

RENEWABLE ENERGY



ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY

The ECRDA is continuously pursuing the effective implementation of its renewable energy development programme. The pursuit, development and identification of renewable energy as a high impact priority project is deliberate and is by design. ECRDA continues to take meaningful steps toward the development and implementation of effective renewable and alternative energy solutions for communities in the rural hinterland.

This intervention is important taking into account that despite significant progress made in opening up access to electricity and energy to rural areas, this segment of the population still has challenges relating to energy security. It has to further compete with the urban and modernised urban sector putting further pressure on an already clogged national grid.

However, government is also keenly aware that the rural landscape holds an abundant renewable energy potential which should be exploited and harnessed for the benefit of rural communities. In particular, the Eastern Cape holds perhaps the greatest potential of renewable energy sources available in South Africa. Although in small pockets, ECRDA's interventions in this space are meaningful and they are already being felt by the communities which it has touched.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The ECRDA renewable energy programme places a special focus on building its research and innovation capabilities in order to effectively respond to business strategy and objectives.

This is premised on the acknowledgment that effective and efficient delivery of renewable energy solutions for the rural part of the province should be based on sound research, business plans and models which are able to deliver the required shareholder value.

This shareholder value is measured on ECRDA's ability to use renewable energy resources to respond to prevailing socio-economic realities that define the Eastern Cape rural landscape. In particular, renewable energy sources are geared to provide a platform for improved economic activity in the rural areas and those in the margins of the formal economy.

These communities and rural enterprises in particular should benefit from ECRDA's interventions in renewable energy to reduce high input business costs that come with high electricity prices. This should improve their viability, commercial sustainability and income generation capabilities.

