**BIOGAS ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

**Site ID: 33**

**Date: September 22, 2022**

**Interviewer:** First, where did this originate from?

**Interviewee**: They gave us a paper, which had information regarding that, but I don’t know where the paper is now. We have moved from one house to another a lot for a couple of years, so it`s hard to get track of things. And, I have not only lost the paper. My ID is also missing. And, it’s unfortunate that when they gave me the paper I didn’t scrutinize it much to the point that I could keep the information in my head.

**Interviewer**: So you don’t know where it came from, but they gave you a paper that had that information?

**Interviewee**: Yeah

**Interviewer**: Who designed it?

**Interviewee**: I don’t know who designed it. Maybe, the other beneficiaries know or have the paper I’m talking about. But, I remember that I dug the hole, and I also made the feedstock by myself. I was only told how to do the tasks though. They told me that after preparing the feedstock, I should feed the digester and that after sometime I was going to see the bag inflated.

**Interviewer**: How many people dug the hole?

**Interviewee**: I did it alone. The project installers only came to place the bag, assemble the pipes and stove.

**Interviewer**: How many people from the installation company came?

**Interviewee**: It was 4 people.

**Interviewer**: How many people were involved in the preparation of the feedstock?

**Interviewee**: I sourced manure with my wife.

**Interviewer**: Where did you get it?

**Interviewee**: I went into other people’s cow house to collect manure. Some people gave me 2 bags and I got the rest from other different people.

**Interviewer**: So you didn’t have cows that time?

**Interviewee**: Yeah. I didn’t have a cow house. So, some gave me for free; some people sold us the manure at K1000 a bag.

**Interviewer**: How was it like going to ask you for manure? I mean, did other people say no?

**Interviewee**: Of course, some people said they couldn’t give us for free. So, they sold us 2 bags at K1000 each… But, we used the digester for 5 days.

**Interviewer**: How long did it take to build it altogether?

**Interviewee**: It took me one day to dig the hole. It also took them a day to place the digester. And, it took them 3 days to come and assemble the pipes and the stove, and then start it.

**Interviewer**: So, after starting it you saw fire.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, it worked.

**Interviewer**: So, in brief what was your role?

**Interviewee**: That was all; I dug the hole, sourced and made feedstock. After installation, I found that biogas is a good thing; it’s fast especially when cooking side dish. And, out of all the beneficiaries in this village, only my digester worked. I mean, I asked all my friends how their digesters were faring and they responded that their digesters weren’t working.

**Interviewer**: Oh, nice. Why do you think your digester worked while others failed?

**Interviewee**: I think it was how we worked; some people were told to collect 50 buckets cow manure and could not manage. Some, instead of using fresh manure were using dry manure. And, indeed, after feeding it the first time the installers said our digester was going to work, and it worked.

**Interviewer**: And, you saw the fire?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, everything was good, and I even roasted maize afterwards.

**Interviewer**: And, were roasted nicely?

**Interviewee**: Very good.

**Interviewer**: After that?

**Interviewee**: I cooked side dish. The next day, it worked in the afternoon. But, it didn’t work in the morning and late hours of the afternoon because it needs the sun.

**Interviewer**: In this village, there are so many people, even 300 households. How were you selected as a beneficiary was?

**Interviewee**: Before getting into the biogas project, I was in a road construction project. Before moving to biogas project, they told me I was going for 9-day training, and I accepted. When they gave us the digesters, they told us it was a pilot project, so people wanted to see who was going to be most successful. So, it brought a competitive spirit among the beneficiaries. And, some beneficiaries were doing things steady but sure, while others were doing things in haste to show that they were successive. So out of all the beneficiaries, I was the one who managed to make it work.

**Interviewer**: So, you were chosen because you are a hard worker?

**Interviewee**: I was a hard worker.

**Interviewer**: Oh, you stopped working hard?

**Interviewee**: No, but I was pulled off by the fact that the digester couldn’t work for a long time when there was no sun.

