



Report of the

SWITCH Africa Green Regional Sector Meeting on GREEN MANUFACTURING

26 – 27 September 2019
Entebbe, Uganda



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INTRODUCTION

The SWITCH Africa Green regional sector meeting on green manufacturing took place on 26 and 27 September 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. It provided a platform for dialogue among sustainable consumption and production (SCP) experts, policy- and decision-makers, financial institutions, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) about scaling up and replicating green business opportunities in the manufacturing sector. Specifically, the meeting brought together government officials from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda and representatives from regional economic communities, the European Union, financial institutions and United Nations agencies, as well as other experts and stakeholders in the green manufacturing sector.

The meeting was an opportunity for discussions on the economic viability of enterprises in the green manufacturing sector that had improved livelihoods, generated income and created jobs while preserving the environment.

The meeting was officially opened with remarks by representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Uganda National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and a keynote speech by a representative of the Minister of State for Environment, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda.



Representatives from UNEP, NEMA and the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda, during the opening session of the meeting.

MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

The meeting participants concluded that green manufacturing improved the manufacturer's bottom line, boosted employee motivation and demonstrated social responsibility, and that the circular economy, by enabling the use of circulative resources and reducing waste, led to the establishment of a waste hierarchy. The participants also approved the SWITCH Africa Green Regional Sector Report on Green Manufacturing: Focus on Green Business Development.

The recommendations emerging from the meeting were as follows:

- ▶ Orient the manufacturing sector towards producing green products.
- ▶ Promote voluntary environmental and compliance audits, as they are good tools for ensuring the implementation of resource efficiency interventions.
- ▶ Invest in access to clean technologies, which is a key component of green growth in industry. It is also important to promote clean technologies.
- ▶ Governments were encouraged to put in place flexible legal and fiscal regimes that reduced the cost of the transition to green manufacturing, especially for MSMEs.
- ▶ Strengthen the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP), including existing National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), and set up NCPCs in countries where they do not exist, as they are key to ensuring regional mechanisms for fostering green manufacturing.

SESSION 2: SETTING THE SCENE

MODERATOR: MR. PATRICK MWESIGYE, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, UNEP

Ms. Rhoda Wachira, Programme Management Officer, UNEP, presented the SWITCH Africa Green Regional Sector Report on Green Manufacturing: Focus on Green Business Development. The SWITCH Africa Green programme focused on four sectors: integrated waste management, tourism, agriculture and manufacturing. In the green manufacturing sector, the programme had been implemented in all the six participating countries, with a focus on several areas of intervention: energy efficiency, water efficiency, efficiency in material use, waste minimization and industrial symbiosis.

There were 12 SWITCH Africa Green projects in the manufacturing sector and each grantee received \$200,000 to \$250,000. Interventions were carried out in the following main areas: development and deployment of knowledge/information resources, such as training materials and toolkits; capacity-building through detailed assessments and mentorship; awareness-raising; and fostering of partnerships and market linkages.

Ms. Wachira reported on a survey developed to capture the sustainable consumption and production interventions implemented through the SWITCH Africa Green programme and measure their impact. The survey had targeted 30 per cent of the 3,000 beneficiary MSMEs in the programme.

In terms of financial impact, 51 per cent indicated that they had experienced improved economic activity. The survey revealed that 54 per cent of the enterprises attributed an improvement in sales to improvements in the production process and 22 per cent to improved business processes, including marketing strategies. Fifty-nine per cent of the surveyed enterprises reported new opportunities with potential for business expansion, new product lines, expanding business networks and partnerships, waste exchange through industrial symbiosis, improved resource management, market opportunities, including in export markets, improved product quality and access to new technologies.

In terms of social impact, 58 per cent of the responding MSMEs reported that new jobs had been created during the implementation period and 13 per cent reported improved social cohesion.

Environmentally, 48 per cent of the MSMEs had undertaken waste reduction measures involving recycling, reuse and production of new products, and 13 per cent had implemented recycling interventions.

Overall, the survey results indicated strong uptake of sustainable consumption and production practices by the participating enterprises, with notable positive economic, social and environmental impacts. The programme specifically supported Sustainable Development Goals 8, 12 and 17, but in fact, it contributed to a broad range of Sustainable Development Goals.



