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Efficient electricity supply in rural areas - Some experiences from EDF

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Abstract

On June 18, 2001, the Executive Committee of EDF affirmed its desire to make the EDF Group a reference in matters concerning sustainable development. Consequently, 21 guidelines have been adopted and form the basis of the EDF Group's Agenda 21. Among these commitments, one is to facilitate access to electricity in developing countries. In 2005, this principle was recalled in the agreement on EDF Group corporate social responsibility.

The EDF programme for access to energy and services (ACCESS Programme) was initiated by the Group to create and run over the long term (15 to 20 years) local companies which sell energy services to rural populations remote from the network in developing countries.

This programme has two objectives:

- satisfying the basic requirements of families;
- permitting the creation and developing of revenue generating activities.

4 companies have already been created in Mali in the Senegal River zone and the cotton zone, in Morocco and in South Africa.

Other actions have been taken in China and Lao, some others are in preparation.

Yves Bamberger will describe some experience learned from these projects and also mention accompanying R&D developments in support of this activity.