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INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION SOLUTIONS INTO FOOD SYSTEMS IN NIGERIA TO INFORM COHERENT PRO-SDG POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

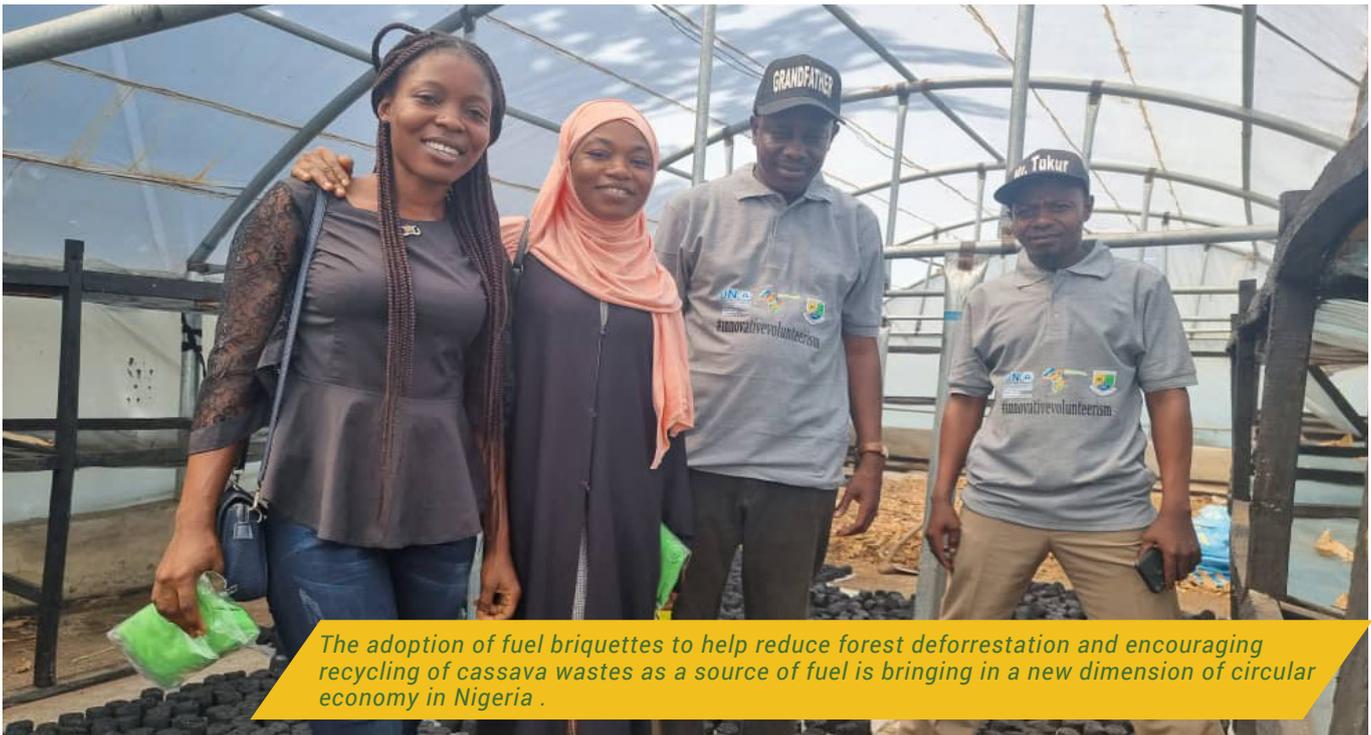
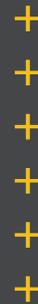
As part of strengthening UN reforms and delivery as one, UNEP has been engaging with the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) in implementing solutions on Sustainable and Inclusive Growth and Development, and outcomes on Environmental Sustainability & Food Security. This implementation draws from lessons from the UNEP project “Supporting coherent policy implementation to catalyse food & livelihood security in Africa”. UNEP project involves ground action being undertaken to integrate climate action solutions into food systems towards unlocking multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to inform pro-SDG policies in various countries. It is against this backdrop that such a workshop was held in Nigeria and was facilitated by UNEP and other state and non-state actors in the country.

UNEP representative Dr. Richard Munang in white meeting the Emir of Nasarawa to discuss the different approaches to be taken to integrate climate action solutions in the state or Nasarawa to facilitate adaptation and mitigation

INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION SOLUTIONS INTO FOOD SYSTEMS IN NIGERIA TO INFORM COHERENT PRO-SDG POLICY IMPLEMENTATION



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The adoption of fuel briquettes to help reduce forest deforestation and encouraging recycling of cassava wastes as a source of fuel is bringing in a new dimension of circular economy in Nigeria .

