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SWITCH AFRICA GREEN QUARTERLY REPORT (January - March 2017)



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Resilient nations.



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SWITCH Africa Green
Charlie Shoemaker
Anatrans
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PREAMBLE

In this quarter, the SWITCH Africa Green project carried out technical monitoring of projects in three countries: Burkina Faso, Mauritius and South Africa. Technical Monitoring involves review, monitoring and assessment of the uptake of SCP practices by the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) who are the final beneficiaries of the project. The technical monitoring team comprised of UNEP, UNDP, UNOPS and a representative of the National Technical Coordination Committee. The team visited 69 MSMEs out of a possible 950 MSMEs across the three countries. The MSMEs visited were selected randomly taking into account all the project grantees, the time allocated for the monitoring in each country as well as the location of the MSMEs in the various parts of the countries.

This report also highlights the progress in greening the business in some of these MSMEs. The SCP practices implemented by the MSMEs include energy efficiency, water efficiency, product innovation, record keeping, better product pricing, standards and certification to name a few. In some cases, this has led to increased incomes, cost savings, job creation, improved time efficiency, improved health and increased productivity. Some of the common challenges include lack of financing to implement the SCP practices.

In addition, this report includes an account of the SWITCH Africa Green (SAG) National Networking Forum which took place in Accra, Ghana. SAG Networking forums provide support services for networking and communication among the projects, distilling knowledge from project implementation for wider replication, and facilitation of policy uptake.

Lastly, discussions held during the SAG Regional Policy Dialogue is captured in this report. SAG policy support component responds to the specific country needs, building on and scaling up existing activities to promote the development of green economy and SCP policies and regulatory frameworks in those countries.

BURKINA FASO



Map showing the towns that were visited and the number of MSMEs visited in each town in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, a total of 36 MSMEs were visited in Ouagadougou, Koudougou, Dedougou, Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouahigouya. There was a National Implementation Plan Validation workshop held in Ouagadougou.

The selected priority areas for Burkina Faso are Manufacturing, Integrated Waste Management and Tourism.

In addition to that, the following cross-cutting themes have also been identified as critical: Energy-efficiency, Labelling and Standards, Water efficiency, Eco-innovation and Sustainable trade

Out of a possible 100 MSMEs, the Technical Monitoring and Evaluation Team visited 36 MSMEs in Burkina Faso

COMPANY SWITCHES TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

MSME: SBFA (BARAJII)

GRANTEE: STITCHING WOORD EN DAAD

PROJECT TITLE: ENABLING BURKINABE SMES TO START SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCTION

Barajii, part of an investment company specializing in agri-food, produces and sells pure water, flavored water and juices made from local products (Bissap, mango, ginger, etc.) in biodegradable sachets and more recently in PET bottles. Their regional production activities are concentrated in Burkina Faso through the SBFA (Burkina Faso Food Sector Company), with a plant in Ouagadougou and a small production unit in Bobo Dioulasso. Some of the production is exported to neighboring countries. The company's two plants produced more than 130 million liters of beverage by 2015, employing about 300 full time employees and 300 casual workers.

The company has been identified as a model company, having worked on renewable energy with Stitching Wood en Daad since 2014. They installed the first set of solar panels (33kW) in 2014, later increasing it to 90kW. They have been monitoring the solar performance in order to showcase to other companies how solar works. The company could provide access to finance for other smaller companies through its investment arm. Having been a beneficiary of the SWITCH Africa Green project, they can now network with other companies in the region.

Since Burkina Faso does not have an energy grid feed in tariff policy, the company feeds the excess energy to the main grid for free. This is a disincentive for private industry and enterprises to invest in energy

WOMEN GROUP EXPLORES INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS OPPORTUNITIES

MSME: FASO ATTIE`KE`

GRANTEE: AFRICA ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (ARSCP)

PROJECT TITLE: ENHANCING RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES THROUGH THE CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS IN AFRICA.

Faso Attie`ke` is a women association specializing in producing cassava flour (Attie`ke`). They get cassava paste as raw material from Burkina Faso through member's farms and other farms as well. The also source for cassava from Cote d'Ivoire. Since it is difficult to get fresh cassava (as it usually gets spoilt en route), they get the cassava paste. This raw material is then put in the press and wastewater is collected. After this process, it is put in a sieve and dried after which powder and fiber is extracted. They extract about 4-5 kg of fiber per day where the daily production is about 1000kg. From one bag, about 90% is the final product. The profit margin for this enterprise is



The current solar installation at SBFA Barajii is 90 kW, which represents about 20% of the plant's total energy requirements over a year.

Photo | Barajii

very small. Notably, this enterprise has a unique solar drier for drying vegetables.

Through SWITCH Africa Green intervention, they have undergone training on industrial symbiosis. This has led to the enterprise putting effort in building synergies with other trainees to generate solutions for the waste water. There was increased knowledge on the benefits of waste exchange as well as linkages with other enterprises. Since they generate Amidon (starch from cassava) which is a valuable waste, they hope to get an enterprise interested in it as this will increase their revenues.

WOMAN-LED COMPANY BENEFITS FROM BUSINESS TRAINING

MSME: FASO RIIBO (FOOD FROM FASO)

GRANTEE: AFRICA ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (ARSCP)

PROJECT TITLE: ENHANCING RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES THROUGH THE CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS IN AFRICA.

Faso Riibo (food from Faso) is a woman-owned enterprise that produces baby food from millet, sorghum, soya and nuts. The ingredients are mixed depending on type of baby food being produced. The inputs have to be cleaned as some suppliers supply millet/sorghum with stones which have to be removed before processing. It was noted that it's hard to ensure the suppliers supply clean inputs. They get about 2Kg of waste from a 50 kg bag of millet/sorghum. The ingredients are roasted separately and later mixed depending on the product. They have 10 staff members, 7 of whom are women.

They have undergone training on business skills including record keeping, marketing and pricing as well as training on industrial symbiosis/ waste exchange through SWITCH Africa Green. From the trainings taken, the company's record keeping has significantly improved. Since the cost of disposing the waste water is steep, through the SWITCH Africa Green industrial symbiosis project, they are looking for interested enterprises to make use of the waste water.



Burkinabe women conducting a clean-up campaign in their community
Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

SENSITIZATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT LEADS TO INCREASED INCOME FOR WOMEN GROUP

MSME: BÉNÉWINDÉ WOMEN GROUP
GRANTEE: GRAAD - BURKINA
PROJECT TITLE: PROJECT NEERE (PRETTY AND CLEAN)

The members of this group, (52 members), collect waste from households and public places. They currently cover about 340 households in Koudougou. The households have different demands as frequency of waste collection varies. For the households with lower demand (collection happens once a week), they charge 500CFA (\$0.90) per month, while those with higher demand pay about 1000CFA (\$1.80) per month. Public areas are charged 2000CFA (\$3.50) per month.

The total funds are collected by the official treasurer and banked. Profits generated after paying bills are shared among the members. The group has divided their area of operation into zones with each zone having a central waste collection point. Here, the waste is collected and taken to the designated dumpsite. About 1 tonne of waste is collected in a day. The plastics are separated at collection point and sold to recycling entrepreneurs; 2 water bottles (500ml) costs 25 CFA. The association generates about 200,000CFA (\$360) per month from the household collection. It costs 8,000CFA (\$14) for a person to register in this group.

Through SWITCH Africa Green, the members of this group have undergone training on waste management regulations and on basic skills on business models in waste management. They have also conducted cleaning activities in six districts in the city

of Koudougou while conducting sensitization campaigns.

There has been significant impact from the sensitization. For example, it was previously difficult to get payment from business premises and households, now, it's much easier as people understand the need for a good waste management, with sorting of waste being done. They have seen a 400% increase in revenue from 50,000CFA (\$90) per month to 200,000CFA (\$360) per month after sensitization.

GOVERNMENT OF BURKINA FASO PROACTIVE IN THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

GRANTEE: GRAAD - BURKINA
PROJECT TITLE: PROJECT NEERE (PRETTY AND CLEAN)

The Koudougou commune, being an implementing partner of the 'Pretty and Clean Project', held a meeting at the Mayor's office in Koudougou. The participants included The Mayor of Koudougou, technicians and administrators in the Mayor's office. 5 Community Based Organizations were present for the meeting.

Following a brief introduction on project NEERE, the project implementation progress was discussed. It was noted that the commune has benefited from the SWITCH Africa Green Project as major milestones were highlighted. The commune managed to create awareness on waste management resulting in the cleaning operation where 1300 metric cubes of waste was moved from an uncontrolled dumpsite to a controlled dump site. This site can now be used for expanding market stalls.

The project also provided a platform to bring together all stakeholders in waste management to discuss issues on waste and share best practices. A strategy on integrated waste management was developed and validated in 2016 and adopted in 2017. Currently, capacity building of technicians and CBOs (12) was also carried out on waste management and basic business skills.

Sensitization activities on radio have also been very effective in awareness creation. Due to these activities, the waste management budget has been doubled to capitalise on the gains from the project, attracting funds of about 10 million. This amount has been set aside for an experienced waste management company to manage the waste in the controlled dumpsite.

It was proposed that the Mayor work on creating jobs with this fund by up scaling the youth programme. Using the funds to build the capacity of the youth will not only create jobs but also be a more sustainable arrangement by the commune. SWITCH Africa Green National Networking Forum will provide an opportunity for the commune to showcase the progress made especially on the waste management strategy and share knowledge with other practitioners for best practices.

