



- Country:** Mauritius
Sector: Agriculture
Project: Increase capacity building of the fishers' community of Rodrigues through training for the bio cultivation of Gombava lime plants and the production of its chili paste
Grantee: Department of Fisheries, Rodrigues Regional Assembly

Acknowledgements

The SWITCH Africa Green programme was developed by the European Commission to support African countries in their transition to an inclusive green economy, the main objective being to promote sustainable development. This is based on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, while generating growth, creating decent jobs and reducing poverty.

This impact sheet on 'Increase capacity building of the fishers' community of Rodrigues through training for the bio cultivation of Gombava lime plants and the production of its chili paste' provides a snapshot of results and achievements of this project under the Green Business Development Component of Phase I (2014-2019) of the SWITCH Africa Green programme. This component supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to apply and adopt SCP and production practices in their business operations.

The project was implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Rodrigues Regional Assembly with the support of the SWITCH Africa Green National Focal Point, Mrs D. Sin Lan NG, staff of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mrs S. Meeheelaul and Mrs M. Outim, and the National Coordinator, Dr Asha Poonyth-Seewooram, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Mauritius. The grants were managed by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and coordinated by Celia Marquez with support from Mercy Gatobu.

Supervision and coordination for development of the impact sheet was done by Rhoda Wachira and Patrick Mwesigye and programme support was provided by Carolyn Kilel and Sylvia Munuhe, Africa Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The impact sheet was compiled by Sheila Karue consultant, UNEP. Editing, layout and design was coordinated by communication division, UNEP.

UNEP is grateful for the financial support provided by the European Union (EU) for implementation of the SWITCH Africa Green programme.

BACKGROUND

SWITCH Africa Green supported the implementation of the project on enhancing capacity of fishers in Rodrigues through the Department of Fisheries of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The project aimed to provide training to the fishing community in order to promote sustainable cultivation of the Gombava lime plant and the production of chili paste as well as other food products. The Department of Fisheries on the island, the grantee of this project, has an undertaking to significantly reduce fishing pressure in the lagoon, especially octopus fishing, so that the marine ecosystem is better protected and used in a more sustainable way, well aligned to the objectives of the project.

The project provided an opportunity for Rodriguans to sustainably use their natural resources to produce green

products, while at the same time protecting their pristine marine ecosystem from overexploitation of octopus and fish.

Beneficiaries

The project engaged the fishing community (with emphasis on fisherwomen) and the unemployed wives of fishermen operating in the northern region of Rodrigues Island.

Objectives

- Capacity building of the fishing community in Rodrigues to take up eco-entrepreneurship opportunities available locally
- Promote diversification of the sources of livelihood of the local community in Rodrigues who are dependent mainly on fishing
- Promote sustainable consumption and production practices in the production of Gombava lime plant and chili paste.



Outputs

Improved capacities of workers in green sectors

Smallholder farmers were trained in bio agriculture to facilitate bio cultivation of Gombava plants. The training covered the following: organic production principles, nursery management practices, compost making and planting techniques of Gombava plants and other fruit trees.



Smallholder farmers were trained in bio agriculture to facilitate bio cultivation of Gombava plants.

A guidebook on green business was developed to promote the transfer of green technologies, skills and instructions for financial plan development with the aim to initiate and diversify green enterprises in Rodrigues. The guidebook is available for use by students who wish to set up their own green enterprises and may also positively influence existing conventional business owners to shift to the use of green technologies in their enterprise.

Agro-processing cooperative established.

One cooperative society was established in Rodrigues to promote agro-processing.

One cooperative society was established in Rodrigues to promote agro-processing.

Establishment of agricultural organic site in Rodrigues.

The establishment of the organic orchard under this project is in line with the policy of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to promote bio agriculture in the island. Apart from Gombava, vegetables and other species will gradually be planted in the orchard. The 200 seedlings were provided by the Commission for Agriculture. The orchard site comprises 6600m² of state-owned land.



200 seedlings were provided by the Commission for Agriculture. The orchard site comprises 6600m² of state-owned land.





Agro-processing unit established

At the time of project completion, an agro-processing unit was proposed which would be equipped with adequate processing machines. The 400m² building was designed by The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI). Provision is made for different working areas for receiving raw products, cleaning, processing, storage and a changing room. The processing unit would also have a mini laboratory to test the quality of the processed products.

Outcomes

Uptake of SCP practices by MSMEs

The beneficiaries were taken through pest and disease management skills at a practical training session held by officers from FAREI.

Improved value addition

Before the project, no products were being processed from Gombava in Rodrigues. However, with project support, the MSMEs

with project support, the MSMEs started making several products from Gombava such as Gombava Pate de Fruit, chilli paste, Gombava juice and Gombava spice.





started making several products from Gombava such as Gombava Pate de Fruit, chilli paste, Gombava juice and Gombava spice. In addition, 12 Gombava products were produced on an experimental basis and were showcased during the SWITCH Africa Green national networking forum: local masala, dried leaves, chili paste, juice, Pate de Fruits,

beneficiaries gained knowledge on organic agricultural practices.

... through study tours to parcels of land in Mauritius where organic farming was being practiced.

crystallised rings, Gombava nectar with pineapple, rinds powder, pickles.

Improved knowledge on SCP practices

Through the SWITCH Africa Green supported project, the beneficiaries gained knowledge on organic agricultural practices. This was facilitated through study tours to parcels of land in Mauritius where organic farming was being practiced.

empowered 31 women in bio cultivation of Gombava lime plants and chili paste production.

The fishers' communities are economically vulnerable and their empowerment through the project intervention increased their incomes and their living conditions.

Impact

Social impact

The project empowered 31 women in bio cultivation of Gombava lime plants and chili paste production. Through this the women who were previously unemployed gained a source of livelihood.

The fishers' communities are economically vulnerable and their empowerment through the project intervention increased their incomes and their living conditions.

Lessons learnt

Capacity building is needed to promote green business development and uptake of SCP practices by MSMEs. The project mobilized a group of 40 women from diverse sources of livelihood and trained them on self-development and eco-entrepreneurship.

For MSMEs to adopt green business and SCP practices, there is need for collaboration among key stakeholders. The contribution of partners such as FAREI, Commission for Agriculture, Ter Mer Association and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) to the project were determinant in achieving its objectives.



www.unep.org/switchafricagreen



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Funded by the European Union

Facebook:switchafricagreen
Twitter:@switchafrica
Email: info.switchafricagreen@un.org

Photo credits : UNEP|SWITCH Africa Green