implies a large quantity of food needed to be prepared which will mean more fuel and more degradation.

Household general stove ownership was also looked at with 55% of the households owning 4 stoves while 20%, 15% and 10%

of the participants owned 5, 3 and 6 different stoves respectively (Figure 2 & 7).

Cooking observation and fuel type

11 different food types were prepared (Table 2 & 3). Jollof rice was prepared the most-5 times (thrice with an Ace and twice

with a Jumbo stove). TZ was prepared 4 times; 2 each with an Ace and a Jumbo stove while Vegetable soup and Rice balls were both prepared twice but a Jumbo and an Ace each prepared the vegetable soup and both rice balls cooking activity being prepared on a Jumbo. Other meals prepared included; groundnut soup,

"Kaponnu"- (this is a local meal which is prepared using cracked or broken millet or corn, it is prepared in porridge form), Plain rice, Spaghetti, stew, TZ, rice and beans and Tubani (a local meal prepared with beans).

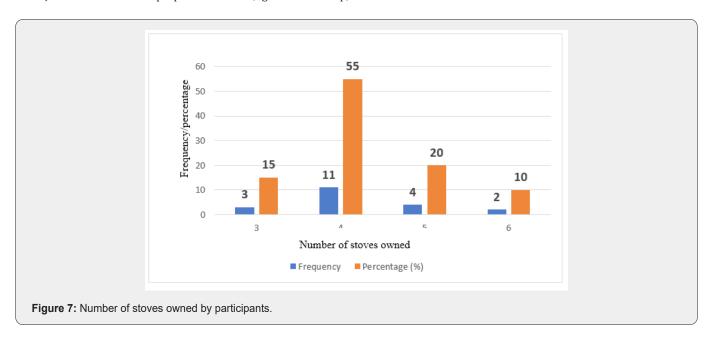


Table 2: Stoves used in the study.

Stove	Frequency	Percentage (%)		
Ace	12	60		
Jumbo	8	40		
Total	20	100		

Table 3: Meals prepared, and stove used.

Mod	Stove	Total		
Meal	Ace	Jumbo	Total	
Groundnut soup	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (5)	
Jollof	3(15)	2(10)	5(25)	
"Kaponnu"	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (5)	
Rice	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (5)	
Rice balls	0 (0)	2(10)	2(10)	
Rice and beans	0 (0)	1 (5)	1 (5)	
Spaghetti	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (5)	
Stew	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (5)	
TZ	2(10)	2(10)	4 (20)	
Tubani	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (5)	
Vegetable soup	1 (5)	1 (5)	2 (10)	
Total	12(60)	8 (40)	20 (100)	

Although most of the households (n=12) used the Ace stove in this study, 55% stated firewood as their main source of fuel while 40% stating charcoal was the main source of fuel. The remaining

5% stated they used both fuels equally.

Fuel consumption

Mass consumption

This study was conducted during the dry season (between November 2018 and March 2019) and the consumption rates and patterns reported here apply mainly to that part of the year. This is so because there may exist seasonal variations in fuel choices, sourcing patterns, demand, and availability (Figure 8-10).

For the 12 cooking observations that used charcoal (Ace stove), a total fuel mass (Charcoal) of 3.72kg with an average of $0.31 \text{kg} \pm 0.04$ per cooking activity was consumed while that of the Jumbo stove was calculated at 11.46 kg of wood that is an average of $1.43 \pm 0.23 \text{kg}$ of wood per cooking activity. Cumulatively, cooking fuel of mass 15.18 kg was consumed for all 20 cooking observations; that is the difference of before fuel mass of 41.92 kg and an after mass of 26.74 kg (Figure 3 & 11).