**Interviewer**: Okay, did you know about biogas before?

**Interviewee**: No, I was expecting to learn about biogas at the 9-day training, but it never happened.

**Interviewer**: So, before they came you didn’t know anything about biogas, but you expected to learn about it at the 9-day training, but it never materialized?

**Interviewee**: Yeah

**Interviewer**: You have mentioned how you were moved from the road project to biogas project. How were the other beneficiaries chosen? I mean, who selected you to move from the road project to the biogas project? What was the selection process like?

**Interviewee**: we had a community meeting at the senior chief’s residence, that's where they chose as beneficiaries, and the people bore witness. I mean, when it was time for the people of Mcheleka to choose a beneficiary, I was chosen by the people, since I’m a resident of Mcheleka village and the people saw that I was skilled enough to run it and be exemplary to the community. Then, I was like fine, write my name.

**Interviewer**: Why didn’t you say no?

**Interviewee**: Saying no would have meant that I had also rejected my chief.

**Interviewer**: (laughs) oh, you didn’t want to shame your chief?

**Interviewee**: (laughs) yeah, I didn't want to embarrass him.

**Interviewer**: If I have had you correctly, you have said the people of your village. Do you mean there were people from different villages?

**Interviewee**: At the community meeting, there were seven chiefs from different villages with their people under one Senior Chief. So, because they wanted five beneficiaries, three villages were taken as one village. Then, they told us that there was a project, and whoever was interested was welcome to submit their names. Many people didn’t give their names because; they didn’t want to handled cow manure regularly; some people didn’t like smell of cow manure, so they thought biogas was worth all that. At that point, people were not told that they would go for training. People were only told that there was a project called biogas, its requirements and that the digesters address cooking needs, and whoever was interested was welcome to give their name… Then, the chief told me that they were moving me from the road construction project to biogas project, as I could not be involved in both projects. But, I was hesitant to move because I was not sure if the training was going to happen. Then, he assured the all the beneficiaries that we would go for training on biogas, and I accepted to move. And, I everyone saw my name taken out of the road project to the biogas project. So, that’s how I was selected, and after some time the digester came.

**Interviewer**: What was the road project about? And, what is your role?

**Interviewee**: It was a community built road project by MASAF, and I was earning K18,000 each month for taking part in building community roads.

**Interviewer**: so you accepted to let go K18000?

**Interviewee**: Yes, but that was not a problem since I’m a fisherman, I make K2000 a day when I go to the river to fish. So, I make K15000 a month.

**Interviewer**: It’s K60000

**Interviewee**: (laughs) yeah, it’s K60000.

**Interviewer**: That’s a lot! Interesting, you have touched on an interesting subject for me. I remember one time I was working with a certain NGO on wash project. So, I was involved in creating and strengthening water point committees. During that time, I observed that when you are working with community people, if you want to get them engaged or get full attention, you have to bring in the element of training. It’s was surprising to see how people would put in effort and so much interest in tasks once you mentioned training. I will put it to you, why are community people so interested in trainings?

**Interviewee**: That’s very true…..That time this was commissioned many people came to see me roasting maize. People were taking videos and pictures, and they commended me for the good work.

**Interviewer**: (laughs) amazing. But you haven’t answered my question. I want to know why community people get so enthusiastic about projects once you tell them that one day you’re going to take them for training? Why are community people so obsessed with trainings?

**Interviewee**: I can say community people become interested in projects depending on how the whole project is introduced. If you tell them that a project has no component of training they accept and the work without issues. But, once you tell them that a project will involve trainings people become even more interested because we know they will get “something out” at the end of training.

**Interviewer**: So it’s about the money, the training allowances to some extent?

**Interviewee**: Yeah

**Interviewer**: Did you receive any training? What kind of training did you receive?

**Interviewee**: No, I didn’t receive.

**Interviewer**: You didn’t know about biogas before, then how were you able to switch it on and off, if you didn`t receive trainings?

**Interviewee**: On the day of commissioning the digester, they just said `friend` we have switched it on, how did we do that? So, I saw them taking a matchstick and lighting the burners after opening the gas valve and turning the control knob at the stove, therefore I did the same. I didn’t go for training.

