



## Press Release

### **Empowering Future Innovators: 250 million Tanzanian Shillings Award Unveiled at Energy Efficiency Innovation Challenge Ceremony**

**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – September 6, 2024** – In a significant stride towards advancing sustainable energy in Tanzania, the Ministry of Energy, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with financial support from the European Union (EU) and the Embassy of Ireland, today awarded a total of 250 million Tanzanian Shillings to 10 outstanding innovators. This support is part of the Energy Efficiency Innovation Challenge, an initiative designed to ignite sustainable energy practices and fuel groundbreaking solutions to combat energy inefficiency across the country, under the theme "Igniting Sustainable Energy Practices for a Greener Future."

As part of the implementation of Tanzania's 1st Energy Efficiency Action Plan, this initiative sought to incentivise and empower the nation's brightest minds to develop innovative solutions that promote efficient buildings, smart agriculture, sustainable cooking methods, energy-efficient appliances, and greener industries. Innovators were invited to compete for one of the ten grants, each valued at up to 25 million Tanzanian Shillings, to further develop and implement their pioneering projects. From a pool of 159 applications, a meticulous selection process was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) to identify the top 10 innovations that are being awarded seed grants today.

"The European Union is deeply committed to supporting Tanzania's journey toward sustainable energy. By empowering young innovators, we aim to foster innovative solutions that tackle energy and environmental challenges head-on. These projects hold the promise to revolutionise Tanzania's energy sector, delivering sustainable solutions that span across key areas such as smart agriculture, energy-efficient buildings, household energy use, and clean cooking methods" – **Ms Christine Grau, Ambassador of European Union Delegation to Tanzania and the East African Community.**

"Ireland is immensely proud to witness the growing participation of young women in the pursuit of innovative solutions for sustainable energy and climate resilience. We firmly support the active involvement of women in decision-making processes related to climate change and sustainability. Their contributions are crucial, and these innovations reflect a significant step toward a more inclusive and



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Gaynor, Deputy Head Mission and Development Cooperation, Embassy of Ireland.

"The awarding of seed grants for the Energy Efficiency Innovation Challenge is a vital step toward a sustainable energy future for Tanzania," said Muyeye Chambwera, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, a.i. "These innovations harness cutting-edge technologies to address energy inefficiencies, create green jobs, lower costs, and reduce carbon emissions. UNDP remains dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in developing countries like Tanzania by promoting technologies and practices that drive market demand and encourage both public and private investment through policy support, financial risk reduction, and direct incentives."

To learn more about the Energy Efficiency Innovation Challenge and how to join, please visit: <https://www.energyefficiency.co.tz>. *follow us on social media (Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube) @eetanzania.*