



SMEP

Sustainable Manufacturing and
Environmental Pollution

Image: Rwanda Green Fund



Programme rationale and intention

The manufacturing sector provides substantial opportunities for economic growth in developing countries but is often associated with high levels of pollution and environmental degradation. There are many reasons for this, including limited resources and technological know-how to implement cleaner production methods. High levels of pollution are also linked to chronic health problems and decreased levels of productivity that can cause economic losses as high as 2% of GDP per year.

The Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) programme is funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and is implemented in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The programme aims to improve upon the existing knowledge of the environmental and health impacts of manufacturing across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and to develop solutions that address complex technical challenges in this area.

FCDO has provided resources to commission research and related services through the Programme Management Agent (PMA). The PMA comprises a consortium partnership between Pegasys, SouthSouthNorth (SSN) and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

For more information or to register your interest in receiving updates, please visit: www.smepprogramme.org or write to info@smepprogramme.org



Reducing manufacturing impacts

The programme is implementing several approaches aimed at reducing the environmental and health impacts of manufacturing. These include:

- Developing and testing technology-based solutions and cleaner production methods to reduce pollution generated by manufacturing activities;
- Accelerating the development of practical solutions with greater potential for uptake and impact; and
- Identifying the most suitable policy-based interventions and business models that could facilitate and encourage uptake across target areas.

The programme will also generate evidence and identify practical solutions for reducing plastic pollution, which has reached critical levels in several countries across Africa and Asia and is now posing a serious threat to the health of the oceans worldwide.

Partnerships

FCDO and UNCTAD have designed the SMEP programme to work in collaboration with local stakeholders and private sector partners to improve the impact of the project and enable research into use.

UNCTAD acts as a strategic partner to the SMEP programme. The organisation provides technical assistance to government agencies in target countries, builds consensus among partners and stakeholders, and helps to disseminate results with the international community of practice of circular economy solutions and pollution mitigation.

SMEP research and programme outputs

FCDO committed £24.6 million to the delivery of this five-year programme, which is running from 2019 until 2024. Implementation of programme activities will be commissioned through several service providers. Competitive selection will be based on a proven track record and ability to provide a range of interventions aimed at achieving SMEP objectives.

An initial registration of interest will be published in the second quarter of 2020 to build a database of potential suppliers and solicit market input on innovative ideas to achieve some or all of the following programme outputs:

- New scientific evidence aimed at improving current knowledge and understanding of the environmental and health impacts of pollution from manufacturing processes.
- Development of technology-based solutions and supporting business models to reduce the environmental and health impacts of selected manufacturing processes.
- Identification and development of policy and regulatory models that can promote and facilitate the adoption of technology-based solutions. Development of co-designed toolkits for policy-makers and planners.
- Establishment of new symbiotic production processes that reduce environmental waste and establish new sources of wealth and growth.
- Identifying and supporting the development and testing of solutions for reducing plastic pollution, which has reached critical levels in several countries across Africa and Asia and is now posing a critical threat to the health of the oceans worldwide.

Rounds of competitive Expressions of Interest and Calls for Proposals will follow.

SMEP focus countries

Sub-Saharan Africa:

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia



South Asia:

Bangladesh
Nepal
Pakistan

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