**Interviewee**: What else?

**Interviewee**: An, I was also told how to make feedstock as they were installing it.

**Interviewer**: How prepared to run or operate the reactor did you feel you were after all that?

**Interviewee**: Very much so! I saw them turning it on and off, and they told me what to do once there was no gas in the bag as well. So, I knew that I would be able to run it because I had gained knowledge to run it, though without the training.

**Interviewer**: What did they tell you to do when there was no gas?

**Interviewee**: There were two things to look at when there was no gas production. First, we had to see if there was the sun or not, because it doesn't produce gas when there is no sun; when it’s hot like this, it produces gas. Secondly, if the sun was out, then we had to feed it with feedstock at the inlet pipe to produce gas.

**Interviewer**: Okay, what were your expectations?

**Interviewee**: I would have been very happy today to see it working because I couldn’t be using firewood for cooking. Now, I have no expectation of it working again because some people punctured it, and my children punctured it at some point as well. So, it is sad and it hurts to see my wife suffering sourcing firewood. So, I hope to have it again one day.

**Interviewer**: What did the installers tell you to expect from this?

**Interviewee**: I’m not sure if they were saying some of the things just to make us pumped up, so that we could make their work easy. I remember they told us that they didn’t want us to handle feedstock with bare hands. So, they promised us gloves, work suit, wheelbarrows, gumboots and shovels. They didn’t give us all that, but that wasn’t a problem because we managed to prepare feedstock effectively with our bare hands. Still, it wasn’t easy to pick manure with hands, so at some point I only managed to buy a shovel to help me in collecting fresh manure.

**Interviewer**: At what price?

**Interviewee**: It was K4000, I think.

**Interviewer**: So, you expected to cook without sourcing wood, and you expected to get items like gloves and work suits and all. Apart from these, what else did you expect or what else were you told to expect?

**Interviewee**: That was that.

**Interviewer**: How did you meet your energy needs before the intervention?

**Interviewee**: Before that, I was using an energy efficient stove given to us by Goal Malawi. However, the stoves were not durable, so we didn’t use it for long. After that, I was using a two-hole firewood stove given to us by DAPP [Development Aid From People To People].

**Interviewer**: What’s wrong with those stoves [points to the stoves]?

**Interviewee**: It’s like when you use it for 2 weeks or so, it develops a crack and it eventually breaks into two.

**Interviewer**: Oh,

**Interviewee**: Yeah, and when it does that you can’t fix it.

**Interviewer**: I can imagine that throughout this time you used firewood for cooking. Where did you get?

**Interviewee**: We exchange firewood with sweet potato with women from the hillside.

**Interviewer**: So they come here and you do exchange?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, we make heaps of sweet potatoes and say this heap is, for example, K1000, and they make bundles of firewood and tag a price to it, and then we balance up. So, that’s how we exchange firewood with sweet potato.

**Interviewer**: So, how was it like around the 5 days you used the digester? Did you send them back?

**Interviewee**: Nothing changed because the digester was only working in the afternoon, so at night we still needed firewood.

**Interviewer**: You said you didn’t have cows or any livestock, right?

**Interviewee**: Yeah.

**Interviewer**: Do you have now?

**Interviewee**: No.

**Interviewer**: Okay, how did you do it after commissioning?

**Interviewee**: After the digester bag got full, the installers came. When they came, they called me to observe what they were doing. First, they opened gas valves and I had heard a certain sound indicating gas movement. Then, they asked me to get matchstick but I did not have, so I asked my little child to buy. When we got matchstick, they opened the stove and lighted the burner. Then, they asked me what I wanted to cook, so I told them I wanted roasted maize, and put maize on the stove. When people saw what was happening they started coming one by one to see me roasting maize on biogas. While, I was roasting maize people were saying that I had hit a jackpot. We managed to roast the maize, and I shared it with the people to eat. Some people from Mozambique even came to see me roasting maize.

**Interviewer**: Approximately, how many people came, and what was their reaction?

**Interviewee**: It was a lot of people. I don’t know how many people. It was a lot. People from the upper side of the village came to see the whole thing. People from Mozambique when passing by, were even coming to see what was happening.