Ms. Rhoda Wachira, Programme Management Officer, UNEP, presenting the Regional Sector Report on Green Manufacturing.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

The challenges and lessons learned during the implementation of the SWITCH Africa Green programme were discussed during the session, and recommendations were formulated, including:

1. **Policy and regulatory framework.** There is a need for an enabling policy and regulatory framework to support investment in sustainable manufacturing.
2. **Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.** There are skills gaps and a need for awareness-raising to support the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices. Capacity-building is required to adopt and adapt relevant technologies, health and safety measures, and resource efficiency and clean production (RECP) techniques, and to improve knowledge of certification and relevant product standards.
3. **Financial support.** Green financing mechanisms are needed for small enterprises to implement sustainable consumption and production options, and support is needed for developing sustainable business models and bankable proposals to implement the green options identified.

SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION: GOOD PRACTICES FROM SWITCH AFRICAN GREEN PROJECTS

MODERATOR: MS. JANE NYAKANG'O, DIRECTOR, KENYA NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION CENTRE

The session highlighted examples of good practices in green business and sustainable consumption and production from selected enterprises in the region.

1. SKYFAT TANNERY: THE IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTING INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS IN THE LEATHER INDUSTRY IN UGANDA

Presenter: Christopher Isingoma, Environment and Quality Control Officer, Skyfat Tannery Limited, Jinja, Uganda

The presentation highlighted interventions by Skyfat Tannery to adopt sustainable consumption and production practices in the running of a leather business. Before the SWITCH Africa Green intervention, large quantities of solid waste (splits and off-cuts) had been discarded to the environment in landfills, causing environmental and social impacts attributable to the poor waste management techniques. Through SWITCH Africa Green, the enterprise had begun oxidizing the splits, thus adding value to the splits and off-cuts, which they then exported. It had also established partnerships with other leather processing enterprises for the supply of splits and off-cuts. Economically, value addition to splits and off-cuts had saved the enterprise \$380,000 in waste disposal costs, while creating an additional revenue stream. Socially, the industrial symbiosis had created 250 direct green jobs. Environmentally, the pollution and bad smell caused by the leather off-cuts disposal method had been drastically cut, greatly improving the enterprise's image.

2. CHAMPION SHOES

Presenter: Mr. James Mwaura, Executive Director, Champion Shoes, Thika, Kenya

The presentation gave an overview of the company, a leading shoe manufacturer situated in Thika, Kenya. Before the SWITCH Africa Green intervention, the company had suffered losses and lacked adequate business skills, such as record-keeping. After undergoing SWITCH Africa Green training, the company was able to produce good-quality leather products while using the waste to make by-products such as keychains.

The training had resulted in improved quality along the production value chain, including through the use of better alternatives for the soles of shoes and through significant improvements in accounting and record-keeping. Four jobs had been created in different parts of the production process and the company had hired an accountant. Waste reduction through clustering had enabled the company to rent out its machines and equipment.

3. SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSFORMATION AGRO-ALIMENTAIRE DU BURKINA

Presenter: Ms. Felicite Yameogo, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The company produces shea butter in Burkina Faso. Before the SWITCH Africa Green intervention, waste from production had been discarded and water resources poorly managed. After a water audit, the company had discovered how much water it was wasting and had introduced water efficiency mechanisms, such as push taps. In addition, the company now uses the waste from the shea butter production to make briquettes for use as fuel. The new business streams had created jobs for women in the area. Energy efficiency had been improved by the installation of solar panels. The company had also partnered with cattle herders to collect dung and use it as fertilizer for the shea plants, and with pig farmers, who used the company's wastewater for their pigs.



*Panellists for session 3 discussing examples of good practices from SWITCH Africa Green projects.
From left: Jane Nyakang'o, Felicite Yameogo, Christopher Isingoma and Marie Lourdes Raphaël Robertson.*

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

4. DEVELOPING GREEN BUSINESSES IN RODRIGUES, MAURITIUS

Presenter: Ms. Marie Lourdes Raphaël Robertson, Project Manager, Environment Commission, Rodrigues, Mauritius

Ms. Robertson reported on efforts to develop green business capacity in the banana value chain. The intervention had entailed more than 25 training activities across the sector for more than 400 people. The project had also created opportunities for industrial symbiosis in the banana sector, included paper recycling, recycling of wastes into briquettes and food processing. The grantee focused on providing the beneficiaries with the sustainable consumption and production and business development skills and knowledge that were important in forming partnerships and consortiums.

