

A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

Mityana Farmers Decry the Rampant Tree Cutting, Unguided Use of Agrochemicals



Left to Right: Knapsack spraying with agrochemicals cited as a challenge (photo: *Farmer's Weekly*); KEA farmers during the field transect walk (tomato gardening in a dry season) and training in in session (photos: UCSD)

Last month, Kikandwa Environment Association (KEA) a rural farmers' organization, in partnership with Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development organized a one-day training workshop for farmers in Kasejere and Nakwaya (Kikandwa Sub county). The workshop was also attended by the Kikandwa sub county speaker and his Deputy, the Agriculture officer, Local Councilors, and opinion leaders.

This training was proceeded by a field transect walk to show what KEA farmers are doing. The agricultural practices in Kasejere and Nakwaya depict the resolve farmers have to adapt to the unpredictable weather conditions (drought and floods). These practices include soil and water conservation, indigenous seed conservation, road water harvesting, intercropping, fish farming, 'Half by Half' forest conservation, tree planting, piggery, banana growing, poultry and cattle keeping, bee keeping, tomato growing and poultry

The workshop enabled discussions on a variety of topics from KEA members and Partners, and the Sub county Agricultural staff on climate resilient farming, planned enterprises by Mityana District Local government. Communities called for scaling up of KEA's 'Half by Half concept', road water harvesting, protection of more indigenous trees and seeds, more specialized training opportunities on cleaner energy options, value addition for increased farmer incomes, strengthening cooperation among farmers for marketing and knowledge sharing

Amongst the challenges, farmers noted overuse of agrochemicals that has already shown health related side effects on some members and unknown ones on the available water resources, bee keeping and other sectors. Mr. Kiranda Stephen (KEA mobilizer and local leader) noted that, 'Use of the knapsack sprayer is seen by many families as the only option to control weeds, while the users have little or no knowledge about the negative effects the agrochemicals have on their lives or their soils in the long run'.

Worse still, dealers are not helping farmers on the proper use of agrochemicals. In addition, excessive harvesting of trees on private land for firewood and charcoal; poor enforcement of existing laws and by-laws related to natural resources and the environment; low levels of value addition to maximize farmers' incomes; low appreciation of Local Government leaders of what KEA is doing; and wetlands draining were cited as other challenges faced. More about KEA: <http://kikandwaenvironmentalassociation.org/>

INFORSE Uganda Network Re-ignited as Part of Strengthening Advocacy for Renewable energy Options in East Africa



Left to right: INFORSE members at the meeting and Members present (Photo: UCSD); JEEP's Institutional energy stove (photo: JEEP)

On February 25 2019, UCSD as Chair for the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) - East Africa and also a member, hosted the Uganda INFORSE members' meeting at its secretariat in Nsambya - Kabalagala. The meeting was attended by 5 members (Joint Energy and Environment Projects (JEEP), RUDMEC, Sustainable Development Uganda Energy Foundation and Kikandwa Environmental Association Community Innovation Resource Centre.

Participants shared what they are doing with respect to sustainable energy work in Uganda, highlighted challenges faced and brainstormed on opportunities available to promote sustainable energy in Uganda.

INFORSE East Africa Chair - Kimbowa Richard highlighted the INFORSE East Africa Guidelines & INFORSE work programme, activities carried out in 2018 and plans for 2019 including a follow up of the Project: *Promote Implementation of the Paris Agreement (PIPA) in East Africa* by TaTEDO, UCSD, SusWatch Kenya and *SustainableEnergy* (Denmark); and JEEP's *Knowledge, Advocacy & Lobbying (KAL) for the benefits of Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation project in Uganda*

Members discussed the programme in relation to Uganda, noting that INFORSE has not been active in Uganda, highlighted the importance of working together in order to maximize impact and use funds effectively and need for sustained public awareness and information in order to change perceptions, attitudes and mentality on sustainable energy options, for example biogas as a viable option for cooking

Among the challenges noted were: affordability of stoves by the targeted poor is low, Slow testing of stoves and energy saving devices on the market as many Small and Medium Enterprises cannot afford the costs involved, fake products on the market that affect adoption technology, changing weather conditions (poor / delayed rains) & lack of tenure on land that affects tree planting efforts.

For 2019, based on the INFORSE East Africa work programme, members suggested a need to strengthen advocacy for solar energy and Renewable energy options based on their experiences using the INFORSE platform (from local to global engagement), scale up sharing of experiences and practices via the *SustainableEnergy News* and online, sustain efforts to conserve energy and promote energy efficiency options across Uganda, emphasize tree planting as fuel wood demand is still high, building capacities of members and other organizations to contribute to a global CSO voice that nuclear energy is not sustainable energy.

INFORSE is a global network of independent non-governmental organizations working for sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty and protect the environment. More: <http://www.inforse.org/index.php3>

Project to Strengthen Partnerships for the Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in East Africa Launched in Kampala



The SDGs; Mr. Boaz Musiimenta who represented the Minister in charge of SDGs; Mr. Mithika Mwenda (PACJA)

The Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) launched a one- year regional project to strengthen partnerships for the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 in East Africa on February 12, 2019 in Kampala. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. UN Member states recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, are expected to implement this plan, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets adopted on 25 September 2015 by Heads of State and Government at a special UN summit.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of State (General Duties who coordinates SDGs) in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), a representative - Mr. Boaz Musiimenta welcomed PACJA as a partner on SDGs agenda implementation in Uganda in form of advocacy. ‘This provides the OPM with momentum to ‘style up’ from time to time when implementing the SDGs in Uganda’, he added. He also highlighted Uganda’s achievements since adoption of Agenda 2030, including launch of a roadmap, awareness creation, set up of a coordination mechanism (overseen by the OPM) and the ongoing development of national indicators

Other speakers included the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (UPFSDGs) – Hon. Tinkasimire B. Ateenyi, Mr. Aaron Werikhe (National Planning Authority), and Mr. Richard Sewakiryanga (NGO Forum). Hon Tinkasiimire noted that one of the objectives of UPFSDGs is to ensure that the central, local authorities and communities work towards achieving SDGs, and welcomed PACJA as a partner in this endeavor. Mr. Mithika highlighted the nexus between SDGs and climate change and noted the importance of sector coordination. Mr. Sewakiryanga briefed the meeting about CSOs work under the Uganda SDGs Reference group. He pointed out that since 2016, CSOs have prepared two reports on Uganda’s progress through members’ contributions. Mr. Aaron Werikhe emphasized the role of all actors in implementation of SDGs and added that the National Planning Authority is coming up with a model to show which SDGs are most relevant to Uganda to support this.

The Project seeks to contribute to achieving national goals for implementing the 2030 Agenda and be embedded in a broader political or social process in countries. Specifically, the project will enhance awareness and critical mass of stakeholders to catalyze action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that will support broader engagement in Voluntary National Reporting (VNR) process on the implementation of SDGs and finally strengthen cross-sectoral coordination among line Ministries in the three countries in order to ensure coherence between the SDGs implementation and the Paris Agreement.