



European Union



THE COCONUT WASTE PROJECT LAUNCH REPORT



VENUE: MENSVIC HOTEL, EAST LEGON, ACCRA

DATE: 20TH MAY, 2021

TIME: 08:00 AM PROMPT



La NKWANTANANG
MADINA MUNICIPAL
ASSEMBLY



This publication is available electronically on:

- CERATH Development Organization

www.cerathdev.org

For more information on the Coconut Waste Project, contact:

Coconut Waste Project

CERATH Development Organization

7 Baiden Ave 2nd St, Accra.

Tel: 030 294 9725

Email: info@cerathdev.org/ coconutwasteproject@cerathdev.org

Funding

Prepared with funding from the European Union (EU) under Grant Agreement (EuropeAid/I68109/DD/ACT/GH) awarded to CERATH Development Organization, and entitled The Coconut Waste Project (COWAP). The grant was 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 or policy of the EU. The contents of this report are the responsibility of the COWAP team and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU.

Cover Photo

Group picture of participants present at the Launch.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| List of Figures | III |
| Acknowledgements..... | IV |
| Acronyms..... | V |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... | 6 |
| I. INTRODUCTION..... | 7 |
| 1.0 Background of the Coconut Waste Project..... | 7 |
| 1.1 Background of the Coconut Waste Project launch | 8 |
| 2. PROCEEDINGS FROM THE LAUNCH..... | 8 |
| 2.0 Project launching ceremony – Session I | 8 |
| 2.1 Project launching ceremony- session II | 15 |
| 3. APPENDICES..... | 27 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | |
|---|----|
| Figure 1: Opening prayer by Rev. Gideon Osei Agyemang..... | 9 |
| Figure 2:CDO Director delivering the opening address..... | 9 |
| Figure 3: Mr. Theophilus Amoah Introducing the chairperson..... | 10 |
| Figure 4: H.E Pieter SMIDT Van Gelder giving the keynote address..... | 11 |
| Figure 5: Miss Nana Yaa Amponsah presenting on CDO and COWAP..... | 12 |
| Figure 6: Madam Priscilla Plange giving a remark on behalf of the Mdina MP..... | 13 |
| Figure 7: A remark by the MCE of LaNMMA..... | 14 |
| Figure 8: Mr. Kofi Munko giving a solidarity message on behalf of his colleagues..... | 15 |
| Figure 9: Chief of Danfa traditional council..... | 16 |
| Figure 10: The project manager giving a presentation on the key findings of baseline study..... | 19 |
| Figure 11: Miss Plange asking a question..... | 20 |
| Figure 12:The project manager addressing some questions..... | 21 |
| Figure 13: CDO Director addressing some questions..... | 22 |
| Figure 14: A coconut vendor Justice Cobbinah asking a question..... | 23 |
| Figure 15: Mr. Kwamina Quaison giving a remark on behalf of MESTI..... | 24 |
| Figure 16: The swearing-in of board members by Mr. Quaison..... | 25 |
| Figure 17: The Chief of Oyarifa..... | 25 |
| Figure 18: Maame Kyerewaa giving the closing prayer..... | 26 |
| Figure 19: Dignitaries at the launch..... | 30 |
| Figure 20: The CDO Director and the MCE of LaNMMA..... | 30 |
| Figure 21: Some CDO team members..... | 31 |
| Figure 22: The Coconut vendors with Madam Plange..... | 31 |
| Figure 23: The Coconut vendors with Mr. Adu - Gyamfi and Mr. Braimah..... | 32 |

Acknowledgements

Immense appreciation from CERATH Development Organisation (CDO) to the European Union (EU) for co-funding this project. CDO equally extends a warm appreciation to the La Nkwantanang Madina-Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA) and the Tree Crops Center (TCC) for partnering with CDO to achieve a common goal and for the success of the project launch.

Profound gratitude from CDO to the Chief of Oyarifa, Nii Odzenma Mensah and Danfa Traditional Chief, Nii Dzanie Tsuru Afutubrempong IV for gracing the occasion. Not forgetting the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipal Assembly (LaNNMA), Mrs. Jennifer Dede Afagbedzi, the representative from the Ministry for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Mr. Kwamena Quaison and the representative from the office of the Madina Member of Parliament who is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Madina Job Center, Madam Priscilla Plange.

