

Climate Action

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Members of community in Mve-Il are embracing the essence of clean energy to process agricultural produce, and embarking on a journey of agricultural waste circularity to change lives and securing future of their community through adoption of clean solutions

THE UPTAKE OF SCIENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS AND ON METHANE RECOVERY AND CURATION OF DATA

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One of the most affordable measures to combat methane is investing in biodigesters, for which Cameroon has committed to increase investment by 5 - 10% by 2030, targeting agriculture & agriculture waste, which is the highest source for the country. The country has also committed to increasing the use of solar power.

THE UPTAKE OF SCIENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS AND ON METHANE RECOVERY



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Meeting with officials from SODEPA (Société de Développement et d'Exploitations des Productions Animales). The convergence laid down a promising pathway towards leveraging climate action to bolster adherence to methane mitigation strategies,

Cameroon is among the leading countries that have submitted updated NDC commitments to address climate change, with an ambitious target to cut emissions by 35% by 2030. The country is also a signatory to the global methane emissions pledge, which aims to cut down methane emissions. Methane is a short-lived climate pollutant, which does not last as long as carbon dioxide but whose intensity is 25 times more than carbon dioxide; hence, addressing it is a significant boost to combating climate change. One of the most affordable measures to combat methane is investing in biogas, for which Cameroon has committed to increase investment by 5 - 10% by 2030, targeting agriculture & agriculture waste, which is the highest source for the country.

The country has also committed to increasing the use of solar power, which links to its National Development Plan (SND30) objective to enhance and modernise the agricultural sector, including through clean energy value-added actions, as strategic to enhance resilient, inclusive growth.

UNEP through the African Office Climate Change sub-programme is supporting the country to meet these

objectives in a manner that unlocks critical socioeconomic opportunities. The focus is on two interrelated areas - air quality & food security with accessible solutions. Specifically, supporting communities to retool their skills and develop and decentralise solar dryers to address postharvest losses in agriculture and unlock additional income opportunities. UNEP is also supporting the same communities to invest in biogas that recover agricultural waste and convert it into value - biogas for clean cooking & biofertiliser for agriculture.

This is an opportunity for the country to combat indoor pollution from unclean cooking that kills between 7000-11,400 people every year. It is an opportunity to close the fertiliser access gap while creating non-capital-intensive enterprise opportunities that can generate up to 500% profitability in biofertiliser making.

Moreover, the data generated from such interventions is analysed to inform investment planning for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) & SND30 implementation towards bridging gaps & tapping opportunities to enable further expansion and realisation of multiple SDGs.

Engagement with local government on uptake of environmental solutions to enhance food systems

Engagement was done with a local council that was set to drive the uptake of climate solutions for food systems, leveraging youth and the informal sector. In Cameroon, skills retooling of local communities, including youth and the informal sector that engages up to 90% of the population, to enable them to develop and apply low emissions solutions of solar dryers has been generating data on impacts, including a reduction of postharvest losses from 95% to 5%, the increased shelf life of perishables by at least 50%, creation of alternative value-added products such as cassava garri that increase incomes opportunities by up to 150% resulting in increased savings & membership in local communal cooperatives among key impacts. This impact data was shared with the local council through the office of the mayor of Awae commune. During the meeting with the UNEP representative, the mayor said that as a result of impact data, the council is set to invest in a green village, starting off with 4 large solar dryers to enhance access by farmers & other enterprises engaged in the agro-value chain to value addition interventions to enable increased revenue generation. This increase translates to an expansion of the tax base for the municipality to ensure better service delivery. The council notes that climate action solutions are socioeconomic accelerators

Engagement of local communal cooperatives in Mve-II that are taking up climate solutions of solar dryers to enhance food systems ;

The UNEP representative also visited the site of a community green village that is applying solar dryers to cut PHLs and create additional incomes, whose impact data was used to inform the Awae municipality commitments.

This community is in Mve-II, on the outskirts of Yaoundé, and they have expanded beyond solar dryers to engage in circularity to address waste and create further income opportunities. Specifically, they have diversified to agricultural waste circularity in converting banana leaves into carry/shopping bags to create more income opportunities for themselves. Through these actions in circularity, as well as the solar dryer value addition, they manage to meet their family needs, & fundamental needs.



Dr Richard Munang, UNEP representative engaging with a trained personnel on matters biodigesters for curbing waste releases.

“ The communities have expanded beyond solar dryers to engage in circularity to address waste and create further income opportunities ”



Community training on air quality and biofertilizers use to address waste and create more income opportunities while also providing environmental solutions that protect nature and enhance food systems.



Engaging dialogue with UN Cameroon Resident Coordinator Siaka Coul spotlighting UNEP's pivotal role in enriching environmental solutions in line with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, bridging the journey to SDGs for Cameroon & Africa.

They expressed the need to expand their incomes, which required that they invest in innovative financing to unlock finance for expanding solutions. Accordingly, they are set to pool their resources into a revolving fund to be deployed in capital expenditures towards expanding their production & marketing impact. Specifically, they have set up a revolving fund of \$400 towards capital investments to expand these environmental solutions – the solar dryers and waste circularity.

Data from their work has informed the Awae municipality in a neighbouring commune to invest municipality revenues towards expanding access to solar dryers, incentivising more enterprise opportunities and thereby expanding the local government tax base.