SESSION 4: EXISTING GREEN MANUFACTURING STRATEGIES

Moderator: Mr. Lambert Faabeluon, Director, Ghana National Production Centre, Ghana

The session consisted of a dialogue on existing green manufacturing practices, with presentations on the green manufacturing strategies in Uganda and Ethiopia.

1. GREEN MANUFACTURING STRATEGY, UGANDA

Presenter: Mr. Silver Ssebagala, Director, Uganda Cleaner Production Centre

Mr. Ssebagala said that Uganda's green manufacturing strategy was designed to address global, regional and national calls for greening of the manufacturing sector. It looked at the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and Uganda Vision 2040, which called for transitioning to a green economy and demanded focused green industrialization and action. The East African Community's industrialization strategy was also taken into consideration. Uganda's manufacturing sector was dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises and accounted for 7.5 per cent of Uganda's gross domestic product. Resource efficiency in the sector was low and pollution was high, which were yet more reasons to green the sector. An unskilled labour force and poor operating practices also presented challenges to the growth of green manufacturing.

Some of the challenges in greening the sector were:

- ▶ Lack of awareness on the benefits of greening the sector, despite the fact that the advantages clearly outweighed the disadvantages;
- ▶ Difficult access to finance pushed SMEs to opt for survival techniques rather than greening their practices, which would require a high initial investment;
- ▶ A lack of appropriate structures for fostering partnerships between industry and public engagement;
- ▶ Inadequate enforcement of environmental regulations and standards;
- ▶ A lack of clear guidelines for translating the strategy into concrete action.

Recommendations included:

- ▶ Raise awareness through information-sharing.
- ▶ Enhance technology development and innovation.
- ▶ Enhance access to green financing to support green investments.
- ▶ Enhance compliance with environmental laws and regulations.



From right: Mr. Silver Ssebagala, Mr. Lambert Faabeluon and Mr. Addisu Tibebu.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

2. GREEN MANUFACTURING STRATEGY, ETHIOPIA

Presenter: Mr. Addisu Tibebu, Senior Expert, Ministry of Industry, Ethiopia

Ethiopia's green manufacturing strategy had been formulated to harness existing opportunities while addressing environmental, social and economic challenges. It identified 195 actions and 8 objectives and addressed both environment and climate issues. In terms of industrial waste management, the Government of Ethiopia advocated zero liquid discharge. With environmental regulations in place, Ethiopia was currently creating a regulatory body to oversee compliance with and implementation of existing policies and laws.

Initiatives in greening the sector included:

- ▶ Pilot energy efficiency projects for greenhouse gas emission reduction;

- ▶ An energy efficiency strategy for industry;
- ▶ Monitoring, reporting and verification reports for the various industrial sectors.

Challenges for the transition included:

- ▶ A low level of concern for the environment because of lack of awareness and compliance with regulatory environment and norms;
- ▶ A low level of enforcement of regulations and environmental and social standards;
- ▶ Very weak coordination among sectors and key stakeholders, an important hindrance to implementation;
- ▶ A lack of technical support in addressing environmental and social issues, including technical support for the implementation of the Africa–European Union Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme and energy management systems;
- ▶ Negative attitudes and corporate management culture, requiring behavioural change.

SUMMARY

The strategy was designed to harness existing opportunities while addressing environmental, social and economic challenges.

- ▶ Efforts to green the sector faced challenges such as high initial costs and difficulties in changing mindsets.
- ▶ Ensuring shared ownership among stakeholders required enhanced cooperation and harmonized goals and priorities.
- ▶ Poor understanding of the benefits of greening the sector was a common challenge faced in the transition process, together with unskilled labour and poor operating practices.
- ▶ Financial challenges consisted not only of a lack of availability of financing but also poor accessibility of the existing financing schemes.

SESSION 5: REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL SECTOR REPORT ON GREEN MANUFACTURING: FOCUS ON GREEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

MODERATOR: MR. PATRICK MWESIGYE, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

A closed-door session was held for the peer review of the SWITCH Africa Green Regional Sector Report on Green Manufacturing: Focus on Green Business Development. The panellists for the session were:

- ▶ Reviewer 1: Mr. Cleophas Migiyo, Director, Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania
- ▶ Reviewer 2: Mr. Lelissa Daba, Expert, Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production, Ethiopia
- ▶ Reviewer 3: Mr. Johannes Fresner, Managing Partner, STENUM Environmental Consultancy and Research, Austria

The participating countries were represented by the SWITCH Africa Green national focal points and members of the Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECPnet).

