Transforming Tanzania’s Charcoal Sector

The Sustainable Charcoal Model: how it works

Step 1. Prepare village land use plans and establish village land forest reserves: Maximise the forest area included in the VLFR, and identify areas for sustainable charcoal and timber harvesting.

Progress in establishing sustainable charcoal in Morogoro Region

Sustainable charcoal production has been established in 22 villages in Kilosa, Morogoro and Mvomero Districts by the TTCS project. In these 22 villages, community based forest management has been established with Village land Forest Reserves covering 94,847 ha. Within the VLFRs, 5,543 ha of forest (6%) has been designated as charcoal forest management units.

Villages practising sustainable charcoal production in Kilosa District have reduced annual deforestation rates from -2.53% to -1.83% between 2010/12 – 2014/16, whilst deforestation in other parts of the district has increased from -1.82 % to -2.13 % over the same time period.

Livelihood benefits

- Communities participating in the TTCS project have earned > TZS 0.5 billion in sales and fees from sustainable charcoal.
- > 300 women and men are earning an income from sustainable charcoal and have benefited from formalisation of the value chain.
- Village charcoal fees have been used for classrooms, health facilities, medical insurance and other community development projects.

Scaling up sustainable charcoal

TTCS support

By November 2019, TTCS will provide:

- direct support to 30 villages in Morogoro Region to establish sustainable charcoal production;
- Capacity building for local and central government staff, including for staff from other high potential areas of the country.
- Awareness raising at national level and information resources for local government and CSOs to adopt and adapt the model.

Progress in scaling-up

Other projects, such as the Adding Value to the Arc Project, financed by the European Union, are starting to scale up sustainable charcoal to other areas.

What is needed in the National Forest Policy

Policy support for community based forest management that integrates forest-based enterprises such as sustainable timber and charcoal production.

- A clear policy objective supporting widespread scaling-up of CBFM including production areas.
- A clear policy objective to limit conversion of forest to agricultural land, on village land.

Create a supportive regulatory and fiscal environment for sustainable charcoal production

- Technical back-stopping from local government for communities engaged in sustainable charcoal production, in financial management, governance and sustainable forest management.
- Reform TFS financing to remove TFS dependence on revenues from illegally harvested forest products from village land.
- Remove bureaucratic barriers to formalisation of producers e.g. make TFS registration easy and affordable for producers.
- Allow villages to collect District Revenues, on behalf of the District to reduce transaction costs along the value chain.
- Continued exemption from Central Government Royalties for VLFR products
- Continued VAT exemption for products from VLFRs
- Stronger and more universally applied penalties (fines) on charcoal not produced in areas under sustainable management.

About the TTCS Project

Goal: A pro-poor and climate resilient transformation of the economics and governance of charcoal and other forest product value chains.

Partners: TFCG, MJUMITA and TaTEDO

Financed by: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.