



## Waste Sawdust to Clean Briquettes : Nigeria

Processing sawdust from sawmills into valuable, clean-burning briquettes

### Project description

The initiative processes waste sawdust from lumber mills into high-quality fuel briquettes, thereby reducing pollution levels and generating revenue for the local community. The Lagos Oko Baba mills produce large quantities of sawdust that in the past were incinerated. The initiative transforms this waste into a high-value, clean-burning marketable product.



### Business model

Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria) trains local sawmillers' cooperatives to collect sawdust and convert it into various consumer products, primarily fuel briquettes. This product provides an alternative to existing fuels (such as fuel wood and charcoal) which is both higher quality and lower cost.

There is significant potential to scale up the initiative as about one third of the log input of the more than 2,000 sawmills in the country currently ends up as incinerated waste.

### Scaling up activities in 2012

- Train 50 sawmillers in the briquette production process
- Create a further 80 employment opportunities for the local community
- Carry out a three-month pilot briquette-making project to investigate the commercial possibilities
- Launch an awareness campaign among sawmill companies in Oko Baba

### Immediate needs

- Financial support to implement a commercial-scale operation
- Connection to a stable power supply
- Integration into ongoing national development agendas, e.g. poverty alleviation programmes, environmental health initiatives, Millennium Development Goals, etc.
- Development of local expertise in order to build an improved briquette machine





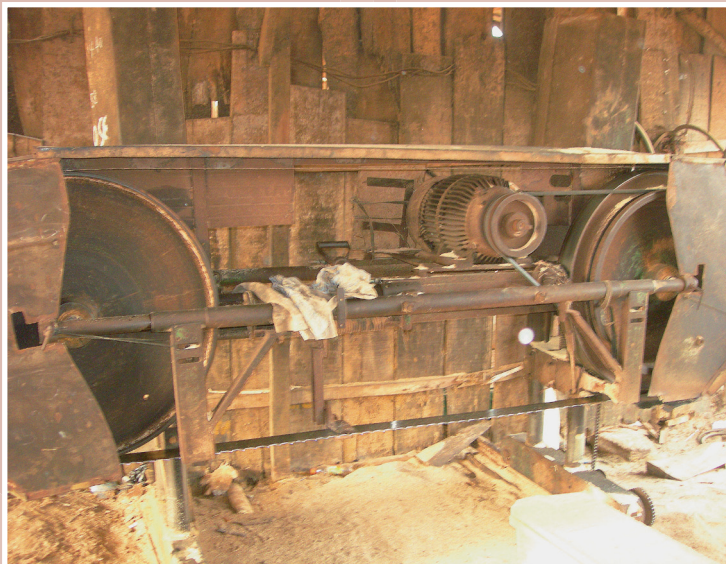
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### Partnership

- ❶ **Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria)** trains sawmillers' cooperatives to collect sawdust and convert it into various consumer products
- ❷ **Lagos Mainland Sawmillers' Association (LMSA)** played a pivotal role in in-kind support in the project by providing suitable land for building the plant
- ❸ **Friends of the Environment (FOTE)** helped mobilise women to use briquettes as an alternative to charcoal



### Social, environmental and economic impacts

**Social impact:** So far, the initiative has trained 43 sawmill workers, providing employment opportunities for the local community.

**Environmental impact:** Reducing the amount of incinerated sawdust also helps mitigate climate change and improves public health, as fewer hazardous particles are released into the atmosphere

**Economic impact:** The initiative has a positive economic impact on the community by using the local workforce and locally produced machinery. The sawmillers generate additional revenue by selling previously incinerated waste. In addition, bakers and institutional kitchens in Lagos gain access to a higher-quality, cleaner-burning and cheaper product than the firewood currently used.

### Contact

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### SEED Partners

SEED's founding partners are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and SEED is hosted by UNEP-WCMC. Other current partners are the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; the European Union; Conservation International; and SEED's corporate partner, Hisense.



### 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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