



Faith-based Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development Experience Sharing Workshop

Venues: Machakos Farmers Training College

Date: 12th February 2016.

Overview

The workshop brought together all the beneficiaries of the FBCCESD Project in Machakos County to share their experiences since the start of the project. All the groups funded to start micro-projects together with those that were not funded, were invited. Representatives of D-Light Solar Company were also invited as well as a leader from Focal Area Development Community (FADC) who interacted with the beneficiaries on different aspects of the project. Each group that was funded gave an overview of what they had done as a group highlighting the progress, successes, challenges and lessons learnt.

A total of 91 participants attended the workshop. Of the 91 participants, 39 were male and 52 female; 39 of whom were 35 years and below. Participants included teachers, faith leaders (Christian and Muslim), representatives from women groups, youth groups, persons with disabilities, Community Forest Associations (CFAs), Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs), Self Help Groups (SHG), and other CBOs who had undergone a series of trainings in different areas as part of the project's activities.

Summary of Group Presentations

The Solar Energy Projects

Lumbwa Snowline Women Group

- They are beneficiaries of a subsidy of Ksh. 20,000 for the solar lamps project.
- Their project is progressing well
- There is demand for the solar lamps.
- Their clients say if you have solar you do not need electricity
- They are about to finish the first batch and are soon going for the second.

Kituliani Women Group

- The group sold the first lot, they are now selling the second which is almost finished.
- The first lot they ordered for four types of lamps, ten pieces of A1, eleven pieces of S2, ten pieces of S20 and 3 pieces of S300. When they went for S300, A1 and S20 because S2 lamps were not moving.
- Now people are shifting from using the traditional kerosene lamp 'koroboi' to the solar lamps

Kalanzoni Youth Group

- Their business is doing very well. They have sold the first lot and are going back for more. The business is bringing in good income.
- The group also benefitted from a training provided by D-light.
- They were given shirts that they can wear while marketing their products which one of the members called 'Sunday best'
- It has created employment for the group members. The D-light people wanted to directly employ them but there were some issues that were raised that delayed it.
- The solar lamps are tax free so there is no disturbance from county *askaris*.
- The challenges the group faces include presence of competition from similar products in the market from China, which are cheaper, customers taking the lamps on credit and failing to honor agreed upon payment period, inability to purchase a single item from a system like the home system.

Green House Project

ACK St. Paul's Athi River

- It is the only group that was supported to set up a green house project.
- The parish opted to place the project in Athi River because they would take advantage of the river Athi.
- The green house is already set up and they have grown tomatoes that are already at the level of being supported by sticks.
- They are currently concerned about where they will sell their tomatoes.

Dairy Goats Project

Katoloni Primary School

- The group got five goats in January 2016, four female and one male.
- The school has a big farm therefore do not have a problem with feeds for the goats.
- The goats are used as a teaching and learning aid for the pupils
- The manure from the goats' pen is used in their school garden where they have planted kales and maize.
- The project started last month, so they will report on the progress as time goes.

Makaveti Women Group

- Received 3 dairy goats from KOEE in December 2015, two female (kawisu and mrembo) and one male (King'ee).

- At the moment they are benefitting from their manure which they use for their kale garden.
- Are requesting other groups to come and buy their manure.
- The goats look very pretty their neighbours' goats hover around.
- The challenge is that these goats require quite a lot of attention because they are delicate.
- Also requested for water tank because their area is very dry.

Water Project

Mbaluku primary School

- The group was supported with a 10,000 liter tank by KOEE in December 2015, together with plastic gutters.
- The tank has helped them to harvest some water. They are hoping it will fill soon.
- The school is involved in Water and Sanitation initiatives, so the tank is going to be used by the pupils to wash their hands once it is properly set up.
- The water will be recycled to water the trees in the school compound.
- They also use the water to from the tank on their garden for kales.

Muslim Wakulima Self Help Group

- Were supported with a 10,000 liter water tank together with gutters.
- In two days they will have set up the tank.
- They intend to use the tank for farming god's way i.e. for watering vegetables and exhibitions of farming god's way.

