RECYCLING OF ORGANIC WASTE PRODUCTS INTO FERTILIZERS

Background

NAWACOM COOP is a community cooperative with 95 members (58 of which are women). It was formed in 2002 as an umbrella organization for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) dealing with waste recycling activities, and became a cooperative in November 2005. NAWACOM was formed with the aim of turning waste into wealth, creating employment opportunities for its members who are mainly low-income earners and promoting environmental sanitation.

Project summary

The project aims to provide farmers with affordable and alternative fertilizers through waste recycling, thus creating employment opportunities for NAWACOM members and promoting environmental sanitation. We will provide new composters with initial training and capacity building on new composting techniques. The introduction of new technologies and capacity building will improve the quality of the end product whilst training of new composters will increase our production capacity. Proper monitoring will be established and we will be promoting efficiency and professionalism through employment of adequate and skilled staff. This will also expand and strengthen the principal of inclusion through participatory implementation of the project.

The end product will be promoted through positive attitude change amongst farmers. With increased awareness of the product, demands for compost will increase. Our members will benefit from the frequent purchase of compost, creating more employment and increasing their income. When the organization records a profit, members will also benefit through dividends.

Contribution to Decent Work Country Programme’s priority (DWCP):

- Increase youth empowerment, youth employment and eliminate child labour, particularly in its worst form.
Partners

Our partners for this project include:
- Municipal Council of Nakuru (MCN) will provide business licensing and approval of recycling activities;
- Green Globe Foundation will provide environmental consultancy;
- Egerton University will provide technical support;
- Practical Action for technology collaboration;
- Agriculture Show of Kenya (ASK) for demonstrations and exhibitions;
- Ministry of Cooperative Development and Marketing to assist with marketing and auditing.

Beneficiaries

NAWACOM members and employees are the major beneficiaries of the project. The expanded business will create a direct employment opportunity to no less than 5 people and to over 200 people indirectly. Other beneficiaries of the project include farmers, through availability of alternative and affordable fertilizer. Members of organizations such as Agricultural Extension will also benefit.

Expected achievements

- Provision of affordable and alternative fertilizers;
- Promotion of increased soil fertility through continuous usage of organic fertilizer;
- Creation of new employment opportunities;
- Provision of increased food security;
- Creation of improved product quality;
- Increased production capacity.

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Project duration and budget

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Contribution from COOPAFRICA: USD 88,690.47

NAWACOM members sieving organic manure ready for packing