**BIOGAS ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

**Site ID: 39**

**Date: September 27, 2022**

**Interviewer**: First question, where did the digester originate from?

**Interviewee**: It came here with a company called Energy Saver. But, when they gave us we had no training. They simply said that I should expect good thing to come, and that they would come back. So, I have waited from 2017 up to date, but they have never showed up. But, since then three other groups of people have come to follow up. One time, people came from Lilongwe came to follow up. They spoke English and thought I was not following whatever they were saying, as my English is good, you know how powerful the old school was here in Malawi. However, I did not like the way they questioned me because it was as if they were trying to lead me to something. Then, at the end, they commented in English that I was old, and I asked them if I answered their question offline, and they said no. That time they came seven people. Then, another group came last year to follow-up as well. Simply put, the installers were from a company called Energy Saver and they said the digesters were from China or some other country. It has been long so, I cannot remember vividly.

**Interviewer**: Who funded it?

**Interviewee**: There was no time they told me where the money came from. But, the people from agriculture told me that I was going for training. I believe I would have learnt where the funds came from there.

**Interviewer**: Was the agriculture office involved?

**Interviewee**: They were the ones who were spearheading this here. It was Mbonechera EPA together with the installers who came here that time.

**Interviewer**: When was this?

**Interviewee**: It was 2017.

**Interviewer**: You have a very sharp memory. How many people came to build this?

**Interviewee**: I think it was four, if not five people.

**Interviewer**: How many people from your side supported the building of this?

**Interviewee**: It was basically me. However, my five children also supported me in sourcing manure.

**Interviewer**: How long did you take to build this?

**Interviewee**: They did give a deadline and I met it. But, I have forgotten how long it was. They also wrote on a piece of paper the things I was supposed to source, and I did. I believe they said I was supposed to source 10 buckets or something, I do not know. But, they did not teach me anything.

**Interviewer**: What was written on the paper?

**Interviewee**: They wrote the number of water and cow manure I was supposed to source. And they told me to use fresh cow manure that I got from well-wishers. So after I got the feedstock, I prepared it, fed the digester and the bag got full.

**Interviewer**: Apart from sourcing and making feedstock, what else did you do?

**Interviewee**: I hired someone to make a hole.

**Interviewer**: How many were they? And, how much did you pay them?

**Interviewee**: It was one person and I paid him K3500. And, he took 2 days to dig the hole.

**Interviewer**: I thought you had five children. I mean, was that not enough?

**Interviewee**: It was small school going girls and boys, who could not managed to dig a hole.

**Interviewer**: Okay, where did you get your manure?

**Interviewee**: I got goat manure from my got house. I had seven goats that time. And, the manure I got from my goat house was not enough, so I got some from other people.

**Interviewer**: How is it like to get manure from other people.

**Interviewee**: There was no problem because people were interested to see how the digester was going to function. And, I did my best to allure people to give me manure by trying to sell the concept of a biogas system and that it was an opportunity for them too to learn from me, and then eventually adopt it.

**Interviewer**: (Laughs) oh

**Interviewee**: Oh, yeah. I was doing that.

**Interviewer**: I was in Tengani, Nsanje last week; it seems that people do not allow other people to go get manure in their animal houses…

**Interviewee**: The people in Tengani use cow manure, right? It is common with cows. In our case, we used goat manure to start it up, so it was not much of a problem. It was only one woman who denied manure, because she thought I was going to use it as fertilizer so she asked me to pay.

**Interviewer**: What do you think they do that?

**Interviewee**: They do black magic to make their cow management successful.

**Interviewer**: Oh, why don’t they do that with goats?

**Interviewee**: Some do, but it is not common in goats farming because goats are considered less valuable.

**Interviewer**: How many bags of manure and water did they ask you to find? Or, how bags of manure did you find?

**Interviewee**: It was a lot. I remember they asked me to find one drum of water that was to be mixed with manure. However, I don’t remember the quantity of manure I was asked to find, and which I found. I had no standard measure as I was getting manure, and then mixing it with water without counting. And, some of the bags were full somewhat not full, so I can’t say exactly how manure I got.

