

Coopérative Sahel Vert encourages the generation and use of clean biogas and organic fertiliser by constructing and maintaining biodigesters in rural areas. Besides the various positive environmental impacts, the sale of surplus agricultural production and organic fertilisers offers households additional income opportunities.



Coopérative Sahel Vert, Burkina Faso

🏆 SAG-SEED AWARD WINNER 2017 🏆

BUSINESS MODEL

In the Sahel region, the co-operative Sahel Vert is the first enterprise to construct cost-effective and efficient biodigesters that produce biogas and organic fertiliser from human and animal excrement. The enterprise offers training on how to correctly use the facilities and after-sales and maintenance services to enhance customer retention and satisfaction.

This holistic approach is realised by teams of trained and specialised masons. For both raising awareness and marketing, the enterprise relies on its local sale teams to highlight the advantages of its technology.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS:

Location	Rural Sahel zone, Burkina Faso
Year founded	2013
Sector	Waste and Sanitation / Sustainable Agriculture
Product/Service	Biodigester

Contribution to the SDGs:



Social impacts:

- Providing clean energy for 2,742 households in rural areas to date.
- Reducing the daily workload by two hours for 457 women.
- Reducing occurrence of respiratory and eye diseases caused by wood smoke.

Environmental impacts:

- Contributing to soil rehabilitation and improved soil fertility by using organic fertiliser instead of chemical alternatives.
- Mitigating deforestation by using biogas instead of wood as an energy source.
- Preventing 1,828 tonnes of carbon emissions over the life-time of the biodigesters installed to date.

Economic impacts:

- Generating additional income for households by selling produced compost and agricultural surpluses.
- Reducing household spending on firewood, chemical fertilisers and illumination sources.
- Improving agricultural productivity by using organic fertiliser.
- Creating direct employment for 10 masons, 10 supporting masons and one supervisor.

” The benefits for rural households operating a biogas digester are manifold: Access to clean energy, time and cost savings, additional income opportunities and better living conditions.

Scaling up activities:

- Expand zones of operation and increase production level by constructing 400 new biogas digesters by the end of 2017.
- Recruit and train technical and commercial masons and support agents to be able to expand production and after-sales and maintenance services.
- Set up a retail store for biogas digester equipment and biogas to better serve customer needs.



Partnership

- **Coopérative Sahel Vert**, a co-operative, promotes the construction of biogas digesters and offers after-sales services and maintenance.
- **OCADES Caritas**, a local NGO, offers technical, organisational and financial support facilitating the implementation of biogas facilities.
- **Programme National de Biogesteurs au Burkina Faso**, a governmental program, partly finances the construction of biogas digesters, supports marketing activities and aids with financial, technical and administrative management.

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About SEED

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