

SWITCH Africa Green

Sustainable Energy Consumption and Production

Summary

Despite being home to some of the world's fastest economic growth rates, Africa faces persistent development challenges and poverty, and increasingly, environmental degradation from new economic activity. To ensure that Africa's economic boom is economically, ecologically and socially sustainable, it must be accompanied by an energy revolution: one leveraging renewable energy and energy efficient innovations, driven by technological and commercial advancements and powered by dynamic private sector entrepreneurship. Technologies such as efficient solar powered irrigation systems, small hydro-powered agrifood processing and waste-to-energy systems are already cost effective in many low-income markets, and businesses have developed new models for raising awareness and building customer bases; for empowering and providing finance to clients with limited resources; or for helping customers access new markets for their own goods.

To bring about such a revolution, SWITCH Africa Green is supporting African countries in their transition to an Inclusive Green Economy, promoting a shift toward Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices and patterns.

REEEP and SANEDI seek to lay the groundwork for South African MSMEs and eco-entrepreneurs in the agricultural and waste management sectors as they begin and manage this transition. Specifically we aim to increase awareness, up-take and successful implementation of SCP practices and sustainable energy opportunities for MSMEs in agri-food value chains in South Africa, interlinking with established initiatives and build existing insights.

The target group and final beneficiaries of the program are MSMEs in the Agriculture and Integrated Waste Management sectors in South Africa, for whom a stakeholder platform will be established and a series of capacity building and training workshops provided.

The program will:

- Support the development of green agro-businesses and eco-entrepreneurship and equip MSMEs across the key priority sectors to seize green business opportunities.
- Provide an opportunity for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production implementation and alignment with the 10-year framework of programmes on SCP patterns.

SWITCH Africa Green is an EU funded programme implemented by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Selected pilot countries include: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda. The Switch Africa Green initiative which is part of with the UN 10-year framework programme (10YFP) on sustainable consumption and production'.

The project will run from November 2015 to October 2017.

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