



MALAWI BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Promoting Standardization and Quality Assurance in Malawi

Working towards quality assurance and minimum requirements of stoves in Malawi

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Coverage

Introduction (Definition of key terms)

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Summary



INTRODUCTION-definitions of key terms

- **Quality:** Degree to which a set of inherent characteristics of an object fulfils requirements
- **Quality Assurance:** Part of Quality management focussed on setting quality objectives and specifying necessary operational processes.
- **Quality control:** Part of Quality management focussed on fulfilling quality requirements.
- **Management:** Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation
- **Requirement:** Need or expectation that is stated, generally implied or obligatory
- **Quality requirement:** Requirement related to quality



Why Quality Assurance in Improved Cookstoves (ICS)

This question can be answered from a “**program**”, a “**market**” and a “**production**” perspective.

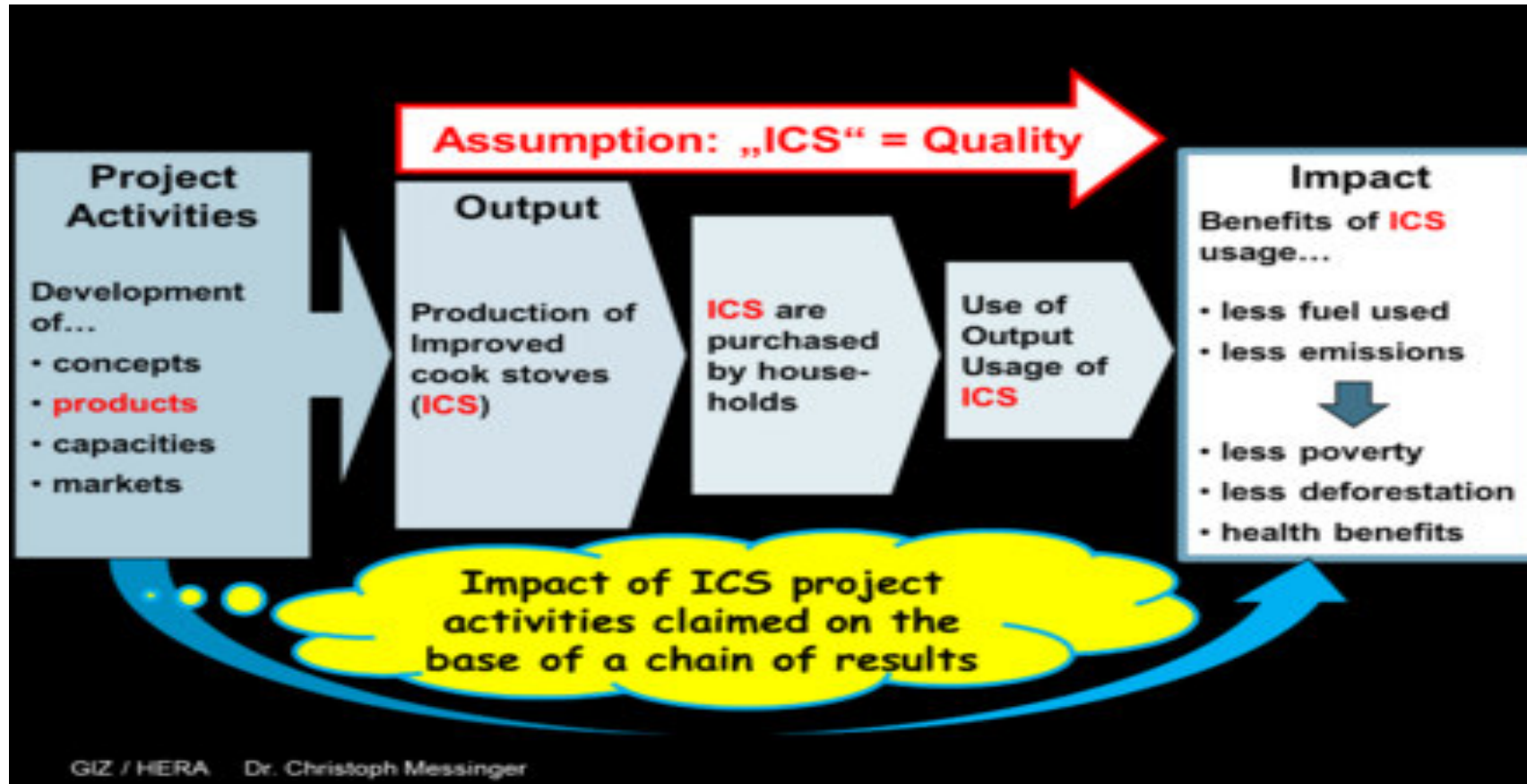
The general intention of an **ICS program** is to improve the situation of biomass cooking through the **introduction of an improved technology** that performs better than the **baseline technology** which it is supposed to replace.

