



**THE COCONUT**  
WASTE PROJECT



# INAUGURATION OF THE COCO-WASTE HUB



**November 2023**

Implemented by



Funded by  
The European Union



This publication is available electronically in the following locations:

- The Coconut Waste Project  
<http://thecoconutwasteproject.com>
- CERATH Development Organisation  
<https://cerathdev.org/>

For more information on the Coconut Waste Project, contact:

The Coconut Waste Project

CERATH Development Organization

7 Baiden Avenue, Westland

Tel: 0302949725

Email: [info@cerathdev.org](mailto:info@cerathdev.org)

## **Funding**

Prepared with funding from the European Union (EU) under a grant agreement (CSO-LA/2020/419-623) entitled the Coconut Waste Project (COWAP). This grant was awarded to a consortium led by CERATH Development Organization and made available under the “Promoting a Circular Economy and Local Development” Programme.

## **Disclaimer**

The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the COWAP team and are not intended as statements of EU Policy. The contents of this report are the responsibility of the COWAP team and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU.

## **Cover Photo**

Aerial View of the Coco-Waste Hub (Photo Credit: CDO)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CERATH Development Organisation (CDO) is extremely grateful to the European Union for its presence, provision of funds, and continued support of the Coconut Waste Project (COWAP). CDO also expresses appreciation to the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) and the Municipal Planner and Environmental Officer at the La Nkwantanang Madina-Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA) for their participation and support of the project.

Special thanks go to the traditional council of Danfa for their kind reception and constant support. Sincere appreciation also goes to the Coconut Vendor Association for their presence and participation. CDO also acknowledges the presence and commitment of coconut vendors to this project. Again, appreciation goes to Joy News and Citi News for their coverage of the event.

Lastly, CDO is grateful to Mrs. Portia Cofie for moderating the inauguration ceremony.

Our biggest appreciation goes to Almighty God for his unfailing guidance.

## **ACRONYMS**

AMA	Accra Metropolitan Assembly
CDO	CERATH Development Organisation
COWAP	Coconut Waste Project
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
LaNMM	La Nkwantanang Madina-Municipality
LaNMMA	La Nkwantanang Madina- Municipal Assembly
MCE	Municipal Chief Executive
TCC	Tree Crops Center
UG-IESS	University of Ghana Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies

## TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	3
ACRONYMS.....	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	7
2.0 PROCEEDINGS FROM THE INAUGURATION .....	8
2.1 Welcome Address .....	8
2.2 Opening Remarks.....	8
2.2.1 Remarks by the Municipal Chief Executive .....	8
2.2.2 Remarks by a representative of the AMA.....	9
2.2.3 Remarks by the Representative of UG-IESS .....	9
2.2.4 Remarks by the Chief of Danfa.....	10
2.2.5 Remarks by a Representative of the Coconut Vendors Association.....	10
2.2.6 Remarks by the CDO Project Manager.....	11
2.3 Keynote Address by the EU Delegation to Ghana .....	11
2.4 Unveiling and Ribbon Cutting.....	12
2.5 Facility Tour, Live Demonstration & Product Showcase.....	12
2.6 Vote of Thanks.....	13
ANNEXES .....	14
Annex 1: Picture Gallery .....	14
Annex 2: Programme Outline.....	15

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: CDO Country Director giving a welcome address ..... 8

Figure 2: The MCE giving a remark ..... 8

Figure 3: The representative of the AMA giving a remark..... 9

Figure 4: A representative from UG-IESS giving a remark..... 9

Figure 5: The Chief of Danfa giving a remark..... 10

Figure 6: A representative of the Coconut Vendor Association giving a remark..... 10

Figure 7: The Project Manager of COWAP giving a remark..... 11

Figure 8: The Head of Cooperation (EUD) giving the keynote address ..... 11

Figure 9: Plaque unveiling by Mr. Massimo Mina ..... 12

Figure 10: The COWAP project manager narrating the facility’s production processes to participants  
..... 12

## **I.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **I.1 Background**

The La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality (LaNMM) is one of the densely populated and cosmopolitan municipalities in the Greater Accra Region, with coconut husk as the major menace in managing municipal solid waste. This stems from the high consumption of coconut within the municipality, facilitated by the presence of numerous vendors. Unfortunately, the consumption of coconut coupled with poor management of the husks has led to the indiscriminate disposal of this resource.