One of the challenges highlighted was the gap in the technical capacity of the technicians as well as equipment. Financing of waste management was also an issue that needed to be addressed in the various communes. It was also noted that there was need for the controlled dumpsite to be improved, e.g a sanitary landfill would be more appropriate

“An inhabitant who lives next to the dumpsite expressed his gratitude for the project as the respiratory illness he suffered before was now non-existent”



Burkinabe women conducting a clean-up campaign in their community as part of Project NEERE (Pretty and Clean)

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

MAKING POTS FROM WASTE PLASTIC

MSME: ENTREPRISE DE RECYCLAGE DE DÉCHETS PLASTIQUES WENDKUNI (ERDPW)

GRANTEE: GRAAD - BURKINA

PROJECT TITLE: PROJECT NEERE (PRETTY AND CLEAN)

Founded in 2008 and employing 5 people, this enterprise focuses in making flower pots from plastic bags. 1 medium sized pot is made from 6kg of plastic and 9kg of sand. Their product range also includes bricks and bins from plastic bags. Their monthly revenues range from 20,000CFA to 75,000 CFA.

Under the SWITCH Africa Green project, they have conducted sensitization campaigns on the negative effects of plastic bags. They have conducted cleaning activities where they mainly collected plastic bags. Design is currently underway for the production of future bins to be produced for the market.

The enterprise has been able to get technical support from the grantee to reach a bigger market in the city and beyond. They have also been able to network with other enterprises on waste management issues. They have been identified as a model to train other MSMEs on techniques for smoke control during the production process.

Burkina Faso has four grantees under the SWITCH Africa Green programme working with about 100 enterprises



Employees of Anatrans, 85% of them being female, at the company premises processing cashew nuts

Photo | Anatrans

COMPANY GENERATES ENERGY FROM WASTE

MSME: ANATRANS

GRANTEE: FONDATION 2IE

PROJECT TITLE: VALORISATION DES DÉCHETS DE LA FILIÈRE ANACARDE COMME UNE SOURCE D'ÉNERGIE RENOUVELABLE POUR LES PMEs AU BURKINA FASO

Anatrans is a cashew processing plant in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, focusing on fair trade and organic cashew. The company aims to shorten supply chains, create local jobs and supply traceable, quality cashew kernels to customers. They source cashew from over 4,000 farmers whom they provide with various trainings including sustainable agricultural practices.

In Burkina Faso, unlike the cultivation of other nuts, cashew is mostly cultivated by smallholders. The product often changes hands several times before it reaches processing facilities outside Africa making product traceability a challenge. Anatrans sources directly from farmer groups in Burkina Faso and can therefore state exactly from which village a certain box of cashew comes from. Together with partners, they have developed a system that allows their customers 100% insight into where the cashew that we sell to them comes from.

The cashew shell has a high calorific value and contains cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL) which is suitable as a substitute for petrochemical products. The company is in the process of developing local uses for the oil with some options being: raw material for paint, as a vulcanization agent or as a fuel or as a tarry product for the road construction industry.

The oil extraction from the shells creates another by-product: cashew shell press cake. This still represents the majority of by-product mass. To develop

a market for this, the company is working with the SWITCH Africa Green project and Fondation 2IE, a research institute in Ouagadougou, to develop briquettes from cashew shell press cake that will replace wood in industrial boilers and in domestic use. The company's ambition is to eventually derive 100% of the electrical needs of the processing plant from cashew by-product.

In 2017, the organization has started a project to introduce beehives into cashew plantations to improve orchard yields and develop a new by-product of the plantations. They will also start farmer trainings on the reuse of the cashew apple as well as the leaves and the wood harvested from pruning. Together with partners, the company continues to work on a green and sustainable cashew supply chain. 85% of the workers at Anatrans are female.

> 4,000 farmers have benefited from Anatrans' technical assistance programme

> 85% of the workers at Anatrans are female



The King of Yatenga region (in red headwear) in Burkina Faso being interviewed after a session with the Technical Monitoring and Evaluation team

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

INSTITUTION BENEFITS FROM RENEWABLE SOLAR ENERGY

MSME: COMPLEXE SCOLAIRE BARAKA
GRANTEE: STITCHING WOORD EN DAAD
PROJECT TITLE: ENABLING BURKINABE SMEs TO START SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCTION

Complexe Scolaire Baraka is a technical college located in Bobo-Dioulasso in the South-West of Burkina Faso. The institution has 410 students in various courses including masonry, electricity, metal works, hair dressing, tailoring. About 26% of the students are women and 2% of the students taking electricity major are female.

Stitching Woord en Daad (SWITCH Africa Green Grantee) installed a solar energy system in 2016 to supply electricity in the school at a cost of CFA 14million (USD 25,000). The system comprises of 24 panels and 24 batteries and corresponding inverter. Each panel supplies about 250 watts monthly. The payback period is about 9 months (cost CFA 900,000 where the monthly electricity bill usually costs CFA 9,000). Students taking electricity are being trained on solar energy installation. Due to the results obtained, a mango factory and a textile factory expressed interest in installing solar energy with support from the grantee. Power black outs are the biggest motivation for installation of alternative energy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES SWITCH AFRICA GREEN PROJECT

GRANTEE: ASSOCIATION JEUNESSE SOLIDAIRE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT VÉRITABLE (AJSDV)
PROJECT TITLE: TRANSFORMING HOUSEHOLD WASTE INTO AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZER IN THE NORTH OF BURKINA FASO

During the technical monitoring and evaluation conducted in March 2017, a meeting was convened at the governor's office in Ouahigouya. In attendance were the King of Yatenga region, the Governor of Ouahigouya, Provincial Director of Environment, Regional director of Agriculture, technicians in waste management, administrators and various NGOs among others. It was noted that SWITCH Africa Green project was supporting various initiatives on integrated

waste management practices in the town. Under the project, about 24 farmers had been trained in composting. These farmers have now implemented composting in their farms and are now able to showcase output from this intervention.

The presence of high-ranking government officials and representatives in various project activities including launches, community forums and training and awareness workshops illustrated the level of proactive government support and commitment to the implementation of the project.

The Governor explained that collection, transportation and disposal of waste are a big challenge in the region. He noted that transformation to clean cities was a major challenge in the regional governments. SWITCH Africa Green is helping the regional government address issues on waste in an inclusive approach involving various departments of government including agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure and finance.

The King has also been actively involved in waste and conservation efforts where he initiated the planting of trees in the region. Also present was the provincial director of agriculture who is directly involved in the project. An official from this department works in the project on training farmers on compost production and use of compost in promoting sustainable agriculture practices. The involvement of technical officers from various government offices in the project was commended as it ensures sustainability of the project.

The Technical Monitoring Team from UN Environment informed the participants of the integrated waste management projects in Koudougou and Dedougou and highlighted the need for them to develop an Integrated Waste Management strategy. Collaboration between grantees and knowledge exchange was also encouraged. The Governor thanked the EU for financing this project and UN Environment for implementing this project with its partners UNDP and UNOPS.

NEW GREEN BUSINESSES CREATED FROM INNOVATIVE IDEAS

27 micro enterprises based in Ouahigouya and its environs met in Ouahigouya during the technical monitoring and evaluation conducted in March 2017. There were enterprises focusing on sustainable agriculture and others on manufacturing including manufacturing of bags from plastic waste, broom making from plastic bottles and production of glass powder for painting.

24 farmers have been trained on composting and have constructed functional compost pits in their farms and are implementing sustainable agriculture practices. These farmers now sell compost to other farmers, which is a new revenue stream. Since the produce grown with compost has a longer shelf life, they sell them for more during low season. For instance, a sack of onions during the dry season costs \$25 against the \$10 it fetches during the rainy season. Due to the results of this project, there is a demand from training on sustainable agricultural practices from other farmers who have requested for training on how to make quality compost.

On the other hand, of the 20 enterprises were trained in various innovations, 12 of which have implemented the training. The entrepreneurs involved in producing woven bags from plastic waste have the raw material readily available. It takes approximately 2 days to make 1 woven bag using 50 plastic bags which fetches CFA 6,000 (\$10) to CFA 10,000 (\$18) depending on the size. Other entrepreneurs making brooms from plastic bottles use about 7 bottles to make 1 broom. It takes 2 hours to make a broom, which is sold for CFA 1,000.