Engagement of the Cameroon UNCT on work done on the National Environment Summary (NES)

The UNEP representative attended the Cameroon United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) – PMT meeting to share how National Environment Summaries (NES) inform pathways that leverage the environmental dimension to accelerate the realisation of the SDGs. In attendance were reps from UNESCO, UNWomen, UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-FAO, as well as officials from the planning ministry. The UNEP representative informed the nited Nations Country Teams (UNCT) that at its core, the NES is a data & analysis driven information pack that provides baseline scenarios on 7 environmentally derived SDGs (3,

6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15) together with energy & food systems that underpin the “leave no one behind (LNOB)” principle, against targets of the SDG indicators. It then analyses gaps & opportunities to be tapped towards ensuring the country’s progress in implementing the environmentally derived SDGs, playing a catalytic role in driving the realisation of multiple other SDGs. The UNEP representative also shared on how the UN Cooperation framework for the country, specifically under results group 4 on environmental sustainability, provides a convening framework to harness the work of all UNCTs towards the shared end of the SDGs as above.

The discussions brought about notable discussion points as follows:

a) legislation to enhance the uptake of renewable energy needs to be comprehensive - building on successes already made by the country, such as the policy exempting solar from tax for the next 10 years, and going further to include e-transport, as well as decentralisation of clean energy solutions to close productivity gaps in the critical agro-sector, by way of value-added interventions, and fiscal de-risking tools, all crystallised into a climate change law.

Policy incentives need to be formulated towards actualising these integrated interventions that go beyond renewable energy silos to ensure linkages that optimise impact in powering productive economic activities.

b) There is a need to build on climate adaptation initiatives that Cameroon is already engaged in and expand impact by tapping into the potential of youth and children as well as targeting risks that are unique to these vulnerable constituencies. Examples of interventions include skills retooling of young people to empower them for enterprise solutions in key inclusive areas like food systems to ensure the protection of ecosystems occurs while creating inclusive income opportunities for communities, with a target on women who, as primary caregivers will have a multiplier effect on enhancing children adaptive capacity. Data on impacts from such interventions should then be tapped to inform targeted policy incentives to expand such impacts,

c) There is a need to leverage knowledge sharing and cross-hybridization by tapping data from similar jurisdictions with ongoing successes to help hasten the process of informing policy incentives needed to attract investments for similar successes in Cameroon.

d) The local governments can be nodes for accelerating the uptake of environmental solutions by leveraging the decentralisation law. Successful work of how data on the impact of how environmental solutions are driving achievement of multiple SDGs in one municipality can be leveraged to inform incentives in other municipalities towards replicating such solutions, and by this, the impact can be spread countrywide through a network of local governments/councils/municipalities.

Engagement with youth

Up to 70% of Cameroon's population is youthful and under 30. The engagement centred on how they can leverage environmental action to create opportunities for themselves and the broader community & country: The following action areas were outlined;

la) Skills retooling is irreplaceable. They should leverage the power of internet connectivity to learn new skills in devising environmental solutions that touch many lives. This is in addition to their formal studies,

b) The youth were encouraged to demonstrate dedication, humility, and discipline to a cause of solutions that touch many lives in solving environmental challenges.

c) The youth were encouraged to reject false narratives that paint success as exclusive to a few and which limit them to thinking they are destined for failure especially when dealing with environmental challenges in their community.

With the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which is one of the many organisations that provide a platform and space for youth, the UNEP representative engaged them on how to strengthen youth engagement for environmental solutions that create opportunities for youth and the entire economy. He discussed how their programme on youth champions and ambassadors

could be leveraged to engage more young people in environmental solutions aligned to enhancing air quality, one-health, and food systems through the lens of skills retooling.

They expressed interest in leveraging the EBAFOSA Cameroon to train and guide youth drawn from Friedrich Ebert to retool their skills and engage in enterprise actions of waste recovery to value in the form of clean cooking and bio fertiliser, cumulatively contributing to combat indoor pollution, AMR - caused by overuse of agrochemicals & leakage of waste into the open environment and enhance food systems by generating sustainable inputs.

The trained youth will then be required to become trainers of more youth and, over time, create a critical mass of champions and ambassadors of these environmental solutions to cover the entire country. The data on impacts from these actions will then be curated and used to inform policy enablers that drive NDCs and methane pledge policy objectives of the country.

Engagement SODEPA Director General on methane recovery in abattoirs

a) SODEPA to leverage expertise working with EBAFOSA Cameroon, ADEID, UN Cameroon, and UNEP to enhance methane recovery and accountability in measuring methane and addressing gaps. The data on impact is then used to unlock investments and policy incentives critical to enable the strengthening & expansion of abattoir methane recovery, accountability & mitigation.

Engagement of ground actors under REECAM in methane to enhance linkage to environmental monitoring

Working towards the strategic application of biodigesters to enhance the impact of environmental monitoring by addressing risk factors to air quality, water, soils, and even ocean/marine ecosystem quality. Specifically, focus on the narrative of how they intercept waste which would otherwise leak and leach into the open environment.

a) intercepting waste means lowering the risk of methane releases from farms, landfills & open dumps. Recovery of methane also provides alternative clean cooking solutions to lower the risk of indoor pollution.

b) Intercepted waste is also prevented from leaching to contaminate water & soil resources.

c) The recovery of waste to biofertiliser, which can substitute 40-50% of chemical fertiliser use, lowers the need for such chemical fertiliser use and thereby enhances air quality by lowering NOx emissions from chemical fertiliser application.

d) Intercepted waste is further prevented from leaching out in the open, including surface water that eventually drains into oceans to contaminate marine life. In this way, environmental risks to marine/aquatic life are lowered.



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