



Promoting green entrepreneurship among young women and men:

Cobitech's Experience By Samson Gichia

Global South-South
Development Expo 2013

Cobitech's Experience in the Biogas Technology Sector:

1. **Promotion of domestic biogas** targeting rural households practicing zero-grazing dairy cow farming: Partnered with Micro-Finance institutions (MFIs) to make biogas technology more affordable
2. **Biogas for Schools initiative:** Promoting biogas technology as an alternative source of energy from firewood for boarding schools in Kenya. The feedstock source being the school's toilet human waste and any other organic waste like kitchen waste
3. **1MW Biogas power generation** at Githunguri Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society Ltd in Kiambu County: the project seeks to tap into more than 2000 tons of cow dung produced daily by over 60,000 dairy cows in a radius of 10Km

Participation in Enablis-YEF Business Plan Competition 2010

- The ILO-YEF signed with ENABLIS a sponsorship agreement.

Objective: To support a business plan competition

- Cobitech won in the Green Business category: Received business skills training, advisory services and mentorship
- The **green business plan competition** promotes ecological best practices and has proved to be a successful mechanism to promote interaction, elicit greater interest in green business, and kick-start green ideas among partner countries

- The Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) is a partnership between :
 - Africa Commission
 - Youth Employment Network (YEN)
 - International Labour Organization (ILO)

Green business idea development and setting up of business

- Construction of the first biogas plant in 2004
- 2007 - Establishment of CDRC, a local NGO that promotes biogas technology
- 2010 - Cobitech Limited was established after participating in Enablis/ILO Business Launch-Pad

South-South exchange opportunities with other entrepreneurs in Africa

- Visits to the green business start-up supported by YEF (experience sharing at Cobitech); A delegation 40 visitors from around Africa
- In May 2013, Cobitech was invited by InfoDev (through Kenya CIC) to a Climate and mobile application Innovation Conference in East London, S. Africa
- In September 2013, Cobitech participated in the East African Countries Conference at Nairobi

South-South exchange opportunities with other entrepreneurs in Africa

- In October 2012 - participated in 15th International Business Forum (IBF) organized by GIZ
- In May 2011- invited by CTI/PFAN in Johannesburg S. Africa to present a project on Biogas Power Generation

Conclusion

- South-South knowledge-sharing workshops are important to:
 - Showcase working technologies and success stories among entrepreneurs within Africa
 - Promote sustainable green business growth by linking entrepreneurs to mentors, investors, financiers and BDS from different countries
 - Disseminate good practices to scale up pilot projects and help entrepreneurs commercialize their prototypes

Future perspectives

- How can PPPs promote green entrepreneurship in the framework of South-South cooperation?
- How to enhance BDS for youth entrepreneurship through South-South cooperation



Thank You

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