

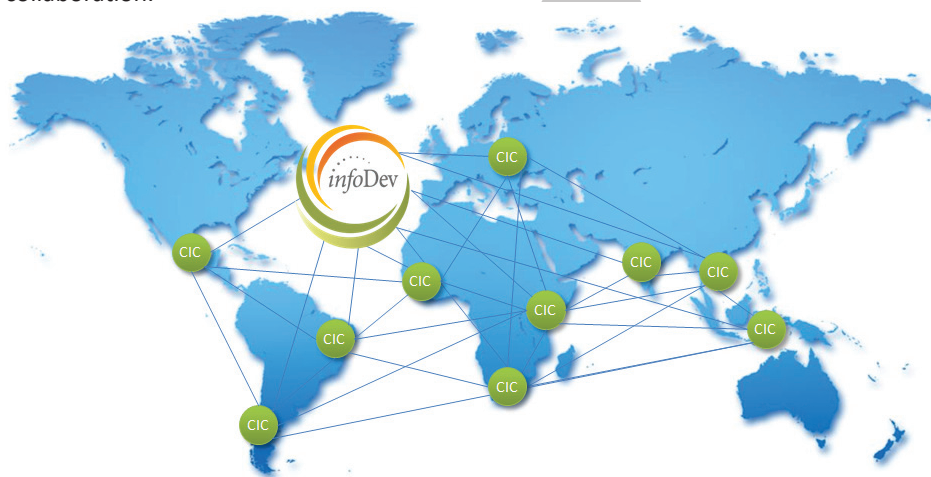
# Creating a Network of Climate Innovation Centers



## CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Accelerating Innovation in the Development, Deployment and Transfer of Clean Technologies

infoDev's Climate Technology Program ([www.infoDev.org/climate](http://www.infoDev.org/climate)) is conducting country-specific projects aimed at accelerating the development, deployment and transfer of locally relevant climate technologies. The program explores the implementation of 'Climate Innovation Centers' which form part of a holistic approach to innovation, helping to effectively harness economic opportunities in developing countries through technology entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprise (SME) development. The program includes the establishment of a global network of Innovation Centers to facilitate and catalyze cross border, south-south and north-south collaboration.



### About infoDev

infoDev ([www.infoDev.org](http://www.infoDev.org)) is a multi-donor sponsored program that explores the link between technology and development. It is housed at the World Bank in Washington DC. infoDev manages a global network which includes over 300 business incubators in more than 80 developing countries. This network has assisted more than 20,000 companies and helped create over 220,000 jobs worldwide. infoDev's key value-add is building global entrepreneurial and SME communities of practice through its network to share and disseminate best practices and facilitate collaboration.



*“India has proposed the setting up of an international network of Climate Innovation Centers (CICs) which should act as vehicles for enhancing technology innovation and capacity building in developing countries” – Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh*

## **Rationale**

Accelerating global technology development and transfer is essential to help reduce the long-term cost of responding to the challenge of climate change. Developing countries are particularly interested in building their own innovation capacity to seize the economic, social and environmental opportunities that new technologies offer. Climate Innovation Centers (CICs) can support innovation through targeted, country-driven approaches and allow developing countries to overcome the challenges of adapting, commercializing and scaling-up climate technologies for widespread deployment.

## **Our Goals**

***The Climate Technology Program will engage local stakeholders in each country to understand how Innovation Centers can be designed to:***

- Create an enabling environment to develop climate technology innovation capacity at the grassroots
- Accelerate the transfer and commercialization of technologies for mitigation and adaptation of climate change
- Support entrepreneurs and SMEs for job creation, private sector development and environmentally sustainable growth



*infoDev's global incubator network: [www.infoDev.org/idisc](http://www.infoDev.org/idisc)*

### ***Building on infoDev's Experience:***

- 8 years
- 300 business incubators
- 20,000 SMEs
- 220,000 jobs
- 1:1 matched local funding
- 100% locally owned
- 75% of the SMEs created survive past 3 years



**Focus Solutions - Jordan**

*“It was like being a pilot who wants to land a plane on an unlit runway. You know where you want to go, but you don't know how to get there. So we had to look for an incubator to land safely.”*

*- Entrepreneur and former incubator start-up*

## What is a Climate Innovation Center?

CICs can support innovation and entrepreneurship by offering a full suite of services that address locally relevant barriers to climate technology commercialization. In addition to incubating promising start-ups, these centers can also provide access to finance, product testing facilities, market information, policy advocacy and technical assistance. In this way, a center can act as a national focal point or a 'one-stop-shop' to aggregate efforts in promoting the growth of locally relevant, indigenous climate technologies. *infoDev* is executing this initiative via a locally-led stakeholder engagement process, so the design of any CIC can take proper account of local challenges, needs, and opportunities. The first two countries where *infoDev* is piloting the design and implementation of CICs are India and Kenya.