**Interviewer**: What did they say?

**Interviewee**: They liked it and wanted to have one too.

**Interviewer**: How much cooking time did you get after that?

**Interviewee**: The next day, I cooked dry fish and nsima [approximately one hour of cooking time] in the afternoon. But, when I was trying to cooking nsima in the evening, it didn’t work (laughs)

**Interviewer**: How did you feel?

**Interviewee**: I kind of expected that because the installers told us that it wouldn’t work in the evening. They said they would bring some equipment that was going to enable us to cook in the evening and to use it for lighting as well. So, we expected that, but they never came with the equipment.

**Interviewer**: Oh, I see. Uh, they gave you their numbers, I mean, did you follow up on this prospect?

**Interviewee**: I called them, but their numbers didn’t go through. So, I went to the extension worker to ask, and he told me that he was also trying them but the calls weren’t going through. I asked him if they had blocked us, but he told me that he had no idea. Then, he went on to say that, they were going to come back at some point, so I shouldn’t worry. So, I think this is the day, praise be to God (laughs).

**Interviewer**: (laughs) I don`t even know how to install a digester, brother. How did you use the gas? Was it for cooking only?

**Interviewee**: I was also using it for cooking.

**Interviewer**: How many people used the gas?

**Interviewee**: We were 6 people.

**Interviewer**: So have said you only used it for 5 days?

**Interviewee**: Yeah.

**Interviewer**: How was cooking like in those 5 days?

**Interviewee**: It was somewhat similar; I was only using it in the afternoon.

**Interviewer**: Can you quantify the cooking time you were getting? How many hours did you get in the afternoon?

**Interviewee**: It was 1 hour or so.

**Interviewer**: What were the operation requirements?

**Interviewee**: One of the gentlemen whose name was on the documentation paper told us that we would require cow manure and water.

**Interviewer**: What else was required?

**Interviewee**: That was all.

**Interviewer**: So, what were you supposed to do with cow manure and water?

**Interviewee**: To start it up, they told me that I should mix six bags of cow manure with 100 liters of water. So that day I woke up at 4:00 a.m. and started searching for manure. I went to [name redacted] house, and then I went to [name redacted] house to pick manure, though he was a beneficiary too. He didn’t hold back because he was my father in law. But, when I went to [name redacted] house, he told me that he couldn’t give the manure for free. So, I bought him. I think I paid him K1000. I did this job with my wife, while my children were collecting water. After we got enough water and cow manure, we mixed it and then poured it in the digester.

**Interviewer**: I have heard about [name redacted] the other beneficiary. I heard his whole family was murdered in the most gruesome way. How did you prepare the feedstock?

**Interviewee**: What happened was bizarre. I can’t just figure out how some people would do that. Talking of feedstock, we were placing cow manure in a bucket, add water and then mix with bare hands, like my hands are now, since we didn’t have gloves. Whenever we saw lumps, we crushed them to have a smooth feedstock. After making smooth and slightly thick slurry, I used to pour it in the digester. I finished the work around 9 AM, and around 11 AM it started making a certain sound, then after some days the bag got full and I hit it with my fingers it was producing a bell like sound. So, I knew there was gas in the bag, but after some days, it was punctured.

**Interviewer**: You said people at some point punctured your digester. Why do you think they did that? Was it out of jealous or anything?

**Interviewee**: I can’t know because that time I was away on my fish trip. The problem was that my house was close to a footpath. As a result, the installers also placed the digester close to the footpath, so it was easy for people to puncture it. So you never know people, until you dine with them. Thus, some day we found it punctured because of jealousy. But, I’ve seen have beneficiary cutting it on purpose to make makeshift doors or roofing sheets (laughs). Then, I heard all the people from Kachere cut the digesters because they were useless. But, I was happy that out of all the people here I was the one who used it for long.

**Interviewer**: Only for 5 days?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, and even if the installers come and do an evaluation, people would see that I was the one who performed best among all the beneficiaries.

