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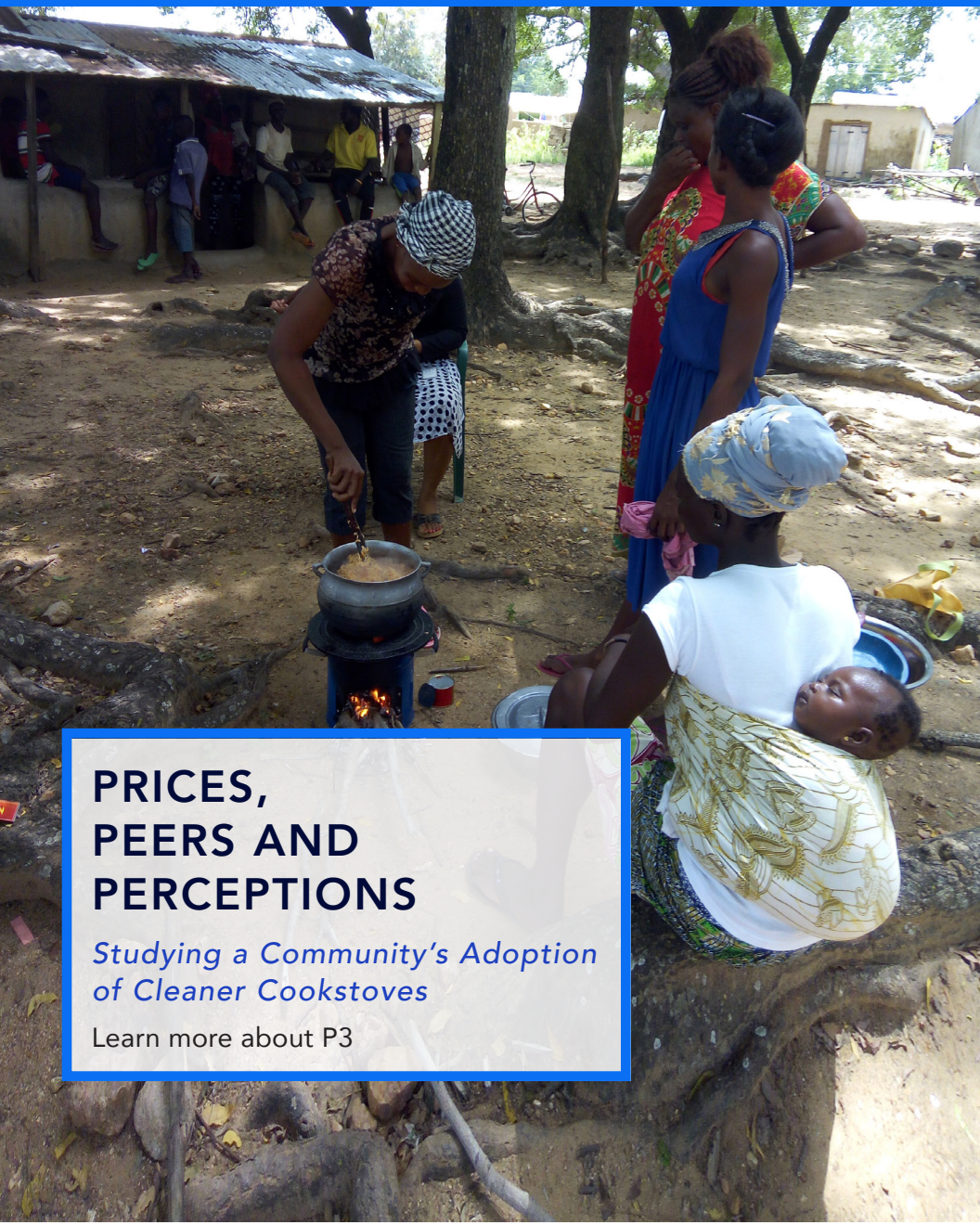

PRICES, PEERS AND PERCEPTIONS

Studying a Community's Adoption of Cleaner Cookstoves

Learn more about P3

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CENTER FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY RESEARCH

Working to improve how science and technology policies address societal needs through research, education and service

Prices, Peers and Perceptions (P3): Studying a Community's Adoption of Cleaner Cookstoves

The World Health Organization estimates that the exposure to smoke from cooking is responsible for about four million premature deaths a year. Much of the health burden of open fire cooking falls on women and children, who are in the house while food is being prepared. Reliance on wood for cooking may also contribute to degradation of forest resources, and smoke from cooking includes black carbon, contributing to climate change.

Katie Dickinson, a Research Scientist at CSTPR, studies how this situation could be improved by a shift to cleaner cooking.

"There are a lot of different options out there," she says "An open fire isn't the only way to cook, there are a lot of technological alternatives. But it turns out that finding a technology that works, that is appropriate for a particular culture and their cooking needs, and then getting people to change behaviors towards that technology—there are a lot of steps in there that are very tricky."

In 2013 Katie undertook a major project in Ghana on this topic. That project recently wrapped up and she now has a grant to conduct a follow-up study in the same area.

P3 was designed to look at how prices and peers - that is, knowing people who have used the stoves before - influence perceptions of the stoves and the likelihood that the stoves are actually purchased.

The goal of the project is to identify which factors are important for changing cooking behaviors and promoting adoption of cleaner stoves. These projects can help us understand what will convince communities to switch to cleaner technology, and may affect the way in which stoves like these are introduced into regions where open fires are still the norm. Hopefully this will decrease exposure to pollutants from solid fuel, and decrease the environmental, social, and health burden of wood burning.

To learn more about the P3 program visit
http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/p3cookstoves