Nigeria UNSDCF National Steering Committee meeting was convened by the Nigeria RC, UNCT team and the Ministry of Budgets and planning toward adopting the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022/2027. As part of strengthening UN reforms and delivery as one, UNEP has been engaging with the UNCT in implementing solutions on Sustainable and Inclusive Growth and Development, and outcomes on Environmental Sustainability & Food Security. This implementation draws from lessons from the UNEP project “Supporting coherent policy implementation to catalyse food & livelihood security in Africa”. UNEP project involves ground action being undertaken to integrate climate action solutions into food systems towards unlocking multiple SDGs and generate data for informing pro-SDGs policy implementation in the country. Accordingly, the Steering Committee meeting noted that implementing the 2018-2022 Cooperation Framework that is now elapsing leveraged lessons from UNEP work to deliver climate solutions to food systems and engage youth and the informal sector to unlock SDGs. This aligns with the country’s

National Development Plan objectives. Accordingly, these lessons are critical to the new UNSDCF 2022/27, which aligns with the National Development Plan 2021 – 2025 that focuses on reconciling rural and urban development. Enhancing sustainable consumption and production patterns in food systems to cut postharvest losses was a key focus area. For this, UNEP’s work in addressing the triple planetary crises triggered by unsustainable production and consumption patterns came to the fore as a key to unlocking the SDGs. Therefore, it was resolved that the work that UNEP is doing in integrating climate action solutions to climate proof and maximise productivity of food systems in Nigeria will be built upon in the upcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). This new 2022/2027 UNSDCF adopted by the meeting builds up from the expiring one with critical updates being in the outcomes & indicators of achievement, to carry forward the successes of the 2018/22 version, which highly leveraged on UNEP’s work in the country. Consequently, the relevance of UNEP’s work in this new framework already endorsed by the Nigeria’s minister of planning who is part of the steering committee,

Nigeria is the largest producer of cassava globally, and the sites visited are among the leading areas where it is traded and processed.

Three sites were visited where ongoing work by youth and informal sector to integrate climate action solutions from an enterprise dimension was ongoing. These are solutions of affordable solar dryers and clean cooking fuel briquettes applied to cut postharvest losses in key-value chains of Nigeria and minimise biodiversity loss driven by fuelwood harvesting. These sites are operated through the local governance structure for accountability and traceability of progress. Young people have been trained to develop and decentralise these climate solutions and engage informal sector actors for their uptake.

Nigeria is the largest producer of cassava globally, and the sites visited are among the leading areas where it is traded and processed. This was at the invitation of the local government administration of the Emir of Shabu, which hosts the largest cassava trading market in Nasarawa State. The office of the shabu emir mobilised local communities who trade in cassava. They were guided by using the climate action solution of solar dryers, a climate action solution, and the benefits this presents over the use of open-air and sun-drying – which includes compliance with national standards.

Guidance on use of solar dryers and clean cooking solution from cassava wastes?

There was also a visit to another cassava processing centre in a neighbouring area called Azuba, where cassava is processed into a local meal called “garri”. The entire process uses unsustainable firewood and open-air cassava drying approaches, which is unhygienic.

The community was taken through how climate action solutions of solar dryers and clean cooking fuel briquettes present opportunities to enhance the productivity of their processes. It was agreed that a training session would be held for these communities, followed by the decentralisation of climate action solutions of solar dryers and fuel briquettes to enhance their productivity.



An Innovative Volunteerism actor in Nigeria showing briquettes made from cassava wastes which will be used as fuel.

“ There was also a visit to another cassava processing centre in a neighbouring area called Azuba, where cassava is processed into a local meal called “garri”. ”



An image showing Emir of Nasarawa holding the EBAFOSA handbook which is a curriculum developed for upskilling the masses on sustainable climate action solutions.



Experts on adaptation and mitigation hold a meeting in Nigeria on best practises to escalate climate solution action and also how to cushion the community on how to take up the challenge of climate change and turn into opportunities.

Visit to Emir of Nasarawa?

A visit was also done to the local governance of Nasarawa by UNEP representative to hold discussions with the Emir of Nasarawa. The Emir has set up a community resource centre for climate action solutions uptake for local communities to learn about climate solutions of solar dryers and clean cooking fuel briquettes. Through this, awareness increases their uptake. In addition, the office of the Emir has collaborated with the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) to drive investments in afforestation. One of the significant drivers of deforestation is fuelwood harvesting. The community is engaged in addressing this problem with a two-pronged approach.

The first is planting tree seedlings sourced from the FRIN to reforest affected areas. The second is engaging the community to develop and invest in alternative clean cooking fuels of fuel briquettes made from agricultural waste to relieve pressure off depending on fuelwood and avert future forest encroachment. Through the community resource centre, young people have been trained to develop these solutions of fuel briquettes and solar dryers and engage the community for uptake. The solar dryers are used for dehydrating and increasing the shelf-life of diverse perishables and efficiently drying cassava peels that are used in the making of fuel briquettes.

