

HUSK

📍 Phnom Penh, Cambodia



In Cambodia, agriculture continues to be the mainstay of the economy, comprising 22% of the GDP and absorbing 30% of the total labor force. Land degradation in combination with climate change can severely influence livelihoods by limiting the availability of vital ecosystem services (including food and water), increasing the risk of poverty and ultimately forcing people to migrate.

HUSK Ventures turns agricultural waste product, rice husk, into biochar based fertilizer to regenerate soils, sequester carbon and increase crops yields and therefore improve lives. According to a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), biochar is in the top five of scalable carbon removal solutions.

Founded in 2019, the company currently employs 42 staff, 93% are based in Cambodia.

“ *Building Soil, Sinking Carbon, Improve Lives.* ”

— Husk Ventures

CAMBODIA SDG INVESTOR MAP ALIGNMENT



SECTOR
Food and Beverage



SUBSECTOR
Agricultural Products



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY AREA
Sustainable Agriculture Solutions to Improve Farm Productivity

KEY DATA (in USD)



	Revenue	EBITDA
2022	132,820	-121,637
2021	66,636	-29,732
2020	24,357	-6,405

HUSK IS LOOKING FOR



Partnerships with multinationals corporations to enhance processes and expand market presence.

CHALLENGE

Agricultural lands in Cambodia are predominately occupied by small-holder farmers, who have limited resources and capabilities to manage the soils efficiently. Current land use practices together with harsh climatic conditions have led to soil degradation, loss of soil fertility, and declining crop yields, compromising the farmers' incomes and livelihoods. For a period of 10 years (2000-2010), Cambodia lost about 1.98 million tons of soil organic carbon in top 0-30 cm depth 5 because of unsustainable farming practices.



SOLUTION

Husk Ventures produce:

- **Biochar:** 100% organic biochar to regenerate soils and maximise water holding capacity and increased fertilizer efficiency.
- **CBF:** seedling mix for effective germination, increased resilience and improved water holding capacity.
- **ONIX P9:** blend of granulated carbon-based organic fertilizer to boost yields and reduce input costs.
- **NIR:** a natural insect repellent based on wood vinegar, a by-product from the Biochar production. It works as a biostimulant and insect repellent.

INVESTMENTS



USD 1,15 million

Raised in two rounds and is currently in the due diligence phase a private equity firm that wants to invest USD 3 to 5 million.

IMPACT



2,500 farmers
using their products



70-89% women
farmers as customers



100 smallholder women
farmers distributing their
products to local communities



687 tonnes
of CO2
sequestered

SCALABILITY



In 2024, Husk Ventures plans to open a site in Vietnam and are registering their products in other countries to increase exports. Besides, the company is increasing its local sales team to expand its local market share.

LEADERSHIP



HUSK Ventures was founded by 2 female entrepreneurs with a strong will to take smallholders farmers out of the vicious cycle of soil degradation, climate change and poverty. Now HUSK Ventures Cambodia is led by a female country manager with a highly skilled management team of which 50% is woman.

AWARDS



In 2024 HUSK is nominated for the prestigious Earth Shot Prize. In 2023, HUSK won the CSR environmental category at the EuroCham Cambodia's CSR Award. Also in 2023 HUSK Ventures was mentioned on the prestige global 50 cleantech-to-watch list of the Cleantech Group. HUSK was out of only 5 other Asian companies and the only one representing Cambodia

PARTNERSHIPS



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