

Tanzania – “Development of Multifunctional platforms (MFP) for productive uses”, Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organization (TaTEDO)

- **Objectives:** Alleviating rural poverty through access to modern energy using simple technology, local skills and oil from crops (particularly jatropha).
- **Context:** Only 2% of the rural population in Tanzania has access to grid based electricity and the expansion of the electricity grid in rural area is in many cases not economically viable.
- **Project Summary:** TaTEDO promotes access and use of renewable energy technologies for poverty reduction and environment conservation. It developed a local electricity grid for entrepreneurs and households in rural areas to support rural economic activities (retail shops, grain milling, hairdressers) using bio-fuels (jatropha seeds - a locally grown plant). The village needs were assessed and a knowledge exchange was conducted with Mali, after which the system was designed. Village energy teams were set up and trained to manage the system.
- **Impacts:** The project improved households’ access to electricity and businesses’ capacities, and led to the creation of new activities and possible extension of business hours in . Furthermore, farmers growing jatropha found a permanent outlet for their crop.
- **Main obstacles encountered:** High operational costs were encountered at the beginning of the project, which were alleviated through the use of local material and jatropha.
- **Scale:** In this first phase, more than 100 households and businesses benefitted directly from the mini-electricity grid and have been given greater electricity access. Furthermore, farmers in the region now have a permanent market for their jatropha seed production.
- **Agricultural producer organizations/villagers involvement:** Villagers were involved in all phases of the project and were in charge of the project management itself via the village energy teams.
- **Contribution to poverty reduction:**
 1. Shop owners can extend their opening hours.
 2. A number of projects have been started following the installation of the mini-grid.
 3. More than 500 farmers found a permanent outlet for their crop.
- **Training:** Training was provided to energy teams, technicians and operators.
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