Participants in the session noted that the report documented the interventions and results in the manufacturing sector well; however, the industrial symbiosis interventions fell into both the integrated waste management sector and the manufacturing sector, which should be properly reflected. It was also suggested that there were better case studies than those presented, and that more information was required on methodology and sample selection. It was agreed that the author would amend the report to incorporate the comments made and would circulate the revised report to the reviewers.

DAY 2

SESSION 6: PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS AND OUTCOME RECOMMENDATIONS: CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR GREEN MANUFACTURING IN AFRICA

The participants broke into four parallel working groups to discuss the creation of an enabling environment for green manufacturing in Africa. The groups discussed: (1) the role of RECPnet in green manufacturing, (2) policies to promote green manufacturing, (3) technical assistance models for enterprises in the manufacturing sector and (4) sustainable trade and markets.

1. GROUP 1: THE ROLE OF RECPNET IN GREEN MANUFACTURING

MODERATOR: MS. JANE NYAKANG'O, DIRECTOR, KENYA NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION CENTRE,

Lesson: There was a need to strengthen regional and national mechanisms for uptake of sustainable consumption and production practices in the manufacturing sector.



Members of group 1 discussing the role of RECPnet in green manufacturing.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

The group concluded that the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production:

- ▶ Is key for the NCPCs and for transferring knowledge and collaborations on sustainable consumption and production interventions in the region;
- ▶ Strengthens the human resources and capacity of the NCPCs;
- ▶ Captures and sets best practice to assist in scale-up and replication;
- ▶ Supports collaboration with academia, assisting in research and development;

- ▶ Promotes innovation, knowledge-sharing, advocacy and quality assurance;
- ▶ Is the voice of cleaner production and resource efficiency.

During the discussion, it was recommended that NCPCs be integrated into green manufacturing projects to ensure post-project sustainability. NCPCs were also tasked with focusing on best practice case studies to foster scale-up and replication. The group also agreed that the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production was a crucial regional mechanism. Furthermore, ARSCP was tasked with providing policy advice to Governments on green manufacturing to ensure its relevance to national Governments.

The representative from UNEP, noting that the ARSCP was anchored in the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), said that UNEP would support the attendance of representatives from ARSCP and the NCPCs at the Seventeenth Regular Session of AMCEN, to be held from 11 to 15 November 2019 in Durban, South Africa. UNEP would also provide support for the tenth ARSCP General Assembly.

The recommendations arising from the discussion were as follows:

- ▶ NCPCs should meet to reframe the ARSCP charter and the terms of engagement.
- ▶ The ARSCP is only as strong as its key members, mainly the NCPCs, and therefore paying for subscriptions is crucial.
- ▶ The ARSCP should develop funding proposals to finance its operations and look at finance mechanisms.
- ▶ The ARSCP, and the NCPCs as the key members, should be proactive.

2. GROUP 2: POLICIES TO PROMOTE GREEN MANUFACTURING

MODERATOR: MR. PETER DERY, DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, GHANA

Lesson: National and local governments in the region need continuous support in appreciating, developing and implementing green manufacturing policies.

Mr. Joshua Mutambi, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda, made a presentation on the laws, policies and institutions for promoting green manufacturing in Uganda. He listed the manufacturing-related policies in Uganda that would need to be greened to support green manufacturing: the National Investment Policy, Buy Uganda Build Uganda Policy, National Industrial Policy, National Trade Policy, Renewable Energy Policy, National Standards and Quality Policy and Ewaste Management Policy. The mandated institutions were the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and the Uganda Cleaner Production Centre.



Members of group 2, on policies to promote green manufacturing, contributing to discussions.

A presentation was also made by Mr. Becquet Polycarpe Bationo, Director of the Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Green Investments, Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, Burkina Faso. Policies to promote green products were embedded in the national green economy development strategy, which was driven by climate change commitments. MSMEs faced various challenges when transitioning to green business, including financial constraint in the form of access to loans and credits, limited investment capacity, lack of expertise, limited markets and siloed policy implementation. To promote green products, policies should be put in place to promote markets for the green products; green public procurement was one avenue for that.