CDO is also grateful to the Coconut Vendors and stakeholders who took time out of their busy schedules to be present at the launch of the Coconut Waste Project.

Also, a thank you to all media houses present at the launch including TV3, Atinka TV, Kantanka TV, Ghanaian Times, Daily Graphic, and the Ghana News Desk.

Finally, CDO is grateful to God for a successful launch.

Acronyms

| | |
|--------|---|
| CDO | CERATH Development Organization |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| COWAP | Coconut Waste Project |
| CSIR | Council for Scientific and Industrial Research |
| EU | European Union |
| H. E | His Excellency |
| LaNMMA | La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipal Assembly |
| LaNMM | La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality |
| MCE | Municipal Chief Executive |
| MEL | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning |
| MESTI | Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation |
| NHIS | National Health Insurance Scheme |
| TCC | Tree Crops Center |

Executive Summary

The Coconut Waste Project was officially launched on 20th May 2021 at Mensvic Hotel, East Legon, Accra. The launch commenced at 8:00 am prompt and ended at 1:30 pm prompt. 61 participants (42 males, 9 females) were present at the project launch. Key participants at the project launch include Deputy Head of Mission of European Union to Ghana, His Excellency, Pieter Smidt Van GELDER, the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of LaNMMA, Hon. Jennifer Dede Afagbedzi, the chief of Danfa community, Nii Dzanie Tsuru Afutubrempon IV and the chief of Oyarifa community, Nii Odzenma Mensah, the CEO of the Madina Job Center, Madam Priscilla Plange, and a representative from the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Kwamena Quaison.

The project is co-funded by the European Union under the Circular Economy and Local Development Program. The project seeks to contribute to achieving a green circular and create livelihood opportunities through value addition to coconut husks (waste) within La Nkwantanang- Madina Municipality (LaNMM). It is implemented by CERATH Development Organization, the La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA) and the Tree Crops Center (TCC).

Summary of Key findings of the project's baseline study was presented at the launch. A project management board was also inaugurated during the launch. The launch was covered by various media organizations including TV3, Atinka TV, Kantanka TV, Ghanaian Times, Daily Graphic, and the Ghana News Desk.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.0 Background of the Coconut Waste Project

Coconut husk (waste) continues to be a major sanitation issue for the La Nkwantanang- Madina Municipality. This is largely explained by the high consumption of coconuts and the presence of numerous coconut vendors within the municipality. Moreover, coconut waste within the municipality continues to be disposed of indiscriminately within the Madina municipality (CDO scoping report, 2019). Nevertheless, research has also shown that coconut waste can be processed into an array of value-added products. However, these opportunities have not yet been tapped. This represents lost economic opportunities for the municipality and Ghana as a whole.

The overall objective of the coconut waste project is to achieve a green-circular economy and create livelihood opportunities through value addition to coconut husks (waste) within La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality (LaNMM). The Specific objectives of the project are to:

- Establish a coconut waste aggregation system in the target municipality.
- Institute a processing centre to convert coconut waste into selected useable products including cocopeat, paper, and charcoal.
- Create linkages with market actors to procure coconut waste value-added products.
- Implement a monitoring and evaluation system for waste management, learning, and scaling of the project.

The project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) under its “Promoting a Circular Economy and Local Development” Programme. More so, the project is being implemented by CERATH Development Organization (lead), La-Nkwantanang Madina Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA) and the Tree Crops Center (TCC). A key objective of the project is the establishment of a coconut waste aggregation system in the targeted municipality which is expected to process coconut husk into value-added products. Against this backdrop, a key expected outcome of the project is an improved sanitation condition as well as creating employment opportunities for the unemployed youth within the target municipalities.

1.1 Background of the Coconut Waste Project launch

The coconut waste project co-funded by the European Union is under the Circular Economy and Development Program. The project officially commenced in January 2021 and launched on 20th of May 2021. The main objective of the launching was to officially outdoor the initiative to the public and also to present key findings of the project's baseline study to stakeholders. Notable personalities who were present at the official launch of the Coconut Waste Project at Mensvic Hotel, were the Deputy Head of Mission of European Union to Ghana, His Excellency, Pieter Smidt Van GELDER, the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of LaNMMA, Hon. Jennifer Dede Afagbedzi, the chief of Danfa community, Nii Dzanie Tsuru Afutubrempon IV and the chief of Oyarifa community, Nii Odzenma Mensah, the CEO of the Madina Job Center, Madam Priscilla Plange, and a representative from the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Kwamena Quaison. In addition, representatives of coconut vendors within LaNMM and stakeholders from the green/circular economy sector also participated in the project launch.

