



SEED Initiative

promoting entrepreneurship for sustainable development

Founding Partners



AFRICA WINNER 2014

BUWOBE is a co-operative beekeeping enterprise producing honey and beeswax products. In mobilising women in the Masindi region to become beekeepers, the enterprise uses the honey business as a vehicle for community development, including promotion of sustainable land use and climate change adaptation.



Budongo Women Bee Enterprise (BUWOBE), Uganda

BUSINESS MODEL

BUWOBE focuses on honey production, processing and manufacture of beekeeping equipment. It trains women – who pay to be members of the enterprise in turn for receiving training and equipment – to manage hives and production. The women sell their honey and beeswax back to BUWOBE, who then markets the produce.

Building on its women members, BUWOBE raises communities' awareness of climate change, sustainable land use practices and energy-saving technologies.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS

Location	Masindi
Year founded	2012
Sector	Agriculture
Product/Service	Honey and beeswax candles

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Social impacts:

- Job creation for women who are often marginalised through poverty or HIV.
- Contributing to local malaria control programmes through production of mosquito repellent candles.
- Empowering women beekeepers to pass on their knowledge to other farmers by providing on-going training.

Environmental impacts:

- Encouraging beekeepers to adopt sustainable practices in all aspects of their daily lives, like converting to clean energy cook stoves and planting produce suited to the region instead of sugarcane.
- Working as a collective to replant land affected by deforestation.

Economic impacts:

- Creating a local economy that provides sustainable jobs for upwards of 60 % of the community.
- Increasing income for farmers by 40 %, and offering a means of moving beyond subsistence farming.

” In five years BUWOBE aims to be the leading exporter of organic honey in East Africa, with an annual turnover of USD 60–70,000 and an enterprise that supports more women to higher education.

Scaling up activities:

- Recruit 50 new members to the enterprise and increase the number of beehives farmed by the enterprise from 25 to at least 100.
- In line with increasing production capacity over the coming year, purchase more protective equipment for beekeepers, as well as invest in modern processing, packaging and storage equipment for the honey and candle production.
- Form a standing committee for monitoring of the enterprise's sales and operations.
- Form a disaster risk management committee made up of members of BUWOBE, in order to increase community awareness on the need for environmental protection and climate change adaptation.



” We are delighted to receive an international SEED Awards – this is a major milestone for our small organisation which is working at the grassroots.



Partnership

● **Budongo Women Bee Enterprise Group (BUWOBE)** is a collective of women beekeepers that forms the core workforce of the BUWOBE enterprise. In this capacity, the role of members is to recruit new farmers as well as to partake in additional activities organised through the enterprise.

● **Safeplan Uganda** is a non-profit organisation that supports BUWOBE with training in beekeeping practices, candle making, and construction of energy-saving technologies such as cook stoves. It also helps the enterprise in educating locals on climate change mitigation and sustainable land use practices.

● The Masindi branch of the **Uganda Small Scale Industries Association** networks and links small enterprises, one of them being BUWOBE, to markets or buyers. It also provides BUWOBE with training in business and technical skills, as well as working in conjunction with the **Uganda Industrial Research Institute** to offer the enterprise business incubation.



The 2014 SEED Awards in Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda are largely 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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