Integrated Waste Management, Manufacturing and Tourism are the priority sectors in Burkina Faso



A farmer showing the compost structure constructed in his farm after attending a training on sustainable agriculture

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

SAVINGS RECORDED FROM USE OF ORGANIC COMPOST

MSME: SAWADOGO BOUREIMA

GRANTEE: ASSOCIATION JEUNESSE SOLIDAIRE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT VÉRITABLE (AJSDV)

PROJECT TITLE: TRANSFORMING HOUSEHOLD WASTE INTO AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZER IN THE NORTH OF BURKINA FASO

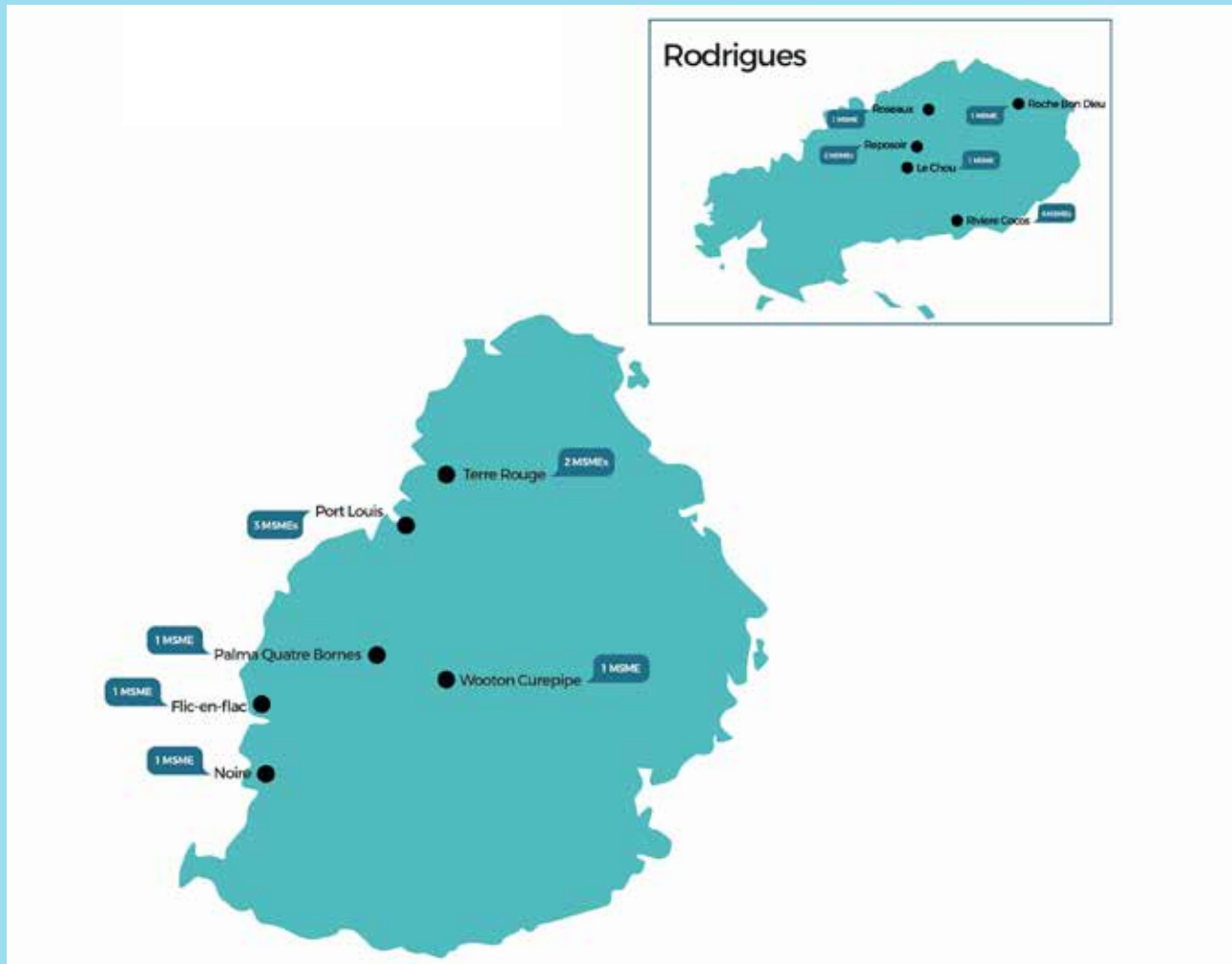
Sawadogo Boureima, a small-scale farmer based in Ouahigouya in Northern Burkina Faso has recorded savings on farm input due to his switch from conventional fertilizer to organic compost. Having been trained on composting, he invested in the construction of a compost structure in his farm where he plants onions and potatoes. He has planted his crops using both conventional fertilizer and organic compost, increasing the use of the latter from 75% to 100%.

From his harvest, the shelf life increased to about 3 months for the onions he harvested from the season he used 100% organic compost. This is against a shelf life of a few weeks from the harvest obtained from using conventional fertilizer. He has also had similar results from the potatoes he has harvested. This has led to savings since he now has fewer post-harvest losses as the produce can be stored for longer. He has also enjoyed more savings as his use of compost has reduced the cost of his farm input.

In addition to this, the entrepreneur has recorded an increase in his income as he sells the excess compost he produces. One of the challenges he has faced during implementation has been the marketing of organically grown produce. He hopes for support in this area to maximize revenue from organic produce.

Sawadogo is one of 42 farmers who have been trained on composting by SWITCH Africa Green through its grantee, Association Jeunesse Solidaire pour le Développement Véritable (AJSDV). Like Sawadogo, 24 of the trained farmers have constructed compost structures in their farms and are already enjoying benefits from this initiative.

MAURITIUS



Map showing the towns that were visited and the number of MSMEs visited in each town in Mauritius

In Mauritius, a total of 9 MSMEs were visited in Wooton Curepipe, Noire, Flic-en-Flac, Plama Quatre Bornes, Port Louis and Terre Rouge. In Rodrigues Island, a 11 were visited in Reposoir, Roseaux, LeChou, Riviere Cocos and Roche Bon Dieu.

The selected priority areas for Mauritius are Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Tourism.

In addition to that, the following cross-cutting themes have also been identified as critical: Energy-efficiency, Labelling and Standards, Water efficiency, Eco-innovation and Sustainable trade

Out of a possible 250 MSMEs, the Technical Monitoring and Evaluation Team visited 20 MSMES in Mauritius



A staff member at Ciel Textiles explains a point to the Technical Monitoring and Evaluation Team

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

MODEL COMPANY FOR WASTE EXCHANGE

MSME: CIEL TEXTILE

GRANTEE: AFRICA ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (ARSCP)

PROJECT TITLE: ENHANCING RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES THROUGH THE CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS.

Ciel Textile is a large scale company based in Port Louis, Mauritius that specializes in textile production. With a daily production capacity of 25,000 pieces, the company is considered a large scale producer in the textile industry. With SWITCH Africa Green support, the company carried out a baseline to understand the type of waste available. As a result, the company noted that plastic formed a significant amount of waste. This led the management to come to the decision of halting packaging of fabric in plastic to reduce amount of plastic coming in. The company has effectively incorporated significant SCP practices and patterns and is a model company for waste exchange to smaller MSMES in the country. These include companies dealing with recycling and waste management.

Of the 850 workers employed at the company, 60% are female. Ciel is a subsidiary of Ciel Group which exports 31 million garments annually to Europe, India, South Africa and USA. Ciel Textile is a listed company on the Mauritius Stock Exchange since 2006.

Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism are the main priority sectors in Mauritius

COMPANY SWITCHES TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

MSME: NEW MAURIFOOD LTD

GRANTEE: JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL (JEC)

PROJECT TITLE: PROGRAM NATIONAL D'EFFICACITE ENERGETIQUE-PNEE

New Maurifood is part of Eclasia Group of companies, it is a food processing company based in Port Louis Mauritius. Their product range includes poultry products like chicken sausages, nuggets, and burgers. It has a range of large clients including KFC.

New Maurifood went through an energy audit and implemented various recommendations from the results of the audit. The organization changed its gas from 404A to 134A making it more efficient. They are currently in the process of modifying the coal room to make it more efficient. As proposed by the consultant, they have decreased condensing to the proposed standard. The company's next measure will be to invest in an efficient system freezer. The management of New Maurifood is providing the leadership and initiative in achieving these results. They are looking to participate in the Industrial Symbiosis project to explore ways of waste exchange. With an employee base of 130 workers, the company has an annual production capacity of 4000 tonnes.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

MSME: FALCON CITIZEN LEAGUE ASSOCIATION

GRANTEE: EMPRETEC MAURITIUS

PROJECT TITLE: EMPOWERING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND NSAs TO ADVOCATE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND SUPPORT ECO-ENTREPRENEURS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION TOWARDS GREEN INCLUSIVE BUSINESSES

The Falcon Citizen League Association trains members on organic agriculture, aquaculture and Aquaphonic and focuses on organic inputs. With SAC support, the organization has trained 25 farmerson aquaculture and aquaphonic. The organization has also received training from the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) on tomato phonics. Part of the product range of this organization includes bio fertilizer and bio pesticide.

Following the training on entrepreneurship with SAC support (record keeping, developing business plans, marketing etc), the organization has improved on its record-keeping and marketing. They recently registered Eco-falcon green printing. During implementation of this project, it was noted that it took long for some farmers to switch from inorganic to organic fertilizer which is one of the challenges faced. The association has 70 active members, offering a good opportunity for replication and scale-up.

FARMERS GROUP SWITCHES TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

MSME: SMALL PLANTERS ASSOCIATION

GRANTEE: UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

PROJECT TITLE: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AGRICULTURE THROUGH GREEN RETAIL AND GREEN HOSPITALITY (SUS-AGRI)

The Small Planters Association has 30 members and specializes in growing vegetables and fruits. The association provides a platform for networking, exchange of ideas, joint marketing and selling of produce. The average age of the members of this association is 50 years old.