In all, there were 61 participants were present at the launch. Participants were drawn from project stakeholders, actors within the green/circular economy sector, academia and the media.

2. PROCEEDINGS FROM THE LAUNCH

2.0 Project launching ceremony – Session I

Ceremony Commencement and welcome address

The project launch commenced at 9:00 a.m. with a prayer by the Head Pastor of Kingdom Mission Network, Rev. Gideon Osei Agyemang. Following this, the director of CERATH Development Organization, Mr. Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu delivered his opening address.



Figure 1: Opening prayer by Rev. Gideon Osei Agyemang

Mr. Osei-Owusu, the Director of CDO welcomed participants to the project launch and underscored the relevance of data to inform the implementation of the Coconut Waste Project (COWAP). He indicated that the essence of today's gathering was for the project team to outdoor the project and share key findings on the baseline study to participants at the project launch to have a holistic discussion on some of the findings that will be presented. In addition, he further expressed his appreciation to the European Union for being a strategic partner of the CERATH Development Organization (CDO) in promoting sustainable development. Subsequently, he brought his submissions to an end by urging participants to contribute to the dialogue.



Figure 2: CDO Director delivering the opening address

Mr. Theophilus Amoah – the Economic Research and Development Officer for CDO introduced the Chief of the Danfa Traditional Council – Nii Dzanie Tsuru Afutubrempon IV as the chairperson for the launch. In response, the Chief expressed his gratitude for the opportunity given him as a chairperson for the program and then accepted the position, after which the keynote address by the European Union was delivered.



Figure 3: Mr. Theophilus Amoah introducing the chairperson

Keynote address by the Deputy Head of Mission of the European Union

In a remark by the Deputy Head of Mission of the European Union (EU) delegation in Ghana, His Excellency Pieter Smidt van GELDER reiterated the EU's commitment to collaborate with local stakeholders in ensuring sustainable development and increased livelihood opportunities for Ghanaians. Furthermore, he indicated that the Coconut Waste Project will not only promote a circular economy but also create sustainable jobs through waste recycling and management. He added that a transition to a circular economy will contribute to global efforts being made to address issues of climate change and achieve inclusive growth. Also, he urged civil societies and local development organizations to work closely in addressing the challenges of the local communities. In bringing his remarks to an end, he congratulated the implementing organizations and urged them to collaboratively work towards achieving the project goal and objectives.



Figure 4: H.E Pieter SMIDT Van GELDER giving the keynote address

Presentation on CDO and the Coconut Waste Project

Ms. Nana Yaa Amponsah, the Enterprise Development Officer of CDO delivered a presentation on the overview of CDO and the Coconut Waste Project. She explained that CDO is a non-governmental organization that seeks to catalyze development in Ghana and Africa, more specifically improving the living conditions of rural and urban poor through the intervention areas of fisheries, agriculture, renewable energy, inclusive finance, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). She also mentioned Sierra Leone, Kenya, Liberia and Ghana as CDO's current countries of operation.

Concerning the Coconut Waste Project, she underscored the fact that the opportunities within the coconut waste value-added products in Ghana remain untapped. She referred to countries like Thailand, Sri Lanka, and India that have catalyzed coconut husk to manufacture coconut value-added products such as cocopeat, coir fibre, charcoal briquettes, paper bag and activated carbon. Thus, she indicated that the Coconut Waste Project was in line with the EU call which is tailored to support actions that promote the circular economy and local development. She further introduced the implementing partners for the project, which includes the, La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA) and Tree Crops Center (TCC). She stated that LaNMMA was chosen as the

project implementing area due to coconut waste being the common solid waste within the municipality and this is as a result of the high consumption of coconut in the municipality. In her presentation, she indicated that CDO seeks to leverage the European Union call to achieve a green circular economy within LaNMM while creating job opportunities and promote a healthier environment. She further explained that the main goal of the project is to achieve a green-circular economy through value addition to coconut husk (waste) in the La Nkwantanang- Madina Municipality.

