



Nafore and Afrisolar Energy Kiosks : Burkina Faso

Fighting energy poverty and improving employment and communication by creating solar-powered charging stations for mobile telephones

Project description

MicroSow and Afrisolar aim to fill the energy gap faced by citizens in rural areas in Burkina Faso. With many people excluded from the official power grid the initiative, through their mobile solar-powered charging stations (Nafore), offers access to sustainable electricity for mobile phones.



Business model

Through a network of franchisees the project provides access to solar-powered mobile phone charging services for rural households in a commercially and environmentally sustainable way.

The charging stations for mobile telephones are powered on solar photovoltaic modules in any area of Burkina Faso. The charging stations allow citizens in rural areas to re-charge their phones easily.

The target markets are rural areas, where 98% of the population does not have access to grid-electricity.

Scaling up activities

- Answer the growing demand for the Nafore (charging stations)
- Provide 72,000 rural dwellers and small businesses with access to the services through a network of 200 franchisees
- Extend the franchise model to a more complex model of energy kiosks
- Cover wide range of sustainable energy services tailored to existing and upcoming demand in local and regional markets
- Define services to be offered by the Energy Kiosks by involving local communities.

Immediate needs

- External support to develop and disseminate new products
- Assistance in acquiring technical know-how and the means to implement it
- Training about maintenance and management of the kiosks
- Assistance in networking to manufacturers of solar components
- Financial support to allow next phase of scale-up.





SEED Awards 2009

for entrepreneurship in sustainable development

WINNER

Partnership

- **MicroSow**, established in 1998, specialises in rural electrification through solar energy.
- **Afrisolar**, a pan-African international NGO, aims to contribute to poverty reduction by fostering the use of renewable sources of energy on the African continent.
- **SEWA** e.V., is an international NGO working closely with local communities and authorities in Burkina Faso to provide renewable energy to rural schools and medical centres.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: By creating permanent jobs through franchising, the project directly contributes to poverty reduction. Moreover, improved access to communication results in better access to information. This can help to support local entrepreneurship and provide medical benefits such as advice and assistance for rural communities.

Environmental impact: The Nafore kiosks, 100% powered by solar energy, replace petrol- and diesel-

powered charging stations, reducing pollution and emissions. It also promotes solar power and increases the awareness and general acceptance of renewable energy.

Economic impact: Access to mobile phone services boost rural socio-economical development significantly, such as increasing knowledge about market prices and access to information more generally. Without much capital, the franchisees can start an economic activity benefitting the poor.

Contact

Email: info@microsow.com
www.microsow.com

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

SEED Secretariat

info@seedinit.org