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THE COCONUT WASTE PROJECT COMMUNIQUE ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Introduction

The Coconut Waste Project (COWAP) organized a learning workshop on Thursday, 15th September 2022, at the Mensvic Grande Hotel in Accra. The theme for the workshop was dubbed ***Youth in Green and Circular Economy: The way forward to sustainable job creation in the sector***. The workshop served as a platform to share with stakeholders existing efforts, interventions, and opportunities in advancing Green and Circular Economy. Additionally, research findings on the employment prospects of Green and Circular Economy in Ghana were shared with participants.

To conclude the workshop, a roundtable discussion was conducted to deliberate on insights and recommendations targeted at positioning Green and Circular Economy as a viable avenue for sustainable youth job creation.

Recommendations

To enhance youth participation in Ghana's Green and Circular Economy, stakeholders made the following recommendations:

- Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) together with the Ministry of Education are to develop a green-circular economy-themed subject that will be included in the educational curriculum starting with primary schools. This is intended to inculcate in young people green-circular ideas, ignite interest and build necessary technical capacities geared towards generating worth from waste.
- State agencies, particularly MESTI, are implored to heighten education and awareness to spur public interest in the Green and Circular Economy. These organizations can leverage a novel and captivating approaches such as the use of social media and the production of green-circular economy-themed movies to incite nationwide interest in the sector.
- A dedicated low-interest yielding fund by the government that will seek to support Green and Circular Economy initiatives (both new and existing enterprises) with the provision of infrastructure (including machinery), capacity development, and research.
- The La Nkwantanang Madina Municipal Assembly should institute by-laws against the discharge of coconut husks at landfill sites and set up specialized coconut waste collection points, which will complement the implementation of the COWAP. This is important to mitigate the early decommissioning of landfill sites due to the bulky nature and high concentration of lignin in coconut husks.



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- There should be increased collaboration and intensified efforts among stakeholders to develop a Circular Economy Action Plan and Roadmap. This will be necessary to inform and direct national efforts at enhancing circularity in Ghana.
- Educational and training institutions should incorporate a business-driven approach to teaching and learning on Green and Circular Economy. This should be intended to equip students with business savviness and technical skills necessary for youth entrepreneurship.

Conclusion

The workshop recorded 60 participants and brought together diverse stakeholders, including public regulators, civil society groups, development partner organizations, Ghanaian youths, and private sector organizations in Ghana's Green and Circular Economy.

The Coconut Waste Project is being implemented by CDO (lead) with the European Union (EU) funding. The comments expressed here are a compilation of deliberations shared by key sector stakeholders during the COWAP learning workshop. They are not indicative of a statement of policy by the EU.

Kindly find further details on the event here: www.coconutwasteproject.com or www.cerathdev.org

SIGNED

Dr. Lucille A. Abruquah

Country Director

16th September 2022



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MADINA MUNICIPAL
ASSEMBLY