With SAG support, 20 farmers have undergone training on Mauritius Good Agricultural Practices (MauriGAP) which is a Level 1 standard which is the basic standard for bio-farming. It is a framework for good agricultural practices on horticultural local farms and is adapted from international standards of good agricultural practices. It provides a minimum achievable level of assurance and reliability acceptable to the local market. New networking opportunities were also explored as well as exposure to new ideas and markets.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESULTS IN LESS CHEMICAL INPUT

MSME: SKC SURAT

GRANTEE: UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

PROJECT TITLE: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AGRICULTURE THROUGH GREEN RETAIL AND GREEN HOSPITALITY (SUS-AGRI)

S.K.C. Surat Ltd is a wholesale and distribution business of fruits and vegetables in the Mauritian market with a turnover of 395 million rupees per year and a portfolio of about 850 clients. More than 250 different products come from local suppliers from Mauritius and Reunion Island. After being taken through various trainings, the company supplies its products to about 20 countries. The enterprise has hired 3 graduates from agribusiness to provide support services to farmers on the MauriGAP standards. These graduates are mentored by the older staff members when in the field.

MauriGAP is a framework for good agricultural practices on horticultural local farms and is adapted from international standards of good agricultural practices. MauriGAP Standards cover efficient use of resources; adoption of environmentally sound practices for natural resources; biodiversity preservation; pre and postharvest best practices; and agricultural waste recycling.

SKC Surat selected 60 planters who were willing to take up the MauriGAP standards and trained them.

From the results obtained, partly due to the improvement of good record-keeping, there was a significant reduction in chemical input. One of the project partners, Food and Agricultural and Extension Institute (FAREI), has spearheaded the implementation of MauriGAP standards including conducting awareness campaigns. Since some markets are very keen

COMPANY SWITCHES TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

MSME: PALSPAK LTD

GRANTEE: EMPRETEC MAURITIUS

PROJECT TITLE: EMPOWERING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND NSAs TO ADVOCATE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND SUPPORT ECO-ENTREPRENEURS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION TOWARDS GREEN INCLUSIVE BUSINESSES

PLASPAK is the leading plastic manufacturer in Mauritius. The company produces packaging for food (rice, milk powder, crisps, sweets, peanuts, cooking oil, biscuits, spices, tea, grains and pulses, frozen food) washing powder and various other products as per customer requirements. They also make packaging products for the textile industry and are also involved in supply of other types of plastic tools such as hangers, bottles, spoons, forks etc. PLASPAK also produces shopping bags, potting bags, wedding bags, film on roll and other plastic tools that are commonly used. In addition, this company produces 100% biodegradable as well as recyclable plastic products contributing to a greener environment.

With support from SAG, the company has been able to conduct an energy audit and adopt various sustainable manufacturing practices resulting in reduced gas fumes and water use. They have also focused on improving product quality over time. Over the last ten years, the company has seen a significant reduction in waste, while increased the quantity and size of their machinery to increase efficiency. The management plans to install a solar energy system at the end of 2017 in a bid to be more sustainable. The company is also currently exploring ideas on industrial symbiosis as they produce strips of plastic waste from their manufacturing process. The company is based in Quarte Bornes, Mauritius and provides employment to 130 workers.

Mauritius has six grantees under the SWITCH Africa Green project working with about 250 enterprises.



The proprietor at Manisa Hotel displaying some water bottles that the hotel uses after switching from using plastic bottles

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

GREENING THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

MSME: MANISA HOTEL

GRANTEE: ASSOCIATION DES HOTELS DE CHARME

PROJECT TITLE: GREENING THE MAURITIAN TOURISM INDUSTRY

Manisa Hotel is a 42-room hotel situated on the west coast of the island in the Flic-en-Flac area. The hotel uses a solar energy system (45.2Kw) and solar water heaters in all rooms. In addition, they practice rain water harvesting for gardening. With SAG support, the hotel has conducted a 2 step Gap analysis which mapped the current operational and sustainable production and consumption practices and identified areas of improvement. Stage 1 involved self-assessment by the hotel while stage 2 involved the audit of the hotel based on Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GTC) criteria for hotels and tour operators.

As a result, the hotel management switched from using plastic bottles to using glass bottles. They also invested in a water filtering system. The hotel also introduced re-use of towels as an option for guests leading to a more conscious approach towards resource use. Since the cost of producing the glass bottles is high, the hotel is exploring ways of clustering with other hotels to purchase these bottles at a cheaper cost. Manisa Hotel provides employment to 40 full time employees.

WASTE: SOURCE OF INCOME FOR MAURITIAN YOUTH

MSME: BELLE VERTE

GRANTEE: SEED HOSTED AT ADELPHI RESEARCH GEMEINNTZIGE GMBH

PROJECT TITLE: PROMOTING ECO-ENTERPRISES IN AFRICA (BURKINA FASO, GHANA, KENYA, MAURITIUS, SOUTH AFRICA AND UGANDA)

Belle Verte offers beach clean-up services for local guest houses, team building clean-up events for corporations, and waste pickup services for households. Belle Verte aims to create a national closed loop waste management system and raises awareness on the need to reuse and recycle waste.

These services provide Belle Verte with a regular flow of waste products. The waste is then separated and sold to recyclers or upcycled into creative products during educational workshops. Community members are trained to become "green ambassadors", that is, micro-entrepreneurs who collect waste which is then supplied to Belle Verte on a regular basis.

With SAG support, the company has enhanced capacity on waste management during creative educational workshops, reaching 50 children and 110 adult participants between 2014 and 2016. They have also developed innovative upcycled products such as musical instruments from waste. Belle Verte has so far collected 14.6 tons of waste, of which 3.3 tons were used in upcycling and 11.3 were recycled between 2014 and 2016. Belle Verte is located in Noire, Mauritius and provides employment to 10 people.

YOUTH BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

MSME: RUSHDIE JOOMEER (START-UP)

GRANTEE: CENTRE DE FORMATION AGRICOLE FRERE REMY

PROJECT TITLE: A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PRACTICES AND ECO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Rushdie Joomeer is a 16-year-old entrepreneur based in Roseau Rodrigues specializing in crop and animal production. He grows cassava, animal feed, cabbage and creeper plants. He participated in a training at Frere Remy where he learned various SAG techniques on sustainable agriculture with a focus on pig rearing. From this, he set up a compost bin for manure where he uses fig waste as fertilizer for crop production. Rushdie's biggest investment has been in pig rearing. (He used his neighbour's boar for breeding making him have a sow and 7 piglets).

Before SAG intervention, Rushdie had no skills with which to make a living or run a business. Having 7 piglets, he has been able to sell one pig and replicate the training at home in his grandmother's farm. This has made him more responsible, earning him respect within his family which is impressive at his age. He hopes to upscale to 20 pigs in future and venture into crop farming.

YOUTH EXPLORES FINANCING TO SCALE UP START-UP

MSME: CHRISTIAN PERRINE (START-UP)

GRANTEE: CENTRE DE FORMATION AGRICOLE FRERE REMY

PROJECT TITLE: A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PRACTICES AND ECO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Christian is a 27-year-old alumni of Centre de Formation Agricole Frere Remy, which is a SAG grantee. He has participated in different trainings on sustainable agriculture with a focus on chicken rearing. After his time at Frere Remy, he did not fully grasp the responsibility and the skill needed to run a farm. This has necessitated regular visits by Frere Remy to provide support. Importantly, Christian lives in an isolated place on his own and walks long distances to collect water and food for his chicken. Despite these challenges, from 15 chicks, Christian now has 45 chicken in his farm.

He hopes to improve on the infrastructure for the chicken. He is currently exploring financing opportunities to support his start-up to enable him to scale up. Christian is based in Reposoir, Rodrigues.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROVIDES BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MSME: STEPHEN (START-UP)

GRANTEE: CENTRE DE FORMATION AGRICOLE FRERE REMY

PROJECT TITLE: A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PRACTICES AND ECO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Stephen is an agricultural entrepreneur who concentrates on crop farming but is also interested in florist and general landscaping and gardening. After undergoing SAG training, he started by rearing chicken and grew by diversifying to crops such as red beans, peanuts and potatoes. In his farm, he also has a separate section specifically for spices.

Stephen has used the revenues generated from his agribusiness to support his brother (who studied agriculture) through university education. With his brother back, the two now hope to start an online market with delivery service for agricultural products and later expand to exports. They have already purchased a cargo tricycle truck (Apsonic) for delivery services. Stephen is 20 years old and is based in Rodrigues Island.

YOUTH REAPS PROFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

MSME: HERMAN AGATHE (START-UP)

GRANTEE: CENTRE DE FORMATION AGRICOLE FRERE REMY

PROJECT TITLE: A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PRACTICES AND ECO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

By adopting sustainable agricultural practices, Herman Agathe has managed to increase his flock from 4 animals to 126 animals. He has pigs, goats, sheep, chicken, ducks and cows in his flock. Based in Roche Bon Dieu, Rodrigues Island, Herman is an exceptional 18-year old who has managed to reap benefits from his hard work. Herman was first introduced to sustainable agriculture in 2015 when he attended a series of trainings organized by Centre de Formation Agricole Frere Remy, a SWITCH Africa Green grantee. There, he got an opportunity to interact with other farmers and experts and got to learn about various concepts on sustainable agriculture, book-keeping and business management.

Initially having poor records for his business, he worked hard and smart to apply the new ideas and innovative concepts he learnt to his farm. Herman has managed to grow the numbers of the animals he has, trading them for profit. For instance, he reaps good profit when he sells his goats, whose price ranges from MUR 4,000 – MUR 6,000 (\$115 - \$170). Herman also sells the organic manure he gets from his animals, with a 50kg bag sells for MUR 50 (\$1.50). The animals produce about 15 bags of organic manure per month. He has also started processing pig sausages from the pigs he rears for higher profit.