Consumption rate

Fuel consumption rate which is calculated by fuel used against time (Eqn. 1), for the various meals prepared with the respective stoves (Table 4). the mean consumption rate for the Ace stove was recorded as 0.005 ± 0.001 kg/min meaning the Ace stove burnt 0.005kg of fuel every 1 minute whereas the mean consumption rate of the Jumbo stove was calculated as 0.019 ± 0.002 kg/min. There was a statistically significant difference (p<0.001) between the fuel consumption rate of the Ace stove and the Jumbo stove.



Figure 8: Charcoal being measured before cooking.



Figure 9: Firewood being measured before cooking.

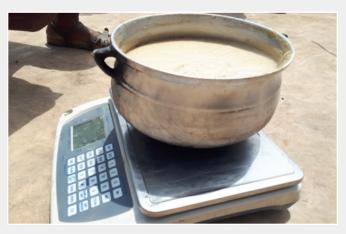


Figure 10: TZ being measured after cooking.

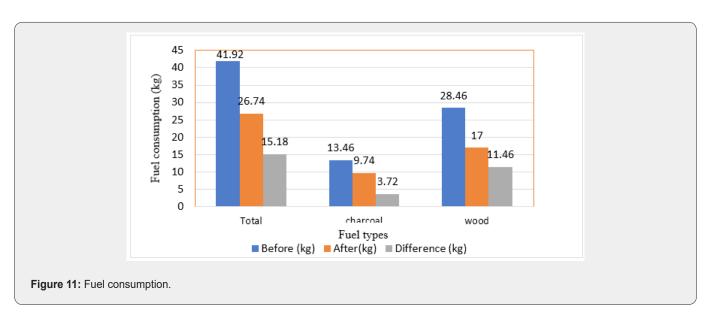


Table 4: The fuel consumption rate for the cooking observations.

Stove Type	Food	Fuel Used (kg)	Cooking Time (Mins)	Rate(kg/min)
JUMBO	Rice balls	2.26	71	0.032
JUMBO	Jollof	1.35	56	0.024
JUMBO	TZ	1.66	76	0.022
JUMBO	Vegetable Soup	2.21	134	0.016
JUMBO	Rice and Beans	1.67	73	0.023
JUMBO	TZ	0.73	53	0.014
JUMBO	Rice Balls	1.04	77	0.014
JUMBO	Jollof	0.54	48	0.011
Total		11.46	588	0.019
ACE	Kaponnu	0.14	42	0.003
ACE	Tubani	0.26	71	0.004
ACE	Jollof	0.14	70	0.002
ACE	Groundnut Soup	0.3	49	0.006
ACE	Jollof	0.27	50	0.005
ACE	TZ	0.35	63	0.006
ACE	TZ	0.31	37	0.008
ACE	Jollof	0.48	86	0.006
ACE	Stew	0.3	42	0.007
ACE	Rice	0.38	85	0.004
ACE	Spaghetti	0.16	35	0.005
ACE	Vegetable Soup	0.63	202	0.003
Total		3.72	832	0.005

Per capita consumption

The dependence on wood and other non-commercial fuels in the rural areas of most developing countries is often the only cooking fuel source with animal dung and crop residues being the principal non-commercial fuels other than wood and charcoal. To understand the effects of these stoves or household fuel consumption on forest and plants, then, there was the need to calculate for the per capita biomass consumption (Eqn...2).

It was calculated that a person within a household that prepare one meal a day, will consume an average of 38.06kg of wood using the jumbo stove and 18.25kg of charcoal using the Ace stove per annum. However, a person from a household that prepared 2 meals a day was extimated to consume wood of mass 161.27kg annually based on measured consumption from cooking activity whereas a member of a similar household using the Ace stove was estimated to consume charcoal of mass 48.56kg per

annum. Finally, a member of a household that prepared 3 meals a day was extimated to consume wood using the Jumbo stove of mass 230.66kg while that of the Ace stove was calculated at 44.10kg per annum. An average household using an Ace stove was therefore estimated to consume charcoal of mass 539.04kg per annum whereas that of the Jumbo was estimated to consume firewood of mass 1375.11kg per annum (Table 5).