**Interviewer**: In this community we have so many people and so many households, how were you and your family selected as a beneficiaries?

**Interviewee**: I don’t know what really happened, but in this community three other women were chosen and denied it. As for me, I accepted it.

**Interviewer**: Why did they deny it?

**Interviewee**: They said they wouldn’t be able to manage it, and thought it’s a tedious. And, indeed, it was a burden and very tedious, but I soldiered on.

**Interviewer**: So, in this community you are the only one who got it?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, there is one beneficiary from another village, which I’m aware of. His name is [name redacted]. He is a chief.

**Interviewer**: A very charming man is his own way. I think I was there before coming here.

**Interviewee**: How is his digester like?

**Interviewer**: It`s bad. He told me that the installers didn’t install it. But, they only gave him some of the equipment, like digester bag and pipes. Then, they were told him they would come again, but never did.

**Interviewee**: I also went to the agriculture office with Chief [name redacted] to get the equipment. He dug a hole, but I'm not sure if they installed it there because there were fears that his house was in a footpath. So, he thought it was not going to be safe.

**Interviewer**: How was the selection process like?

**Interviewee**: I think the chiefs chose hard working people. For example, the chief I went to collect materials with was very committed to this. I remember, I went to his house and he had already dug the hole. He even placed the digester bag in the hole, but he removed it when he saw that too many people were passing by, and he was also waiting for me to finish, and call the installers.

**Interviewer**: How did the Chief chose you? I mean, how did you know that the chief know you? What happened?

**Interviewee**: When the project came out chief was called to the Traditional Authority meeting place. Then, he volunteered to get the digesters and become a change agent. And, I myself was very willing to be a change agent too.

**Interviewer**: So, I want to know how you become a beneficiary. How did you learn first about it? Was it through the chiefs or extension workers?

**Interviewee**: The chief recommended the extension workers to come here. Then, the extension workers came here to tell us what to do. So, I dug a hole there, but I was told to dig close to the kitchen. My initial thought was that the bag was primarily for making fertilizer, I didn’t think of it as a technology for cooking, and that’s why I built it close to the animal house initially.

**Interviewer**: Did you know anything about biogas?

**Interviewee**: I only knew of biogas when they brought it here.

**Interviewer**: You had the right to say no, and you have even said some women said no, why did you accept to build it here?

**Interviewee**: I was interested because I heard on the radio that some people were using biogas like electricity (for lighting, source of power for TV) as well as for cooking. And, when I heard that it uses goat manure, I thought it would be easy for me for me to manage.

**Interviewer**: So you heard about it on the radio before they came?

**Interviewee**: Yes, I heard some time back a certain woman saying she was able to use manure for lighting as well as cooking. And, indeed, after they installed it, I was able to cook on it during the first days. But, the problem was that they did not give me spare parts, so when the gas valve broke I couldn’t replace it. When I called the two numbers they gave me, I was getting a response of wrong number.

**Interviewer**: Did you cross check the numbers?

**Interviewee**: Yes, I did. And, I even tried to copy the numbers by transferring the numbers onto a different paper. I called the numbers and the same person who was saying wrong number.

**Interviewer**: So you think it was them?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I believe it was them. Because, some days after installation, I called the same number to report the issue, and we talked. That time they told me they would come after the rains, it was in May, and when I was called after the rains that’s when I was getting the wrong number response.

**Interviewer**: Was it the same voice?

**Interviewee**: I’m not sure if it was the same voice or not. But, I called the same number they gave me, and I called them on the same number and we talked before. So, that’s I’m saying it was the same number.

**Interviewer**: Oh, sad. What were your expectations?

**Interviewee**: I expected to use it for cooking, just like I was telling other people. And, I was very sure that if it could work as they promised, I would be able manage it and teach others about it.