Herman Agathe, an entrepreneur based in Rodrigues Island feeding his animals. Herman has grown his flock from 4 animals to 126 animals and is enjoying the rewards of sustainable agricultural practices learnt from SWITCH Africa Green

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Notably, Herman has managed to build himself a house from the profits generated from his business. Herman has shared his experiences to show use of sustainable agricultural practices by youth at various forums including the Regional Networking Forum that took place in Uganda in May 2016, and most recently the Mauritius National Networking Forum that took place on Rodrigues in May 2017.

"I want to lease land to be able to embark on crop production," he said of his plans to expand his farming activities. He is optimistic that with the training received he will be able to expand and successfully run a big farm. He lives with his grandmother (78), mother (58), Uncle (24), brother (16) and nephew. He also supports his family from the income he generates. Currently, he is looking for financing opportunities to expand his business.



L to R: Herman Agathe, Joomeer Rushdie and Queensley Abdool display some products from their various initiatives during a networking meeting
Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

NEW REVENUE STREAM CREATED AFTER SWITCH AFRICA GREEN TRAINING

MSME: ANGELIKRAFT

GRANTEE: COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING CAPACITY AMONGST RODRIGUANS TO ADOPT GREEN BUSINESSES THROUGH TRAINING TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN BUSINESS GUIDEBOOK.

Angelikraft is a family-owned enterprise that specialises in making organic soap and candles. They also specialise in alternative packaging from glass and other crafts. The candles they produce are made from palm wax which does not produce smoke. As a result, they have received about 30 orders of 800 pieces with a growing demand in the hotel industry in the island.

The entrepreneur has participated in the SAG supported training on natural soap and candle-making where 39 entrepreneurs were trained. Alongside Angelikraft, other entrepreneurs have also created new businesses and income streams from processing these products. The entrepreneur is currently working on developing their marketing strategy to be able to generate more orders for the business.

COMPANY RECORDS INCREASED INCOME AFTER SWITCH AFRICA GREEN TRAINING

MSME: HOTENSA CREATION ENTERPRISE

GRANTEE: COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING CAPACITY AMONGST RODRIGUANS TO ADOPT GREEN BUSINESSES THROUGH TRAINING TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN BUSINESS GUIDEBOOK.

Hotensa Creation Enterprise is a company run by a couple specializing in making a wide range of bags – beach bags, food bags and casual bags. They participated in the SAG training on making soft toys from waste fabric. From this, they added soft toys into their product range and worked on improving the quality of their products. This has resulted in higher incomes as they have improved on their existing products while adding a new product into their product range. They are currently exploring options in developing their marketing and costing strategy with support from SAG.

The products are made from fabric waste which is used to make the bags.



Some entrepreneurs from Rodrigues display organic products from their various initiatives during a networking meeting

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

FAMILY ENTERPRISE BENEFITS FROM TRAINING ON FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

MSME: EUPHORBEIE GARDEN

GRANTEE: COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING CAPACITY AMONGST RODRIGUANS TO ADOPT GREEN BUSINESSES THROUGH TRAINING TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN BUSINESS GUIDEBOOK.

Euphorbeie Garden is a family enterprise that has been operational for 25 years focusing on growing exotic flowers. They participated in the SAG training on floral arrangement under the sustainable horticultural training. As a result of implementing the various concepts from the training, they have recorded increased revenues, especially in December when there were many events. Their clients include weddings, and other celebrations such as funerals and church flower displays. The enterprise also uses pots made out of coconut which help retain moisture. The business is currently recording increased revenues as compared to when the business was only selling flower pots initially. The business is now working on modalities of undergoing training on business planning, marketing and record keeping.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE LEADS TO PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION

MSME: SAVEUR NATURELLES DE RODRIGUES

GRANTEE: COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING CAPACITY AMONGST RODRIGUANS TO ADOPT GREEN BUSINESSES THROUGH TRAINING TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN BUSINESS GUIDEBOOK.

Saveur Naturelles de Rodrigues is a food processing business located in Riviere Cocos, Rodrigues Island. The enterprise concentrates on turmeric production. After undergoing SAG training on food processing with minimal chemicals and sustainable agriculture, they diversified their product range to dried fruits (papaya, banana, mango, etc.), neem leaves, fruit nectar and marmalade. 36 other participants attended this training.

After SAG intervention, the food processing improved resulting in better products, quality, hygiene, handling and improved measuring of ingredients. They now feature regularly in market fairs where they also sell their products.



Some entrepreneurs from Rodrigues display organic fruits and jams from their various initiatives during a networking meeting

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

ORGANIC BEAUTY PRODUCTS APPEAL TO MARKET

MSME: SEPT ETOILES BEAUTY CENTRE LTD

GRANTEE: COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING CAPACITY AMONGST RODRIGUANS TO ADOPT GREEN BUSINESSES THROUGH TRAINING TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN BUSINESS GUIDEBOOK.

Sept Etoiles Beauty Centre is comprised of a group of women entrepreneurs who were trained in making and using organic natural beauty products through SAG support. Comprising of 90 members, the entrepreneurs gained knowledge in making natural beauty products. As a result, customers have developed a preference of organic products to the inorganic products. These entrepreneurs have created new business streams, recording good feedback from customers. They have also recorded a higher number of walk-in customers since introducing these organic products.

The entrepreneurs hope to participate in training on marketing, business plan development and record keeping to increase effectiveness.

ENTERPRISE LOOK TO GROW BUSINESS FROM SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

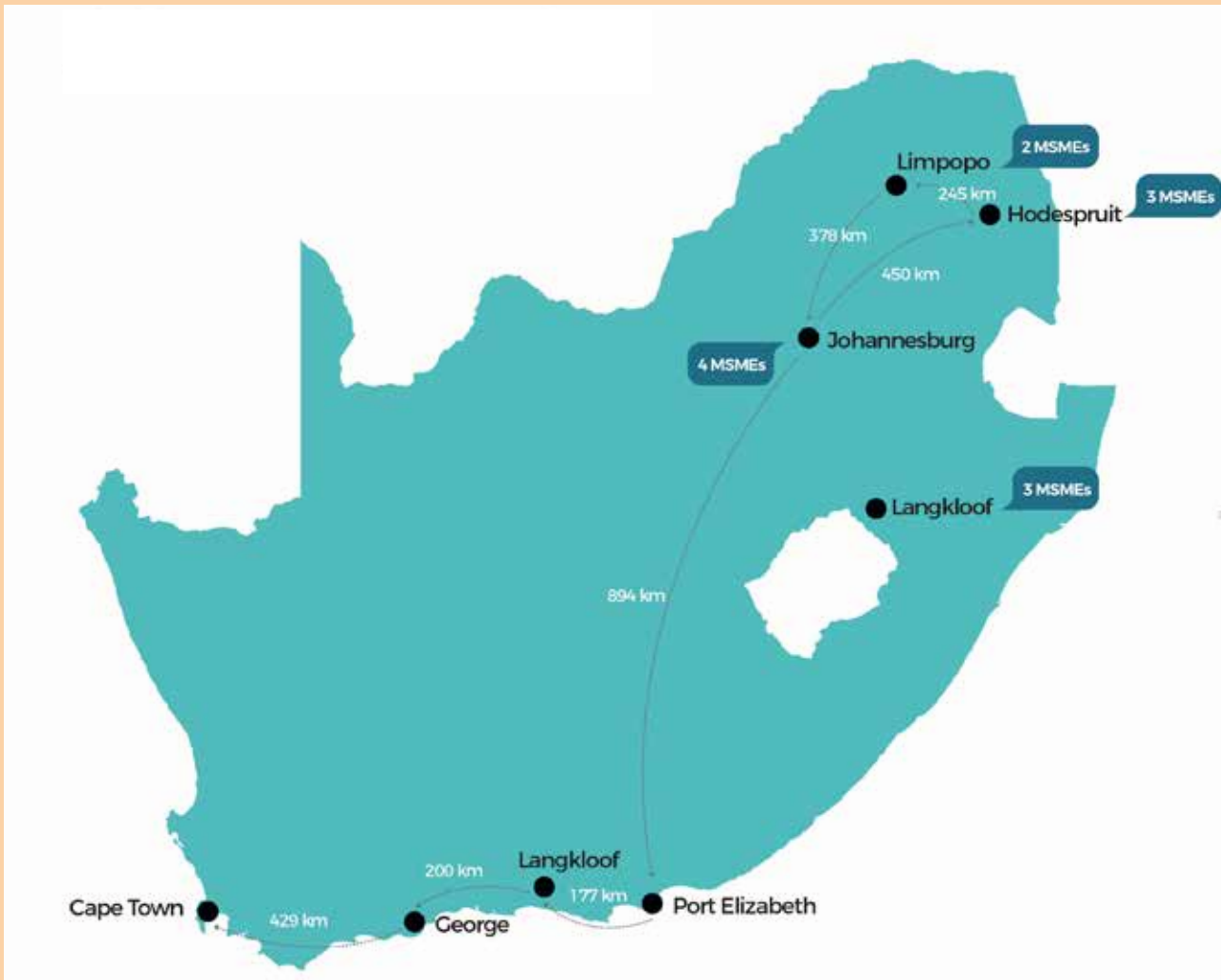
MSME: MARIE MARIE'LE LYGIE PERRINE

GRANTEE: COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPING CAPACITY AMONGST RODRIGUANS TO ADOPT GREEN BUSINESSES THROUGH TRAINING TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN BUSINESS GUIDEBOOK.

