

10. **Small-scale hybrid solar dryer for small and medium sized food enterprises**

Within the scope of its technical assistance program in support of the agro-food industry in North and Sub-Saharan Africa, UNIDO has developed an innovative small-scale hybrid solar dryer for application in small and medium-sized food enterprises, in particular fruit and vegetable processing. The hybrid solar dryer system is the result of UNIDO's collaboration with the University of Agriculture and Forestry of Vienna and national counterparts and manufacturers.

The access to and provision of reliable and affordable energy supply remain two of most pressing needs of Africa's industry to achieve the goals of sustainable growth and quality improvement. The system developed by UNIDO responds to these needs in the specific case of small/medium agro-food enterprises where drying represents one of the, if not the, most energy consuming process. Combining the use of solar energy with locally available biomass, the system offers a self-contained stand-alone system capable of providing productive energy services. As of to date, 26 pilot systems have been disseminated along with training in 8 African countries.