



SEED Initiative

supporting entrepreneurs for sustainable development

Founding Partners



LOW CARBON WINNER 2013

Tambul Leaf Plates sells biodegradable disposable dinnerware made from the fallen sheath of the areca nut palm. The dinnerware reduces pollution and deforestation while local communities gain a livelihood through its production and sale.



Tambul Leaf Plates, India

BUSINESS MODEL

Tambul Leaf Plates produces and markets biodegradable disposable dinnerware through various community-owned micro-enterprises. Products are made from the fallen sheath of the areca nut palm, so the product is environmentally friendly and provides a viable alternative to highly polluting plastic and Styrofoam plates.

The enterprise helps rural producers across villages in North-East India to establish micro-enterprises through capacity-building and technical, financial and marketing support. The plates are purchased from the rural producers through a fair trade process.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS

Location	Barpeta, Assam
Year founded	2010
Sector	Micro-enterprise development
Product/Service	Biodegradable disposable dinnerware

CONTACT

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Social impacts:

- Increasing the earnings of low-income rural families.
- Providing entrepreneurial and production skills training to rural villagers.
- Increasing the economic independence of women, as most of those collecting raw materials are female.

Environmental impacts:

- Environmentally friendly production.
- Reducing pollution from dinnerware by providing a biodegradable disposable alternative.
- Protecting local ecosystems and avoiding deforestation by reducing the dependence on timber as a source of livelihood.

Economic impacts:

- Generating additional, steady income for rural producers.
- Providing technical assistance and capacity-building aimed at boosting efficiency and productivity.
- Increasing revenues by expanding activities into other North-Eastern states of India.

TPMPL has so far established more than 100 areca nut leaf plate units and hopes to establish another 1,000 units across India's North-Eastern states.

Scaling up activities:

- Increase the number of micro-enterprises in the region and provide support and training.
- Partner with NGOs and government agencies to promote the enterprise in other regions.
- Access more lucrative markets for the dinnerware.
- Invest in R&D to improve technology and productivity.



TPMPL has trained more than 500 people to produce plates and over 1,000 people to collect areca nut sheaths.



Partnership

◉ **Tamul Plates Marketing Private Ltd. (TPMPL)** leads the enterprise, supporting rural micro-enterprises engaged in plate production and marketing the plates to consumers.

◉ **Dhriiti – The Courage Within** initiated TPMPL and supports the enterprise with monitoring, guidance and in-kind and staff support.

◉ **Axum Agri** helps TPMPL spread their activities to other areas, and provides training and technical assistance to communities.



The 2013 SEED Low Carbon Awards are supported by the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

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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