

Production and Marketing of Pellets In Zambia

-Creating healthy material flows and maximizing positive impact, through business

Sonta Kauti, International Cooking Cooking Forum 2013 – Bonn, Germany



Devastation due to charcoal production



The final destination of Africa's forests



Simultaneously: fine biomass going to waste



- Swedish-Zambian Joint Venture
- Started end 2010
- Goal: Replace 600,000 tons charcoal with 250,000 tons waste biomass pellets in Zambia



Mattias Ohlson CEO



Per Löfberg HR



Örjan Rödén CFO



Sonta Kauti COO Zambia



Gabriel Mumba
Chairman

Activities



- Producing pellets from sawdust (current installed capacity: 3000 tons/year)
- Pioneering the use of the Philips stove with pellets
- Setting up distribution system for large-scale deployment of stoves and fuel in Zambia





How we build consumer demand



- People save money using our system
- Lower threshold of entry into the system using innovative financing solutions –Payroll deductions and bank account standing orders
- Using the "puppy" model try for free



Challenges faced



- Difficult to access financing (we have raised \$600,000 in 24 months)
- Lack of access to quality pellet gasifying stoves, until now
- Philips stove is still too expensive (\$72 from factory and about \$100 landed price inc VAT with % overhead)



Lessons learned



- We tried distribution of pellets in the company and found out that the best are the sales points.
- Targeting people with existing purchasing power for fuel makes the business model more solid.
- You start the process by talking to HR, do a demostration, make a contract then distribute. Response has been overwhelmely positive
- Pelletizing is not easy consult experts
- Don't give up



Next steps



- Rolling out minimum 7500 Philips stoves this year
- Scaling up pellet production significantly 2014
- Raising 3+ million USD next year for pellet production infrastructure
- Retailing of corn flour is a bulk activity with extremely low margins. We have huge margins on the pellets and can afford adding another whole-sale layer by partnering with an existing whole saler/distributor of corn flour, with national reach. A bag of pellets (fuel) is a very similar product to a bag of flour.



Short Video Clip

Video Clip on the production of pellets



Thank you!

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