The coconut husks, considered as waste, are useful raw materials to produce an array of products, including cocopeat, paper, pallets, coir mattresses, and charcoal. Nevertheless, the municipality is challenged with expertise and proficiency to transform the coconut husks into valuable resources. These opportunities have not been tapped and thus represent lost economic opportunities for the municipality and Ghana. The Coconut Waste Project was therefore developed mindful of these challenges.

The European Union, under the Circular Economy and Local Development Programme, awarded a grant to a consortium consisting of CERATH Development Organisation (CDO), La Nkwantanang Madina-Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA), and Tree Crops Center (TCC) for the implementation of the Coconut Waste Project (COWAP). COWAP is a 4-year project that aims to achieve a green-circular economy and create livelihood opportunities through value addition to coconut husks in the La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality. The Coconut Waste project focuses on

- establishing a coconut waste aggregation system in the target municipality
- instituting a processing center to convert coconut waste into selected useable products such as cocopeat
- creating linkages with market actors to procure coconut waste value-added products and
- implementing a monitoring and evaluation system for waste management, learning, and scaling of the project.

### **I.2 Event Details**

In line with the project's second objective, the coconut waste processing facility dubbed the Coco-Waste Hub, has been established to recycle coconut waste into valuable products such as cocopeat, for use in agriculture and forestry; and coir fiber, for use in construction materials and consumer goods; and coconut shells, to serve as biofuel.

Having erected the factory, the consortium of project implementers, together with the project's funding organization invited stakeholders to the inauguration of the facility. The inauguration of the 30-tonne/day factory took place on Tuesday, 21 November 2023, at the factory's premises at Danfa, in the La-Nkwantanang Madina Municipality (LaNMM).

In attendance at the inauguration of the recycling facility were 43 stakeholders across government and state institutions, academia, private enterprise, traditional authority, coconut vendor associations, and the media.

### **I.3 Event Rational**

With a keen focus on circular economy and waste-to-value, the inaugural ceremony for the Coco-Waste Hub, among other things, was to

- announce the facility to stakeholders and
- officially open and kickstart its operations.

## 2.0 PROCEEDINGS FROM THE INAUGURATION

### 2.1 Welcome Address

The Country Director for CDO, Dr. Lucille Abruquah, provided a concise overview of the motivation behind the Coconut Waste Project. She highlighted that a persistent issue in the La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality was the management of coconut waste, a challenge stemming from the community's substantial coconut consumption. She emphasized that the problem was compounded by the compact nature of coconut husks, which take up significant space in landfills, and their high lignin content, which renders them slow to decompose. She further mentioned that the Coconut Waste Project aims to address this challenge by aggregating coconut waste in the municipality and transforming it into valuable resources. In closing, she thanked all dignitaries present for their steadfast commitment to the project.



*Figure 1: CDO Country Director presenting a welcome address*

### 2.2 Opening Remarks

#### 2.2.1 Remarks by the Municipal Chief Executive

The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of LaNMMA, Hon. Jennifer Dede Afagbedzi, expressed gratitude for the financial support from the European Union (EU) in establishing the processing facility. She acknowledged the EU's efforts in enhancing the green and circular economy while creating employment opportunities. The MCE highlighted the project's significant impact in addressing key challenges within the municipality, including unemployment, waste management, and the adverse effects of climate change. Hon. Afagbedzi pledged the Assembly's total commitment to operationalizing the factory, ensuring that its objectives were met comprehensively and that it would continue to generate more job opportunities in the future.