She further expressed that at the end of the project it is expected that;

- About 200 jobs will be created for women and youth within the municipality.
- 50 entrepreneurs trained and 2 learning events organized.
- 25 tons of processed coconut husks products will be produced daily.

In her speech, she explained that the project is a 4-year funded project by the EU.

She concluded her presentation by explaining key upcoming activities to be delivered as part of the project implementation. These include:

- Roll out of the Green entrepreneur's program for training and recruitment of coconut waste aggregators.
- Secure land for the construction of a coconut waste recycling factory.
- Engage market actors for partnership opportunities.
- Engage and encourage women in the project area to participate in coconut waste aggregation



Figure 5: Miss Nana Yaa Amponsah presenting on CDO and COWAP

Remarks from the office of the Madina Member of parliament and CEO of Madina Job Center

The representative from the office of the Member of Parliament for Madina who also doubles as the CEO of Madina Job Center, Madam Priscilla Plange, in her remarks indicated that the project will play a key role in addressing issues of unemployment and sanitation within the municipality. She added that the Madina Job Center was inaugurated in November 2020 to help provide jobs for unemployed youths within the municipality. In her speech, she explained that 6000 applicants have registered on the platform in search of jobs and out of which 550 jobs have been provided and 200 people have been trained in mushroom farms, yoghurt making and graphic designing, making a total of 12.5% jobs provided. Moreover, she called for a collaboration between CDO and the Madina job centre when the recruitment of waste aggregators begins.



Figure 6: Madam Priscilla Plange giving a remark on behalf of the Mdina MP

Remarks by the Municipal Chief Executive of LaNMMA

The Municipal Chief Executive of LaNMMA, Hon. Jennifer Dede Afagbedzi in her remarks mentioned that the project was a timely intervention, given the global pandemic and the higher unemployment rate as well as indiscriminate disposal of coconut husk within the municipality. She expressed her

appreciation to the European Union for funding the project. She further added that LaNMMA will work closely with the implementing partners and stakeholders of the project to ensure a successful implementation of the project. In bringing her remarks to an end, she urged all stakeholders and implementing partners to cooperate in realizing the project objectives.



Figure 7: A remark by the MCE of LaNMMA, Hon Jennifer Dede Afagbedzi

Solidarity Message from the Coconut Vendors

Mr. Kofi Munko, a representative of the coconut vendors within the Madina municipality, in his solidarity message, expressed his appreciation to the European Union for funding the project. Furthermore, he thanked CDO, LaNMMA and TCC for such an initiative. He stated that the project will ease the cost incurred by the coconut vendors in disposing of the coconut husk since CDO will now be aggregating the coconut waste. He further explained that the disposal of the coconut waste has been costing them 100 GHC weekly which amounts to 400 GHC monthly. In bringing his message to an end, he appealed to the implementing partners to support the coconut vendors with dustbins and containers for them to aggregate the coconut husk at the vending point and also assist with the provision of accommodation for coconut vendors since a majority of them migrate from villages in the Central and Eastern part of Ghana to seek greener pastures. He assured all the stakeholders that they

(coconut vendors) are available and ready to assist and support the initiative to ensure a successful implementation of the project.

This activity ended the first session of the event. Participants were then allowed to go on a coffee break before the commencement of the second session of the event.



Figure 8: Mr. Kofi Munko giving a solidarity message on behalf of his colleagues

2.1 Project launching ceremony - session II

Remarks by the chairperson

The second session of the event commenced with a remark from the chairperson. In his speech, the chief of the Danfa Traditional Council, Nii Dzanie Tsuru Afutubrempon IV welcomed all dignitaries present. He applauded CDO and the supporting implementing organizations for their enormous support to the communities within la Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality and also gave special thanks to the EU for their generous contribution towards the project. He further stated that coconut husk contributes a larger amount of solid waste accumulated in the municipality. He indicated that the Danfa Traditional Council is an active stakeholder in the development of the municipality. Here, he explained that over the years, the council has worked with other stakeholders including LaNMMA to develop the municipality by finding solutions to address the persistent issue of indiscriminate disposal of

coconut waste. He also noted that the Coconut Waste Project and its focus on sanitation and creating jobs for the youth within the community is a timely intervention as it has originated at a time where leaders are seeking to address issues of waste management and youth unemployment in the municipality. He expressed his profound interest in the project and stated that COWAP will significantly contribute to the efforts of community leaders within the municipality in addressing sanitation issues and creating jobs. He further urged the implementing organizations to collaboratively work towards achieving the project goal and objectives and also called on relevant stakeholders to provide all the needed support to reach the project goal. He ended his speech by stating that the Danfa Traditional Council is honoured to support the goal of this project.