Marie Marie'le Lygie Perrine is an enterprise located in Rodrigues that specializes in making soap and candles. Alongside 37 other entrepreneurs, they participated in SAG training on making natural soap and candles. The five business partners have grown their business and started selling at the local market. Although it is still unsustainable, they sell about 20-25 pieces per day. Their main challenge is getting access to capital to procure the necessary equipment. They will participate in training on business skills including Business Plan development, marketing and record keeping.

SOUTH AFRICA



Map showing the towns that were visited and the number of MSMEs visited in each town in South Africa

In South Africa, a total of 13 MSMEs were visited in Johannesburg, Limpopo, Hodespruit, Langkloof, Port Elizabeth, George and Cape Town.

The selected priority areas for South Africa are Agriculture, Integrated Waste Management and Manufacturing.

In addition to that, the following cross-cutting themes have also been identified as critical: Energy-efficiency, Labelling and Standards, Water efficiency, Eco-innovation and Sustainable trade

Out of a possible 600 MSMEs, the Technical Monitoring and Evaluation Team visited 13 MSMEs in South Africa

COMPANY CHAMPIONS WASTE EXCHANGE

MSME: SIMBA CHIPS

GRANTEE: AFRICAN ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (ARSCP)

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

Simba Chips is a South African based large scale company that specializes in the processing and manufacturing of potato chips. Producing about 100 tons of chips in a day. They are a model company in SCP practices and patterns.

Through SAG intervention, they have been able to have linkages with other MSMEs on waste exchange after going through training on Industrial Symbiosis by the NCPC – SA. The company supports the growth of other MSMEs through support in waste exchange in South Africa.

COMMUNITY USES COOPERATIVE TO TRADE MEAT PROFITABLY

MSME: UTAH VILLAGE

GRANTEE: CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA

PROJECT TITLE: MEAT NATURALLY INITIATIVE: EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S EMERGING RED MEAT SECTOR.

South Africa recently suffered its worst drought in recorded history, with devastating consequences for communities and wildlife in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere region. Utah Village is one of the villages located close to Kruger National Park. It also falls in the area that has been under quarantine for 15 years due to the contagious foot and mouth disease.

The inhabitants of this village depend on small-scale livestock production on communal rangelands for their livelihoods. Cattle play an integral role the culture here, where a family's wealth can be measured by the size of the herd it owns. The drought experience brings with it a myriad of challenges. For families struggling to make ends meet, the loss of a single cow can mean economic ruin. Before SWITCH Africa Green intervention, access to markets was almost im-

possible for these farmers. Selling of cows took place in the same community during ceremonies such as marriage and religious festivities majorly to raise school fees for their children. The rates were low as the demand in the area is not high since most people in the area keep subsistence cattle.

Through SWITCH Africa Green's intervention, the village has been enabled to form a cooperative to graze their cattle and trade their meat communally and profitably. Current membership now stands at 96 farmers who have about 299 heads of cattle. Conservation South Africa (CSA), a SWITCH Africa Green Grantee, has also introduced the concept of a mobile abattoir, where instead of the farmers going to find them, the abattoir comes to the village. The project has also initiated constant supervision of health of cattle such as regular dips and vaccinations and communal grazing through synergies with other projects Herding for health project, Bush clearing project and Kruger to Canyon project.

Biodiversity and Red Meat Cooperative, a SWITCH Africa Green partner, buys and sells the meat on behalf of the farmers beyond the restricted area, this allows them to fetch a better price for their produce since the animals are not allowed to leave the quarantine area. SWITCH Africa Green through its grantee has also provided synergies with other projects including the monitoring of health of cattle by herd monitors, who ensure sustainable herding. Rotational grazing, has been introduced to mitigate the impact of the drought. The cooperative is now collectively working to negotiate for good meat prices for the free-range grass fed meat in the market. The community members for they can now sell their meat at better prices due to the cooperative established with CSA. The abattoir now slaughters about 24 animals per month.

"I now see the benefits of working together. If we want something, we need to start working as a group – start ourselves, not wait for others to come and help us." The sentiment reflects success on the ground: the rangelands are healthier due to rotational grazing.



Utah village has been enabled to form a cooperative to graze their cattle and trade their meat communally and profitably.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green



Subsistence farming is a major source of livelihood for many communities in South Africa. SWITCH Africa Green works with the pastoralist communities to build capacity towards practising sustainable grazing

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

ENTERPRENUER FINDS CHEAPER QUALITY RAW MATERIAL

MSME: RECOLITE

GRANTEE: CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA

PROJECT TITLE: MEAT NATURALLY INITIATIVE: EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S EMERGING RED MEAT SECTOR.

This is a small tannery business ran by a young gentleman in his home. He acquired a buffing machine which cleans the skin after which he uses chemicals to tan. He orders chemicals through a bigger enterprise to keep his costs low.

The training provided on sustainable consumption and production practices has been very instrumental in linking the business with the newly formed cooperative for supply of relevant skins. He also provides a market for the cow skins in Utah village. Through the SWITCH Africa Green project intervention, the access of cow skins from the local community has been made easier.

The young gentleman faces difficulty in acquiring the essential chemicals and has to rely on other bigger enterprises. He plans to set up the business in the garage in future and move it from his house, though access to funds is quite a challenge.

FARMER EXPECTS PRODUCE INCREASE FROM ADOPTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

MSME: MR. KOBE

GRANTEE: FUNDACION SUSTALDE

PROJECT TITLE: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND COMMERCIALIZATION STRATEGIES IN THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA

This farmer produces vegetables in green houses, specifically cucumbers, sweet peppers, sweet potatoes and onions, among others. He mainly uses conventional farming techniques. He was selected as a beneficiary because he participated in the sustainable agriculture workshop and showed interest in implementing SCP practices and patterns. The farmer received recapitalization support from government in 2012 and is planning to replace and improve on the facilities on his farm including the green houses for the next planting season.

Through the intervention by Fundacion Sustdale, a SAG grantee, the farmer has been able to access training on sustainable farming practices and also follow up on assessment of the farmer's premises to determine the farming practices to be taken up. Although training is still at an early stage for this farmer to see any benefits (only concept of sustainable farming has been introduced), when he takes up the sustainable farming practices, it is estimated that his production will increase. SWITCH Africa Green has been instru-

mental in assisting the farmer improve on safe keeping of pesticides fertilizer storage and the fixation of water leakages.

FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS INCORPORATES WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES

MSME: BULE BULE HOGS AND CROPS

GRANTEE: FUNDACION SUSTALDE

PROJECT TITLE: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND COMMERCIALIZATION STRATEGIES IN THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA

Bule Bule Hogs and Crops is a family owned business managed by a mother and son. They specialize in contract farming of sweet peppers, cayenne peppers, beans and butter nut. They focus mainly on contract growing of pepper for Pepperdew International company while other peppers are also supplied to a spice company. In addition, cayenne pepper is produced for the local market. They also produce Butternut whose demand currently surpasses the supply.

The entrepreneur participated in a workshop on sustainable farming practices facilitated by Fundacion Sustdale. The grantee follows up on the implementation of the training through the local government extension officers. Even though the implementation of the sustainable farming practices are at an early stage, through the intervention of SAG, the farmer has been able to incorporate water efficiency techniques; including water storage measures. The drought during this period has been a challenge for crop production.

START-UP COMPANY CREATES BUSINESS PLAN

MSME: GE SOLUTIONS LTD

GRANTEE: SEED HOSTED AT ADELPHI RESEARCH GEMEINNTZIGE GMBH

PROJECT TITLE: PROMOTING ECO-ENTERPRISES IN AFRICA (BURKINA FASO, GHANA, KENYA, MAURITIUS, SOUTH AFRICA AND UGANDA)

Based in Johannesburg, GE Solutions Ltd promotes climate smart agriculture and food security. The company participated in the SEED starter workshop in 2012 which helped them narrow down their many ideas on what they should do as a business. They carried out a targeted market analysis to identify the most valuable product, resulting in their focus on producing 3 vegetables only. They participated in the second workshop SAG-SEED starter workshop in May 2016 where they pitched the idea to different people to see how viable the business idea was. From the feedback, they made the decision to acquire land through leasing and started farming thereafter. They have received support mainly in the development of their business plan and the setting up of their record keeping system from SEED, a SAG grantee.



A farmer shows his crops in a green house

Photo | Green Acre Living

COMPANY PROMOTES ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD MICRO-ENTERPRISES

MSME: GREEN ACRE LIVING

GRANTEE: SEED HOSTED AT ADELPHI RESEARCH GEMEINNTZIGE GMBH

PROJECT TITLE: PROMOTING ECO-ENTERPRISES IN AFRICA (BURKINA FASO, GHANA, KENYA, MAURITIUS, SOUTH AFRICA AND UGANDA)

Green Acre Living provides organic farming training to emerging farmers in urban areas and promotes the establishment of urban food micro-enterprises. The focus is on biodiversity, promoting indigenous foods and increasing organic production to achieve food security. They house a facility for training on sustainable agriculture. The main course takes about 3 months while shorter trainings can last for a few weeks. Charges per participant are about 150 Rand per day. The participants are normally sponsored (the last group in February 2017 was sponsored by WWF).