*Figure 2: The MCE (LaNMMA) giving a remark*

### 2.2.2 Remarks by a representative of the AMA

Giving his remarks, the Unit Head for Solid Waste, Drains, and Maintenance at the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), Mr. Robert Tetteh Cheetham, highlighted the often-overlooked issue of coconut waste which he compared to more commonly addressed concerns like plastic waste. He expressed gratitude to the CERATH Development Organization (CDO) and the European Union (EU) for introducing an intervention that manages waste and transforms it into valuable resources. Mr. Cheetham emphasized the environmental hazards associated with burning coconut husks, leading to high levels of pollution and detrimental health effects. He noted that the rejection of coconut waste by landfills due to its weight and bulkiness had compelled coconut vendors to resort to burning, further endangering the environment. He went on to convey the AMA's appreciation for this innovative approach to managing the husks. He further expressed anticipation for the processing hub's extension within Accra, where coconut waste is similarly abundant and currently underutilized.



*Figure 3: The representative of the AMA giving his remarks*

### 2.2.3 Remarks by the Representative of UG-IESS

Representing the University of Ghana Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (UG-IESS), Dr. Benjamin Ofori, expressed excitement at the establishment of the facility and indicated that it would be included in the catalog of sites available for student research at the University. He underlined the significance of the facility, noting that its objectives would be integrated into the areas of interest of the Institute. In conclusion, he affirmed the university's readiness to collaborate with stakeholders to promote sustainable practices in managing coconut waste, emphasizing a commitment to fostering environmental sustainability.



*Figure 4: A representative from UG-IESS giving a remark*

### 2.2.4 Remarks by the Chief of Danfa

The Chief of Danfa, Nii Dzani Tsuru Afutu Brempong IV, expressed the traditional council's and the community's enthusiasm for hosting the coconut waste processing center. He extended gratitude to the European Union (EU) for the financial support that made the facility's construction possible. Furthermore, he appreciated CERATH Development Organization (CDO) for establishing an opportunity for job creation, particularly for the youth in Danfa and neighboring communities. The Chief pledged the community's dedication to utilizing the center effectively, highlighting their commitment to making the most of this valuable facility.



Figure 5: The Chief of Danfa giving a remark

### 2.2.5 Remarks by a Representative of the Coconut Vendors Association.

Representing the Coconut Vendors Association, Mr. Kofi Munko, conveyed sincere appreciation to the project implementers on behalf of the entire association. He highlighted the long-standing challenge of coconut waste disposal, emphasizing the financial burden it placed on the vendors. He mentioned that it cost them a significant portion of their daily wages to have the waste picked up by waste collectors. With the implementation of the Coconut Waste Project, Mr. Munko expressed gratitude for the free aggregation of the waste, relieving them (coconut vendors) of financial strain. Mr. Munko also noted the association's previous experiences with unfulfilled promises from private organizations regarding waste collection and how vendors have been left to their fate. He urged the project implementers to continue their commendable work whilst acknowledging the project's positive impact on their community.



Figure 6: A representative of the Coconut Vendor Association giving a remark

### 2.2.6 Remarks by the CDO Project Manager

In his address, the Project Manager of the Coconut Waste Project, Mr. Derek Adabie, touched on the significance of the facility and the far-reaching impacts it is set to deliver. He pointed out that a compelling aspect of the facility is the multitude of employment opportunities it will provide to the youth and the local workforce. He indicated that the core motive of the facility is to reduce coconut waste and its associated environmental hazards. He emphasized that by using advanced processing techniques, the facility will transform coconut waste into valuable resources like cocopeat, coir fiber, and shells. He stated that the facility will harness innovation and technology to explore collaborations with academia, research institutions, local businesses, and other industries to drive advancements in sustainable practices and the development of green approaches. He concluded by expressing gratitude to the European Union (EU), LANMMA, the project team, and all relevant partners for their commitment.