Figure 9: Chief of Danfa traditional council

Presentation on the key findings of the project's baseline study

The summary of key findings of the Coconut Waste Project was presented by the Project Manager, Mr Prince Dacosta Aboagye, during the launch. According to the project manager, the baseline study was necessary not only as a deliverable but also as a tool to guide the project implementation. He further mentioned that the goal of the baseline study was to understand the current situation of the project environment to inform the implementation of the Coconut Waste Project. In achieving the goal of the study, three specific objectives were outlined. These objectives include:

- To investigate the socio-demographic characteristics of project beneficiaries to inform project monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL),
- To analyse the existing context of the coconut waste value chain (specifically coconut vendors, individual waste collectors, and end-users of coconut waste value-added products) within the project area.
- To map out coconut vending sites and coconut waste disposal sites

In his presentation, he reported that the baseline study adopted the cross-sectional study design to collect data that only represents the prevailing situation. The baseline also used the mixed-method approach (both qualitative and quantitative) to collect and analyse the data. Data was taken from coconut vendors, household heads, individual waste collectors, market actors within the coconut waste value-chain, and relevant departments within the La Nkwantanang - Madina Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA).

308 coconut vendors were sampled for the study whereas 414 households were included in the study. The study also conducted 11 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with one (1) focus group discussion with representatives of coconut vendors within the project area.

In presenting the key findings of the study, Mr Aboagye reported that 97% of the coconut vendors were males with the majority of them falling between 19 to 29 years old. The average age of the coconut vendors was found to be 29 years. It was also recorded that the majority of the coconut vendors are migrants who have moved from various regions to the project area to engage in the coconut vending business. 60% of the coconut vendors were found to be migrants from the Central Region.

58% of the household heads interviewed for the study were found to be females with a mean age of 34 years. The study also found out that households within the project area earn a mean income of 1,407 GHC. With regards to the existing context of the coconut value chain, the baseline study showed that the generation of coconut waste is at two levels; the household and coconut vendor levels. The report also found that individual waste collectors are the main actors within the value chain

that collects and transports coconut waste to caterers to be used as fuel or to recycling companies outside the project area. The individual waste collectors sometimes collect the coconut waste and dump them at undesignated places. An average of 34 tonnes of coconut waste was found to be generated within the target areas (LaNMM, Ayawaso West, Ga East, and Adentan). The study also reported that 41.7% of the coconut vendors do not own any form of financial account (including mobile money). It further stated that 67% of the coconut vendors have not signed on to any form of an insurance scheme. Of those that have signed on to an insurance scheme, 98% access the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

It was also reported that 56% of the coconut vendors do not observe any of the COVID-19 protocols at their workplace whereas 64% indicated that the pandemic has affected their business. At the household level, it was reported that a mean volume of 3.42 Kg of coconut waste is generated per household every day. On average, individual waste collectors charge between 5 GHC to 50 GHC per vendor to collect and dispose of their coconut waste. The study also showed that there are local markets for coconut waste value-added products such as paper bags and cocopeat. However, mining companies import activated carbon charcoal from South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Mr Prince Dacosta Aboagye also presented maps of coconut waste dumping sites and coconut waste vending sites. According to him, the study showed 14 undesignated coconut waste dumping sites within the target area.

The study then made the following recommendation:

- Sensitization on waste separation should be conducted for households.
- Households and coconut vendors should be sensitized on proper coconut waste management practices which include giving their coconut waste to aggregators to be supplied to the project factory.
- Considering the harsh nature of the coconut vending business, the project should sensitize and encourage coconut vendors to sign on to social protection services, and access to financial service.
- The project should include COVID-19 sensitization programs in its implementation.

The presentation followed with a question-and-answer segment.



Figure 10: The project manager, Mr. Prince Dacosta Aboagye giving a presentation on the key findings of the baseline study

Question and Answer Segment

Question 1: The moderator commenced this segment by asking the coconut vendors to reduce the price of coconut by 0.50 GHC mindful of the fact that the cost of disposing coconut waste will now be borne by the Coconut Waste Project. According to him, this means that their cost of daily operations will be reduced so they can reduce the price of coconuts.

