

Event Report

Youth and Women Dissemination Workshop on Opportunities in Renewable Energy Technologies and Services

Theme	Unlocking opportunities for green jobs and sustainable livelihoods for women and youth
Organizing institution	CEDAT, Makerere University
Project	Promotion Of Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems Towards Electricity Access In Uganda (PHRE)
Location	Jinja City, Uganda
Date	September 26, 2025

October 2025



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1. Background and Rationale

The workshop was organized under the framework of the Promotion of Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems Towards Electricity Access in Uganda (PHRE) Project, a three-year academic partnership funded by the Austrian Development Corporation through APPEAR. The project brings together Makerere University (CEDAT) and BOKU University to enhance curriculum development, establish instructional laboratories, and promote training in sustainable energy technologies. A key component of the project is gender inclusion, with emphasis on green jobs for youth and women.

2. Objectives of the Event

- Raise awareness on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency solutions.
- Showcase opportunities for youth and women across the renewable energy value chain.
- Facilitate dialogue between academia, suppliers, and entrepreneurs.
- Provide networking and exhibition platforms for linkages.



Figure 1: Keynote address by Dr. Hillary Kasedde of Makerere University

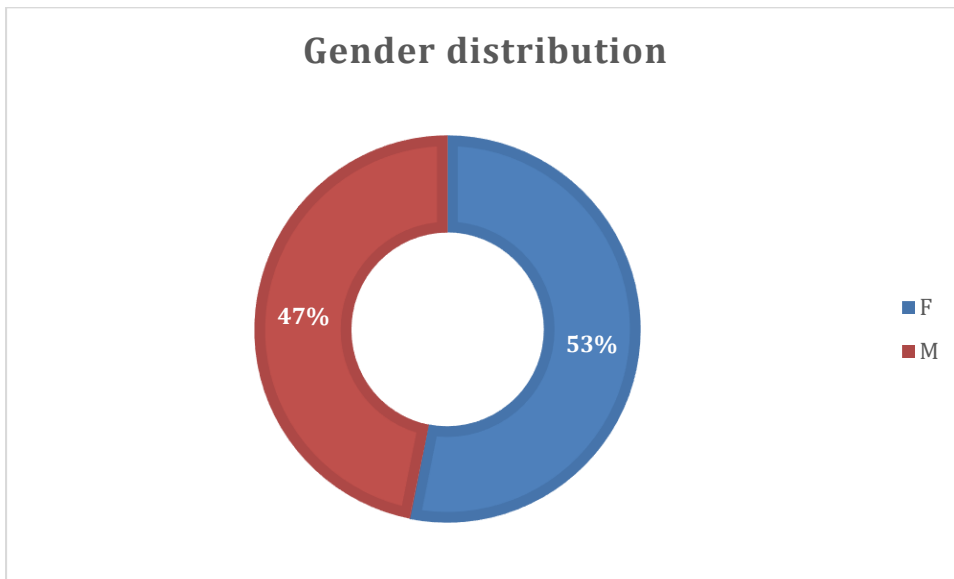


3. Participation data

The Target group for this event were women and youths, however the workshop successfully mobilized youth, women, Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), city officials, youth entrepreneurs, women’s groups, and private sector actors to explore renewable energy opportunities, attracting over 70 participants aggregated by gender and age group.

3.1. Number of participants disaggregated by gender

Female (F) participants were more prevalent across most groups, with particularly high engagement among older attendees. Male (M) participants were less represented, especially in certain combinations of age group and participant category. This trend aligned with the event’s focus on youth and women, suggesting that the outreach effectively reached its target audience, particularly females who may have shown greater interest or availability to participate.

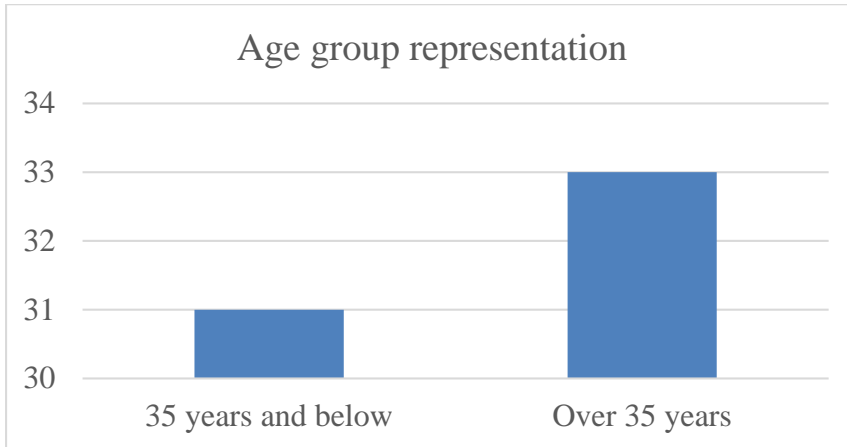


3.2. Number of participants disaggregated by age group

The over thirty-five age group was the most represented among participants, indicating that the event was more attractive or specifically targeted toward this demographic.



