

MULTI-COUNTRY

ENHANCING RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF MSMEs IN 6 AFRICAN COUNTRIES THROUGH THE CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS (IS)

BACKGROUND

The problem of collection, management and disposal of waste continues to feature prominently in major towns and cities across African countries. This has led into contamination of water bodies leading to spread of water-borne diseases and health hazards from poorly managed waste. In most African countries, waste generation is as a result of a rapidly growing urban population, the changing patterns of population and consumption, the inherently more urbanised lifestyle and the consequent industrialisation. Manufacturing industries account for a significant part of Africa's consumption of resources and generation of wastes. Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the manufacturing sector in developing countries and are vital to the economies of all countries. However, MSMEs are often resource inefficient and high polluters due to the use of obsolete technologies in their operations, lack of properly engineered disposal sites and waste treatment plants, low awareness about proper waste management approaches, lack of technology needed for waste collection and recycling, un-skilled labour force, poor operating practices and unsustainable production and consumption of natural resources.

These problems are particularly significant in the areas of, resource productivity, innovation, energy management, waste management, pollution control human resources development, technological capability, generally a lack of awareness and access to financing. The above problems present the need for developing ecologically sustainable industries and shifting to more sustainable consumption and production patterns providing a new impetus to promote the transition towards more sustainable industrial systems.

AFRICA ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (ARSCP)

PARTNERS:

1. Burkina Faso Women Environmental Programme
2. Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre
3. Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre
4. Mauritius
5. National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa
6. Uganda Cleaner Production Centre
7. Industrial Symbiosis Limited



Budget

\$1,500,000.00



Timeline

30 Months

OBJECTIVES

Promote resource efficient and green businesses across 6 African countries based on the concept of industrial symbiosis (the repurposing of underutilised resources and by-products) creating a demand pull on Eco innovation and an opportunity base for entrepreneurs.

ACTIONS

- » Create awareness among Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Centres (RECPs), Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Policy makers in the 6 African countries of Industrial Symbiosis.
- » Enhance the capacity of RECPs to deliver business support through improved systems and resources incorporating industrial symbiosis
- » Train and build capacity of MSMEs in the 6 African countries on the concept of Industrial Symbiosis through RECP activities.
- » Develop a toolkit accessible (including on-line) by partners in the 6 African countries to facilitate the promotion of industrial symbiosis as a tool for resource efficiency.