INTRODUCTION

The Coconut Waste Project (COWAP) seeks to achieve a green-circular economy and create livelihood opportunities through value addition to coconut husks in the La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality. The project targets coconut vendors, unemployed youths, communities within the La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality (LaNMM) and communities surrounding the LaNMM. The project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) under its “Promoting a Circular Economy and Local Development Programme”. The COWAP is being implemented by CERATH Development Organization (CDO) (lead), La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA) and the Tree Crops Center (TCC).

GREEN ENTERPRENUERS PROGRAM

The Green Entrepreneurs Program (GREP) commenced with the employability and entrepreneurship training from 2nd September to 10th October, 2021. The Trainees were trained on key entrepreneurship and employability skills. The training content for the entrepreneurship skills included business plan development, introduction to a business model canvas, how to pitch and how to succeed as an entrepreneur. Trainees that received training on entrepreneurship skills will be enrolled onto the project as green entrepreneurs following the commencement of operations in the coconut waste processing factory.

The employability training module focused on basic employability skills, occupational health hazard and work ethics. A total of 12 trainees successful completed the cohort one pilot phase of the GREP.
INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH LEARNING GROUPS

The project team continued with the introductory meetings for the coconut vendors’ learning groups. The project team engaged coconut vendors within Oyarifa and Ashaley-Botwe communities. So far, the project team has engaged a total of 130 coconut vendors out of a total of 250. The project team is expected to engage 250 coconut vendors by the end of 2025. The purpose of the learning group meetings was to discuss the formation of coconut vendor association and the enrolment of coconut vendors onto various forms of social protection schemes. Through the learning groups, coconut vendors will receive training on basic life and financial literacy skills. The project team has engaged 7 coconut vendor learning groups within the project area. The learning groups have been formed in Oyarifa, Ashaley-Botwe, Adenta-Filling, Dome, Oman FM, UPSA, and Madina Antima community.

LAND SEARCH FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COCONUT WASTE PROCESSING FACTORY

A key activity of the Coconut Waste Project is the construction of a coconut waste processing facility within the project area. The coconut waste processing facility will seek to process about 37 tonnes of coconut husks within the Madina municipality into various coconut waste value added products. As such, the project team has begun a search for available land within Danfa, Oyarifa, Abokobi and Adoteiman communities. To further ascertain the authenticity of the land documents, the project team has submitted the site plans to the Lands Commission for verification. This will assist the project team to acquire a land that has no litigation history for the construction of the coconut waste processing factory.