They have gone through the catalyzer awards training and were catalyzer award winners. The members of the association have participated in trainings on waste management.

BUSINESS ENJOYS GAINS IN BRANDING AND RECORD KEEPING

MSME: TORIMA GROWPODS

GRANTEE: SEED HOSTED AT ADELPHI RESEARCH GEMEINNTZIGE GMBH

PROJECT TITLE: PROMOTING ECO-ENTERPRISES IN AFRICA (BURKINA FASO, GHANA, KENYA, MAURITIUS, SOUTH AFRICA AND UGANDA)

Torima Growpods is a sole-proprietorship business that produces cost effective, water efficient hydroponics for vegetable production. They provide value addition by giving the user a 25% faster growth rate with 80% less water use. The business focuses on food security projects with sustainability challenges e.g. school feeding programmes. The enterprise started manufacturing in November 2016 and has delivered 31 growpods to date.

They participated in the SAG -SEED starter workshop in 2016 and thereafter have had regular follow up with SEED. They were then guided on the development of a business plan (they had overestimated the market size but SEED helped them narrow down to a realistic figure). They have also been able to get support on record keeping. Notably, the grantee helped the entrepreneur in branding, marketing, record keeping and regular mentorship. The company has shown positive impact from the trainings.



A Labelwise campaign advert encouraging shoppers to purchase products that have been produced sustainably

Photo | Fairtrade

COMPANY PROMOTES CONSUMPTION OF GREEN PRODUCTS

MSME: SEVEN OAKS

GRANTEE: FAIRTRADE LABEL-SOUTH AFRICA

PROJECT TITLE: PROMOTING SCP IN SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Sevenoaks Trading (Pty) Ltd is a Green bean coffee supplier. The organization imports green coffee direct from various places including Central and South America, Indonesia, India as well as Africa. They supply these to coffee roasters nationally and beyond. Founded in 1999, they client number has grown from 20 clients to about 300 clients and the demand has surpassed the supply.

With support from Fairtrade South Africa, they have been able to carry out campaigns to increase visibility of their green products. Being the first of its kind globally, four of the world's most credible eco and social labels collaborated to create LABELWISE, a campaign to help shoppers identify products that are kind to our planet and foster a more ethical society, by making them aware of the different sustainability labels that exist. This ground-breaking campaign is the first collaboration of its kind and is a product of the power that combined voices have in driving global change for the environment and people.

Working on the premise that while individually each of the four labels are effective, together they are a force to be reckoned with. The four labels are individually recognized in their respective fields. Each of

the labels also utilize independent auditing and are members of International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL) which is an independent body that certifies sustainability certification systems.

1. Fairtrade promotes more equitable terms of trade in the farming sector by ensuring that small-scale farmers receive a fair price for their crops, and that workers are empowered through better working and living conditions.
2. Fair Trade Tourism promotes responsible and sustainable tourism in southern Africa and beyond.
3. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) promotes responsible forest management worldwide by looking after everything related to forests, including the people and animals that rely on it. The FSC label means that the particular product can be traced directly to a responsibly managed forest.
4. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) addresses the global problem of unsustainable fishing and safeguarding of seafood supplies for the future.

The LABELWISE campaign is funded by SWITCH Africa Green in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs. Over the next two years, LABELWISE will educate public and private consumers about sustainable agricultural practices, and promote sustainable lifestyles more broadly.



A farmer shows her compost structure she installed in her farm after undergoing training

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

FARMER GETS NEW INCOME STREAM FROM HONEYBUSH PLANT

MSME: STANLAKE KASINAMURAYI

GRANTEE: LIVING LANDS

PROJECT TITLE: COLLABORATION TO FACILITATE INVESTMENT AND SHIFTS TO A GREEN ECONOMY THAT CAN IMPROVE SOCIAL WELLBEING AND THE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE PORT ELIZABETH WESTERN CATCHMENT AREAS

Stanlake leases his land and produces vegetables for sale in the local market and learning institutions. He produces about 6,000 heads of cabbages in a good season, which sells at 5 Rand per head. He is now open to producing Honeybush as proposed by the grantee, which is a high value crop, takes about 2 years to grow. Input costs are however high for small farmers.

He has undergone training on Honeybush growing as a high value crop in the area. He has also been trained on making compost which he developed after training with Living Lands, a SAG grantee. He previously used chemical fertilizer on his farm. He now plans to develop an irrigation system instead of relying on rainfall.

COMPANY PROMOTES THE GROWTH OF HONEYBUSH TO CREATE NEW INCOME STREAMS FOR FARMERS

MSME: THE HEIGHTS TEA ESTATES

GRANTEE: LIVING LANDS

PROJECT TITLE: COLLABORATION TO FACILITATE INVESTMENT AND SHIFTS TO A GREEN ECONOMY THAT CAN IMPROVE SOCIAL WELLBEING AND THE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE PORT ELIZABETH WESTERN CATCHMENT AREAS

Heights Tea Estates is one of the three factories processing Honeybush in the Langkloof area. Honeybush is a high value crop that grows wildly in this area. The organization grows seedlings of different types of Honeybush for distribution. A few farms grow Honeybush in the area but the raw materials/seedlings

and seeds are limited in supply. This establishment exports Honeybush mainly to US but also hopes to reach the EU market. The current supply is 3500 tons while the demand is 9000 tons. Donovan - the manager explained that Honeybush is not a tea but a "tisane".

A co-operative to facilitate coordination and growing of Honeybush will be set up with linkages to the processors which is in line with the grantee's proposal on sustainable landscape.

HARLEM WOMEN'S GROUP ADOPT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

MSME: HARLEM WOMENS FORUM

GRANTEE: LIVING LANDS

PROJECT TITLE: COLLABORATION TO FACILITATE INVESTMENT AND SHIFTS TO A GREEN ECONOMY THAT CAN IMPROVE SOCIAL WELLBEING AND THE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE PORT ELIZABETH WESTERN CATCHMENT AREAS

Harlem Womens forum is a self-help group with 25 members. They mainly focus on catering, vegetables growing, clearing the river of invasive species and using these for composting.

The grantee conducted a composting workshop held for Harlem Womens Forum on composting using Alien Invasive Species. Social and situational assessments were conducted for Kouga, Kromme and the Langkloof Areas. The women got new ideas on making agriculture a money generating business e.g. on Honeybush growing and enhanced their skills on sustainable farming e.g. the making of compost for manure instead of chemical fertilizer.

More training and follow up on sustainable agriculture will be beneficial to this group in parallel with development of the sustainable landscape master plan. This will ensure that when the master-plan is in place the community will be able to implement sustainable agriculture and enhance implementation of the plan.



The Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana), Prof. Kwabena Frimpong (in blue tie) engaging one of exhibitors at the exhibition stands during the SWITCH Africa Green National Networking Forum in Accra.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green



SWITCH AFRICA GREEN GHANA NATIONAL NETWORKING FORUM

SWITCH Africa Green held the Ghana National Networking Forum in Accra City Hotel in Accra on 21-22 March, 2017. The forum brought together about 150 participants from the private sector, civil society and government. The main objectives of the forum were to discuss opportunities, challenges and barriers faced by the private sector in transitioning to an inclu-

sive, low carbon green economy that promotes SCP practices and patterns in Ghana; discuss ways of scaling up and replicating green business in the context of trade associations, MSMEs, government policies and programmes; and foster networking between different project entities with other stake-holders.

While delivering his remarks, Patrick Mwesigye (UN Environment) noted that the project progress was impressive, commended Ghana for being the first country to hold its national networking forum and its acceptance to host the SWITCH Africa Green Regional Policy Dialogue. Ebenezer Appah-Sampong (Environmental Protection Agency Ghana) in his remarks stated that the EPA would carry on board the success stories of the SAG project and the outcomes of the national networking forum in its dealings with SMEs in Ghana.

The keynote address was delivered by Hon. Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana who expressed government support and



Mid-Left: Gilbert Odjidja, Executive Director of Atlantis Electronics explaining his model on e-waste;

Top: Moses Nabio, of the trainees at the Atlantis electronics training centre

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green



Some of the products that were on display at the exhibition during the SWITCH Africa Green Ghana National Networking Forum in Accra

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

political will, appreciating the need for businesses in Ghana to adopt Sustainable Consumption and Production practices and the important role that SWITCH Africa Green and its partners are playing in supporting the country to achieve this. He reiterated that the government of Ghana will continue to put in place appropriate policies that promote green business.

There was an exhibition by over 20 organizations. Beneficiaries from the SAC project including enterprises and project grantees showcased innovation in greening the economy and their implementation of SCP practices. These cover five projects from the three priority sectors in Ghana; manufacturing, integrated waste management and tourism.

Notably, during the policy-makers round-table session, the private sector, represented by a number of organizations (involved in adopting sustainable production and consumption practices) expressed need for policy makers to provide support through policy intervention, allowing them to propagate and up-scale green business models towards a greener economy. There was goodwill shown by the increased collaboration of the public and private sector.