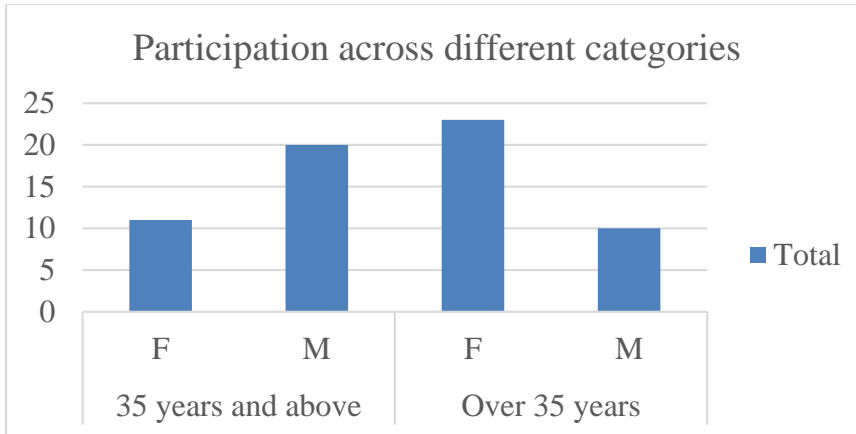
However, the Youth group also shows a significant presence, particularly among female participants, highlighting notable engagement from younger women and suggesting a growing interest or responsiveness to such initiatives within this segment



3.3. Number of participants disaggregated by type of participant

The vast majority of participants are community members, while only a minimal number (4) were energy service providers, including just one female youth exhibitor. This minimal representation of energy professionals suggests a deliberate focus on engaging community-level participants rather than technical experts.

Older female attendees formed the largest group, highlighting a strong female presence, particularly among adults, and representation from energy service providers is extremely limited, with only one female youth participating in that category. This reflects a gendered pattern of participation, possibly influenced by outreach strategies that focused more on women and youth.



4. Challenges Identified

Participants identified several challenges that hinder their ability to access opportunities. These include limited ownership of productive resources such as land, which restricts their ability to invest or participate in income-generating activities. Many also cited a lack of awareness about available benefits and opportunities, as well as limited access to relevant networks that could connect them to support systems or partnerships. Additionally, restricted access to affordable finance and a general lack of employment opportunities further compound their difficulties, making it harder to improve their livelihoods or engage in meaningful economic activities.

To be able to tap into these opportunities, participants were encouraged to take proactive steps such as seeking out information on available programs and services, joining community groups or networks to improve their access to support systems, and exploring ways to collectively invest in or access productive resources like land. They were also advised to build their financial literacy, pursue relevant training and capacity-building opportunities, and engage with local institutions that could connect them to affordable financing and employment pathways. Furthermore, participants were encouraged to adopt a positive mindset and attitude change, gain knowledge of energy-related businesses, and increase their awareness of available opportunities. Developing key skills such as communication, sales, negotiation, financial management, system sizing, installation, and



repair, was emphasized as essential. Finally, they were urged to take action by starting immediately, setting clear goals, and developing a concrete plan to guide their efforts.



Figure 2: Professor John Kirabira speaking to the participants

5. Key Outcomes

Participants gained knowledge on renewable energy technologies, entrepreneurial entry points, and consumer financing models. Linkages were created between suppliers and youth/women groups. The event highlighted the role of mindset, awareness, and action in driving adoption of renewable energy.



Figure 3: A group photo that marked the end of the event

6. Recommendations

- Scale up training in RE business management and technical skills.
- Strengthen access to finance through SACCOs and microfinance.
- Create regular networking platforms for RE linkages.
- Collaborate with local governments for policy integration.
- Develop mentorship and follow-up schemes for sustainability.



Annex 1: Workshop Programme

Time	Activity	Responsible	Moderator
8:30-9:30 am	Arrival and Registration	CEDAT	Jacob
9:30-9:50	Self Introduction Name and Expectation of the day	CEDAT	Jacob
10:00-10:10	Welcome remarks from the City Clerk	The City Clerk	Jacob
10:10-10:15	Introductory remarks from Co-Principal Investigator	Prof. J.B Kirabira	Jacob
10:15-10:30	Project Ambitions and Achievements	Dr. Hillary Kasedde	Jacob
10:30 am	Tea break		
10:35- 11:10	Introduction to renewable energy (RE) and energy efficient technologies for households and business	Gerald	Jacob
11:10-12:00	Opportunity Mapping for Youth and Women in RE (green jobs and enterprise/business development)	Rebecca/Jacob	Rebecca
12:00-12:45	Supplier pitches 1) Clean cooking companies (Biogesters, Ethanol cookstoves, Improved cookstoves, electric pressure cookers) 2) Solar lighting and refrigeration companies 3) Solar Powered Irrigation companies	RE suppliers	Jacob
12:45 -1:00	Q& A	Rebecca	Jacob
1:00pm	Lunch		
2:00pm to 5 pm	Exhibitions (Learning and Linkages with RE suppliers)	RE suppliers	Rebecca
	Closure and Departure		
	Networking		



Annex 2: Pictures from the event

