

BIOSLURRY BUSINESS CASE PROJECT

1. Background

In brief the bio slurry business case adds value to the bio slurry that is collected from households that have bio gas plants. Its implemented with funds from Biogas Solutions Uganda Limited (BSUL) is the national implementing agency for African Biogas Partnership Program II (ABPPII) since 2014. BSUL is in partnership with both SNV and HIVOS, where SNV offers technical advice while HIVOS is the fund manager. The project envisages the commercialisation the trading of bio slurry to increase household incomes and crop production. AFIRD buys bio slurry from farmers who have plenty and then standardise and packaging it for sale to those households that are in scarcity. This directly contributes to income generation from those families that sell bio slurry and then more food production to those that are availed the bio fertilisers. Bio slurry is a bi-product that comes from the bio gas plant so it fully fermented and rich in plant nutrients and in forms that the need them. Studies from NARO proved it that bio slurry has the potential of increasing crop yield by 30% on average for almost all crops.

AFIRD together with BSU are creating awareness of Biogas and bio slurry benefits to different farmer communities, community-based organisations, farmer groups and other stakeholders across the country with an objective of promoting clean cooking, increasing farm productivity, improving home sanitation and saving the environment by reducing the destruction of forests.

2. Situation Analysis

Whereas the bio digester technology is widely valued for its ability to provide clean cooking and lighting services, bio slurry has long been considered a mere secondary benefit.

However, the value of bio-slurry is more than what we can imagine and in most cases; it's the reason why farmers, especially in recent times, invest in a biogas plant. Bio slurry can be used to improve soil fertility, soil structure and crop productivity.

In Uganda, Bio-slurry is used for a wide variety of purposes and in many different ways, ranging from vegetable and banana production to algae growth in fishponds and from the cultivation of larvae for chicken feed to the use of bio-slurry as a natural insecticide. Farmers using bio-slurry report impressive increases in their agricultural production and a significant decrease in the use of expensive and dangerous chemical fertilizers and insect repellents. Their incomes improve significantly and they are able to reinvest in their farms.

3. Problem Statement

Biogas uptake in Uganda still remains one of the challenges at hand and it has been noticed that many farmers harvest more bio-slurry (surplus) than what they need and the rest is put to waste yet it can be a source of income generation. Other farmers do not have the ability to generate their own bio-slurry (deficit) because of a number of reasons and as such, they end up using chemical fertilizers to meet their agronomic requirements. This indicates that the surplus can be traded. To achieve this, AFIRD developed a bio-slurry

supply chain to commercialize the trading of bio-slurry with strong brands that were appreciated from packaging and the communication message around them. This generated the demand for more digesters, more employment and more incomes.

4. Relevance of the Project Idea

The Project seeks to create more relevance to Bio slurry in order to increase biogas uptake where households will consider it as a revenue generating stream aimed at improving their livelihoods.

It is also aimed at tapping into the opportunities of;

- ♣ Increased need for farm productivity and production.
- ♣ Increased need for organic food.
- ♣ High cost of chemical fertilizers.
- ♣ Need to reduce costs for animal feeding.
- ♣ Enrolment of young agri-prenuers with a lot of innovations

5. Stakeholders

The primary target stakeholders comprise of organizations selling organic fertilizers, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) with members that have excess bio slurry or even individual biogas owners willing

to take up this venture.

6. Impact of the Project

The project generally has a positive impact on AFIRD as it's in line with one of their major activities of producing organic fertilizers and also supports members, the majority of whom are farmers who need organic fertilizers to maximize revenue from their produce. AFIRD also has a number of members with biogas plants who will have ready market for their bio slurry.

On the other side there are also many other AFIRD members with animals who are a potential target market for biogas plants.