Other sessions that took place included; Financing for MSMEs and Policy Support. The session on financing MSMEs looked at the financial opportunities and challenges faced by MSMEs in advancing green business development in Africa, with input from the public and private sector. Among the panelist in the session were representatives from Ecobank, The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry Finance in Ghana. The results of the deliberations emphasized on need for capacity building for MSMEs in business management skills. It was noted that SWITCH Africa Green project through its grantees offers trainings on capacity building in business management including book-keeping. This is especially important for financing institutions to ensure that the money given out as credit is utilized for the purpose for which it was given. It was also noted that most of the practitioners were in the informal sector and there was need for them to be supported to formalize their businesses enabling them to be better prepared for financing opportunities from financing institutions and other organizations.

The forum was interactive and various break-out sessions were held covering the key priority sectors; Tourism, Manufacturing, Integrated Waste Manage-



One of the MSMEs under the Association of Ghana Industries, a SWITCH Africa Green grantee displaying some of their innovative products at the exhibition during the SWITCH Africa Green Ghana National Networking Forum

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

ment and Energy. On tourism, it was noted that there was need for support in assisting hotels and other tourist establishments to utilize waste generated from the establishment in a bid to green their businesses. It was suggested that a rating system would help in attracting potential customers to destinations that had adopted SCP practices. There was a need for policy intervention in providing various incentives to encourage businesses in this sector to implement sustainable consumption and production practices.

**SWITCH Africa Green
Ghana National
Networking forum
brought together about
150 participants from the
private sector, civil society
and government.**



Top: Mr. Paolo Salvia (Ag Head of Delegation, European Union, Ghana) giving his remarks at the opening session of the SWITCH Africa Green Regional Policy Dialogue

Bottom: Prof. Kwabena Frimpong (Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana) delivering the keynote address during the Regional Policy Dialogue

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

SWITCH AFRICA GREEN REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

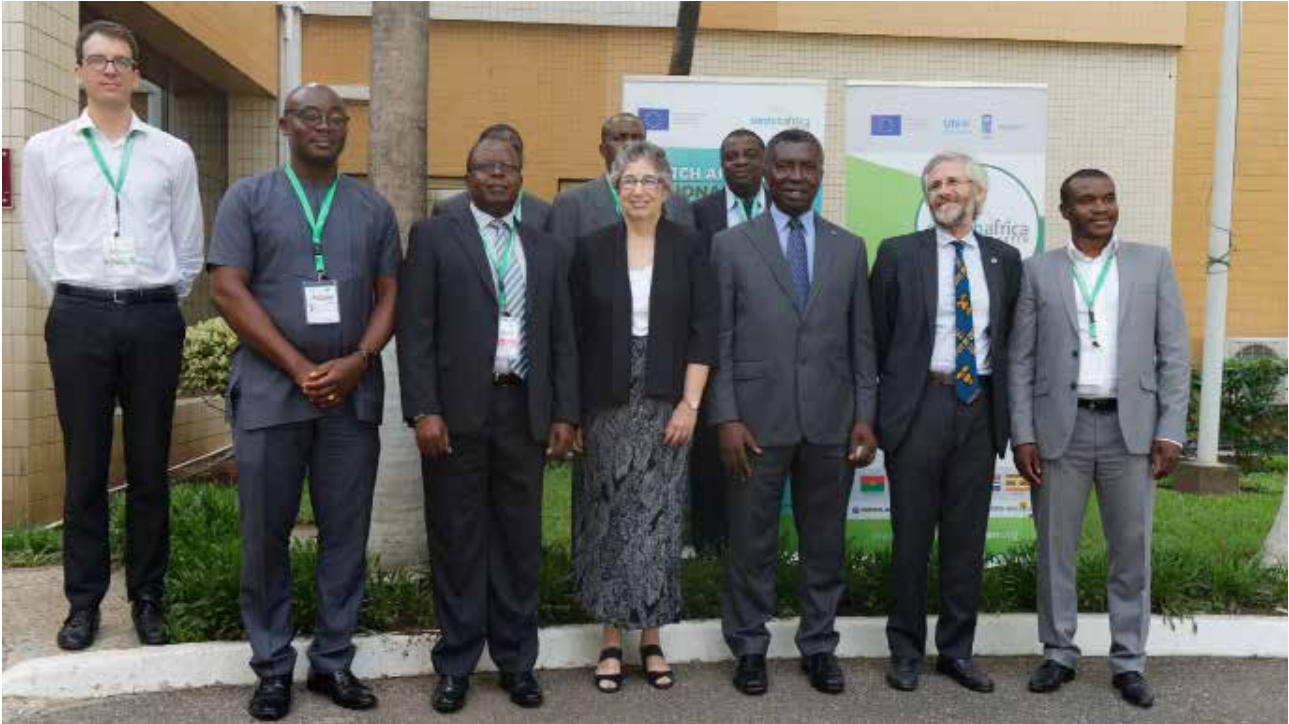
SWITCH Africa Green brought together about 80 stakeholders from six African countries for a Regional Policy Dialogue meeting in Accra, Ghana on 23-24 March 2017. The objective of the dialogue was to create a common understanding of policy landscape to enable countries strengthen their institutions with appropriate tools and legal instruments for green business development in the four priority sectors of SWITCH Africa Green – Agriculture, Integrated Waste Management, Manufacturing and Tourism.

While giving his remarks, Mr. Frank Turyatunga thanked Ghana for hosting the regional policy dialogue and appreciated the presence of the Minister that demonstrated the highest level of political will and support for the SWITCH Africa Green project. Also in his remarks, Mr. Appah affirmed Ghana's stance in promoting green business and sustainable consumption and production practices by the inauguration of the Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre (GNPCPC). He noted that the policy dialogue was an ideal event for stakeholders and policy makers to share best practices and have discussions on policy priorities. The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, appreciated the need for agricultural transformation in the West African regional block to ensure inclusive growth thereby creating an enabling environment for sustainable growth. She noted that this was an important forum in bringing in stakeholders from government, civil society and private sector in sharing ideas. She stressed on the importance of

the policy dialogue being in line with the SDGs especially in expanding energy to all and attaining sustainable economic growth, agriculture and development.

On behalf of the European Union (EU), Mr. Paolo Salvia reiterated the EU's support to the SWITCH Africa Green programme, noting that UN Environment conducted a green economy assessment and green business development was identified as a key priority. He noted that the EU is committed to support middle-income countries in Africa. He reassured the stakeholders of the support on the regional priorities that shall be agreed on during this policy dialogue.





Left to Right: Paulo Dalla Stella (Programme Specialist, UNDP), Ebenezer Appah-Sampong (Deputy Executive Director - Technical, EPA), Frank Turyatunga (Deputy Regional Director, Africa Office, UN Environment), Ms Christine Evans-Klock (United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ghana), Hon. Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana), Mr. Paolo Salvia (Ag Head of Delegation, European Union, Ghana), Victor Manavhela (Regional Manager Guateng, National Cleaner Production Centre, South Africa) taking a group photo after the inaugural session.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

While giving the keynote address, Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng (Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation) thanked the UN Environment for implementing the programme noting that promotion of biogas technology had always been his passion. He noted that most of SWITCH Africa Green's projects were simple allowing for easy uptake and replication. He confirmed the government of Ghana's commitment in assisting the project since it will not only help Ghana in alleviating poverty but also promote environmental preservation. of importance, he mentioned that special funds shall be allocated to finance green environment projects. The opening session was followed by a press conference

where both local and international media fielded questions to the minister, UN Environment, EU and EPA.

Each of the six pilot countries selected their policy priorities and developed action plans, outlining the roadmap to be taken and the next steps for the policy interventions and implementation. The documents developed will be used as a guide for the implementation phase. Each country selected sectoral priorities spanning the four main priority sectors: Agriculture, Integrated Waste Management, Manufacturing and Tourism.



Some of the participants during one of the break-out sessions

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green



Some of the participants during one of the break-out sessions

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Representing the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. Koffi stated that the SWITCH Africa Green priority sectors are in line with regional policy needs. He reiterated that there was need to mainstream these priorities at the national level to be able to reap benefits from the synergies built from the regional level. He appreciated SWITCH Africa Green's initiative that is facilitating policy interventions in integrating green economy as a national priority. Mr. Gabriel, on behalf of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), spoke about the good prospects and the benefits the region stands to benefit from the implementation of these policies, stating that it will significantly contribute to ending hunger and malnutrition by 2025, one of FAO's commitments. There was a general goodwill on promoting this agenda from this session.

Representatives from Ecobank, Ghana and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana were present during the session on Financing Green Business Development. The panelists acknowledged the existing challenges to financing green business noting that the cost of credit was very high. Mr. Solomon Tettey, representing Ecobank, stated that they are committed to looking into developing products to meet the needs of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). So far, trade financing and contract financing

were the two main avenues of providing finance for businesses. He explained that they were involved in a solar project which aimed at providing energy to 25,000 households including MSMEs. Mr. Kwesi Ofori Antwi on behalf of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana, reiterated the government's support to greening businesses by sharing the available avenues for accessing domestic public financing in Ghana, including the Green Climate Fund and the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI).

Mr Dirk Wegener (UN Environment) took the participants through the next steps after the regional policy dialogue giving a summary of the discussions and actions to be taken. One of the key actions include the countries validating the action plans during their national networking forums. Participants are required to further fine tune the draft road-map by consultation with their National Technical Coordination Committee (NTCC) members. The policy action plans once adopted and validated by the six countries will receive further support and facilitation by SWITCH Africa Green.

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