**Interviewer**: (Laughs) I think 5 days is just too little to say you use it.

**Interviewee**: (Laughs) But, if you compare with my colleagues, that`s success.

**Interviewer**: (Laughs) who was responsible for feeding it?

**Interviewee**: I was responsible.

**Interviewer**: How did you feel about feeding it? Didn’t you found it involving?

**Interviewee**: No, I didn’t find it involving because I knew that was the only way that would stop us from sourcing firewood. And, it was exciting for me to use a modern technology for cooking, though I was only able to cook in the afternoon.

**Interviewer**: Okay, what were the maintenance requirements?

**Interviewee:** They said if the problem was at the stove, we should call them. But, if there was gas leakage on the bag or anywhere, then we could seal the punctured place ourselves with an adhesive. Then, I asked them if it was necessary for us to buy an adhesive since they told us that they would provide anything for us. Then they just said if there was a leakage, we should inform them. Then, we had problems and called them, but they didn’t come. So, we knew that it was up to us to maintain it, and that’s why many beneficiaries abandoned it when they faced a problem, because we didn’t know what to do.

**Interviewer**: You have said it stopped working after 5 days. How did it stop? Did it go off at once or something?

**Interviewee**: It stopped working after 5 days because the weather changed. It became cloudy and cold. Then, after some days, the sun came out, but my wife didn’t switch it on.

**Interviewer**: You weren’t around that time?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I was away. When I was leaving, I told my wife that I’m going for a business trip, use it when the sun is back and when the bag is full. But, my wife is illiterate, so she didn’t pay attention to what I told her regarding its operation. So, she didn’t use it.

**Interviewer**: Do you think it needs someone who has gone to school?

**Interviewee**: Yes, school helps a lot because it makes people to understand things easily.

**Interviewer**: Okay, so I those 5 days, did you meet your needs?

**Interviewee**: After it worked for 5 days, I went for a business trip a day after. Then, when I was away, my wife called and told me that the sun didn’t come out and the bag was deflated. Then, I told her that once the sun was out the digester bag would inflate. The next day, the sun rose, and she told me that the sun was out, but she admitted that she didn`t know how to operate it. Then, I told her not to bother and let it be, so she didn’t use it. Then, later that night I think some people took advantage that I wasn’t around, and punctured it. Then, she informed me that people had punctured it.

**Interviewer**: So, it took about 6 or 7 days for people to puncture it? (Laughs)

**Interviewee**: (Laughs) Yeah.

**Interviewer**: Jealousy people!

**Interviewee**: Some people weren’t happy to see me use it.

**Interviewer**: Why do you think some would just come and puncture your digester bag?

**Interviewee**: Our [Sena] tribe is hard to understand. It’s different from people from the north [Tumbuka tribe]. People from the north are united; no one feels more or less important than the next person; and they support each other. People here just not like to see others doing well in life. Here you cannot get support from anyone, excerpt from very close friends. Even people who you went to school are always jealousy of your success. Jealousy is just too much here!

**Interviewer**: We are going towards the end of our interview. What were the challenges?

**Interviewee**: We faced many challenges; one was that we did not receive training. Another problem was that unknown people punctured the digester. Secondly, it was hard for us to take it out of the house when we were told to moving out of the house by our landlord. So, you can see the challenges were just too many.

**Interviewer**: I’m also thinking of the challenge you had with it when it came to cooking during evening…. Wasn’t it producing fire at all? Or, it was producing very little fire?

**Interviewee**: It wasn’t producing fire at all, zero!

**Interviewer**: They told you if it had a puncture, you could seal it using an adhesive. Did you try to fix it after people punctured it?

**Interviewee**: No, we didn’t because we moved to another house. But, before we moved, children who liked to play around it also cut it. And this made the problem bigger than the first one. The first one, I could have tried to seal it with an adhesive. But, the second one was so big that I couldn’t even dare to try (Laughs).

**Interviewer**: (laughs) and, even if you could have fixed it, they could have come back again.

**Interviewee**: (laughs) very possible.

**Interviewer**: Have you seen that before?

**Interviewee**: No.

**Interviewer**: This is information regarding problems common on digesters. For example, it tells you if it’s not producing fire, It is because of this and that, and it also tells you it’s possible solutions. What do you think of this information and would it have helped in your case?

