

Detailed Description of the Side Event

Scaling Sustainable Baking: The Bigoven Solution for Job Creation, Economic Growth, and Environmental Resilience

Organised by **Covens Clean Cooking Co. Limited (Lead), Uganda National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Alliance (UNREEEA), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda**

Target Audience: 50–70 participants (policymakers, private sector, civil society, development partners)

Event Overview

Covens Clean Cooking Co. Limited introduces the Bigoven, a locally manufactured baking oven in Uganda that revolutionizes clean cooking by combining electric and wood energy, requiring only 25% of the firewood used by traditional kilns.

Available in domestic to industrial sizes, the Bigoven offers faster baking execution and has been successfully adopted in Uganda (Kampala, Kitgum, Masaka, Kakumiro, Mbarara) and East Africa (Rwanda, Malawi, DRC, Sudan). Bread, cakes, and cookies—staples in Sub-Saharan households—drive demand for such innovations, yet unsustainable firewood reliance threatens forests and livelihoods.

This side event will showcase the Bigoven as a scalable, science-based solution that aligns with the ARFSD 2025 theme, “Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”. It connects directly to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), while supporting Agenda 2063’s vision of sustainable industrialization and people-driven development.

Objectives

1. **Demonstrate Innovation:** Highlight the Bigoven’s technical design—reducing firewood use by 75%, cutting baking time, and enabling local production—as a replicable model for sustainable industrial cooking.
2. **Share Evidence:** Present data and testimonials from its adoption across East Africa, illustrating economic benefits (job creation in manufacturing and baking) and environmental gains (reduced deforestation).
3. **Build Partnerships:** Facilitate collaboration among governments, private sector, and civil society to finance and scale the Bigoven, strengthening SDG 17’s focus on global partnerships.
4. **Influence Policy:** Propose actionable recommendations for integrating clean cooking technologies into national strategies, contributing to the Kampala Declaration.

Event Structure

Opening (10 min): The CEO of Covens Clean Cooking Co. Limited will introduce the Bigoven, sharing its journey from concept to regional success and its alignment with ARFSD goals.

Presentation (20 min): A technical expert will detail the Bigoven’s hybrid energy system, showcasing data: e.g., a medium-sized unit bakes 160 loaves in 45 minutes versus 90 minutes for traditional ovens, using 5 kg of firewood instead of 20 kg. Success stories from Uganda and Rwanda will underscore its impact.

Panel Discussion (40 min): Moderated by a UNREEEA representative, the panel will feature:

- CEO, Covens Clean Cooking Co. Limited (Uganda): Insights on local innovation and scalability.
 - Ministry Official (Uganda): Policy frameworks Supporting clean energy adoption.
 - Baking Entrepreneur (Rwanda): Real-world benefits for small businesses, especially women-led enterprises.
 - Civil Society Representative (TBD): Perspectives on community resilience and gender equity.
 - Topics: Financing models, regional expansion, and policy incentives.
- Q&A (15 min): An interactive session with in-person and virtual attendees to explore adoption challenges and partnership opportunities.

Speakers and Panellists

- CEO, Covens Clean Cooking Co. Limited: Innovator with expertise in sustainable technology development.
- Ministry of Energy Representative (Uganda): Senior official advocating renewable energy policies.
- Baking Entrepreneur (Rwanda): Female small-business owner with firsthand Bigoven experience.
- UNREEEA Moderator: Expert in energy alliances, ensuring balanced discussion.
- Civil Society Voice: Advocate for sustainability and gender inclusion (TBD).