



AUGUST 2021

ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN BURKINA FASO

Findings from the ProGREEN Project

About ProGREEN

ProGREEN seeks to advance understanding of and potential for small-scale renewable energy to contribute to broader energy transitions in West Africa. Activities emphasize experiential learning that brings together early- and mid-career researchers with renewable energy experts from national governments, private sector actors from green finance, and civil society. This approach enables connectivity between research, policy and practice that ensures strong research for impact.

This note highlights findings from a knowledge assessment conducted by multi-sector and multidisciplinary experts in Burkina Faso to understand key enabling and constraining factors for the uptake of community-scale (micro-grid and off-grid) solar and bioenergy.

Enabling Factors

- A favorable international and sub-regional policy and funding environment;
- Substantial political will displayed;
- Awareness raising by those working in the field of renewable energies;
- Enthusiasm of the population due to successful projects;
- Low materials costs;
- Improvement of technologies;
- Availability of equipment.

Constraining Factors

- High investment costs;
- Absence of financing;
- Difficulties in mobilizing private investors;
- Lack of semi-industrial systems for processing;
- Lack of cooperation between actors;
- Overlooking local needs;
- Dominance of politics;
- Extreme poverty of certain beneficiaries;
- Absence of business models;
- Absence of national norms and standards.



Recommendations at the State Level

- Increase training in order to ensure quality and proximity of services, and to reduce youth unemployment;
- Develop and adopt standards and requirements;
- Establish facilities for testing and quality assurance;
- Strengthen the mandate of enforcement institutions on monitoring and evaluation of products and services provided by third parties;
- Incorporate Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in projects;
- Ensure compliance with corporate social responsibility (CSR) clauses;
- Introduce into calls for tenders clauses that allow managers to track and monitor commissioned equipment and facilities;

Recommendations for Technical and Financial Partners

- Establish communication plans involving local stakeholders;
- Create a loan guaranteeing funds with a qualified state agency;
- Support development of credit lines;
- Facilitate access to credits for decentralized projects;
- Finance business to business meetings between training centers and businesses;
- Publicize and share monitoring and evaluation reports of projects;
- Strengthen local youth capacities to ensure small maintenance and repairs;

Recommendations for Installation Managers

- Update skills of technicians through periodic training sessions;
- Prioritize quality in the choice of equipment and facilities;
- Ensure monitoring, control and maintenance of installed facilities/systems ;
- Ensure scrupulous compliance with contract clauses;

Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy (ProGREEN) is a multi-year project led by START and supported by the Research Fund of Québec. More details on the assessment and the country report can be found here : [french](#) / [english](#).

