

## SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE: INITIATIVE FOR THE FORMATION OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- *The second edition of the program was held in the Boquete region, with an outstanding participation of female entrepreneurs.*
- *With evident enthusiasm and interest from the participating producers, knowledge sessions were given by experts from foundations and companies such as the Ciudad del Saber Foundation, the Imaginari Foundation and Enel Green Power.*

**Panamá, December 27, 2021** – Enel Green Power, Ciudad del Saber Foundation and Imaginari Foundation carry out the Seeds of Knowledge program that aims to provide new skills to small farmers and entrepreneurs in Panama.

The Seeds of Knowledge program has intrinsic that training is an important factor for the development and generation of value in a company, therefore the different workshops include important teachings focused on community entrepreneurship, providing theoretical and practical knowledge to improve skills and attitudes of all participants to generate benefits and allow sustainable and competitive development for families in the communities where they live.

"It is necessary that training be included from the very beginning of the enterprise, to achieve strong foundations that will allow them to maintain themselves over time, adapt to changes and innovate," said **Tanaida Martínez, Head of Sustainability at Enel Green Power Panama.**

In the first phase of the program, small producers from the areas near the Enel Green Power operations centers, in the provinces of Chiriquí and Coclé, were trained. The program was hosted by the *Centro de Desarrollo Sostenible Ambiental* (CEDESAM) in *Mi Ambiente* Ministry in Río Hato, province of Coclé. There they learned about proper seed management, recognizing which are the best trees, how to face the current climate emergency, how to reintroduce native species that have been lost due to the climate crisis, how to care for those trees until they have enough time to prevent them from dying, among others.

**Lourdes Lozano, from Fundación Imaginari** emphasized the importance of this type of initiative, highlighting that "with proper training, small farmers will be able to guarantee food security for the people in the communities where they live by creating adequate seed banks for their farms, which will allow opportunities to develop small businesses to improve their quality of life."

In this second stage of the program, held in Boquete, participants were trained in empowerment, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, as well as business development and financial strategy. Tools that provide these small producers and entrepreneurs with fundamental skills so that their ventures can improve the quality of life their communities.

It is important to highlight the large participation of women in this training, especially young women, and some with businesses already underway. Therefore, the participation of **Laru Linares, Manager of Female Entrepreneurship of the City of Knowledge**, was very well received by all participants. Linares led a workshop in which she highlighted the importance for women of believing in themselves, in the work they do, and the importance of partnering to achieve goals together.

For his part, **Felipe Ariel Rodríguez, president of CECOMRO (Center for Competitiveness of the Western Region of Panama)** invited attendees to learn about, and be part of the projects they carry out, such as the Coffee Circuit and the Comprehensive Urban Development Program for Tourist Cities.

“Beyond the value generated by the production of clean energy, with which we directly aim at our global decarbonization objectives, at Enel Green Power we strive to create alliances to promote the sustainable growth of the communities near our plants and we do so with organizations that fully share our vision and values,” added Martínez.

The program has benefited about 100 entrepreneurs so far, 65% are represented by women, which shows the impact that the creation of new businesses will have on the families of our communities. Enel will continue to accompany entrepreneurs in their development so that, within a period of 2 years, they are formally constituted, have the corresponding sanitary permits for the promotion of their products to new markets, also promoting consumption of 0 kilometers within our plants.

This public-private collaboration initiative between the Ciudad del Saber Foundation, the Imaginari Foundation and local authorities arises from Enel Green Power's interest in developing local initiatives aligned with its global strategy of promoting the sustainable growth of local communities, climate action and decarbonization. For this, it is essential to generate initiatives aimed at the creation of agrobusiness and ecotourist services, establishing links with the communities, and stimulating the participation of all the actors that can help reduce and / or compensate their ecological footprint.

**Enel Green Power**, within the Enel Group, is dedicated to the development and operation of renewables across the world, with a presence in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Enel Green Power is a global leader in the green energy sector with an installed capacity of around 46.4 GW across a generation mix that includes wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower, and is at the forefront of integrating innovative technologies into renewable power plants.

**Enel Green Power Panama** is the main renewable energy operator in the country, in terms of installed capacity. The company operates the 300 MW Fortuna Hydroelectric Plant and the 12 MW Chiriquí photovoltaic plant, both in the province of Chiriquí, as well as the 42 MW Sol Real photovoltaic complex, composed of five plants distributed between the provinces of Chiriquí and Coclé and Estrella Solar of 8 MW in Coclé.