**Interviewer**: What did they promise?

**Interviewee**: They the digester would be used for cooking and lighting, and that we would teach others about it.

**Interviewer**: Apart from this, what did they tell you to expect?

**Interviewee**: After installation, they talked things that motivated me. For example, they assured me that the digester was going to pick up and I would be able to cook and use it for lighting. They also said they would be following up on me. They asked me question like how many are you, how many rooms does your house have, and I found they questions compelling and hopeful that something good was going to happen. But, since then they have never come back.

**Interviewer**: What type of training did you receive? If I’m not mistaken, you are saying you did not receive training, then how are you able to switch it on?

**Interviewee**: They simply showed me how to switch on and off the stove. And they told me that the bag produces gas when the bag is full. Then, because they did not give me the spare parts, once the gas valve handle broke, I failed to switch it on again. The gas valve broke because it wasn’t durable enough. And they told us to call whenever there was a problem, but when I called them that’s when I was getting the wrong number response.

**Interviewer**: What exactly broke?

**Interviewee**: After the digester bag a part [gas valve] meant to allow gas to enter the pipes broke.

**Interviewer**: How did you know that there was a problem?

**Interviewee**: It was producing moist.

**Interviewer**: Was it producing a certain smell?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, it did! And, after I dug the hole, they gave me a poster of a digester showing a digester with two holes; one was for the digester bag and the other one was for collection of the digestate. But, my digester had one hole for the digester bag only and they didn’t tell me about the hole meant for digestate collection. So, I don’t know what happened about that hole because they didn’t train me.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, you are right that digester do have two holes; one for the digester bag and the other one is for collection of digestate at the outlet. So, people do dig a hole at the outlet to collect digestate that is used as fertilizer. So you are saying that the installers didn’t tell you to make a hole for the digestate?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, they didn’t tell me that. And, ah, to say the truth the way they brought the digester here I just feel like something dubious was happening behind the scenes. And, I asked them why my digester only had one hole and unlined with a plaster or brick wall, while the digester on the poster had two holes both lined. They told me that everything was okay and they didn’t even ask me to dig another hole for the digestate, and from that time on I never saw them again. And, if you could have seen how the digester was built here and that from the picture you would see how different they were. I still have the poster in my house, but I just don’t know where specifically it is now.

**Interviewer**: Yeah and that’s also true, digesters need to be lined with a brick wall or something. So you said you brought the issue to them?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, they said everything was okay. And if a problem came, we should inform them. However, when the digester bag started rising goats were stepping on it as they were moving around because there was no protection around it. As for the digestate, it wasn’t a problem because it never flashed out digestate.

**Interviewer**: So you are saying after everything was done you felt that there was something shady about the whole thing…

**Interviewee**: Yeah, that’s what I thought (laughs). They came six times, but there was no order in their visits. They didn’t down as you have and talk things as we are now. They were just coming, and then move around. Sometimes, they could find me coming out of the bathroom, and take a picture and I was like why were they doing things, so fast and without respect.

**Interviewer**: That’s so disrespectful. So after installation, how prepared to run or operate the reactor did you feel you were?

**Interviewee**: No, and after the plastic thing broke at the gas valve it started deflating and it stopped. Then, after the bag shrunk, it was trouble. One day as one of my children was playing fall into the pit and people advised me to take it out as it had a potential of causing harm to children. Also, after the rains started the digester bag got covered with soil as soil was collapsing into the digester, as a result of soil erosion. I was trying to remove the soil, but it was too much so it didn’t work.

**Interviewer**: A child fell in the digester?

**Interviewee**: Yes, my child fell in the digester pit, but lucky enough she landed on the digester bag that had air, so she was not injured. After people saw this, I was advised to take it out.

**Interviewer**: Did you use it?

**Interviewee**: I used it for a very few days. I used it for a week, I think.

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

**Interviewee**: I was simply using firewood.

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

**Interviewee**: I didn’t have a problem with sourcing firewood that time. As you can see the forest is not far from here. Also, I have a lot of trees around as you can see. But, things are now different because people have cut down a lot of trees from the forest for the purpose of making charcoal. Now, as a community, we have even started stopping people from making charcoal from our forest.

