



ECOLABS

Fourniture d'un service énergétique solaire dans trois villages ruraux

Projet / Commercialisation de kits solaires individuels via la mutuelle de santé

Lieu d'implantation / Kétou, Ouèssè, Toviklin — Bénin

État / En cours d'implantation

Année de lancement / 2012

Porteur du projet / ECOLABS et Schneider Electric

Partenaires / Schneider Electric, Agence Béninoise d'Électrification Rurale et de Maîtrise d'Énergie (ABERME), Bank Of Africa Bénin, BNP Paribas, AP-FONDS ADAMS, Observatoire International de Transfert des Migrants (O.I.T.F.M), Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (O.I.F)

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L'initiative et la coordination des activités sur le terrain.

Les mutuelles encouragent la population à souscrire une couverture de santé. Elles gardent ce rôle de prescripteur pour l'accès à l'énergie et permettent aux cotisants de bénéficier des services à un coût inférieur. EcoLabs, coordinateur du projet, est aussi en charge de la formation de VRP qui sont embauchés par les SOLER et dont la mission est de commercialiser et maintenir les équipements. Aujourd'hui, une soixantaine de VRP ont été formés et trois SOLER proposent leurs services à 50 000 ménages de la zone.

Le partenariat avec l'ABERME permet notamment de bénéficier de la franchise des taxes douanières sur les produits photovoltaïques.

L'objectif du programme est d'apporter un service énergétique propre à 24 communes d'ici fin 2014. Depuis octobre 2012, les kits individuels de services de l'électricité (éclairage, recharge de batterie de téléphone portable...) sont disponibles à Kétou. Une centrale solaire de type Villasol est également en cours d'installation au Centre de Santé Odometà de Kétou qui s'éclaire actuellement au pétrole lampant.

BÉNIN

Providing solar energy services to three rural villages

Project / Creation of a solar power plant

Location / Ketou, Ouesse, Toviklin — Benin

Status / In progress

Launch Year / 2012

Developer / ECOLABS and Schneider Electric

Partners / Partners: Schneider Electric, Beninese Agency for Rural Electrification and Energy Management (ABERME), Bank of Africa Benin, BNP Paribas, AP-FONDS ADAMS, International Observatory of Migrants Transfer (O.I.T.F.M), International Organization of La Francophonie (O.I.F)

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The informal sector employs about 80% of the Beninese working population and is a large source of revenue for women. However, rural populations and informal sector workers are often not connected to the grid.

Ecolabs is a non-profit created by the Beninese diaspora whose aim is to promote local development in the country. Schneider Electric partnered with Ecolabs, through the BipBop program, to help provide renewable energy to off-grid villages, especially for water treatment plant, health centres, education facilities and agricultural machinery.

Schneider Electric provides the Villasol solar power plants and the individual solar kits that will be sold to customers through SOLERs (Local Companies for Renewable Energy). The innovative aspect of this project is that each SOLER is shared between the municipality, the local health mutual fund, and the French diaspora and is based on a public-private small-scale partnership. Ecolabs promotes this initiative and coordinates operations onsite.

By encouraging people to buy health coverage, health funds have a prescriptive role for energy access: their clients benefit from discounted prices. Ecolabs is also training the

sales representatives hired by the SOLER. Their role is to market and maintain the equipment. Thus far, sixty sales representatives have been trained and 3 SOLERs offer their services to 50,000 households in the area.

Thanks to the partnership with the Beninese Agency for Rural Electrification and Energy Management (ABERME) photovoltaic products are exempted from tax.

The aim of this program is to provide clean energy to 24 towns by 2014. Individual electricity kits (for light, mobile phone battery charging, etc.) have been available in Ketou since October 2012. A solar Villasol-type power plant is being built next to the Odometà Healthcare Center in Ketou where the maternity ward and other healthcare services currently use kerosene for lighting and refrigeration.