

Corporación Acción Semilla collects organic waste from its foodservice industry and landscaping services clients and converts this waste into a fertilizer for agricultural activities at local, smallholder farms. The enterprise charges clients a fee for its services and earns profits from the sale of crops and compost.



SEED Low Carbon Award Winner 2018 Corporación Acción Semilla

Corporación Acción Semilla, Colombia

🏆 SEED LOW CARBON AWARD WINNER 2018 🏆

Business model

Corporación Acción Semilla has developed an effective way to collect organic waste and incorporate this waste into its sustainable agricultural practices. In doing so, it closes the gap between large producers of organic waste within the landscaping and foodservice sectors and local farms in need of affordable fertilizers.

The enterprise provides educational trainings to local smallholder farmers, client companies, municipalities and schools on waste management and organic composting methods. It collaborates with local associations to ensure the empowerment of farming communities

Enterprise fast facts

Location	Marinilla, Colombia
Year founded	2013
Sector	Waste Management
Product / Service	Organic waste collection and composting

Contribution to the SDGs:



Social impacts:

- Collaborating with associations to empower rural smallholder and urban agriculture which address climate change adaptation and mitigation, waste management, food security and sectoral development;
- Focusing on local women with agricultural training programmes and production processes.

Environmental impacts:

- Collecting 2,500 kg of food service industry waste plus 60 cubic metres of organic waste from landscaping;
- Enriching 8000 square metres of rural farmland with organic compost;
- Training three farming communities on organic composting techniques and educating corporate employees, health providers, schools and municipalities on waste management;
- Using 100% of organic waste collected and recycling waste water during composting processes and for watering crops.

Economic impacts:

- Allowing local farmers to access affordable & sustainable fertilizers for their agricultural activities;
- Generating income for waste collectors and processors;
- Providing three companies with cost-effective waste management services.

“ Our enterprise consists of an organic waste management model that is collaborative, equitable, inclusive and sustainable, generates employment and income for agricultural families in rural, urban and industrial areas in order to improve living conditions without losing their livelihoods or traditions.”

Scaling up activities:

- Provide full-time employment to an additional seven people at five farms.
- Improve transportation infrastructure and organic waste collection processes to increase the geographical area of services and number of clients to 20.
- Expand waste storage and management capacities by building a larger network of small rural organic waste processing facilities.



Partnerships

- **Corporación GAIA** supports the enterprise with business development, services and products for consumption.
- **Conexión Agroambiental** assists the enterprise with commercial support and market access.



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About SEED

SEED is a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. SEED was founded by UNEP, UNDP and IUCN at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. SEED supports innovative and locally-driven eco-inclusive enterprises around the globe who integrate social and environmental benefits into their business models. SEED Low Carbon Awards is an awards scheme designed to find the most promising, innovative and locally led start-up eco-inclusive enterprises making significant contributions to mitigating and/or adapting to climate change in countries with developing and emerging economies.

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