**Interviewer**: Where did you start noticing the change that the forest is running out of trees?

**Interviewee**: It’s been some time now.

**Interviewer**: 2 years?

**Interviewee**: 10 years or so

**Interviewer**: How are you coping now that wood is not as abundant as it was?

**Interviewee**: It’s not easy as it was. Now we also use maize cobs and dry pigeon peas plants.

**Interviewer**: Oh, it doesn’t look sustainable. So, what will happen after that?

**Interviewee**: I should ask you how I would survive without biogas (laughs). I mean, it’s true that we are running out of firewood, so you should have come up with you as you do support us in terms of cooking.

**Interviewer**: (laughs) Sure. You said you had goats and I think you still have goats….

**Interviewee**: Yes, I had goats, but now I’m only remaining with four goats.

**Interviewer**: How many goats did you have when they brought the digester?

**Interviewee**: I had seven goats.

**Interviewer**: How did you manage your goat manure that time?

**Interviewee**: I was simply collecting manure, and then place it in the ridges at my farm.

**Interviewer**: How does it work?

**Interviewee**: It somehow doesn’t work. I don’t know if I’m the problem because the manure sometimes break down but it wilts my maize. Maybe it’s because I just get the manure directly to the farm without keeping it a pit or sack. Honestly, I don’t know if I’m the problem, but straight talking, I don’t find it effective.

**Interviewer**: I thought that in a community like this, agriculture extension workers teach you how to manage those things….

**Interviewee**: They do tell us, but we have been listening to the same things for so long.

**Interviewer**: What do they say?

**Interviewee**: That we should be digging pits, line the pit with plastic and then place manure in the pits and cover it for some time to decompose. We haven’t tried to do this, because it’s difficult and we don’t manage to do it.

**Interviewer**: (laughs) I hope this “laziness” did go into biogas as well?

**Interviewee**: No way! With biogas they promised a lot of good thing, so I couldn’t play with it. Eh, I was so committed to biogas. I wanted to be exemplary, and even when I was going to ask for manure, I was assuring the people that they would learn from me – and they would see lights in my house - so I couldn`t have afford to be seen as a failure.

**Interviewer**: Okay. Moving on, you have told me that after digging the hole you were told to source manure and it was a lot of manure, but you have forgotten exactly how much it was. Where did you get water to start it up?

**Interviewee**: That time I was not connected to a piped water system so I got the water from that river. We have a river in the vicinity.

**Interviewer**: Oh, it’s within 100 meters. And, you have a piped water system now that is great.

**Interviewee**: Thanks, it is always on and off thought.

**Interviewer**: How was it like getting all that water with you children?

**Interviewee**: It was tough because that time it was summer and the river had dried up. So, we got it from the stream there.

**Interviewer**: Oh, some 200 meters away. So after feeding it that time, how long did it take to start up?

**Interviewee**: They told me to wait for few weeks, if I’m not mistaken some days. After that period the digester bag got full and it showed that it had gas in it.

**Interviewer**: On the day of commissioning, did the installers come?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, they came because the bag wasn’t fully assembled that time as the bag was still sealed, and we only covered the outlet and inlet pipe with plastic bag and rubber strips. So, on that day, they came with other pipes and the stove and assembled it. Then, they opened the stove and I heard a sound like air flowing. After that, they lit it and it produced fire.

**Interviewer**: How did it work after commission?

**Interviewee**: On the day of commissioning, I was able to cook side dish of vegetables. And I was very happy because I was expecting that everything was going to run smooth and that they would be coming to follow up on us and in the process motivating us. The next day after sunrise, I cooked porridge for my little children as well. So, I can say I used it.

**Interviewer**: Did you cook nsima on it?

**Interviewee**: I never cook nsima on it. It was only side dish.

**Interviewer**: Which side dish?

**Interviewee**: Pigeon peas - And that day they came and found me cooking on firewood. So they asked me to take the pot of pigeon peas from firewood to biogas. Thus, I started cooking firewood and finished on biogas.