**Interviewee**: If they couldn't manage to give us training, then they would have at least given as that information. With that information we could have at least had understand of it. But, sadly, they just gave us their names and phone numbers to call, and their number didn’t even work.

**Interviewer**: (Laughs) it’s sad. Today is 22nd of September, if the installers can call you today and ask you describe the current state of your digester, what do you say?

**Interviewee**: I can tell them straight forward that the digester is now part of my roof structure, it’s a roof sheet now! I can’t keep words from them (Stops speaking to attend to a visitor)

**Interviewer**: (laughs) so you can tell them open now that it’s a roof sheet now?

**Interviewee**: (laughs) I can’t tell them that, it’s rude. Ah, I can’t say that, I can only tell them that the digester is not working. But, we have the materials.

**Interviewer**: Where are the materials?

**Interviewee**: The digester bag is on top of the roof, and other things are in the house.

**Interviewer**: I will see all that at the end. How do you meet your energy needs now that it is not working?

**Interviewee**: Now we use firewood.

**Interviewer**: Charcoal? Do you use charcoal?

**Interviewee**: Honestly speaking, I don’t use charcoal. I remember this other time forest officials caught me with two bags of charcoal as I was passing through a roadblock. I told them that I didn’t make the charcoal, but I only bought it, and they told that was still an offense by forest laws. So, they took the two bags from me, so from there on I don’t buy charcoal.

**Interviewer**: Don’t people come here to sell charcoal here? I mean, with that you can’t still use charcoal because it’s not like they come into the houses to check if you have charcoal?

**Interviewee**: No, some women sell maize cobs at a certain place within the village, so when we don’t have firewood, as it is the case now, we go there to buy the maize cobs. They come around 5:00 PM, we could have gone together to see what happens, if you had time. So, that’s what we use.

**Interviewer**: So you use that for cooking as well!

**Interviewee**: Yeah!

**Interviewer**: We are about to finish our interview; we have five more questions to go. How did reactor cost?

**Interviewee**: They said it was K200000.

**Interviewer**: Who paid for that?

**Interviewee**: Mmh, I have forgotten. But, if I had the paper, you could have seen. I always make digital copies of such papers and put in my phone, but I don’t know why I didn’t do so that time.

**Interviewer**: Okay, did you contribute anything in kind?

**Interviewee**: I contributed nothing. I didn’t give them any like a chicken or something. But, I did kill a chicken for them to eat while they were working.

**Interviewer**: Good hospitality, uh!

**Interviewee**: (laughs) yeah! I was like to these are my visitors let’s support each other. So, I got a chicken and cooked it for them!

**Interviewer**: You killed a chicken for nothing, uh (laughs)

**Interviewee**: Ah, no. I didn’t want them to go hungry, despite the fact they were getting allowances (laughs)

**Interviewer**: That’s so kind of you. Next time, I will tell you well in advance that I’m coming when I get you number. The number I had of you didn’t work. I want a chicken here next time like them! Moving on, you have said you dug the hole alone, right?

**Interviewee**: Yeah

**Interviewer**: Okay, did you line it with plaster or a brick wall?

**Interviewee**: No. It’s was just a round hole.

**Interviewer**: Did they tell you that you could line it?

**Interviewee**: Yes, they did. They said whoever could manage to buy a bag of cement should do so to protect soil from collapsing into the hole. But, we didn’t do that because our bag was well placed and fitted perfectly into the hole. So, we only stacked bricks around it to prevent debris from getting into the hole.

**Interviewer**: You just stack the bricks?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, and at the outlet, I made a hole without lining it with plaster or a brick wall. The hole was for collecting digestate.

**Interviewer**: Did you use the digestate?

**Interviewee**: No.

**Interviewer**: Why? They didn’t tell you that you could use it?

**Interviewee**: We thought that when the digestate stays in the hole for some days it loses value, and became useless.

**Interviewer**: But, people who use manure keep manure for some time before using it. So, didn’t you think it was kind of the same? Why didn’t you use it as fertilizer?

