Piloting Pyrolytic Cook Stoves and Sustainable Biochar Soil Enrichment in Northern Vietnam Uplands

Project Objective

This project is aimed at contributing to sustainable rural development in the upland areas of Vietnam by simultaneously addressing energy poverty and soil degradation constraints on development, towards contributing to national policies on poverty reduction, deforestation and rural development.

Description

The project will pilot and prepare the foundation for large-scale introduction of biochar stove-cum-soil enrichment technology to poor households in upland areas of Vietnam. This will be done by undertaking tests on household use of biochar stoves and application of biochar for soil enrichment in farmers' fields and vegetable gardens.

The technology will be piloted under the socio-economic conditions of poor farming households, often ethnic minority groups, living in two upland provinces in northern Vietnam. These areas are energy poor, soils are degraded and the poverty incidence is high. The energy saving biochar stove technology saves wood fuel while producing biochar during the food preparation process. Biochar can be utilised to enrich degraded soils.

Relevance to Country's Energy and Environment Policies

This project is relevant to the Vietnam's energy and environment policies as it will contribute to national policies of poverty reduction, deforestation and rural development by providing practical and innovative solutions. These solutions can be used in conjunction with other important interventions to halt deforestation, improve soil fertility and agricultural practices, mitigate carbon emissions from household energy and agriculture, and address rural poverty.

Project Highlights

Project ID	:	3-V-048
Country	:	Vietnam
Lead Partner	:	CARE Denmark
Partners	:	Population, Environment and Development Centre (PED), The Soil Fertiliser Research Institute (SFRI), Dr Johannes Lehmann of Cornell University
Total Project Cost	:	€ 216,044
EEP Financing (% to total project cost)	:	€ 179,544 (83.1%)
Technical Focus	:	Household energy and soil enrichment
Activity	:	Piloting biochar producing stoves
Duration	:	15 months

Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

The project marks the first step in understanding how this innovative approach can be used in uplands areas of Vietnam as part of a holistic approach to reduce poverty, deforestation, soil degradation and address pervasive health issues.

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Photos 1-4: pyrolytic cook stoves

For more information:

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