

SUCCESS STORY

Increasing Women's Participation in Nigeria's Renewable Energy Sector



REEEP Technical Specialist Sam Ahanor led the training

One of the main objectives of the USAID-funded Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program (REEEP) is to provide vocational training and create awareness of the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency – for both men and women.



As part of its efforts to increase women's participation in the Nigeria's renewable energy (RE) sector and more specifically, to build up a cadre of women renewable energy technicians, entrepreneurs, and policy-makers, Winrock International, through the USAID-funded Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project (REEEP), conducted a four-day basic solar technology training women engineers from different governmental agencies including the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Abuja Electricity Distribution Commission (AEDC), Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN), and Nigeria Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA) in February 2016.

The course consisted of 2-days of solar system training and 2-days of practical training that were designed to provide a technical foundation for solar technologies, and reinforce the classroom learning with hands-on demonstrations. A total of 37 women were trained with skills that are directly relevant to their careers and will allow for greater participation of women to help grow the RE sector in Nigeria to meet crucial energy needs.

This was the third female targeted training that REEEP has conducted under the project, with the first two trainings provided to young female engineers under the Nigerian National Youth Services Corps (NYSC) in November 2015. REEEP aims to increase technical capacity amount young Nigerians, empower women as household energy managers, and enable women to assume roles of energy leadership in their community and in the government.

"The workshop was very timely. I really appreciate the fact that female engineers are being targeted and supported," said Engr. Lydia Oluwaniran, one of the participants. "This gives us more confidence that we can (enter) the business world regardless of our gender. The sky is the limit for anyone who wants to grow. I am already seeing myself exceling in the renewable energy world," she added.

Abdulrahman Fatimah, another participant, observed, "Energy is the key to the survival of any economy; for efficient and viable economy, solar technology is the key, try it, use it and propagate the use of solar technology."

Vocational training is one of the key components of the REEEP project.