



## African Biodigester Component

Promoting and facilitating access to modern and sustainable energy solutions for households, social institutions and MSMEs, predominantly in rural and peri-urban areas

### Introduction

The African Biodigester Component (ABC) aims to support the growth and sustainability of a commercial biodigester sector in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The project, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Netherlands and managed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) in partnership with the Energising Development, will operate in Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

In Uganda, the project is implemented as a joint effort by a consortium of SNV, German Agency for

International Cooperation (GIZ) and Biogas Solutions Uganda Limited (BSUL).

SNV, as lead implementer takes responsibility for project management and stakeholder coordination, financial and technical support to and cooperation with BSUL, to oversee execution of project strategies and the design and implementation of the Results-Based Finance mechanisms.

### OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of ABC Uganda project (2022 to 2025) is to graduate the biodigester market in Uganda from its pioneering to the expansion phase.



This will be realised through a well-balanced mix of demand-side, supply-side, financing, and enabling environment interventions aimed at increasing demand and supporting small and medium-scale biodigester enterprises in acquiring more users.



## The Challenge

Biomass constitutes up to 90% of the domestic energy consumption in Uganda. The demand for firewood outstrips natural production, leading to deforestation.

In addition, the wood fuel is generally used in non-efficient cooking stoves, which emits a lot of smoke leading to indoor air pollution(IAP). This aggravates respiratory and eye infections especially in women and children who spend long hours in the kitchen.

Uganda continues to have a population growth rate of over 3%, making reliable and sustainable food supplies ever more crucial. Soil degradation and nutrient loss are substantial problems, leading to declining soil fertility and crop yields.

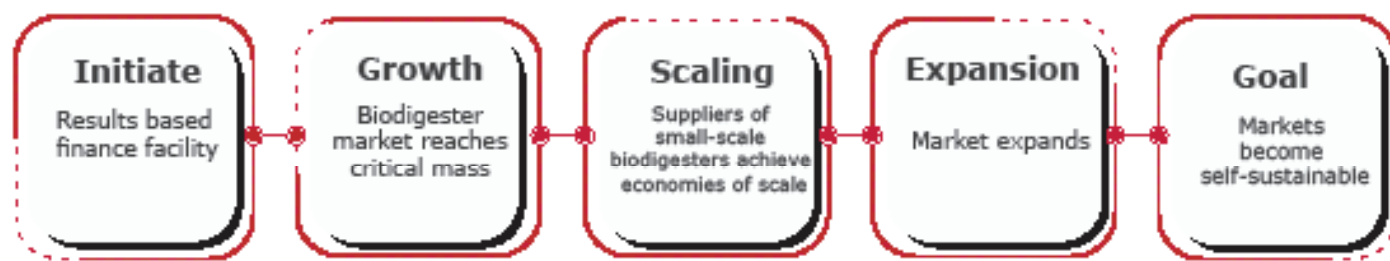
Although biogas is a good alternative source of affordable, clean energy, and bioslurry produced by biodigesters increases agricultural production, these benefits often remain underexposed and underexploited.

## The ABC Approach

ABC Uganda aims to support the growth of the biodigester sector by increasing demand through continuous information and awareness raising.

To strengthen supply, the project will provide business development support through technical trainings creation and implementation of conducive policies, regulations and standards governing the biodigester sector in Uganda.

To provide the last push needed for the biodigester market to reach Ugandan farmers, a results-based finance (RBF) facility for small-scale biodigesters will be the core instrument of the ABC project:



Other approaches include innovative financing modalities for consumers and businesses, financing institutions, promotion of better finance options for both consumers and suppliers from three levels of access to finance (A2F) support:

- SME loans to facilitate innovative consumer and business financing.
- RBF incentives to biodigester enterprises
- The RBF incentives provided to financial institutions providing credit to biodigester end-users

## Proposed impact

The intervention will result in the installation of at least 8,000 small scale biodigesters by 2025 across Uganda providing energy access for at least 40,000 people.

The project will create a demand-side with widespread awareness and well-informed users with positive perceptions of the services and benefits, promote a supply-side that attracts investment for scaling and innovation, and underpin an enabling environment that supports the sector effectively and creates regulatory stability.

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Financed By:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands

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