The Emir also works with the Nasarawa State University Keffi

(NSUK) department of entrepreneurship, where data from all these solutions uptake is used to inform entrepreneurship training to train the next generation of entrepreneurs who take on climate action as an enterprise area. All this is coordinated through the office of the Emir, which enhances community ownership, accountability and traceability of progress. The community members shared their testimonials on the above aspects.

Engagement between UNEP and NSUK

UNEP also engaged with the Nasarawa State University at Keffi (NSUK). Data, lessons, and experiences on the key success factors from this work are taken up to train more young people in entrepreneurship to take climate action as a source of opportunities. The UNEP representative also engaged the students and faculty, already taking up lessons from the groundwork. This NSUK organised meeting also served as the first cross-sectorial policy meeting where policy experts and representatives led by the Ministry of Environment, academia among others – convened to get the lessons and data coming in from the coherent ground actions in developing and community uptake of climate solutions for food and livelihood security towards actualising multiple SDGs. This meeting demonstrated critical aspects for longevity in policy implementation – including the following outlined solutions to be adopted and implemented;

Achieving an integrated participatory approach to meaningful, demand-driven climate action uptake achieved by combined participation of national government/policy, local government, academia, and informal sector ground actors – each playing their part to bridge knowledge gaps towards enhanced climate action from an enterprise dimension that is key for longevity.

Integration of climate action into the academic curriculum from the opportunities, enterprise, and investment dimension to train manpower that can drive market driven uptake of climate action. There have already been three training sessions that have been undertaken that the meeting shared experiences on as well

The NSUK entrepreneurship centre is the bridge by which new knowledge on climate action entrepreneurship permeates into policy. It ensures that there is interlinkage between academics, practice, and policy. Such policy discourse meetings will be held periodically to take up empirical lessons from enterprise-driven climate action implementation to inform optimal NDCs and climate action implementation trajectories for the country to prioritise.

Demonstrate how various policies in the country on climate & environment can be implemented productively, leveraging youth and the informal sector. The meeting engaged on how retooling young people's skills, developing and decentralising climate action solutions through academic institutions and working with local governance structures to mobilise local communities to be a market for these solutions - is critical to achieving longevity in climate and environment policy implementation.

The meeting also emphasised the need to enhance "soft capital" aspects of passion for complementing skills retooling and developing adequate manpower for climate action entrepreneurship that will ensure a market approach to climate and environment policy implementation that assures longevity.

Potential for lessons cross-hybridisation where NSUK becomes a model for other academic institutions across Nigeria and Africa to emulate in driving climate action for jobs and productive enterprise opportunities.

The UNEP representative also visited the Ministry of Environment and met with the Director of the Climate Change Department. The meeting discussed how the NAPs readiness project and many other UNEP projects in Nigeria had complimented the Nigeria NDCs revisions. The Director updated that it had informed the adaptation component of the revised Nigeria NDCs

These engagements serve to implement priorities in the Nigeria UNSDCF, where the environment dimension, climate action solutions, become a solution that can drive productivity in local enterprise actions in food systems and unlock multiple SDGs

Way forward for future interactions to strengthen adaptation and mitigation solutions uptake for Nigeria

- Continue guiding young people in expanding their work on decentralising climate solutions for uptake by the informal sector.
- Guiding youth in training local communities in taking up climate action solutions for productive actions along the agro-value chain and driving the implementation of UNSDCF to reconcile rural & urban development through agriculture .
- Continue guiding the office of the Emir to expand community uptake and investment in climate solutions, including engaging more young people in climate action entrepreneurship.
- Continue engagement with the office of the Emir of Nasarawa to strengthen the accountable and traceable structure for uptake of climate solutions to climate-proof food systems and generate data and lessons to inform coherent pro-SDGs policy implementation trajectories
- Technical support to NSUK to drive data and lessons generation from ground actions of climate solutions to climate-proof food systems for uptake to inform coherent policy implementation for food & livelihood security
- Technical support to NSUK to convene another policy coherence meeting for empirical data uptake on optimal climate action implementation trajectories for food & livelihood security to actualise multiple SDGs.
- Organise a meeting of the NAPS steering committee, which will further enhance how the NAPs' work can piggyback and complement the implementation of the adaptation component of the revised Nigeria NDCs.
- Continue follow-up with the Nigeria UNCT and provide feedback on climate-proofing food systems in Nigeria to report on relevant indicators in the new 2022-2027 UNSDCF Nigeria.



An exhibition of mechanical solar dryers being used in Nigeria for cassava drying



Strengthening the institutional capacities for the delivery of climate action enterprises. Increase better health and welfare of our environment using ecosystem based adaptation approaches and awareness campaigns using various available channels. UNEP-EBAFOSA has enhanced capacity building of insitutions necessary to spearhead sustainable production and climate action enterprises in Africa.

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