### ***Innovation Center key success factors:***

- A coordinated and holistic approach to innovation
- Based on local context, market needs and opportunities
- Aggregates existing country initiatives
- Leverages public-private partnerships and resources to support center's sustainability
- Networked nationally and internationally, facilitating collaboration



### Meet Simon

Company:

Craftskillz, Kenya

Entrepreneur:

Simon Mwachiro

Clean Technology:

Small-scale wind turbines

Current capacity constraints:

10 to 20 turbines a year

Employees:

Between 3-20

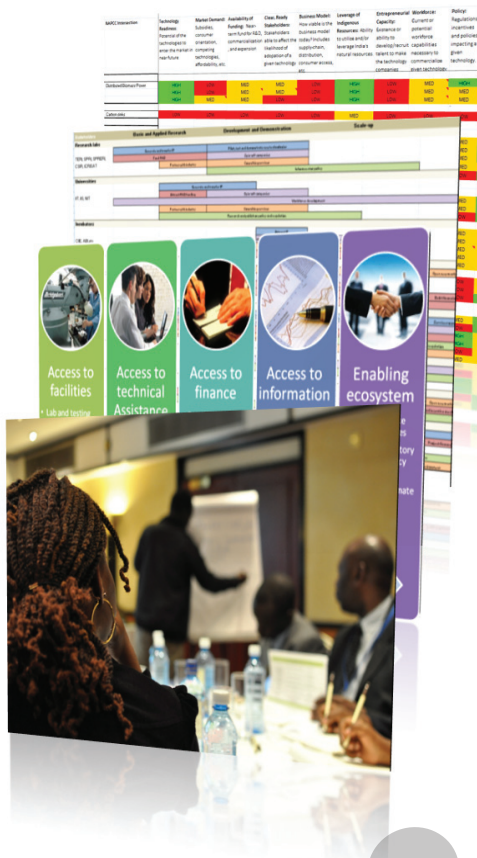
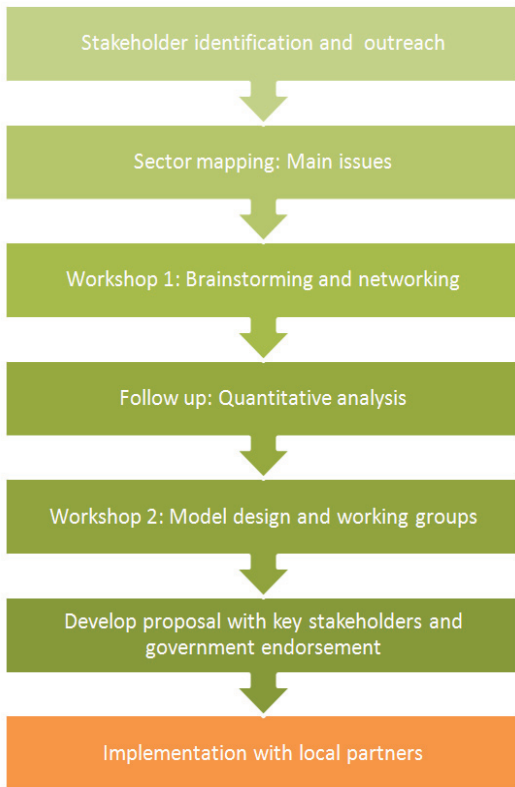


*How a Climate Innovation Center in Kenya could help entrepreneurs like Simon:*

| Barriers             | Solutions   |
|----------------------|---|
| Lack of risk capital | Center could offer start up risk funding  |
| Standardization      | Center could offer standards and quality control for various technologies   |
| Policy               | Center could act as an "Industry Association" and advocate policy reform  |
| Business support     | Center could provide business training, mentoring, market data  |
| Equipment and tools  | Center could provide "workshop" facilities where entrepreneurs could prototype their innovations and produce products for initial sales |

*Kenya National Climate Change Response Strategy: "Kenya should establish and fund local technological centers that can be used to develop, advance and disseminate local technologies. Such centers can be used for educational purposes, and to promote sustainable agricultural practices, enhance the growth of indigenous small and medium enterprises ."*

### infoDev's Stakeholder Engagement Process



### About DFID

The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK Government's fight against world poverty. DFID works on development programs and policies to eliminate the underlying problems that mean that one in five of the world's population live in extreme poverty. One of DFID's priorities is to support low carbon development in middle and low income countries – promoting new green jobs, industries and innovation, and generating local environmental, health and social benefits. Action by all countries is crucial if we are to avoid the severe risks of climate change, which will hit the poorest countries first and hardest.

### Feasibility Phase:

To identify market needs, opportunities and challenges from a local perspective, *infoDev* conducts a feasibility analysis via an in-country multi-stakeholder engagement process and sector mapping exercise of the climate innovation landscape. Stakeholders are convened for a series of workshops and interviews to explore the key barriers to climate technology commercialization and assist in the development and design of an implementation plan to establish a CIC. The plan will have strong public and private sector buy-in and commitment before the implementation phase begins.

### Implementation Phase:

*infoDev* will work with domestic and international stakeholders to ensure CICs are locally-owned and managed with strong private sector involvement. *infoDev* will also provide CICs with ongoing technical assistance, linkages to an international network of CICs and access to global training courses that have been specifically designed for managers of innovation centers in developing countries.