

More bricks, more income, less CO2

The EELA Project: Lower emissions and higher production in Latin America's brick factories



Subject

Climate change mitigation

Country

Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru

Partners

Government entities in charge of national issues and private entities to implement the programme activities.

General information

Brick production is a major industry worldwide. But production must be improved rather than increased. EELA will contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the green-house gas emissions of Latin America's artisanal brick factories while improving the quality of life and income of the brick-makers and the general public.

Project objective

To reduce GHG emissions through technology change and improve producers' income level by implementing both technological change on a mass scale and best practice in artisanal brick production to improve energy efficiency.

Beneficiaries

A total of 970 artisanal brick-makers in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Peru.

Budget

Total: CHF 18'248'142

SDC contribution:

Phase I CHF 6'197'100

Phase II CHF 7'821'000

Duration

June 2009 – December 2016

Contact

Global Programs in the Andes

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All over the world, brick production is a major industry. In Latin America, seven countries are implementing projects to support change and environmental standards in the artisanal brick-making sector, improve its technology and achieve more efficient energy processes, together with the use of less-polluting fuels.

Brick by brick, building development is on the rise in a number of the region's countries. Thanks to the demand, opportunity for supply is growing. However, the point is not just more production but above all better production, in line with new environmental and market demands. Here, the brick business is the corner-stone for the construction industry and brick-makers are enjoying an excellent opportunity, but one which must be used well.

In this context, the **Project for Energy Efficiency in the Artisanal Brick Factories of Latin America to Mitigate Climate Change (EELA)** is an initiative which meets these needs, through technical assistance for those involved in artisanal brick production, providing them with training and expert advice to improve their competencies in the environmental, production and management areas. The project aims to optimize their manufacturing methods, improve the quality of their products, and hold environment improvement activities for mitigating the environmental impact of their work and making them increasingly competitive.

The project seeks to contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of Latin America's brick factories and to help improve the quality of life of the brick-makers and the general public. It will implement comprehensive energy efficiency models in artisanal brick-factories, including them in the value chain, developing inter-learning between countries, and influencing national public policy.

For Swiss Cooperation (SDC), to invest in energy efficiency projects in artisanal brick factories is to invest in development and the climate and to generate benefits both locally and globally. The project will contribute directly to improving the quality of life of the brick-makers and their households, reducing air pollution and the emission of the atmospheric pollutants that are responsible for global warming.

In the framework of Phase I of EELA, 270 artisanal brick factories implemented at least one technology change in the seven countries, and GHG emissions fell by at least 30 per cent, while factory income rose by 10 per cent. A total of 73 brick factories adopted the comprehensive energy efficiency model. The project promoted an inter-regional exchange of actors and beneficiaries with face-to-face courses and virtual platforms and validated intervention models, which will make possible systemic intervention in Phase II.

Intervention strategy

The EELA Programme focuses on reducing GHG and increasing the net income of the brick-makers by scaling up the technological improvements and best practices evaluated in Phase I, while improving energy efficiency in brick production. To do so in the countries that take part, the programme intervention will use the concept of the systemic or market focus. Hence it emphasizes the analysis of market players and functions, both public and private, formal and informal. The systemic focus defines many of the major characteristics when addressing the underlying causes, rather than symptoms, of inefficient market performance. Intervention will be four-fold and will:

- Strengthen and support companies which provide the technology given priority by the EELA Programme, to promote the mass application of the selected technology and best practice; and financial institutions, in developing and publicizing credit for brick-makers.
- Influence national and regional public policy.
- Carry out South-South and regional knowledge exchange in the framework of the programme.
- Scale up the experience with the lime and gypsum producers in Bolivia.

General objective

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through technology change and to improve producers' income through the mass application of technology changes and the use of best practice in artisanal brick-making for improving energy efficiency.

Impact

Projections for an intervention based on a systemic approach expect the programme to produce:

- A reduction of about 833.783 tons of CO₂-eq, corresponding to 7 per cent of total emissions from the brick-making sector.
- An increase in annual income from US\$10'646'347 (CHF 9'972'433), covering 21 per cent of existing brick factories.

For further information see:

www.redladrilleras.net

www.cooperacionsuizaenperu.org.pe/cosude