



## Modern Carbonization Programme : Rwanda

Promoting modern carbonization technologies for a sustainable supply of charcoal in Rwanda

### Project description

The Modern Carbonization Programme initiated by Entreprise Multiservices (EMS) is an initiative to improve the wood-energy channel in Rwanda. The partnership aims at introducing modern carbonization and waste recovery technologies as well as more efficient energy supply equipment, such as improved stoves.



### Business model

The goal of this initiative is to introduce a sustainable programme to produce charcoal of good quality on the Rwandan market, based on provision of training services on the production of charcoal, improved stoves and the black paint drawn from the tar collected during the carbonization process.

The initiative's strategy is based on the development of trained intermediary partners who will carry out the production and transport of the products, and run urban sales subsidiaries.

### Scaling up activities in 2011

- Opening four sales subsidiaries in Kigali
- Developing reliable partnerships in order to expand the value chain.
- Increasing awareness for timber crop owners and workers on using these modern carbonization technologies and on planting fast-growth and high-energy trees.
- Promotion and marketing activities including two radio commercials, a TV show, and participation in commercial fairs.

### Immediate needs

- Funding for purchasing timber crops and timber cutting permits to supply raw material.
- Purchasing basic materials, and new modern production equipment.
- Certification, labelling and product packaging
- Development of management skills.





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## Partnership

- ❶ **Entreprise Multiservices (EMS)** is the main partner, runs the programme and coordinates relations with partners.
- ❷ **International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)** supplies training contracts for charcoal-burners.
- ❸ **National Forestry Authority (NAFA)** supplies training contracts for charcoal-burners within the PAREF project, which supports the deforestation programme.
- ❹ **Rwanda Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA)** shares experience and raises awareness of modern carbonization technologies.



## Social, environmental and economic impacts

**Social impact:** The initiative provides charcoal-burners with access to carbonization technologies. This allows them to decrease the incidence of health problems such as lung and eye disease. Moreover, the economic situation of the crop owners and workmen is improved, and community groups are created among the workmen.

**Environmental impact:** The modern methods of carbonization developed by the initiative contribute to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and to decreasing air pollution. Furthermore, the use of

recycling techniques helps limit the production of toxic fumes loaded with tar, phenol, creosote and acetic acid.

**Economic impact:** The partnership aims to establish sustainable charcoal production channels. Through improved carbonization processes and a better quality of the obtained charcoal, the wood-energy channel in Rwanda is improved. The introduction of fast-growth and high energy trees optimises the afforestation productivity. Furthermore, the initiative has a positive impact on the monetization of the countryside by purchasing timber crops from wood producers at a good price.

## 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](http://www.seedinit.org)

## SEED Secretariat

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