Institution Based Solar Steam Cooking Systems in India

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Abstract

Large amount of conventional fuels like coal, wood and LPG are being used for community cooking resulting emission of greenhouse gases. Concentrating type parabolic dish can generate temperature up to 350-400°C thus, suitable for cooking purposes. The solar steam cooking system can cook food for 50 - 25,000 persons daily. A number of solar steam cooking systems installed at various institutions have been presented. Keeping this in view, a solar steam cooking system for 1500 students is being proposed at Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni campus. Design specifications and possible applications have also been presented.

Introduction

Approximately 27 million rural population rely on biomass for cooking.1 Fuelwood, Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and biomass wastes are being used for community cooking. Traditional fuels being used, release hazardous smoke. Use of traditional inefficient biomass burning cookstove causes poor air quality, affecting human health, deteriorating forest eco system, global warming and climate change. According to WHO, 1.5 million people die annually worldwide due to indoor air pollution.2-9

Renewable energy share is 12% of a total 200 GW of electricity produced in India. Due to rise in population, economic development, and changing lifestyles electricity requirement in India has been increasing despite of continuous rise in capacity. India receives solar radiations ranging 3.0–6.5 kWhm⁻² per day.10 Solar radiations can be utilized for cooking, heating, lighting and other applications. With the technology advancement and economical viability the SPV, SWH, solar desalination, solar drying and steam cooking system are popular practical applications of solar energy. Solar steam cooking (SSC) system is solar energy based technology used to cook food for large number of persons. In solar steam cooking system, the solar...
radiation falls on a solar concentrator, water becomes steam at high T&P, which is taken to the kitchen using insulated pipes.\textsuperscript{11-14} The solar concentrators being propagated in the country are single axis TFFS dish and dual axis TFP (ARUN© Dish).\textsuperscript{15,16}

A solar cooking system of community size consists of number of automatically TPRs (Scheffler dish), assembled in series and parallel combinations to generate steam for cooking for thousands of people twice a day without polluting environment with in short period of time.

In SSC, temperature of 350-400\textdegree{}C is generally achieved. A 7m\textsuperscript{2} sized solar dish can cook the food for 50 people and large sized dish (16m\textsuperscript{2}) can prepare meal for more than 50–100 person.\textsuperscript{17} Traditional food such as chapattis, boiling or frying rice, vegetables, cereal, pulses, regional dishes etc. can be prepared. The JNNSM aimed to support solar based heating system that has set the ambitious target for domestic and industrial applications. The MNRE will install 20 million m\textsuperscript{2} of collector/reflector area during phase III (2017-2022) under the mission.\textsuperscript{18} Scheffler type dish is used as concentrator for cooking.\textsuperscript{19-21} Because of simple design, the industrial & maintenance expenditure of a Scheffler dish is cheaper than the other concentrators.\textsuperscript{15,22-23}

Components Of Solar Steam Cooking System

The various components of solar steam cooking system are presented in this section.

Design and Dimensions of Solar Steam Cooking System

The design specifications of various components of SSC have been presented in this section.

Scheffler Dish

Wolfgang Scheffler initially developed Scheffler reflector in 1986 which is a parabolic dish in which single axis tracking is provided to move along with sun. Scheffler reflector has a fixed focal point, which makes cooking easily and temperatures, rises to 450\textdegree{}-650\textdegree{}C. The Scheffler reflector system installed at Scheffler reflector system installed at Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Om Shanti Bhawan, Madhuban, Mount Abu Rajasthan, India in 1999 has capacity to cook food for 35,000 persons daily was a largest in the world. The Scheffler dish concentrates solar beam at concentration ratio of 100 at absorber to get steam.\textsuperscript{25}
Dimensions
Diameter: 1 m
Reflector Material: Acrylic
Steam pressure: 10 bar
Steam temperature: 180°C

Absorber
The absorber is used to receive the concentrated solar radiation to convert water into steam.26

Specifications
Capacity: 2 kg
Material: Aluminum

Design Calculation
Steam jacketed utensils
Initial temperature of rice, T₁: 20°C
Final temperature of rice, T₂: 100°C

\[ P_1 = M_1 \times Dp \times \Delta T \]  
\[ = 2 \times 1.8 \times (100-20) = 288 \text{ KJ} \]  