SUMMARY OF POLICY CHALLENGES

- ▶ Lack of political will was the main challenge for policy implementation.
- ▶ Greening was a new concept for most enterprises.
- ▶ There was a need for a national green economy transition strategy to change a country's mindset and enable it to adapt to change.
- ▶ Policies needed to be relevant to everyone, at all levels; each level or sector needed a green strategy leading to or providing input to the national strategy.
- ▶ A strong civil society movement was needed to put pressure on the Government.
- ▶ Although SWITCH Africa Green provided a platform for inter-agency coordination, a means was needed to enable Governments to support such coordination in the future.
- ▶ There was a need for policy implementation, and to make Governments aware of the challenges involved in implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Create a platform for Government and private sector engagement.
- ▶ Conduct annual policy advocacy or dialogues between policymakers and the private sector and quarterly ministerial policy dialogues with the private sector.
- ▶ Hold interministerial coordination meetings to support green manufacturing (e.g., the SWITCH Africa Green National Technical Coordination Committee).
- ▶ Promote research and development and evidence-based policymaking.
- ▶ Facilitate access to financing, including through capacity-building on green accounting for entrepreneurs and financial institutions.
- ▶ Develop indicators for green technology and greening criteria to support the assessment of green projects.
- ▶ Develop and implement green procurement policies to create demand for green products and help green the manufacturing sector.

3. GROUP 3: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MODELS FOR ENTERPRISES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

MODERATOR: MR. PHILIP IDRO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, UPLAND RICE MILLERS CO. LTD., UGANDA

Lesson: MSMEs required up-to-date and innovative solutions, knowledge, capacity and access to successful sustainable consumption and production models and/or skills to enable them to make their business processes greener and adopt sustainable consumption and production practices.

Presentation by Ms. Letitia Nyaaba, Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre

Industrial symbiosis took centre stage in Ghana's NCPC to achieve resource efficiency in waste management. Training of NCPC staff in industrial symbiosis and RECP using the "Promoting Resource Efficiency in SMEs" (PRE-SME) toolkit had been critical in ensuring technical capacity for the concept. The Ghana NCPC had carried out in-depth assessments of 135

MSMEs and had identified synergies for industrial symbiosis and provided research and development support that had resulted in component analysis, new product formulation and development of local technological innovations.



Mr. Philip Idro, Chief Executive Officer, Upland Rice Millers Co. Ltd., Uganda, moderating the session on technical assistance models for enterprises in the manufacturing sector.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Case study: Pioneer Food Cannery Limited had managed to turn fish scraps into fish meal, fish oil and omega 3 extract and to use their sewage sludge in biogas production. The enterprise was currently looking into investing in solar power to cut down on its electricity bills and turning fish juice into pig food.

Presentation by Mr. Stephen Nyamori, Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre

The Kenya NCPC supported compliance assistance through training of NEMA staff on licensing, waste management and onsite assessment. The partnership with NEMA helped to identify industries that required assistance and had resulted in the development of toolkits and manuals on RECP, the awarding of grants, co-financing and the development of innovation awards.

Case study: The case of Sugar Corporation of Uganda Limited, which was putting up a \$2 million plant focused on industrial symbiosis, was presented.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

- ▶ NCPCs were best placed to provide technical assistance on resource efficiency in countries.
- ▶ Convince the Government to support long-term funding for NCPCs to ensure sustainability.
- ▶ Integrate NCPC procedures into the legal requirements for every business permit.
- ▶ Reduce the cost of the NCPC registration fee, which scared away small-scale entities, by sharing the cost between the company and the NCPC.
- ▶ Develop long-term technical assistance programs, not just one-off training courses.
- ▶ After a certain period, involve private sector consultants in training the SMEs to avoid having to rely on the NCPCs.

- ▶ Governments should allocate dedicated industrial parks for small industries and MSMEs to support technology sharing, e.g. through clustering.
- ▶ Improve the existing PRE-SME toolkit and make it readily available. The current toolkit could be downloaded for free (UNEP PRE-SME toolkit) but needed updating.
- ▶ NCPCs should award certificates for commitment to the programme to curb the high turnover of company staff.
- ▶ NCPCs should suggest that company managers appoint environmental officers to support RECP.
- ▶ On value addition, NCPCs should incorporate a win-win skills development approach to benefit local communities and promote scale-up.

4. GROUP 4: SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND MARKETS

MODERATOR: MR. SIMON NABYAMA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, UGANDA

Lesson: There was a need to build appreciation for green products by consumers (both public and private consumers). Support was needed for sustainable public procurement policy development, along with greater awareness of sustainable products.