**Interviewer**: Did you ever cook beans on it?

**Interviewee**: No

**Interviewer**: Why?

**Interviewee**: It was because I thought the fire wasn’t strong enough. But, one day I was able to warm water for children on it – it’s sad though I never used it for cooking.

**Interviewer**: I want to have a clear picture of how it worked in its 7-day life. So could please explain to me how much cooking time you got in those 7 days.

**Interviewee**: Like I said, I only used it for 7 days and it wasn’t like I was using it on the daily basis. Thus, in those 7 days, I used it for three or four days only, and that’s the days I cooked porridge [20 minutes], side dish [20 minutes] and boiled water for bathing [20 minutes]. It did not work long because of the plastic that got broken at the gas valve. I believe they knew that part had a problem before because it looked like it was broken from the very start. And, I believe that’s why they told me to inform them if there was any problem. So when I noticed the problem I was fast to report and that’s when they said they would come, but never did. And the problem escalated to the point it started leaking gas.

**Interviewer**: So, in the whole 7 days, you didn’t use it for more than 2 hours. What were the operation requirements?

**Interviewee**: It’s basically what they told me in the beginning. They told me to feed it with manure and water to get the bag full. That was all.

**Interviewer**: How often did they told you to feed it, and in what quantities?

**Interviewee**: No, I shouldn’t lie that they told me that. On the first day, they only advised me on feedstock preparation. But, it’s been long, so I can’t remember what exactly they told me. I can only remember that, I did what they asked me to do.

**Interviewer**: After feeding it the first time, did you feed it again?

**Interviewee**: I fed it because the bag wasn’t to the level that they told me. And, when I fed the digester bag again, it got full to the level they talked about.

**Interviewer**: Do you remember how much feedstock did you feed it with?

**Interviewee**: No, I don't remember, it’s been a very long time.

**Interviewer**: After feeding it the first time to start it up, how many other times did you feed it?

**Interviewee**: On the day of starting it up, we did put water first before the manure. After pouring water, they demonstrated to me how to handle, and I did as they demonstrated. Then, I was told to do the same whenever I was feeding it.

**Interviewer**: so, how much water and manure were you supposed to feed the digester with?

**Interviewee**: Mmh, I don't remember.

**Interviewer**: How did you prepare the feedstock?

**Interviewee**: First, I was going to the goat house to collect fresh manure with no trash. Then I was placing manure in the bucket, add water and then mix it. Not all manure was broken down because goat manure I was collecting was also contaminated with dry manure. So no matter how I tried, lumps or full goat manure was always mixed with the slurry. Then, after mixing for some time, I was pouring the slurry into the digester.

**Interviewer**: Did you have a mixer or a stick for mixing it?

**Interviewee**: I was using my hands, but I was covering them with a plastic bag. I never used a stir or stick!

**Interviewer**: Who was responsible for feeding it?

**Interviewee**: It was me together with my children. And, it was them who were going around asking for manure from people’s houses.

**Interviewer**: What were maintenance requirements?

**Interviewee**: They simply advised us to inform them on any malfunction. So when it malfunctioned the first time I called them and they told him they would come. But, when I called the second time to follow up I was told that it was wrong number.

**Interviewer**: The same number?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, the same number.

**Interviewer**: How long did it take you to call them after it malfunctioned?

**Interviewee**: When it malfunctioned, I tried to call them instantly because I didn’t want to the digester bag to collapse completely. That’s when they said they would come. And when I called them about a week or two again, it’s when the responder told me that it was a wrong number.

**Interviewer**: You said you didn’t cook nsima on it because you were simply easy on it. Why were you easy on it? Why didn’t you use it for cooking nsima, beans and all that?

**Interviewee**: I simply underestimated and belittled the flames. I don’t think if I could have put a pot of nsima or beans it wouldn’t have gotten cooked. I just had a perception that the bag wasn’t full enough, but it was still somewhat full.

