

Commercialization of Biogas in the Mekong Delta: turning waste to energy

Project Objective

The project is aimed at providing access to sustainable, affordable and clean energy services to 3,600 people who are currently un-served or under-served in rural areas in the Mekong Delta.

Description

The project aims to realize this objective through:

- Introducing a sustainable farming system. This is achieved by ensuring the availability of renewable energy for cooking and lighting and increasing the hygienic conditions on a farm, thus improving the soil quality through sustainable recycling of agricultural residues;
- Creating off-farm employment in the form of biogas entrepreneurs who will be based in the communes and have enough work both during and after the project to sustain themselves and their families;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through waste-to-energy conversion via the use of biogas and bio-fertilizer.

The project will be sustainable through a proven demand driven business model whereby 30 local technicians become financially self-sustaining energy entrepreneurs. During the project they will be trained to build their capacity as energy entrepreneurs.

Awareness will be raised among local farmers through promotion and marketing campaign. Innovative ideas from farmers will be used for continuous improvement. At the end of the project 600 households will be equipped with bio-digesters and the entrepreneurs will be able to sustain themselves as demand for biogas digesters will have grown sufficiently.

Project Highlights

Project ID	: 3-V-040
Country	: Vietnam
Lead Partner	: ETC Foundation
Partners	: CCRD and VACVINA
Total Project Cost	: € 306,230
EEP Financing (% to total project cost)	: € 198,449 (64.8%)
Technical Focus	: Biogas
Activity	: Commercialization of biogas
Duration	: 15 months

It is therefore an important element of the scheme to have users pay the fair market price for the product. Financial incentives, if any, must come in the form of well-positioned marketing strategies (e.g. “early bird promotion” for the first farmers to purchase the systems) rather than blank subsidies.



Waste collector

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Relevance to Country's Energy and Environment Policies

This project is relevant in the following ways:

- Adopting more sustainable farming practices,
- Reducing deforestation and the use of fossil cooking fuel,
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions,
- Supporting a cleaner overall environment for peri-urban and rural farmers,
- Maintaining off-farm employment possibilities to reduce urban migration.

Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

Two aspects are highly innovative; the bio-digester design and the market-oriented approach. Knowledge transfer in Vietnam is done by CCRD/VACVINA, who is constantly promoting its biotechnology solutions through television, community radio as well as its own newsletters and publications.



The project site



Cooking with biogas

For more information:

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