Institutional Energy-Saving jikos

St. Mary's Girls Primary School

- They benefitted from a Ksh.180,000 cooking stove '*jiko*'
- They have managed to raise a wood lot to light it for a long while.
- They have 150 children benefitting from the school's feeding programme thanks to the *jiko*.
- At the moment they are looking for a space to put a small kitchen garden.
- The school has also grown trees and they are doing well.

Muthini Primary School

- The school was supported by the project with a large *jiko* which has already been installed.
- Previously the school had been using a lot of wood.
- Through the administration and school committee they were sensitized in having energy *jikos*
- The school can now host events because they have the capacity to cook larger amounts of food, courtesy of the *jiko*

- Initially, the ECD pupils were not feeding in the school but after the jiko was installed they get porridge and lunch.

Manufaa Women Group

- They have a challenge with the clay in their area, so all the time they make the jiko liners they break
- They have been directed by an old lady to where she used to get hers many years ago.

Kituliani Women Group

- Did the liners but they broke
- They are looking for where they can get good clay

Kukena kwa Sua Women Group

- Have also had a challenge with breaking liners
- Are waiting for one of the groups' member, Henry to show them where to get good clay.

Summary of Discussions

Some participants of the workshop were asking why their applications had not been considered for support by the subsidiary or micro-project funding but it was clarified to them that there were financial limitations so KOEE could not select many groups with the same activities. That the project ends at the end of the February 2016 but there is a possibility of scaling up and the participants who missed out would be given priority (First refusal).

However they were advised that the knowledge gained during the trainings was more valuable than funding or certificates. They will always carry away the knowledge with them and it will help them wherever. It built their self-reliance capacity.

Participants were also reminded about the theme of the whole project which is faith-base ESD and advised to always keep in mind farming God's way.

The solar Projects

- Apart from selling, these group members have also purchased the lamps for their families, so they have changed the lives of their families and those of their clients.
- They say solar lamps have helped them to save money because they no longer purchase kerosene for their lamps (*koroboi*). In turn they divert the money to other important uses.
- Apart from reducing costs, the solar lamps are safe and so they are safe from dangers of burns fumes from the smoke produced by the *korobois*, which cause respiratory infections. One

member advised the participants to encourage people to buy these lamps especially for the old and children who are more prone to accidents.

- This is a good business venture that will keep youth busy.
- The solar lamps are tax free so there is no fear of being harassed and arrested by the council askaris.

Green House

- The group was advised to do market research before their tomatoes are ready.

Dairy Goats

- There are thinks that the dairy goat farmers should do because these goats are very delicate and need care just like that of dairy goats
- They need to be de-wormed every month
- The farmers should not go directly to the agro-vets to buy over the counter drugs but instead get assistance from livestock experts
- Salt lick is good for growth, milk production as well as breeding.
- Zero grazing is important, the goats should be kept away from the free range ones to avoid diseases and interbreeding
- If mixed with the other animals the farmer should be very careful.
- If the dairy goats are fed on nappier grass alone the milk will not be very nutritious
- The groups need to look for assistance from state actors for example experts from ministry of Livestock
- The county government is keen on dairy goat farming so they want to have the information on who is farming them. KOEE had an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and so it is important that the farmers register with them and give detailed reports on for example membership information, the process of acquiring the dairy goats, the buying price, what they feed on, selling price, etc. The participants were however skeptical about the county's intentions.

Water Project

- Participants were advised on an alternative water harvesting method that would help them get water for their projects i.e. digging a pit, lining it with polythene then harvesting rain water.

Energy-saving Jikos

- The small jiko projects were facing challenges of jiko lining breakage so they were advised to look for better clay elsewhere.

- They were also advised to try slow drying of the jiko liners because direct and quick drying was not good for them
- Five groups are still waiting to get assistance on setting up kilns, KOEE will assist in procuring materials as well as labour but they should be complete in a fortnight.