**Interviewer**: Did you differentiate that the taste of porridge cooked on biogas and on firewood?

**Interviewee**: No, it was the same.

**Interviewer**: What challenges were there?

**Interviewee**: Eh, there were so many challenges. The first challenge was that they lied to me despite all my efforts, and it’s what disappoints me most; it was like I worked for nothing. I was also hurt a lot when the people I told would learn biogas from me asking me to take out the digester bag. It hurt. It hurt because that was not we agreed upon. And, I was very saddened about the whole thing…. It was fraud! The installers promised they would be following up – they were speaking English throughout and thought I wasn't picking what they were saying. I remember one time they mentioned that I shouldn’t be taken for training because I was too old, and I asked them if they had asked me to do something and I didn’t, or if I didn’t do anything as they say. They said I did everything perfectly, so I told them I’m not old and I still have the energy to do it. So, I found it disrespectful for them to say I was old when I did things correctly and with commitment, while other people volunteered that they could not make it…. And I have to tell you, I felt in my heart that the people weren’t honest by the way they conducted themselves when they were here.

**Interviewer**: So they didn't convince you that they were here to install the digester so that you could use…

**Interviewee**: They didn’t convince me whatsoever. They were just obsessed with taking pictures. And, the last time they came here I asked them how they were going to help me revamp the digester. They only said they would come back to fix it, and since then they never came back. However, eight people came last year to access the digester as well. They found the bag completely collapsed, but it was funny because people thought they were here for corona.

**Interviewer**: Did you try to fix it?

**Interviewee**: No, I didn't. I couldn’t have fixed it because I knew nothing about it.

**Interviewer**: Oh, I see. Let’s talk about the people you were getting manure from. You said you got manure from them because you wanted them to learn from you about biogas. How did they react when they saw that it didn’t work? How did people reach?

**Interviewee**: I worked very hard to attract people and to make the digester work. And I was even challenging them that my digester would work, and people believed because of my efforts and commitment. So, when it didn’t work, some people degraded my efforts. Some people were saying I’m a failure and that I had been cheated – and, I totally agree with them that I was fooled.

**Interviewer**: If some installers come to install the digester, would you accept them?

**Interviewee**: I would like to have a digester because my heart is still in it. I have been telling all the people who have been coming here that I still want it and to prove to people that I can manage it. Of course, some people may think I’m old but I still have family who can be helping me to manage it. So, I would like to own a digester again because I would like people to learn about biogas from me.

**Interviewer**: You don’t look old to me. And, you look strong. How old are you?

**Interviewee**: I`m 59 years old.

**Interviewer**: Okay, did you receive something like this?

**Interviewee**: No

**Interviewer**: What do you think of this information and do think it would have helped in your case

**Interviewee**: Yes, it would have helped a lot as the information could have served as a reminder and could have also guided me in resolving issues. And, it was better than giving me their numbers and later ignoring me when I called them. Of course, I can’t say I could have solved all the problems, but at least I would have managed to fix some of the issues by myself.

**Interviewer**: Why do you think you couldn’t have managed to solve all problems with all that rich information?

**Interviewee**: It’s because I don't know if they could have left as spare parts. I mean, we go to technicians to fix our things because they have spare parts. So, the success of that information would have depended on the availability of spare parts because it's not only about knowing the problems, but also having the spare solve the problem.

**Interviewer**: Let’s suppose the installers call you today and ask you to describe the current state of your digester, what would you say?

**Interviewee**: I can tell them it's not working. And, let’s be honest, the digester is dead. I don’t think it can work again because the bag was cut to take it out the manure and it had lots of them. I remember we hired about five people to take it out and it took them 2 days to finish everything. And, if I have a chance to talk to them, I can ask them how a thing that was left in 2017 without any follow-up would survive without a technician. That’s what I can say. It may seem that I’m being rude to them, but I`ll just be reacting to the way they handled the whole thing.

**Interviewer**: I understand, you earn respect.

**Interviewee**: (Laughs) Yeah, it was a marriage without an engagement – it just ends anyhow!

**Interviewer**: How much did you pay the people who took it out?

**Interviewee**: I don’t remember how much we paid them, but certainly we paid them a hefty amount because you can`t do all that work for peanuts.