Steam Jacketed Utensils
The steam from absorber is carried to kitchen using insulated pipe.27

Specifications
Capacity: 2 kg
Material: Steel

Energy Required for Cooking Pot
\[ M_3: 2 \text{ Kg} \]
Specific heat capacity of Stainless steel: 0.510 KJ/(Kg°C)⁻¹
Initial temperature, T₁: 20°C
Final temperature, T₂: 100°C

\[ P_3 = M_3 \times Dp \times (T_2-T_1) \]  
\[ = 2 \times 0.510 \times 80 = 81.6 \text{ KJ} \]

Energy for Water Vaporization
Mass of water (M₄): 2 Kg
hfg = 2260 KJ/Kg⁻¹

\[ P_4 = M_4 \times hfg \]  
\[ = 2 \times 2260 = 4520 \text{ KJ} \]

Total Energy
\[ P = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 \]  
\[ = 288 + 669.92 + 81.6 + 4560 = 5599.92 \text{ KJ} \]

The one-third of the required energy for cooking get lost

Loss
\[ P_L = P/3 \]  
\[ = 1/3 \times 5599.92 = 1866.51 \text{ KJ} \]

Total Energy Required for Cooking 2 Kg of Rice
\[ P_D = P + P_L \]  
\[ = 5599.92 + 1866.51 = 7465.43 \text{ KJ} = 7.5 \text{ MJ} \]

Collector Area
Energy for cooking rice (2kg) = 7.5 MJ
Hourly GSR = 1.583 MJ/m²⁻²

Cooking Time
Time required = 7.5/ 1.583 = 4.74 hours.
Collector area = 6 m²
Cooking time with 6 m² = 7.5/ (6 × 1.583) = 0.79 hours

Installation of Solar Cooking System
Due to high temperature achieved in the system, the cooking time has reduced by 45 minutes than conventional solar cookers.32 The suitability of solar
steam cooking in institute's kitchen with SR was found by More. Four dishes of 16 m² SR were used to cook food for 500 persons daily by generating steam of 230 kgd⁻¹ resulted in saving of 19 kg of LPG/day. A SSC system was installed at automobile department, Nehru College of Engineering and Research Centre, Kerala. The maximum water temperature at the outlet was 140.2 °C by using aluminum sheet reflector. GI sheet is not better option to cook food.

A SSC system was installed at Sai Baba Shridi, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra for cooking 20,000 people per day during 2009. The system is generating 3,500 kg of steam daily, which resulted in saving of 100,000 kg of cooking gas. The system cost was about Rs 133 lakh out of which 43% was paid by the government. TTD, Andhra Pradesh has set up a SSC system for preparing meal for 15,000 persons daily. The system generates around 4,000 kg of steam d⁻¹ at 180°C and ten kg cm⁻² that sufficient to prepare food two time for nearly 15,000 devotees. It was modular and consisted of 106 automatic TPC arranged in series & parallel combination, each of 9.2 m² reflector area. The all concentrators were attached to a central steam piping connected to the kitchen. The system helped in saving of 1,18,000 liters of diesel annually amounting Rs. 0.23 million. The system cost was about Rs. 11 crore with 5.5 crore paid by MNRE, rest was paid by the TTD trust.

A SSC system was installed at Golden Temple, Amritsar in 2017 for cooking food for 50,000 persons costing Rs. 17.25 million, which significantly reduced daily consumption of 600 LPG cylinders and 30,000 kg of firewood.

Table 1: Details of Solar Steam Cooking Systems installed/being installed in Uttarakhand

