

"Land for Life Award": Abellon selected as semi-finalist



UNCCD
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

"From planting a great green wall in Indonesia, to building sand dams in Kenya, to growing food in the shade of solar panels in India, the semi-finalists offer innovative and inspiring lessons on how to restore and conserve land..."

- Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD.

The Land for Life Award given by United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was launched at the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD seeking to promote efforts of those whose work and initiatives have made a significant and innovative contribution for sustainable land management.

In the second cycle of the Land for Life Award 2013 held to recognize efforts that promote the natural health and productivity of land, Abellon CleanEnergy was nominated as one of the 16 semi-finalists for its "Solar Agri-Electric Model" out of 137 applications submitted from across 62 countries.

Abellon's 3-MW "Solar Agri-Electric Model" developed on 17.5 acres of land in India, is the first of its kind in the world, which targets food and energy security on the same land, wherein vegetables, fruits & spices are grown under the solar panels. Organic agriculture is carried out below the solar panels by utilizing the wash water used for cleaning the panels providing a collateral benefit to the solar panels that remain cool due to the moist and humid soil below them. This reduces the temperature of the solar panels, allowing for optimum power generation efficiency. The model serves as "Zero Discharge Sustainable Model" and offers benefits such as:

- sequestration of CO₂ through vegetation
- CO₂ emission reduction through solar panels
- recycling of post-harvested vegetative residues for composting & cattle feed

The project provides employment to many rural farmers and rural women thereby decreasing level of migration from "rural to urban places" along with educating the farmers about the latest agricultural practices through "Krishisabhas" (Farmer's meet) by a NGO Poornakumbha. Other social and educational programs are also held by Poornakumbha for the children and women residing in the village for sustainable development and growth.

The recognition of this project marks Abellon's foray into the highly promising and exciting solar energy space encouraging Abellon to move towards more cleantech solutions and providing end to end solutions for a clean and green future.

Congratulations to the Modasa Solar and Agriculture team for their efforts!!

Abellon