The ICS program should have an indication of an impact. This impact is double fold.



Why Quality Assurance in Improved Cookstoves

- From the title-Our direction is quality.



Why Quality Assurance in Improved Cookstoves

Impact of the program includes:

- Less fuel used
- Less emissions

**Resulting
into**

- Less poverty
- Less deforestation
- Health benefit

**Performan
ce**

**IMPA
CT**



Why Quality Assurance in Improved Cookstoves

- **Performance:** Performance can be defined as measurable result.
- ICS must be able to be compared **result based** with the one claimed to be unimproved (baseline)
- The program has processes inside it with inputs and outputs. The output is the performance and impact.
- Standards are not there without science based back-up. Standards are not there **without the drive from people managing** the ICS program



Why Quality Assurance in Improved Cookstoves

How do you ensure or monitor that the stoves being produced are of the same quality, otherwise cannot claim. **Quality Control** and **Quality monitoring** should form inherent part of the ICS program.

Monitoring: Determining the status of the system, a process, a product, a service or an activity. There should be a method or a process for monitoring of what we are promoting so that we claim what we know.

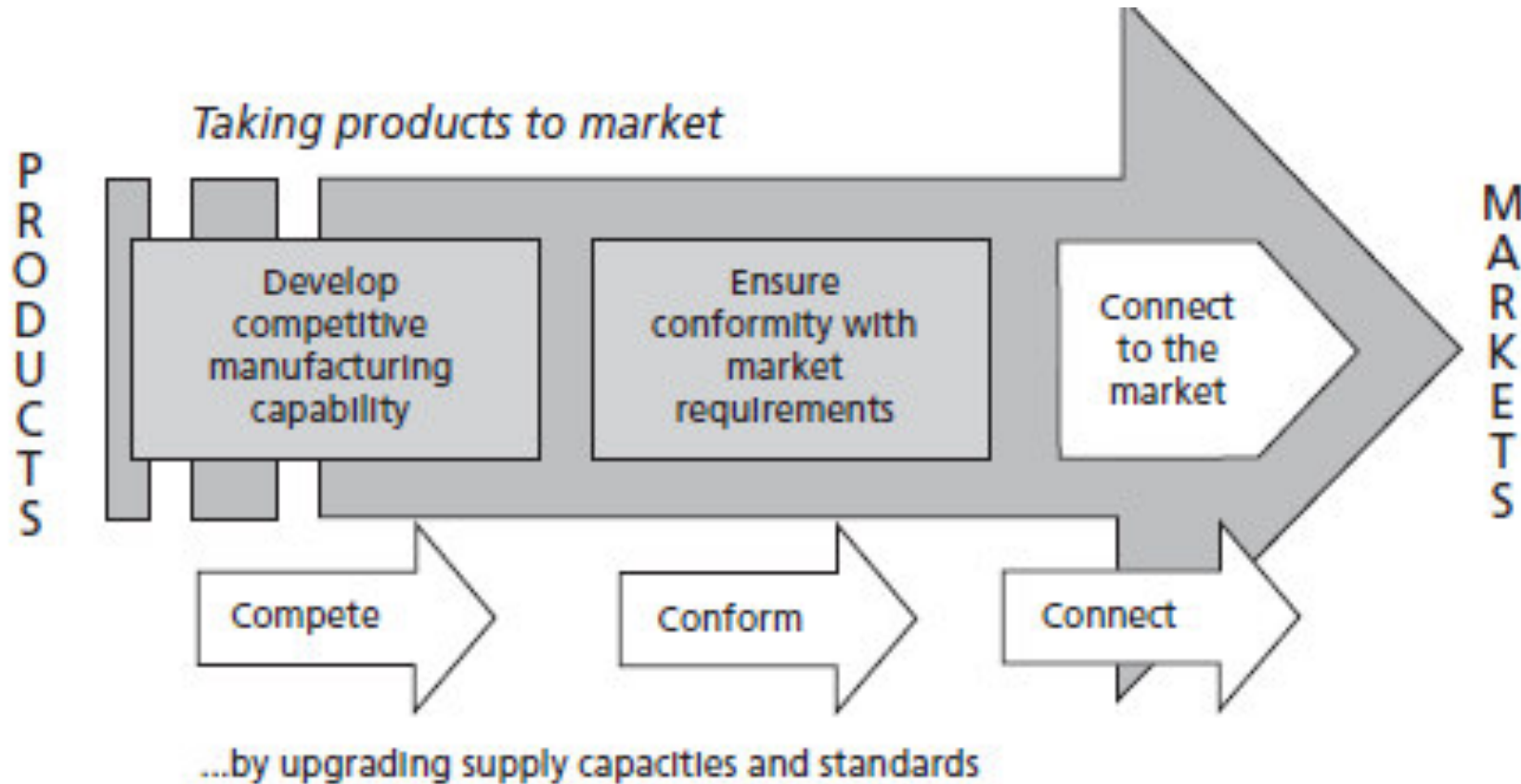


Why Quality Assurance in Improved Cookstoves

- Market based quality assurance need: Focus is the customer and meeting or exceeding the customer requirements.
- Customer has to be **convinced** and informed about the differences.
- From a **project perspective** supporting market development, it is important that the brand will be associated **with the product** and the **producers** and **not with the project**
- In other words: for the market it is important that stoves are offered with a constant/continuous good (high) quality level.



Why Quality Assurance in Improved Cookstoves.



- It is crucial that the promoted brand should have defined specifications



Standardization of Cookstoves in Malawi

- Specifications used when production are not “standards”, unless they have been approved by the National Bureau of Standards.
- Standardization is the **ultimate institutionalization of stove quality assurance**. The **approval and enforcement of standards** is an obligation of the regulator. The development of these standards is **the full obligation of the stakeholders** in the sector.



Standardization of Cookstoves in Malawi

- Process of standards development as being frequently presented in this forum, is demand driven. It starts from the demand.
