

A national catalogue of innovative ideas for territorial and green development in Senegal

By Ivan Lawrence White

Biochar systems for smallholders to address the challenges associated with food insecurity and climate change and defluoridation through nanofiltration to fight waterborne diseases and give rural communities drinkable water. These are just two of the imaginative new ideas that are tackling Senegal's development drawbacks and which call for Innovation as the pathway for the Country's socio-economic growth.

Innovation is in fact the essence of modern, healthy, educated and inclusive sustainable societies. Further

Innovation is the unlocking key for untapped resources which demand for greater attention for their sustainable use. Though Senegal leapfrogs in its progress towards an inclusive and sustainable development, efforts are yet needed to build partnerships amongst government, private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropic organizations and the international community, to promote and spread innovation for a sustained Senegalese development.

To achieve these objectives and in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Enterprises and Informal Sector and the Ministry of Woman a project is currently being implemented to develop an enterprise incubator in the Country's center-south region of Kaolack to act as innovation stimulator for start-ups and established entrepreneurs. Integrating this project is the creation of the National Catalogue of Innovations which aims at highlighting some of Senegal's finest innovative technologies and methodologies.

In this context, the IDEASS programme is working in collaboration with the International School KIP, the National Institute of Agro-food Technologies (ITA), the University of Sine Saloum (USSK) the Council of Non Governmental Organizations (CONGAD) and other national actors to develop this first national Catalogue of innovations. The Catalogue is being created through a participative process by institutions, specialized centres, universities, social associations and organizations.

At the paramount of this catalogue, 19 technologies and best sustainable productive practices have been now



IDENTIFIED SET OF INNOVATIONS

Biochar production ; Inoculum production unit ; Biocharb from peanuts scraps; Wind powered water pumps; Biogas; Antiseptic soap; 100% Senegalese bio textile value chain; Plastic recovery and recycling; Solar egg incubator; Jute bags; Leather tannery; Iodization of salt; Water defluoridation; Detoxification of peanut oil "seggal"; Fonio de-shelling machine; Weaving and tapestry; recovery of plastic packaging; Solar ovens



identified across the entire country with the goal to set an example of creative ideas which can be further harnessed by the incubator and become success cases as well as catalysers to stimulate local economic growth.

This National Catalogue intends to deliver a broad panorama of Senegal's innovation capability and to valorise local traditions and sources. To this end the catalogue reflects the Country's development strategies and international commitments to sustainable development and green growth such as the National Action Plan for the Environment (NAPE), the Senegal Emergent Plan (PSE), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) amongst others. In this context, Renewable energy, agro-industry, green economy technologies and best practices were identified and highlighted in single brochures which will be published and disseminated at national and international level.

IDEASS Program is further collaborating with specific development actors for the Catalogue extension which will also include the future new ideas that Kaolack's incubator will stimulate and transform in dynamic and successful economic realities for a sustained and sustainable Senegal. In August 2014 the Catalogue of the innovations will be available from the IDEASS website.

Dakar, July 2014