**Interviewee**: Our fields are very far away from here. But, if we had gardens around then you would have been using it. We found it tiresome to carry a bag of digestate there. Our farms are not within this community, they are in Mozambique.

**Interviewer**: So you mean you don’t carry a bag of fertilizer there?

**Interviewee**: The people here don’t use fertilizer. Maybe, others don’t, but a lot of people don’t. It’s only in Chidisi where people use fertilizer. But, here I don’t think so, and I have never seen a person using manure.

**Interviewer**: Why don’t people use fertilizer or manure?

**Interviewee**: The soil here is so fertile. When we plant maize, it grows well, and it produces strong maize cobs with big ears.

**Interviewer**: Oh, you are lucky. People are stressing over fertilizer in some areas.

**Interviewer**: What special items had to be imported from another country? i.e. did they tell you were the materials came from?

**Interviewee**: They said the digester is from my abroad. They also said the donor was international as well. So, urged us to take good care of it.

**Interviewer**: They just said the donor was international, but they didn’t say the name?

**Interviewee**: They didn’t tell us the name of the donor. They only said the donor was international and that one day he would come. They went on to say that, only 10 people from two villages of Mtologo and Kachere were the beneficiaries.

**Interviewer**: Did you save any money in those 5 days it worked? If so, how much money?

**Interviewee**: Of course, I saved some money. I mean, when I wanted to buy firewood and cook, I was spending K500 per day; one for lunch, and the other for supper. So, in those days, I can say I was saving K250 a day, which I used to buy soap and other things.

**Interviewer**: What is your opinion of biogas? When you hear of biogas, what comes into your mind?

**Interviewee**: When I had biogas, I was like in a different world. Of course, I was able to use it in the afternoon only; still it gave my wife an opportunity to rest. I wasn’t seeing my wife going around searching for firewood as I used to. So, it gave us rest and our lives were better

**Interviewer**: So, it’s a good thing?

**Interviewee**: Right?

**Interviewer**: Its drawbacks?

**Interviewee**: It`s what I have already said. If the bag deflates, it doesn’t produce strong fire.

**Interviewer**: I though you only need to feed it to keep the bag inflated?

**Interviewee**: It's not possible to keep it full all the times because we don’t feed it daily. They told us to feed it after every two days, so we couldn’t keep the bag full all the times. When we fed it, the gas didn’t stay long to go to the next day, so it’s a big challenge.

**Interviewer**: Oh! What is the future biogas in Malawi?

**Interviewee**: I believe, if I wasn’t travelling a lot, I would have managed to move with it from house to house. So, my travels resulted in its failure. Also, the fact it was punctured by people made it not to last long.

**Interviewer**: But, we are talking about 10 people who were given to run it and hoping that the community would adopt it. But, all 10 people, including you failed to manage it, so do you think you would have managed it?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I mean out of the 10 people, I was the best and my friends were even saying that I tried managed and make it work. So if it was to work, I was the only person who would have made it work here. But, my going in and out are the cause of its failure. So, I think it just need close attention from both the installers and the users to make it work.

**Interviewer**: Last question, okay, if you could have decided your own energy or waste intervention, what would you have chosen instead?

**Interviewee:** There are a lot of technologies that are coming into the country. Whatever it be wind powered energy interventions or solar powered interventions, which can be used for cooking. So, I can go for such interventions, and I can give my all to make it work.

**Interviewer**: Why such interventions?

**Interviewee**: There are reliable because the wind will always be there. The sun will always be there.

**Interviewer**: That’s the end; do you have anything to say?

**Interviewee**: I would to thank you for coming with your research. I’m so glad you have come. In regards to biogas, it has been many years without people coming to follow up on this, so we are thank for that. And, I have to say we feel like we have unfinished business with biogas, and we would like to maybe use it someday.

**Interviewer**: Thanks for the interview, and I appreciate for sharing your time with me. I have hold your for long, I saw that you were going for a football game, hope I haven’t taken much of your time.

**Interviewee**: It’s okay, and the game hasn’t started yet, so it’s fine.

**Interviewer**: Thanks.