- Initially, the demand seemed to be heavy and the process of National standards development started whereby a proposal was presented. Later on the demand for standards came down.
- Currently Malawi has National Standards on Cookstoves which were developed in the 1990s and they are outdated. The standards have not been implemented and there has been no certification of Cookstoves in Malawi. These have been presented to this forum so many times I think, currently no initiatives have been taken to review the standards.



Standardization of Cookstoves in Malawi

- The capacity in the enforcement of Cookstoves standards have not been fully developed because the sector has been very silent on certification issues.
- The Malawi Bureau of Standards has a role to facilitate the development of the standards BUT **enforcement role** is with the **Regulator of the sector**. Whenever a regulator is available, the MBS develops standards as voluntary and will become Mandatory when the regulator decides to refer to them in the regulations.



Participation in the International Standards development

- Malawi as most of us are aware is participating fully in Technical Committee 285 of the International Standardisation for Organisation (ISO) on clean Cookstoves.
- One of the key benefit of this participations is that Malawi's interests have high chances of being considered in the International Standard
- Easier for Malawi to adopt it once finalised
- The time scales to finalise the International Standards ranges from 3-6 years.



Participation in the International Standards development

- Mirror committee was established and is running. Malawi has attended most of the TCs meetings at International level. The first one was attended by reps from Area 55 consult-Kenya, then MBS -Guatemala, then NCST-Ghana
- Participation is very minimal in terms of commenting and actively participating in Working Group meetings organised through WEBEX.



SUMMARY

- The presentation has just highlighted some key concepts which could assist the industry: working towards quality assurance and minimum requirements of stoves in Malawi. The chain will always pass through conformance and one can not claim he/she is meeting National minimum standards if the standards have not been approved by the National Standards Body. Stakeholders are the drivers of the process.
- Quality assurance and control are key to the whole value chain.
- Getting commitment from the experts in the industry for participation in the International Standards work is key to putting Malawi on the global map.





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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Any questions