



## Environment and climate change

## Resource efficient economy

### The challenge

Global economic and population growth is putting an enormous strain on scarce natural resources. There is therefore growing pressure to decouple economic growth from resource consumption. All businesses are feeling the pinch, particularly those that use raw materials, energy and water in large quantities. Only by significantly improving their resource efficiency will they be able to maintain their competitiveness and at the same time reduce the environmental impact of their operations. The situation calls for modern management methods within companies, but also for ecological industrial policy instruments that create incentives to prevent pollution. In addition, entire sectors of the economies in developing countries and emerging economies need to be strengthened by promoting technological innovation and technology cooperation schemes.

### Our approach

We support government and private-sector stakeholders in developing practice-oriented services that help to improve resource efficiency and promote environmentally sound management in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Our activities act as a locomotive for partnership-based learning processes relating to all aspects of resource efficiency. We involve our partners and key stakeholders in these learning processes, thereby initiating change processes that generate synergies and encourage the emergence of efficient forms of cooperation.

### Our services

We advise institutions so that they can implement and provide long-term support for resource efficiency goals. At the same time we enable them to make a sustainable contribution to the creation and strengthening of corresponding service markets.

We demonstrate through pilot enterprises how resource efficiency can be improved. Through multipliers and participatory sector approaches we encourage the across-the-board implementation of measures that have been tested in practice and proved successful. In addition we offer advice on the design and implementation of political, legal, economic and institutional frameworks to promote resource-efficient business practices.

More specifically our advisory services focus on the following:

- Environmental management (for example profitable environmental management for SMEs, and ISO 14000 for larger businesses with international operations)
- Operational optimisation and sustainable production methods
- Promotion of sustainable technologies
- Development of sector strategies for low-emission and efficient production
- Contracting arrangements and their financing
- Training and information.



## The benefits

Larger markets for services in the field of resource efficiency result in a many-faceted range of high-quality advisory services that are of particular benefit to SMEs. The effects of climate change and the growing interconnectedness of international trade flows will increase the demand for resource efficiency programmes.

Our projects serve to improve cooperation between the private sector and state institutions. We help promote efficient state regulation and incentive systems, as well as relieving the public sector of some of the work involved in monitoring environmental impacts. The legal and institutional environment changes, enabling both the public and private sectors to speed up their adoption of more resource-efficient working practices. This puts them in a position to meet the challenges of increasingly globalised competition.

## An example from the field

Our programme to strengthen the competitiveness and eco-efficiency of SMEs in Thailand focuses on agro-industry. This is where the largest gains for the poor rural population are to be expected in terms of employment creation and income generation. Our measures are directed both at business owners and employees and – crucially – at state and

private providers of advisory services such as certifiers, chambers of commerce, trade associations, and experts and managers in ministries and their downstream institutions.

With the aid of the programme more than 1,000 small-scale palm oil producers have improved their pesticide dosing as a result of having samples from their fields analysed and of attending training sessions designed to promote more efficient use of plant protection agents.

A large pilot group of fruit and vegetable producers was brought up to the standard required for certification under GlobalGAP, enabling them to significantly improve their earning prospects on international markets. To this end we worked with the organisation GlobalGAP to draw up guidelines for the application of the international standard in Thailand.

## Contact

Enrico Rubertus  
E [enrico.rubertus@giz.de](mailto:enrico.rubertus@giz.de)  
T +49 6196 79-1378  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

## Imprint

Published by:  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15  
E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)