Table 5: Per capita consumption.

Food	Stove Type	Fuel Type	Fuel Before	Fuel After	Fuel Used	Cooking Time (Mins)	Boiling Time (Mins)	No. People	Individual per-Meal Con- sumption	Daily In- dividual Consump- tion	1 Meal	2 Meals	3 Meals
riceballs	JUMBO	WOOD	4.07	1.81	2.26	71	24	9	0.25111111	0.753			274.967
JOLLOF	JUMBO	WOOD	3.28	1.93	1.35	56	19	8	0.16875	0.338		123.188	
TUO-ZAAFI (TZ)	JUMBO	WOOD	3.44	1.78	1.66	76	33	8	0.2075	0.623			227.213
VEGETA- BLE SOUP	JUMBO	WOOD	5.38	3.17	2.21	134	27	6	0.36833333	0.737		268.883	
RICE AND BEANS	JUMBO	WOOD	5.15	3.48	1.67	73	29	7	0.23857143	0.477		174.157	
TUO-ZAAFI (TZ)	JUMBO	WOOD	2.83	2.1	0.73	53	27	7	0.10428571	0.104	38.064		
RICE BALLS	JUMBO	WOOD	3.42	2.38	1.04	77	38	6	0.17333333	0.52			189.8
JOLLOF	JUMBO	WOOD	0.89	0.35	0.54	48	23	5	0.108	0.216		78.84	
Kaponnu	ACE	CHAR- COAL	0.88	0.74	0.14	42	21	7	0.02	0.04		14.6	
Tubani	ACE	CHAR- COAL	1.67	1.41	0.26	71	18	6	0.04333333	0.13			47.45
JOLLOF	ACE	CHAR- COAL	0.82	0.68	0.14	70	32	6	0.02333333	0.0467		17.033	
Groundnut soup	ACE	CHAR- COAL	1	0.7	0.3	49	13	6	0.05	0.05	18.25		
JOLLOF	ACE	CHAR- COAL	0.68	0.41	0.27	50	18	4	0.0675	0.135		49.275	
TUO-ZAAFI (TZ)	ACE	CHAR- COAL	0.57	0.22	0.35	63	17	6	0.05833333	0.117		42.583	
TUO-ZAAFI (TZ)	ACE	CHAR- COAL	1.21	0.9	0.31	37	22	5	0.062	0.124		45.26	
JOLLOF	ACE	CHAR- COAL	1.08	0.6	0.48	86	40	4	0.12	0.24		87.6	
STEW	ACE	CHAR- COAL	0.91	0.61	0.3	42	19	8	0.0375	0.113			41.063
RICE	ACE	CHAR- COAL	0.8	0.42	0.38	85	38	5	0.076	0.152		55.48	
SPAGHETTI	ACE	CHAR- COAL	0.89	0.73	0.16	35	16	4	0.04	0.12			43.8
VEGETA- BLE SOUP	ACE	CHAR- COAL	2.95	2.32	0.63	202	62	6	0.105	0.21		76.65	

Specific fuel consumption

Specific Fuel Consumption (SFC) can be defined as the amount of solid fuel used comparably to achieve a defined task divided by the weight of the task. *SFC* indicates how efficiently a stove converts chemical energy into heat energy (eqn...3). The mean

SFC was calculated at 0.186 while that of the Jumbo and the Ace are 0.272 and 0.129 respectively. Meaning the Jumbo stove will require 0.27kg of firewood to prepare a kilogram of food, while the Ace will only require 0.13kg of fuel to prepare the same kilogram of food (Table 6).

Table 6: Specific fuel consumption.