**Interviewer**: What did you do with the manure?

**Interviewee**: Nothing. We just buried it in the ground as we left it in the pit.

**Interviewer**: Taking all things into consideration, how did it reach this state? And, what caused it?

**Interviewee**: It didn’t work out because they left me in the dark and didn’t stick to their promises. But, if everything was done according to plan, I could have told you what exactly went wrong. I can’t say I’m the cause of its failure because it didn’t reach a level where I assumed responsibility. It was still in their hands, so it’s the people on top that failed and caused the digester to fail as well.

**Interviewer**: How did you meet you energy now that this is not working? Do you still use firewood and dry pigeon peas plants, right?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, it’s what I have already said; dry pigeon peas plants, firewood and maize cobs.

**Interviewer**: We are going towards the end of the interview. How much did the reactor cost?

**Interviewee**: They didn’t tell us anything about that. They were only coming here to take pics and then go.

**Interviewer**: (laughs) did you sign any paper?

**Interviewee**: I didn’t sign any paper.

**Interviewer**: Did you contribute anything in kind?

**Interviewee**: I didn’t contribute anything except for the money I spent when we were starting it up, and removing the bag.

**Interviewer**: Was there any masonry work involved?

**Interviewee**: No

**Interviewer**: What special items had to be imported from another country?

**Interviewee**: I don't know, as they didn’t tell me directly where it came from. But, I heard them saying that it was from Japan or China. It was a lot of items that were involved. We had the pipes, the stove and the bag. And, I used my own money to collect the digester bag and pipes at the agriculture office, and that was the first money I spent on it. When, I came here to dig the hole, I found the ground too hard and compact as it was in the dry season, and that’s why I hired people to do it for me.

**Interviewer**: Oh, did you collect the items by yourself at the agriculture office?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I remember I went with Chief [name redacted] to collect the items by ourselves at the agriculture. When we went there we found two other people, so if Chief [name redacted] say he didn’t find everything there, it could be true as there was no order in the way we got the things.

**Interviewer**: You were so committed, uh?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I was and it’s sad it didn’t work out.

**Interviewer**: We are going towards the end of the interview. We have about three questions to wrap up. What was the biggest difference in your life in that week you had it, if there is any?

**Interviewee**: It was just the beginning of a new era and I feel saddened that it didn’t go further. I’m sure if it could have continued, cooking would have been simple.

**Interviewer**: What is your opinion of Biogas?

**Interviewee**: I still have the desire to own it one day because I didn’t reach I wanted. I want one day to use it for cooking and lighting as they explained.

**Interviewer**: So, you still have interest in it, and you wish to use it again for cooking and lighting.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, that’s my wish.

**Interviewer**: What the future of biogas in Malawi?

**Interviewee**: I have questions about its practicability because I have had two conflicting experiences. The first experience is what happened with the biogas that was installed here. From that experience, I have serious doubts about its future. I see no future by the way thing panned out here. The second experience is what happened last year. I didn’t understand why they came to ask me the question after all these years, so it got me thinking that it may be revamped again in the future.

**Interviewer**: Final question, if you could have designed your own waste or energy intervention, what could you have chosen instead?

**Interviewee**: I don’t have any intervention in my mind. But, whatever it is it shouldn’t be tough to start up like a digester in terms of the first digging and feedstock preparation – it was not easy to start it up! It’s a lot of work!

**Interviewer**: Before I wrap up, do you have anything to say?

**Interviewee**: Thanks for coming and I have learned a lot from this conversation. I didn’t expect us to talk this way. It’s been great. However, if you noted the time you called me to inform me about your visit, I wasn’t keen talking about biogas because the last people who came here seemed like they wanted to help me, but ended up tricking me. But, when you said you would come in person it changed my whole thinking. So, thanks again for coming for this talk.

**Interviewer**: Thanks for welcoming me as well. Thanks a lot!

**Interviewee**: Welcome!