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Africa Biogas Partnership Programme

The impact of most development interventions can only be observed months, often even years, after implementation. This does not apply for the impact of a bio-digester. The improvement on a family's standard of living is immediately noticeable, as the bio-digester enables cooking in a cleaner, healthier, smokeless environment. At the same time, biogas leads to cost savings from reduced use of expensive and unsustainable energy sources like kerosene, firewood and charcoal. The reach of the intervention grows as the use of bio-slurry improves the agricultural productivity, restores the soil structure and creates resilience to climate change. The community benefits from reduced deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the creation of employment. The installation of a bio-digester is therefore an intervention that combines development, immediate impact and, last but not least, sustainability.

The Africa Biogas Partnership Programme (ABPP) is a Public Private Partnership between Hivos, SNV and the Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ABPP is very proud to be the first biogas programme that has been able to create sustainable results at scale by partnering with local enterprises, NGOs and governments in sub-Saharan Africa. To date more than 65,000 biogas digesters have been constructed in the five ABPP countries, providing 325,000 people access to a sustainable source of energy and, ultimately, improved livelihood.

ABPP is currently financially supported by DGIS, ENDEV-RBF and the governments of two of its programme countries: Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. Hivos carries out the role of programme fund manager. SNV provides capacity development services and takes responsibility for knowledge management.

ABPP's vision is to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through construction of biodigesters as a local, renewable energy (biogas) and agricultural (bioslurry/compost) solution. Our mission is to develop sustainable, -commercially viable- bio-digester markets. It is important to emphasise that ABPP underlines the role of women in society by empowering them as digester owners, technology promoters or biodigester installers, and by increasing their economic productivity, allowing women to free up valuable time previously spent in search of fuel.



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Five Countries

ABPP supports five national biogas programmes in Africa: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. In the past there have been many attempts to disseminate biogas digesters in Africa by several development organisations, sometimes in partnership with national stakeholders. None of those attempts have been successful. ABPP is very proud to be the first biogas programme that has been able to create sustainable results at scale by partnering with enterprises, governments and NGOs.

Private Sector Focus: examples from Kenya and Burkina Faso

The private sector is becoming more and more interested in the benefits of bio-digesters. This is a recognition that the business volume generated by the sector is reaching the viability threshold and currently more than 200 micro and small enterprises are involved in bio-digester business. In Kenya ABPP is working in the coffee value chain with ECOM Agro-industrial Corp Ltd, to include biodigesters in the production system of 3,000 smallholder coffee farmers. In the sugar value chain in Burkina Faso, ABPP is engaging with SOSUCO du Burkina Faso (Société Sucrière de la Comoe). The aim is to gradually make a significant contribution to the restoration of agricultural lands -stripped of most of their nutrient topsoil- through the introduction of bio-digesters and the promotion of bio-slurry. Bio-digesters are part and parcel of sustainable dairy farming - it lowers greenhouse gas levels at dairy farms and stimulates 'zero-grazing' and improved fodder production. This is beneficial for the food security dynamics in Africa and makes dairy farmers potential business partners for international dairy processors like Nestlé¹ and Friesland Campina.

Impact

To date more than 65,000 bio-digesters have been installed in the five ABPP countries, providing some 65,000 rural and peri-urban households access to a sustainable source of clean energy. As a result, over 325,000 people, mainly women and children, are no longer exposed to indoor air pollution and can use bio-slurry to improve the agricultural productivity of their smallholder farms, while restoring the soil structure and creating resilience to climate change. Beyond this impact, ABPP also improved the institutional capacities of the organisations involved in the country programmes. In 2016 ABPP was awarded with the Community Development Programme of the Year by the East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC). In 2019 our Kenya chapter (KBP) was the winner of the Energy Globe National Award.

¹ Nestlé is already partnering with the Hivos and SNV supported biogas programme in Asia



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Key reasons behind ABPP's achievements include:

1. ABPP allowed for a thorough, participatory and context specific preparation as the basis of the design of its country programmes
2. From the onset, the ultimate goal of ABPP's intervention has been the establishment of sustainable biogas markets in the countries of intervention
3. ABPP promotes a market-oriented approach, where both local and international enterprises can grow their businesses with construction, installation and servicing of bio-digesters
4. The programme develops sector support functions in close partnership with multiple stakeholders (private and public sector organisations and institutions).

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