Stove Type	Meal	Mass of Fuel (kg)	Mass of Food (kg)	SFC (kg/kg)
Jumbo	Rice balls	2.26	11.38	0.198594
Jumbo	Jollof	1.35	3.03	0.445545
Jumbo	TZ	1.66	6.62	0.250755
Jumbo	Vegetable Soup	2.21	4.66	0.474249
Jumbo	Rice and Beans	1.67	6.14	0.271987
Ace	Kaponnu	0.14	1.94	0.072165
Ace	Tubani	0.26	1.12	0.232143
Jumbo	TZ	0.73	4.6	0.158696
Ace	Jollof	0.14	1.84	0.076087
Ace	Groundnut soup	0.3	2.16	0.138889
Ace	Jollof	0.27	1.27	0.212598
Jumbo	Rice Balls	1.04	4.87	0.213552
Ace	TZ	0.35	4.2	0.083333
Ace	TZ	0.31	4.22	0.07346
Ace	Jollof	0.48	3.95	0.121519
Ace	Stew	0.3	2.02	0.148515
Ace	Rice	0.38	4.11	0.092457
Ace	Spaghetti	0.16	1.88	0.085106
Jumbo	Jollof	0.54	3.38	0.159763
Ace	Vegetable Soup	0.63	2.95	0.213559

Discussion and Conclusion

The majority of the households owned at least four different stoves with no household stating they had less than three stoves. The practice of stove staking (cooking with more than 1 stove at a time) in the study area is very common as households rely on different stoves for different cooking activities at different seasons. For example, the three-stone stove is mostly used outdoors during the dry season and for preparing larger meals during occasions like funerals. In terms of stove ownership, most of the people owned an Ace stove followed by Jumbo stove with few people owning LPG which is higher in the energy rung as. This outcome was so because households in the study area were located in rural communities which are characterized by poverty hence their inability to purchase and continue to refill the cylinders and lack of access to gas refilling stations.

Juxtaposing observations that involved similar meals the following can be observed from the Table; 3 different food types were prepared using both stoves and these common foods are

Jollof, TZ and vegetable soup. With Jollof, it was prepared 2 times using the Jumbo stove and had a fuel consumption rate of $0.024 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ and $0.011 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$, while it was prepared 3 times using the Ace and recording a fuel consumption rate of $0.002 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$, $0.005 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ and $0.005 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$. The vegetable soup which was prepared using both stoves once also had a consumption rate of $0.016 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ and $0.003 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ for the Jumbo and Ace respectively. TZ also recorded a consumption rate of $0.022 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ and $0.014 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ for the jumbo stove as against $0.005 \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ and $0.008 \, \, \mathrm{kg/min}$ as recorded by the Ace stove.

The Ace stove was seen to have consumed about 175kg of charcoal more than the average Upper East Region's household annual consumption of 364kg [9] while that of the Jumbo stove was also estimated to be higher than the regional firewood consumption of 1037 [9]. The two stoves, however, had a superior Per capita consumption as compared to traditional stoves that use similar fuels in neighboring districts in the region [10]. Comparing the SFC with an earlier study done in the arear, Ace stove has the best SFC thus uses less fuel to prepare food. It is followed by

Philips with wood which has an SFC of 0.19. The Jumbo stove is only superior to the coal pot and the 3 stone stove which have 0.28 and 0.3 respectively [11]. This implies that switching to the Ace stove or the Jumbo stove will put more stress on the environment than already is as more trees will be needed to produce fuel. And as more trees are being cut, deforestation will occur which will result in the exposure of the soil to erosion and unavailability of trees to act as carbon sinks for toxic emissions. The superior consumption rate of the Ace stove is what accounts for the less mass of fuel that is consumed during the study and this can also be seen in the annual per capita consumption rates as the Ace stove will consume less fuel as compared to the Jumbo stove.

The burning of biomass as fuel has been known as one of the most significant causes of forest deterioration in many developing countries [12]. The rapid loss in forest cover appears to have consequences for the climate system such as drought, flooding, Change in land use, biodiversity and soil fertility loss and land degradation and lowering of water levels in the study area and Ghana as a whole [13,14].

Acknowledgment

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Availability of Data

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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