Answer 1: representative of the vendors highlighted some factors that have contributed to the increase in the price of coconut on the market. According to him, the price increase is not mainly due to the cost of disposing of coconut waste but the price at wherever they procure the coconuts.

Question 2: The Moderator further posed a question directed to Dacosta. In his question, he inquires to know if the next phase of the project would be implemented in various cities and regions and response,

Answer 2: Dacosta addressed the question by stating that the project is limited to LaNMM but further engagements are still ongoing as well as seeking funds to scale up the project to other areas.

Question 3: The representative of the Member of Parliament for Madina and the CEO of the Madina Job Center in the person of Miss Plange inquired about the job opportunities the project will offer as well as the fees to be charged for aggregating the coconut waste.

Answer 3: In answering the question, Dacosta highlighted that the project will recruit unemployed youth and train them into professional waste aggregators within the municipality. He further stated that since the vendors are part of the project beneficiaries so the coconut waste will not be bought from them but rather, they will be relieved of the cost of paying to dispose of their waste. They will also benefit from the project through the introduction of social protection services and other incentive packages.



Figure 11: Miss Plange asking a question

Question 4: The Chair for the Occasion (Chief of Danfa traditional council) asked about the size, storage and processing capacity of the factory.

Answer 4: Dacosta made mention of a total of 25 tons being considered for production and a total of 34 tons of waste being generated a day.

Question 5: Another question was asked concerning how coconut farmers are being factored into the project.

Answer 5: Dacosta answered the fifth question by saying that only the coconut waste and the coconut vendors are being considered currently.



Figure 12: The project manager addressing some questions

Question 6: A question was asked to ascertain whether a contingency measure has been put in place to make up for raw materials (coconut waste) should there be no supply.

Answer 6: In Response, Dacosta made mention that an expansion in the supply of raw materials from other localities is being considered.

Question 7: A participant from TREND Ghana, Mr Ato Kwamena Senayah, wanted to know the timelines and the transitioning plan for the factory when the project comes to an end and suggested CDO turns to the world Bank GARID project on waste recycling.

Answer 7: In responding to this, the CDO Director, Mr. Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu said that the project is for 48months. With the issue of transitioning, he said that the CDO is seeking to partner with two private organizations after the project implementation phase. The private organizations will be responsible for the management of the waste aggregation and the factory after the project implementation phase. He went on to say that there would be constant monitoring to ensure that the factory and businesses run even after the project is done to ensure sustainability.



Figure 13: CDO Director addressing some questions

Question 8: The role of TCC was questioned in addition to knowing if there are any specific business development packages available to coconut vendors.

Answer 8: In response, Dacosta made mention of the importance of rolling out the Green entrepreneur's programme under the Coconut Waste Project. The programme will offer entrepreneurial skills to coconut vendors and equip them with the skills necessary to run the coconut vending business. He further stated that TCC is in charge of ascertaining the agronomic aspects of the project especially regarding coconuts and also to help in providing research data on coconut.

Question 9: Mawuli Gbedaw from Zaacoal ltd asked if there was any room for partnership on the project and recommended the setup of a dumping site closer to enable easy access to raw materials.

Answer 9: Responding to this question, CDO Director elaborated that the project is still in its formative stage where market research is still ongoing to ascertain market users of coconut waste to meet their specifications.

Question 10: Francis Ava Annoye from Global Communities asked if any enquiry was made to know the volume of coconuts consumed by households and the proportion of coconut waste generated a day at the household level as compared to the vendor level. He said this was necessary to ascertain the significance of relying on households for coconut waste.

Answer 10: In response to this, Dacosta highlighted the information derived from the analysis indicated that coconut waste is mostly generated at the vendor level. He further stated that the

baseline revealed that an average of 3 coconuts is consumed per household daily. He recommended that the participants should get the full baseline report to be able to have access to some of this information.

Question II: Justice Cobbinah, a coconut vendor inquired if they would be assisted in the procurement of coconut as a concern was raised with regards to the price of coconut on the market and added if there would be any form of assistance in securing loans to boost their businesses.

