

SEED WINNERS AWARD 2024 - PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Business and Industry Major Group (BIMG) published the [BIMG Beacon Projects Report 2024](#) on the 27th of February, focusing on business-led innovations that foster sustainability, tackle environmental and social challenges, and showcase examples from across the BIMG global community of partnerships and collaborations.

Five SEED Low-Carbon and Climate Adaptation Winners and Runners-up have been selected as best practice examples of innovative strategies to tackle climate change, nature loss and pollution, while also contributing to local community development through job creation and livelihood enhancement.

All five enterprises have received business development training through the SEED Catalyser or Accelerator Programs to refine their business models and optimise their environmental, social and economic impacts, and improve their investment readiness.



Wuchi Wami, a Zambian honey brand, stands out for its pioneering business model that combines modern beekeeping techniques with forest conservation efforts. By utilizing soft wood beehives instead of traditional methods that require tree felling, Wuchi Wami not only preserves forests but also empowers local communities by providing training and equipment to small-scale farmers.



Zambia has alarming rates of deforestation. Wuchi Wami has been in operation since 2018 in North Western Zambia. It packages, brands, markets and distribute local raw and organic Honey for health-conscious clients. The honey is sourced from the wild miombo forests, located in the Mwinilunga North-Western province of Zambia. It is processed through its registered cooperative which sees 2,500 farmers participating in Bee Keeping in an out-growers scheme model.



Wuchi Wami equips smallholder farmers with modern beehives that are environmentally friendly and do not support deforestation. The model provides an alternative income to women from charcoal burning. Wuchi Wami processes, brands and distributes this locally produced raw, organic and unpasteurized honey by an out-growers scheme registered under Kwasha indimi cooperative in Mwinilunga. This honey is then distributed to their clients through the Chain stores country wide.



In Uganda, **Ecoplastile's circular economy model** transforms plastic waste into sustainable construction materials, offering an eco-friendly alternative to traditional building materials. By integrating waste collection with a mobile app-based reward system, Ecoplastile creates economic opportunities for waste-pickers while addressing plastic pollution.



EcoPlastile works with youth and women to collect and process waste plastics into durable Ecopoles, plastic lumbers and Ecofloor tiles that substitute wooden timbers and unsanitary dirty floors. The products are low cost and durable, and help to eliminate plastic pollution and sanitary issues. EcoPlastile generates revenue from sales, and communities benefit from waste management alternatives such as 'Waste Medical Insurance', a medical insurance provided in exchange for the provision of plastic waste.



Farmers Fresh Zone in India has revolutionized agricultural supply chains by leveraging technology to reduce food waste and increase farmer incomes. Their business model focuses on optimizing the farm-to-fork journey through training, guidance, and technological support for farmers, resulting in improved food quality and reduced carbon footprint.



Farmers Fresh Zone works on the production side of the value chain to improve predictions about market demand and margins through algorithms, and to standardise practices among farmers. By collecting and selling organic produce through a shortened value chain, the enterprise ensures transparency over how food is produced and sold. The produce is marketed through multiple channels, including a website, stores, stalls, and a subscription service. They also sell value-added products like juices and salads.



MYCL-Indonesia has developed a mycelium-based leather substitute that offers a green alternative, reducing carbon emissions and conserving water resources. Collaborating with over 50 international brands, they aim to produce a low-carbon leather substitute using mycelium technology, showcased at events like Paris Fashion Week.



Mylea is vegan leather made from mushroom, produced by Mycotech. Mycotech collaborates with designers to develop Mylea into end products using co-creative profit sharing schemes. Beyond producing this innovative material, they aim to create more eco-consciousness in the fashion industry. Vegan leather has a market potential as a substitution of animal-based leather. Mylea's target is to



serve 0.04% of Indonesia's leather footwear market.

In [Botswana](#), [Botejana Enterprises](#) champions sustainability through glass recycling. Converting discarded bottles into high-quality silica sand, they mitigate waste accumulation and promote eco-friendly practices, while partnering with local communities and empowering women in the industry. Botejana Enterprises offers an innovative solution to glass bottle waste by crushing them into commercial silica sand. The glass sand is used as one of the raw materials to manufacture different types of bricks in construction projects. The enterprise works with the community and local bars to collect unwanted glass bottles for raw material supply. This enterprise is supported through its partnerships with various stakeholders, ranging from national and international organisations, investors, research institutes, suppliers, governmental bodies, NGOs, other social and environmental enterprises and more.



These enterprises, recognised, awarded and trained by SEED and now showcased in the BIMG Beacon Projects Report, exemplify the transformative potential of sustainable business models in addressing global challenges. Through collaboration and innovation, they pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable future.

SEED was founded at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg by [UN Environment](#), [UNDP](#) and [IUCN](#) as a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. SEED is based on the understanding that the promotion of social and environmental entrepreneurship is pivotal for environmentally friendly and socially inclusive development and poverty reduction.

The SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development is an annual awards scheme designed to identify the most innovative and promising locally led start-up eco-inclusive enterprises in developing and emerging economies. Each year, multiple award categories are offered, ranging from country- or region-specific awards to thematic categories.

In 2021, from 900+ applications across 9 countries - Ghana, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Uganda, South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe - 9 Winners and 37 Finalists were selected. These winners offer products and services that innovate ways for their value chains to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. These enterprises have already achieved great success but are looking to scale-up their environmental, social and economic impacts. They require your support to do so and SEED Initiative invites you to discover and collaborate with SEED Award recipients.

To know more

[Spotlight on SEED Award Winners: The BIMG Beacon Projects Report 2024 showcases SEED Award Winner and Runner-up Enterprises](#)

[Promoting Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development](#)

SDG Agrifood Accelerator Programme

Wuchi Wami

Raw, organic and unpasteurised honey

Creating a sustainable livelihood for smallholder farmers

SDG Agrifood Accelerator Programme

Amaati Group

Farming indigenous Fonio grains

Training marginalised women in agronomic practices

SEED Replicator Programme

Uganda

In Lira, Uganda
20 & 21 September 2023

APPLICATION DEADLINE
31 August 2023

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PAST WINNER
2021 Award Runner-Up

Lillie Organic Compost
Malawi

Organic compost promoting sustainable agriculture and food security

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