



SEED Awards 2009

for entrepreneurship in sustainable development

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Lighting Sri Lanka's Future : Sri Lanka

Solar LED lighting systems for children & fisherman

Project description

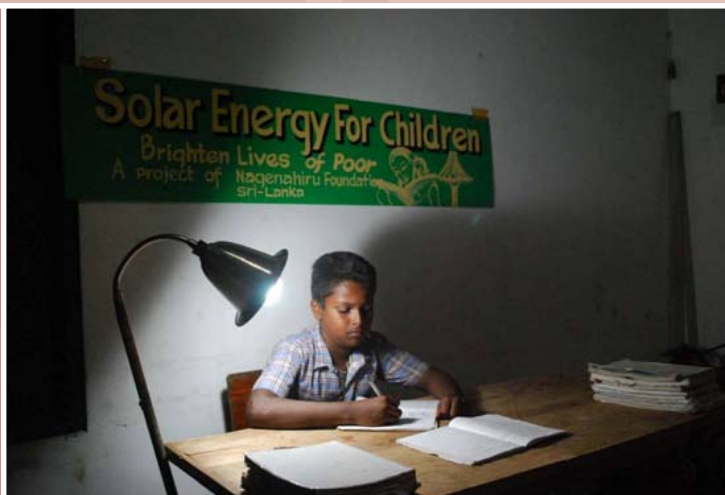
In the next 5 years, the partnership aims to convert 20,000 kerosene lanterns into solar-powered LED lighting systems. These can be used by children to study at night and aid night fishermen. The initiative employs between 5 – 10 staff.

Business model

The lamp's design is unique as it provides 30 hours of improved luminosity and is affordable, making it attractive to locals needing to cut household costs.

The lamp is powered by a 12 volt 4-6 Amp seal lead acid battery with a 3 year lifespan. It can be charged on the grid or via solar panels.

The demand for this product is increasing rapidly as 35,000 registered night fishermen currently use kerosene lamps and about 6 million children need light at night to study.

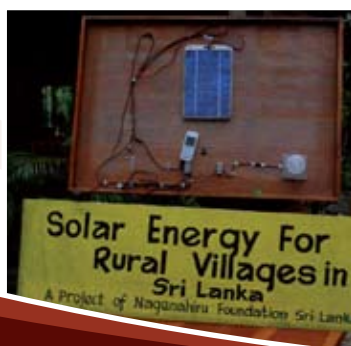


Scaling up activities

- Establish and operate 2 pilot-run solar LED lighting centres in 2 villages
- Develop or strengthen community mechanisms to manage and monitor the impacts of LED lighting systems
- Distribute 400 solar LED reading lamps on a credit basis to children in 2 villages.
- Distribute 100 solar LED lanterns for night fishing on a micro-credit basis
- Increase local awareness and education about climate change and how local people can help with mitigation and adaptation
- Produce a 15 minute documentary film and a website on solar LED lighting systems.

Immediate needs

- Financial support to educate the local people on the lamps' health-related and economic benefits.
- Assistance in marketing the lamp
- Financial support to convert 20,000 kerosene lamps into LED lights
- Assistance in establishing a rotating fund system.





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Partnership

- ❶ **Nagenahiru Foundation**, a non-profit NGO established in 1991, is responsible for the project management, coordination with partners, monitoring and evaluation.
- ❷ **Global Nature Fund** (GNF) coordinates and consults with Nagenahiru on mangrove restoration and solar powered lamps.
- ❸ **Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority** (SRSEA) is a government organisation that supports Nagenahiru with technical knowledge and conducts research studies.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: Solar lamps provide bright, clean light and withstand wind and water spillage. They are easy to maintain, less labour intensive and less of a fire risk than traditional kerosene lamps. The absence of smoke and fumes reduces health risks for users. Furthermore they support the development of children and their education.

Environmental impact: Unlike kerosene lamps, solar lamps do not pollute the environment. They contribute

to climate change mitigation through reduced carbon emissions.

Economic impact: The solar lamps improve fish catch, income and livelihoods as they last longer and provide better lighting than kerosene lamps. Besides they are also cheaper. The amount of money invested in kerosene consumes up to 30% of the fishermen's income.

Contact

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SEED Partners

SEED is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Other current partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature); and the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

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