

The Results of the Solar Greenhouse SOLWA



The [solar greenhouse SOLWA](#), for its innovative characteristics and its efficiencies to resolve problematic of international impact, has won several prizes and awards. In May 2011, it has been awarded as: "Italian Innovation" from the Technology Review, a scientific and technological magazine, edited by MIT in Boston, Massachusetts (USA). Furthermore, in the month of November of the same year, it won the ["National Prize for Italian Innovations"](#) at Torino.



In the [opening ceremony for the academic year 2011- 2012](#), which involved all the Universities of the Italian region of Veneto, the greenhouse has been presented as an example of how universities contribute to solve problematic of international impact.

SOLWA is a solar greenhouse, which is able to depurate polluted and salty water through solar energy. The system is able of treating many different types of water, and does not require a big maintenance. Its operating costs are not expensive. The greenhouse is completely autonomous and transportable, and it's proving itself useful to solve the water scarcity problem in several countries lacking water.

Thanks to the media coverage obtained though all the prizes that the greenhouse achieved, SOLWAs greenhouse has been of interest to several Italian NGOs that work in the cooperation sector. Many of them have also contacted the inventors of the project.

For example, ACRA NGO (Rural cooperation in Africa and Latin America) is projecting the use of the solar greenhouses in the rural areas of the north of Senegal, involving also the local population. The Lions Club of Venice (www.lionsvenezia.it) will start in February 2012, a project of water treatment in a primary school in Burkina Faso. The [GVC ONG](#) has required the assistance of SOLWAs inventors to help finding a solution to the lack of purified water in Palestine. The greenhouse in that situation can be an efficient solution for water supplies affecting the life of the local people.

After a first experiment in the city of Trujillo (Peru), a new prototype has been built in the Ca'Foscari University of Venice. The SOLWA model is being continuously improved to augment its depurative potentiality, already at the maximum standards in the sector. The pictures show the construction phases of the prototype built in 2011 in Trujillo, Peru.



The technology, over which SOLWA is based, could also be used to treat other humid matrixes. SOLWA is demonstrating its potentialities in the extraction of water in several situations. It can also be used to dry animal manure, sewage sludge, and the landfill leachate. In the next coming months, a new research will started in Njombe (Tanzania), to dry fruits. If this experiment will show positive results, the local population will be able of drying at a low cost and efficiently the papaya peelings, producing highly nutritive food for infants and children.



To facilitate the technological transfer to countries requiring for such an innovation, it has been constituted a company, INTRADEP ltd, that at the time being has a website that promotes the innovation to all the potential actors interested.

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