



SEED Initiative

supporting entrepreneurs for sustainable development

Founding Partners



AFRICA WINNER 2013

GRS Commodities Ltd. promotes off-grid renewable bio-energy in Uganda and the surrounding Great Lakes region. The enterprise applies waste-to-energy concepts which utilise biomass in rural communities while also focusing on better waste utilisation farms, with the goal of energy recovery and cleaner agricultural production.



GRS Commodities Ltd., Uganda

BUSINESS MODEL

By applying waste-to-energy concepts, GRS Commodities is able to produce and supply electricity for off-grid areas. These concepts include biogas production from animal waste and gasification of dry biomass. Biogas digester residue, which is rich in nutrients, is returned to the farmers and used as fertiliser, while surplus is sold.

A new GRS gasification plant will use rice husks to produce electricity. It will power a rice mill enabling local farmers to access clean renewable energy to process their crops.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS

Location	Ssesse Islands, Kalangala Town, Lake Victoria
Year founded	2009
Sector	Energy / renewables
Product / Service	Bio-energy

CONTACT

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Social impacts:

- Providing access to energy in off-grid rural areas of Uganda.
- Increasing farmers' incomes and livelihoods by adding value at source.
- Transferring technology skills and knowledge in renewable energy to local people and communities.

Environmental impacts:

- Promoting and implementing clean bio-energy production technologies in Uganda.
- Improving agricultural waste utilisation in the region.
- Cutting CO₂ emissions by reducing the use of fossil fuel.

Economic impacts:

- Contributing to local business development while enabling farmers to add value to their products.
- Reducing farmers' chemical fertiliser costs.
- Mobilising local people for new or alternative sources of household income and establishing new collaborations between producers.

” By providing simple solutions for communities that are constrained by a lack of energy, the enterprise stimulates rural industrial development driven by bio-energy.

Scaling up activities:

- Extend access to energy for local farmers in the Ssesse Islands by installing 32 kW capacity of off-grid renewable energy using gasification technology.
- Use at least 66 tons per year of locally available dry biomass as feedstock for the production of clean renewable energy.
- Produce approximately 42,240 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable electricity per year, used to power food-processing plants.
- Create € 100,000 per year in new income for farmers in the Ssesse Islands by selling approximately 1,320 tons of locally processed grain.



Partnership

- **Norges Vel** financed the procurement of the 32 kW gasification system for producing off-grid electricity.
- **FACT Foundation** offers technical assistance and knowledge-based support in the implementation of bio-energy technology.
- **Makerere University Department of Engineering and Technology** facilitates the installation of the gasification plant and coordinates applied research in renewable energy.
- **Kalangala District Production Department** coordinates production activities in Ssesse and helps mobilise local farmers to collaborate with the enterprise.



The 2013 SEED Awards in Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda are supported by the European Union, which is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies.

About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs who while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these entrepreneurs with know-how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making. For more information please write to info@seedinit.org or visit:

www.seedinit.org

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