



RWANDA: DISTRIBUTION OF 700,000 CFLS TO HOUSEHOLD

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

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The electrification rate in Rwanda is estimated to be around 30% with most of these connections concentrated around Kigali, the capital city. The total installed power generation capacity of the country is around 200 MW. It is a least developed country and is planning to bring economic development through the establishment of a reliable power supply.

It is also important to reduce energy consumption from existing connections so that the generated electricity could be distributed to a large number of households. With this objective, the Government of Rwanda designed the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) distribution program between 2007 and 2011. During the project implementation period, the imported CFLs were five times more expensive than incandescent lamps. Under the program, the household exchanged old incandescent lamps of 25 – 100 W with 20 W and 15 W CFLs. The distribution was carried out in four phases.

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In the pilot phase, the CFLs were distributed free of cost to create awareness among the public. During the subsequent phases, the CFLs were distributed at the subsidized cost. To ensure the procurement of high-quality CFLs, the suppliers were selected through international tendering. Thus, the CFLs were provided with a warranty of one year and a minimum lifetime of 6,000 hours. The old lamps collected were disposed-off by following environmentally safe methods.

The project was implemented by the grid power company of Rwanda with fund support from the World Bank. This is a climate change project designed to reduce the global carbon footprint and reduced around 20,000 MWh of electricity consumption every year. Thus, the project reduced a significant amount of GHG emissions every year.