Members of group 4, on sustainable trade and markets, following the proceedings.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Mr. Kimani Muturi, Managing Director, Afri Banana Products Limited, Uganda, and Mr. Seth Twum-Akwabuwah, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Ghana Industries, were the panellists.

The group discussed development and support for green products while deliberating the development of green products, access to markets and the way in which green procurement supported market access.

The key issues raised related to the need to promote policies and standards, including by developing green public procurement. The issue of green products lacking a market because of their relatively high cost was also discussed. It was agreed that because of value addition, green products were expensive, but it was up to the entrepreneurs to identify niche markets and apply for certification that would allow them to access international markets as well as local markets.

Another key issue discussed was the legitimacy of the current standards and certifications. The group noted that product certification should be strictly based on a lifecycle assessment to ensure that “green” products met sustainability criteria.

Recommendations and observations arising from the group discussions

- ▶ Advocacy was needed to reach consensus on promoting both green production and consumption. In Burkina Faso and Ghana, civil society advocacy efforts engaging the private sector had been successful on that front.
- ▶ For sustainable public procurement in Uganda, the Government had developed two sustainable procurement instruments, a policy and a law. The National Public Sector Procurement Policy required public buyers to comply with green procurement, and the law operationalized the policy. The effect was to integrate sustainable procurement and increase demand for sustainable products.
- ▶ Provide awareness-raising and capacity-building to improve understanding of the green concept.
- ▶ Include green exports in national and regional trade strategies and policies.
- ▶ Bring together suppliers and producers with the finance sector, such as through trade fairs and exhibitions.
- ▶ Promote cooperation (including public-private partnerships) among standard setting and certifying bodies to ensure that standards were adapted to the national context while meeting international standards requirements in order to facilitate international recognition.
- ▶ Design and implement a communication campaign (web and social media) to improve consumer awareness of green standards and certified green businesses.

SESSION 7: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR UPTAKE OF SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

MODERATOR: MR. ROBERT WABUNOHA, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE, UNEP

The session was a panel discussion on the role of national Governments and partners in implementing the recommendations to strengthen regional and national mechanisms for uptake of sustainable consumption and production practices in the manufacturing sector.

The panel consisted of Mr. Faabeluon, Director, Ghana National Production Centre; Mr. Bationo, Director of the Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Green Investments, Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, Burkina Faso; Mr. Augustine K. Kenduiwo, Deputy Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Programme, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya; and Ms. Jenitha Badul, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa. The discussions were geared towards formulating a framework for advancing green manufacturing in Africa.

Following the discussions, the following recommendations were agreed upon:

1. Build awareness and capacity, as lack thereof was as the largest barrier to implementing sustainable consumption and production in the sector; when the people did not understand sustainable consumption and production and how it could impact their businesses, they could not implement it and would continue doing business as usual.
2. Formulate a policy to strengthen RECPnet through the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, strengthen existing NCPCs and consider setting up NCPCs in countries that did not yet have them.
3. Harmonize modules and tools from all countries and provide regional access to the information.
4. Set up a unified body to capture all the discussions and disseminate the information generated by dialogues, and a database where information on successful innovations could be shared and accessed easily.
5. Promote existing green products from MSMEs and support the scale-up of successful interventions, such as through a cost-benefit analysis to show the impact of producing green products.

6. Create a platform for United Nations agencies, the African Union, regional economic communities, Governments and the European Union to address the current lack of political will to foster green business.
7. Develop an annual national manufacturing report for each country by NCPCs, with regional bodies supporting production of the reports.
8. Consider making the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production an aggregate of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Pan African University and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
9. At the grassroots level, do benchmarking and experience-sharing to replicate successful interventions.

Mr. Michael Kafabusa Werikhe, Minister of State for Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda, officially closed the meeting. In his remarks, he noted the good results of the SWITCH Africa Green programme and urged stakeholders to develop policies that would provide an enabling environment for green manufacturing, both nationally and regionally.



From left: Mr. Michael Werikhe, Mr. Patrick Mwesigye and Ms. Jenitha Badul.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

EXHIBITION SEGMENT

An exhibition showcasing successful, innovative green manufacturing solutions and highlighting the current and potential strength of green business in Africa was held in parallel with the regional meeting. The exhibition showcased various green products, mainly innovative recycled and upcycled products from industrial symbiosis activities in Uganda.



Mr. Michael Werikhe, Minister of State for Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda, visiting one of the exhibition stands.

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