

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is based two recent field surveys to investigate the socio-economic and health implications of biofuel/bioenergy production and utilization in Edo and Delta States in southern Nigeria. The first was sponsored by the Centre for Energy and Environment while the second was a more restricted survey on domestic fuels in Benin City. Our premise is that poverty tends to diminish concerns with actions that are not immediately or overtly harmful to the individual, community or environment. Through field reconnaissance, interviews and observation, we focussed on renewable fuels used in Edo and Delta States. After noting the distinctions between renewable and non-renewable energy, we observe that in the Third World, the challenge of renewable energy is all but a marginal issue. This nonchalance has dire implications. For Nigeria, the overabundant endowment with fossil fuels has resulted in the neglect of virtually every other resource. Ironically, the catastrophic energy crisis in the country has been addressed by a policy restricted to the exploitation and development of non-renewable fuels. The failure attendant on reliance on non-renewable fuels has not yet drawn attention to renewable energy. But in the traditional and informal sectors, renewable fuels are in considerable use. However, poor technologies have ensured that such renewable fuels are utilized in ways that are both environmentally unsustainable and detrimental to human health. We conclude with a prognosis of the noxious nexus between the traditional applications of renewable energy and climate change.

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