

THE IMPROVEMENT OF CURING EFFICIENCY FOR THE FARMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

CONVERTING BARNs INTO AN ENVIRONMENTAL CURE FOR TOBACCO FARMERS

Proper curing of tobacco is essential for a farmer to get good prices, but in Tanzania, where the only source of energy is wood, this can be a very environmentally-unfriendly process. As taking care of the environment is key, it is important to reduce the amount of wood being used as fuel in the curing barns. In order to do this, Tanzania Leaf Tobacco Company (TLTC) embarked on a four-year barn conversion programme in collaboration with two major tobacco manufacturers in 2015, investing approximately US\$1 million to reduce wood consumption by up to 30%.

US\$1 MILLION

INVESTED TO REDUCE WOOD CONSUMPTION BY

30%



“ Recent Tanzania Tobacco Board regulations stipulate that all farmers with traditional barns must convert at least one barn per hectare in the 2017 crop season, and be completely converted by the beginning of the 2020 season. ”

An improved barn should have a V-slot furnace to allow the use of small logs and twigs rather than big tree trunks, zigzag brick channels to better distribute the heat and avoid fires, and furnace doors to avoid heat loss.



TLTC identified all the farmers who have **barns in need of conversion and provided them with brick and furnace moulds**, so that they can make enough fired bricks for the conversion.

Farmers removed their old flue channels and furnace and, with the support of trained TLTC technicians, built in the new flue channels and furnace and fit the new furnace and barn doors. **Once a barn has been converted, it is registered with the company and the regulators.** TLTC has extensively raised awareness among farmers on the importance of using logs of the correct size and closing the furnace door to improve the combustion.



CHALLENGES

This large-scale conversion must fit into the very busy farm schedule. Approximately **10,000 barns** have been converted so far.



BOTTOM LINE

For a farmer producing one hectare of tobacco, the improvement of his barns could result in **an increased revenue of US\$179 per season** thanks to **higher curing quality, reduced wood use and reduced labour and transport costs.**



BENEFITS

A reduction of 9.5 cubic metres of stacked wood per hectare of tobacco, the equivalent of saving 0.18 HECTARES of forest per hectare of tobacco every year.