Answer II: Dacosta made mention of the unavailability of soft loans as part of the project but affirmed that the project will assist and facilitate access to the loans/credit facilities for the coconut vendors. With the issue of procurement of coconuts, Dacosta responded that it is not likely to be considered as it would distort employment for the suppliers.



Figure 14: A coconut vendor Justice Cobbinah asking a question

Remarks from the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation, Technology & Innovation

In the speech by Mr. Kwamena Quaison – A representative from the Office of the Minister of Environment, Sanitation, Technology and Innovation. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of the launch. He further went on to explain that this project is in sync with the policy direction of MESTI since part of the ministries institutional mandate is to ensure national

environmental sustainability. He further stated that the ministry is always available to provide their full support to the project. He added that the initiative is very promising and needs to be replicated for other municipalities since coconut waste is highly consumed all across Ghana. He stated that sustainable strategies must be ensured to enforce existing waste management laws and also waste management should be practised among citizens to contribute to keeping the environment clean and not just the local government. He applauded CDO for this initiative and urged CDO to include research institutions like CSIR to conduct relevant research to advance the course of the project. He ended his speech by expressing the willingness of the ministry to support the project in anything they require.



Figure 15: Mr. Kwamina Quaison giving a remark on behalf of MESTI

Swearing-in- of the Project Management Board

Following his remarks, Mr. Quaison was sworn in the project management board. The board members present included; Mr. Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu, the Director for CDO, Mr Prince Dacosta Aboagye, the Project Manager for COWAP, Miss Abigail Antwi, the Office Manager for CDO, Mr Kwamina Egyam Addo, the Director from TCC, Mr. Frederick Asiamah, the Municipal Planning Officer from LaNMMA and Miss Maame Brobbey, the Senior Development Specialist from CDO. After the swearing-in by Mr Quaison, the board members signed the oath of office to affirm their position.



Figure 16: The swearing-in of board members by Mr. Quaison

Closing Remarks

The closing remarks were given by the chief of Oyarifa, Nii Odzenma Mensah. Addressing the participants in the Ga language, he started by showing his gratitude to all officials present and a special one to the donor organization, the EU and implementing organizations, CDO, LaNMMA and TCC. He also urged CDO to make the end products of the project a solid material that will be useful to other countries to encourage foreign exchange. He concluded by wishing the team well and prayed that the initiative will indeed create jobs for the youth in the municipality.

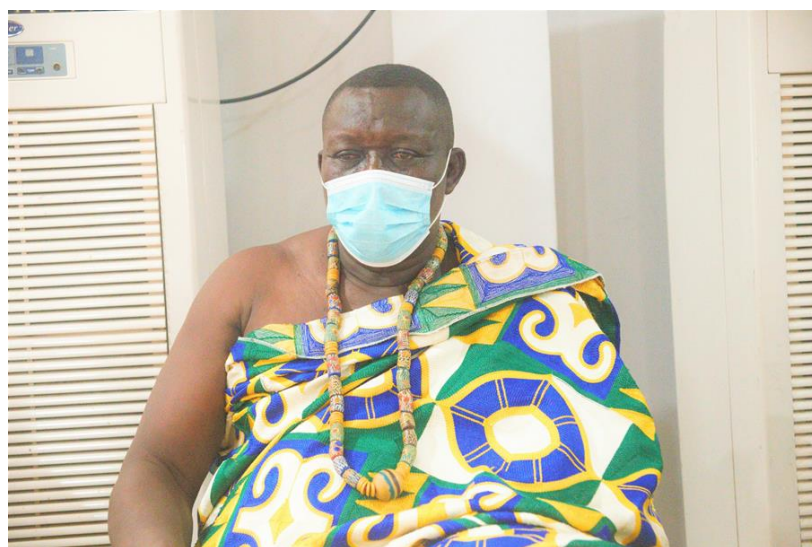


Figure 17: The Chief of Oyarifa

Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks was given by Miss Belinda Bruce – The Finance Officer from CDO. She started by expressing how excited she was to be a part of the program since she was opportune to see the project from its conception stage right up till it became a reality and till the stage where the project is being launched. She thanked God for the success of the project, she further thanked the EU for their generous funding and also the implementing partners, for their support every step of the way. She finally thanked the Ministries, the project team, the media and the entire audience for taking time out of their busy schedules to be at the launch of the project.