| S. No. | Name of Site/Beneficiary | Capacity | No. of (sqm.) | Year Systems |
|-------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 1     | Shantikunj, Haridwar for cooking of food to 1000 persons | 160      | 1              | 2009-2010   |
| 2     | GauTirth Ashram, Koteshwarpuram, Tehri for distillation of cow urine for medicinal use | 16       | 1              | 2011-12     |
| 3     | Jindal Refinery, Kashipur for 30,000 ltr. Of water heating to feed in boiler | 480      | 1              | 2011-12     |
| 4     | Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee for cooking food in hostels | 976      | 9              | 2012-13     |
| 5     | Unique Hotel and Restaurant Pvt. Ltd., 97 Rajpur Road, Dehradun for water heating | 80       | 1              | 2013-14     |
| 6     | Swami Ramtirth Mission, Rajpur Road, Dehradun for cooking | 16       | 1              | 2013-14     |
| 7     | Rajiv Gandhi NavodayaVidyalaya, Shikarpur, Haridwar for cooking of food for 300 children | 64       | 1              | 2014-15     |
| 8     | Rajiv Gandhi NavodayaVidyalaya, Chaunoliya, Almora for cooking of food for 300 children | 64       | 1              | 2014-15     |
| 9     | Eco Gole Girls International School, Dehradoon | 256      | 1              | 2015-16     |
| 10    | M/s TTK Prestige Ltd., Roorkee. Non imaging concentrator | 195      | 1              | 2015-16     |

A solar steam cooking system was installed at Shantivan Complex, Gyan Sarovar Complex and Madhuban campuses; Mount Abu in 1988 in collaboration with Switzerland based Wolfgang Scheffler, along with Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU’s) for catering meal for 35,000 persons. The roof consisted of 84 parabolic concentrators of 96 m² size. The temperature reached to 500°C at its focal point. It generates 3500 Kg of steam daily and cooking time for 50 kg of rice was
12-14 minutes. It saved about 200 liters of diesel, 1.2 tons of CO\textsubscript{2} daily and saved 184 kg of LPG every day (ENVIS Center on Human Settlement's Hosted by School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi). Sarkari Kumar Chhatralay, Vyra has installed the Parabolic Dishes based Concentrated Solar Cooking System consisted of 4 concentrators of 16 m\textsuperscript{2} each of collector area. The system was commissioned in 2011 costing Rs. 8 Lakh out of which Gujarat State Tribal Development Residential Educational Institutions Society (GSTDREIS) has granted Rs. 5.6 Lakh & MNRE granted of Rs. 2.4 Lakh as subsidy. The system is cooking 20 kg of rice, 10 kg of Dal and 10 kg of vegetables daily resulted in saving 120 of LPG/year. The Uttrakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency, Department of Renewable Energy GOI, Uttrakhand has installed solar steam cooking system at various locations which has been summarized in Table 1.

**Discussion**
The study revealed that solar steam cooking system can be installed at community level for energy conservation in various institutions. It will help in reduction of CO\textsubscript{2} for mitigating climate change also. It reduces the consumption of LPG thus saving the fuel bill of the institutions. It will also reduce the cooking time and labour for cleaning of utensils as the washing of utensils is done using steam only. On the basis of successful functioning of solar steam cooking system at various locations, this university intends to install the similar system for 1500 students under a common mess for boys and girls.

**List of acronym**

| Acronym | Meaning |
|---------|---------|
| GW      | Giga Watt |
| SPV     | Solar photovoltaic |
| SWH     | Solar water heating system |
| CST     | Concentrated Solar Thermal |
| GI      | Galvanized Iron |
| kJ      | Kilo Joule |
| ΔT      | Temperature difference |
| JNNSM   | Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission |
| MNRE    | Ministry of New and Renewable Energy |
| T&P     | Temperature and pressure |
| TFFC    | Tracked fixed focus Scheffler |
| TFP     | Tracked Fresnel paraboloid |
| TPRs    | Tracked paraboloidal reflectors |
| TPC     | Tracked parabolic concentrators |
| M1      | Mass of rice |
| Dp      | Specific heat of rice |
| M2      | Mass of water |
| M3      | Mass of steel |
| hfg     | Latent heat of vaporization of water |
| GSR     | Global solar radiation |
| SR      | Scheffler reflector |
| TTD     | Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam |

**Conclusions**
It is evident from the above discussion that solar steam cooking system is suitable for cooking food for 50 to 50,000 persons thus, reducing the consumption of conventional fuels. It can also be used for water heating also. It will also reduce the cooking time without detouring indoor air quality. It will result in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases and
mitigating the climate change. The number of LPG cylinder saved can be utilized for providing LPG to low income group families.

Acknowledgement
The facilities provided by department of Environmental Science, Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni are highly acknowledged.

Funding
The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Conflict of interest
There is no conflict of interest of this paper.

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