

D-LAB OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PROMOTING BICYCLE MACHINES

The D-Lab of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) promotes, through research, projects on the field and training courses, technologies to build machines propelled by pedals. In particular, a video in the D-Lab website presents a [bicycle-powered blender](#) made of a bicycle hub, a ball bearing, a bottle cap and a metal bar. Another video presents [a treadle-powered tumbler](#), for shelling *moringa* seeds by hand.

One of the training courses realized by D-Lab, [Cycle Ventures](#), explores bicycle technology applying it to an ever increasing array and purposes including water pumping, grain grinding and transport of loads in underserved communities with the aim to offer better economic opportunities. In 2007 and 2008, the founder the [Guatemalan Association Mayapedal](#) has been invited to present his bike-machines in conferences organized by MIT in United States.

The D-Lab is a program of MIT set up to connect with each other innovators from all over the world and to spread over low-cost, high impact technologies for communities. Innovations promoted within the several projects of D-Lab are all focused on key-issues such as water testing and sanitation, medical devices for health, devices for small-scale subsistence agriculture, treating and recycling of waste, and so on. The aim is to develop simple but effective technologies that improve everyday people's lives and subsistence activities.

Other two interesting technologies promoted by D-Lab in its website are the [Charcoal maker and the Corn sheller](#). The Charcoal maker is a device for making cheap, clean-burning, environment-friendly charcoal from agricultural waste, while the Corn Sheller is a sheet metal device for shelling corn cobs easier and faster. These innovations both show that conceiving and implementing on the field and involving local actors, some useful devices from easily available material is an effective way to solve specific problems and to improve the economic activities of local populations and more in general their living conditions.

D-Lab gives several [training courses on innovative technologies](#) that have a socio-economic impact, on a wide range of subjects. In the [energy courses section](#) the information about the projects developed or in progress in many countries is available.

The D-Lab of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is a very interesting example for Universities of countries interested in developing technologies that meet basic needs of populations as well as orienting students towards innovative and suitable solutions.

To know more

[About D-Lab](#)

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

