

Practical Answers

The Gift of Knowledge



ABOUT US

Practical Action is an international development agency working with poor communities to help them choose and use technology to improve their lives. Our work in Africa, Asia and Latin America is in partnership with poor people and their communities, building on their own knowledge and skills to come up with innovative, sustainable and practical technological solutions. Our work is people focused, locally relevant, environmentally sensitive and offers tangible ways out of poverty. Through our work, we demonstrate alternatives, share knowledge and influence change. Our main areas of work in the Eastern Africa region are; i) Universal Access to Energy, ii) Food Security, Agriculture & Disaster Risk Reduction and iii) Urban Services: Water, Sanitation and Waste Management. Integrated into our work is a commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation, Market Systems Development, gender equity and communicating our learning and knowledge through our Practical Answers Programme. Practical Action Consulting plays the important role of replicating knowledge and practice generated from the programmes and external assignments to partners.

Practical Answers

Practical Answers is a knowledge sharing service of Practical Action. It generates information and learning from our development work and that of our partner. It shares it with practitioners and the community free-of-charge or low fee basis. Practical Answers is useful for influence and scale.

We realize that people need knowledge that is packaged in the right format and available when they require it to improve their lives. We package and disseminate the knowledge into appropriate formats to reach the target audience better. Practical Answers also supports the users on how they can effectively use the information. We believe that access to technical information can create jobs, improve health and livelihoods.

Whose Knowledge?

Most of our knowledge comes from our experience in implementing projects, not only in Africa but also in Asia and Latin America. This is combined with the experience of our partners, associates

and users of our technologies. We encourage the users of our information to let us know how they have used it or how they have modified the knowledge to make it locally relevant.

Practical Answers aims to develop an up-to-date repository of knowledge products that can be shared using both modern and traditional channels.

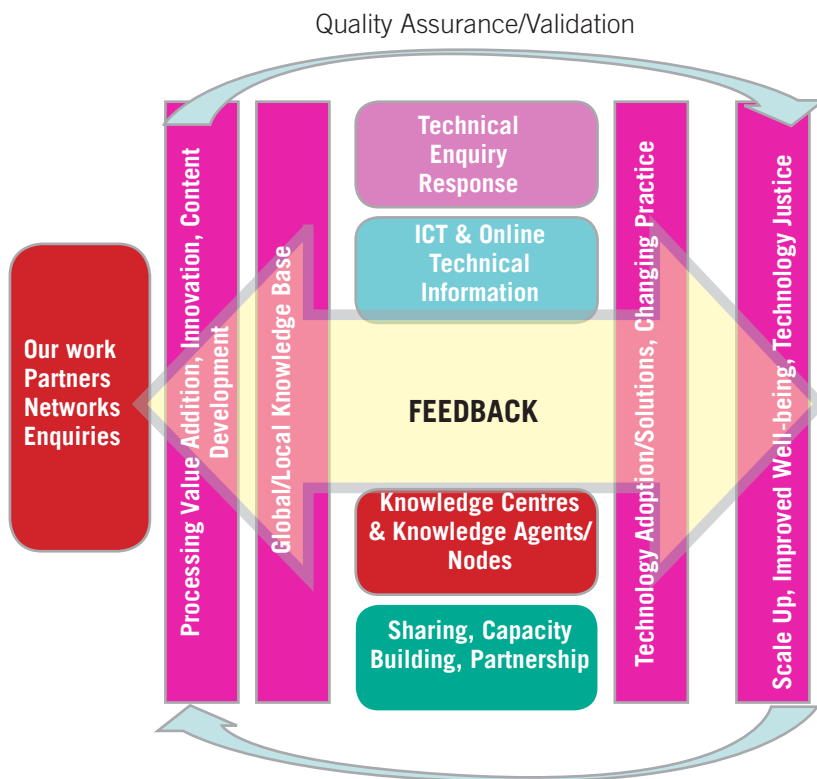
Practical Answers offers:

- Free answers to your technical enquiries. We engage our experts to provide information on energy options, waste management, food production, crop and food processing, animal production and care, water supply, sanitation, building and construction adaptation to climate change, disaster mitigation and risk reduction etc.
- Advise on opportunities for training and demonstration
- Free access to information on relevant subjects
- Support and guidance on how to effectively use the information

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS?

Construction Sanitation ICT Recycling
Development Social
Agriculture
Energy
Climate Economic
Waste Food Processing
NRM
RRR Change Technology
Transport
Water
Processing

How we work



How we share the knowledge

- Technical Enquiries Response - through this service, we provide feedback to enquiries received by face-to-face visits, telephone, email and surface mail
- Mass Media
- ICTs and Internet (websites and Blogs)
- Knowledge centers/nodes at the cluster offices. In addition we work closely with partners that have facilities in far flung locations to ensure that our services are widely available.
- Partnerships - Practical Action is keen on sharing knowledge across geographical distances, diverse cultures, different subjects and educational

backgrounds. We cannot do this singlehandedly and we are always on the lookout for like-minded organizations that are willing to freely share their knowledge or have facilities that can be used to channel development content. The reach of such organizations is key in reaching grassroots communities that need this knowledge.

Example of formats

- Publications (technical briefs, manuals, case studies, how-to posters, fliers, project profiles)
- Talking walls
- Videos, audio (multimedia)
- Short Message Service (SMS)

Benefits

This free service is available to individuals, researchers, students, self-help groups, small producers, small entrepreneurs and development workers and their organizations. The main beneficiaries of Practical Answers are:

Development Practitioners:

The available information will help you deliver more efficiently. Knowledge shared through Practical Answers has been tested and has worked for others.

Partners and peers:

Practical Answers realizes the value of your work. We work to extend reach and scale beyond your operational boundaries by ensuring that your clients receive required information.

Communities:

The available information will support you to change your life as well as increase opportunities to improve your livelihoods. Enquirers have been able to fabricate appropriate technologies and start up business from the service.

sustainable development subjects/technology?

Call us

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- Send us an email kenya@practicalaction.or.ke
- Visit our website www.practicalaction.org/practicalanswers and fill the form available
- Visit our Offices and ALIN Maarifa Centres