



Cleaner Production Private Sector Partnerships Project (CPP) – Chile

Project Overview

Support for the development of environmental practices in the private sector is a priority under the U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Work Program. As a part of this effort, the World Environment Center (WEC) signed a two-year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of State to provide on-the-ground support to businesses in Chile to save money and protect the environment.

Through this initiative, WEC has created a partnership in Chile with the industry association of the olive sector, Chileoliva, to improve the sector's environmental performance, reduce costs, and improve efficiency and competitiveness through the adoption of Cleaner Production (CP) and Energy Efficiency (EE) practices and technologies. The 11 participating businesses are working with WEC's technical team to identify opportunities for improvement in their production processes, create a plan to achieve measurable goals based on these opportunities, and receive consultation from WEC's team to implement and achieve the goals specifically in:

- Conservation of water and energy;
- Reducing waste, raw material use and emissions;
- Establishing environmental management systems; and
- Accessing funding and loans to finance the adoption of advanced technologies.

Throughout the project period, the team continues working with the participants, providing technical expertise, monitoring and reporting on the progress to stakeholders.

WEC disseminates best practices through roundtables and public outreach activities, working in coordination with the Clean Production National Council (CPL) as well as with the Ministries of Environment and Economy to strengthen project activities, and for the future replication of successful cases developed during this project.

Activities

After having supported the participating companies in their olive plantations to reduce energy consumption in their irrigation systems of lands, the project team shifted its efforts to the milling process when the harvest season began again. Technical assistance has focused on the follow up and monitoring of recommendations provided during the former harvest season. As result, companies are progressing with implementation of energy savings, reduction and control of water consumption and wastewater, as well as employee behavior change to improve their daily operations through best practices. This effort was supported by changes and modifications through the installation of measurement equipment to proper monitor their resource consumption.



Results

Since April 2012, WEC has supported Chileoliva in their initial process to create a baseline assessment of their olive industry sector operations, and to consequently apply and create a clean production agreement with the CPL, which would expand the participation of possibly 50 olive companies in this new initiative. As has occurred in other national industries, the Chileoliva member and non-member companies would benefit from this agreement to integrate strategies based in cleaner production into their operations.

As of September 2012, environmental, energy and economic savings reported by the companies as a direct result of participation in this project include:

- Reduction of 140 tons per year of materials used in production;
- Nearly 1.2 million gallons of water saved;
- Over 50,000 kw, 485 gallons of fuel, and 4.9 tons of biomass saved;
- Reduction of nearly 18 tons of CO2 emissions.