**Figure 7: The Project Manager of COWAP giving a remark**

### 2.3 Keynote Address by the EU Delegation to Ghana

In the keynote address, the Head of Cooperation for the European Union Delegation to Ghana, Mr. Massimo Mina, congratulated all implementing partners for their dedication to implementing the project. He listed the achievements of the Coconut Waste Project since its inception and the development of the facility as a significant accomplishment. He mentioned that promoting a green and circular economy is a priority to the EU and core to the European Green Deal (a strategy for growth and jobs) as Europe seeks to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. He used the opportunity to invite public authorities to collaborate with the processing hub and the entire project to realize its lasting success. He ended by stating that his desire is for the Coconut Waste Project to inspire other communities, all over Ghana, to become greener. He encouraged all to keep working together towards a more sustainable Ghana.



**Figure 8: The Head of Cooperation (EUD) giving the keynote address**

## 2.4 Unveiling and Ribbon Cutting

A plaque, marking the occasion, was unveiled by the Head of Cooperation (at the European Union Delegation), Mr. Massimo Mina, together with the MCE, the Chief of Danfa, and the Country Director for CERATH. The unveiling was followed by the ribbon cutting which commemorated the opening of the Coco-Waste Hub.



**Figure 9: Unveiling of the plaque by Mr. Massimo Mina**

## 2.5 Facility Tour, Live Demonstration & Product Showcase

After the ribbon-cutting, participants, led by the Project Manager, had the opportunity to tour the facility. The processing plant features three machines: a 20-tonne defibering machine, a 10-tonne defibering machine, and a sieving machine. The Project Manager provided a narration on the facility's production flow — starting with the aggregation of the coconut husks; crushing of the husks in the defibering machines; sifting into finer materials in the sieving machine; treatment to the desired moisture content, electrical conductivity, and pH; and bagging for storage in the warehouse. The narration of the production flow was followed by a live demonstration of the machinery in operation.

The tour concluded with an exhibition of products. The products ranged from the materials produced by the facility, dried fruits (mango, pineapple, coconut, and banana) processed using coconut shells, and potted flowers grown with cocopeat



**Figure 10: The COWAP project manager narrating the facility's production processes to participants**

## **2.6 Vote of Thanks**

Miss Nana Yaa Amponsah, Enterprise Development Officer for COWAP, concluded the event with a vote of thanks. She expressed gratitude to God for the event's success and extended special thanks to donors, dignitaries, beneficiaries, and attendees for their unwavering support and active participation throughout the inaugural ceremony.

## ANNEXES

### Annex I: Picture Gallery



*Attendees noting down their details at the registration desk*



*A cross-section of participants at the inauguration*



*Participants being taken round the processing area*



*Event attendees having a tour of the warehouse space*



*Participants being showed products up for exhibition*



*A group photo of all participants*



# Coco-Waste Hub

## Processing Facility Launch Programme Outline

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
9:30	Registration <i>Project Team</i>
10:00	Opening Prayer <i>Andrews Aibi Jnr.</i>
10:05	Welcome Address <i>CDO Country Director, Lucille Abruquah</i>
10:10	Opening Remarks <i>MESTI, EPA, LaNMMA, AMA, Traditional Authorities, Coconut Vendor Association, CDO</i>
10:45	Keynote Address <i>Mr. Massimo Mina, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation</i>
10:55	Unveiling & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony <i>EU, CDO, LaNMMA, TCC, MESTI, EPA, Chief of Danfa</i>
11:00	Facility Tour, Live Demonstration & Product Showcase <i>Project Manager, Derek Fifi Adabie / Project Team</i>
11:45	Vote of Thanks <i>Nana Yaa Amponsah</i>
11:50	Closing Prayer <i>Rosabel N.A. Quaye</i>
11:55	Photos, Refreshments, Interviews, Networking & Departure <i>All participants</i>



# The Coconut Waste Project

Find more about the Coconut Waste Project on our social media handles:

Facebook: [@cerathdevelopmentorganization](#)

LinkedIn: [@cerathdevelopmentorganization](#)

Website: [www.cerathdev.org](http://www.cerathdev.org)

[www.coconutwasteproject.com](http://www.coconutwasteproject.com)

Email: [info@coconutwasteproject.com](mailto:info@coconutwasteproject.com)

Phone: +233 (0) 302 949 725

+233 (0) 200 450 147

