

Light and Power in the Village of Guillé, Burkina Faso



If you reside in a small traditional village in Africa, where people make their living from the products that they grow and manufacture with their own hands, you appreciate every bit of help you can get, to make your hard work a little easier.



The village we are talking about is called Guillé, and is situated in Burkina Faso, about 40 km from the capital Ouagadougou. In 2012, Asbl Terroirs d'Afrique – Tamneere, was founded to create possibilities of economic independence for the women of the village. They use their traditional local products, organically grown, to export to Europe, in a short distribution chain. The revenues thus created, are re-invested to create more employment for women. The village up to this moment did not have electricity.

The principal local products are Shea butter, dried hibiscus leaves, sesame (tahini), peanuts, moringa (drumstick tree), lemon verbena, lemongrass, onions and wild dates.

The women make all sorts of pastes from these raw materials but manually driven mills are very slow, productivity is low and the work is cumbersome. Each woman grows her own products on a small piece of land that she is responsible for, and further processing is carried out in the cooperative's production hall.

This hall was already financed by their own investments. In order to increase the comfort, safety and efficiency of the workforce, electrical devices for milling and light were the next step forward. Since there is an abundance of sunlight in Burkina Faso, the Association Tamneere asked Femmes d'Europe to fund the installation of solar panels.



The story of these panels was complicated and severely interrupted not only by Covid, but also a dishonest entrepreneur. However, 'all's well that ends well'. To their very great joy, the installation was finally inaugurated in December 2021,

. *Projet du mois - Project of the month .*

allowing many more women than the initial 35 to work together in the co-operative, earning their own income and contributing to the community.

If you want to know more, please visit the website: www.tamneere.com



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