Closing Prayer

The launch finally came to a close after a prayer was said by Miss Maame Kyerewaa Brobbey, a senior development specialist from CDO. The launch came to a close at exactly 1:30 pm. The participants were then treated with a lunch session after the close of the event.



Figure 18: Maame Kyerewaa giving the closing prayer

3. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A (Program Outline)

PROGRAM OUTLINE FOR THE LAUNCH

| Time | Main Activity | Responsible |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 08:00am – 09:00am | Arrival of guest and registration | Nana Adwoa/Miriam |
| 09:00am – 09:05am | Opening Prayer | Rev Gideon Osei Agyemang (Head Pastor, Kingdom Mission Network) |
| 09:05am – 09:15am | Welcome Address & Purpose of Gathering | CDO, Director, Mr. Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu |
| 09:15am – 09:25am | Introduction of Chairperson | Mr. Theophilus Amoah (Economic Research and Development Officer) |
| 09:25am – 09:30am | Chairpersons' response | Chief of Danfa Traditional Council – Nii Dzanie Tsuru Afutubrempong IV |
| 09:30am - 09:35am | Introduction of dignitaries | MC |
| 09:35am – 09:45am | Keynote address by the representative from the European Union | H.E Pieter SMIDT Van GELDER |
| 09:45am – 09:55am | Presentation: The Coconut Waste Project | Ms. Nana Yaa Amponsah (Enterprise Development Officer, CDO) |
| 09:55am – 10:05am | Remarks by the Madina Member of Parliament | Rep from the office of the Member of Parliament of Madina |
| 10:05am – 10:15am | Remarks by the Municipal chief Executive of LaNMMA | Mrs. Jennifer Dede Afagbedzi |
| 10:15am – 10: 25am | Solidarity Message by Rep of Coconut Vendors | Mr. Kofi Munko |
| 10:25am – 10:40am | Group pictures | |
| 10:40am – 10:45am | Launch of the Coconut Waste Project | H.E Pieter SMIDT Van GELDER |
| 10:45am – 11:15am | Coffee break | |
| 11:15am – 11:30am | Chairpersons' Remarks | Chief of Danfa Traditional Council – Nii Dzanie Tsuru Afutubrempong IV |
| 11:30am – 12:00pm | Presentation: Key Findings of the Coconut Waste Project Baseline Study | Mr. Prince Dacosta Aboagye (Project Manager- Coconut Waste Project) |
| 12:00pm – 12:30pm | Question and Answers on the Presentations | MC |
| 12:30pm – 12:45pm | Remarks by the Ministry of environment, science, technology and innovation | Representative from Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation |
| 12:45pm – 13:00pm | Swearing-in of the Project Management Board | Representative from Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation |
| 13:00pm – 13:15pm | Closing Remarks | Chief of Oyarifa – Nii Odzenma Mensah |
| 13:15pm – 13:25pm | Vote of thanks | Ms. Belinda Bruce (Finance Officer, CDO) |
| 13:25pm – 13:30pm | Closing Prayer | Ms. Maame Kyerewaa Brobbey (Senior Development Specialist, CDO) |
| | Lunch | |

APPENDIX B (Data of Participants)

Total participants: 61

Male: 52

Female: 9

APPENDIX C (Press Clipping)

Links of Press released

<http://www.ghananewsdesk.com/2021/05/eu-supports-coconut-waste-project-with.html>

<https://m.facebook.com/ghanabanews/videos/1463384317331268/>

<http://www.ghananewsdesk.com/2021/05/eu-supports-coconut-waste-project-with.html>

<https://kumasiblogger.com/lets-convert-coconut-waste-into-useable-products-cdo/>

<https://www.ghlense.net/2021/05/lets-convert-coconut-waste-into-usable.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/KantankaTV/videos/1972465136241898/>

<https://africanewsg.com/2021/05/22/eu-donates-1-4-million-euro-to-support-coconut-waste-project-2/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AtinkaTVGhana/videos/294800892362196/>

<https://www.facebook.com/3018584484825825/posts/5867899423227636/>





APPENDIX D (Selected photographs of the launch)



Figure 19: Dignitaries at the launch



Figure 20: The CDO Director and the MCE of LaNMMA



Figure 21: Some CDO team members



Figure 22: The Coconut vendors with Madam Plange



Figure 23: The Coconut vendors with Mr. Adu - Gyamfi and Mr. Braimah