Meetings and workshops

Stakeholder meeting of the project, Kakamega, Kenya - August 27, 2015
The project organized a stakeholders’ meeting which was held on August 27, 2015 in Kakamega town at the Golf Hotel. The purpose of meeting was to inform key stakeholders about the project, so that they could approve and be fully engaged in supporting and participating in its implementation. The meeting was attended by a total of 84 participants (35 female and 49 male) who included representatives of the participating MSMEs, policy makers, private sector, public health sector and non-governmental organisations. Among the policy makers who attended were the Deputy Governor of Kakamega County and 5 ministers from Kakamega and Busia County Governments. The meeting enhanced knowledge and awareness among the community, policy makers, private sector and public health sector about SCP practices and their importance. The stakeholders appreciated the importance of the project and approved its implementation. Linkages were also established. The Kakamega County Government committed itself to support the project within their development framework.

National Stakeholder meeting of SAG, Nairobi, Kenya - November 16 to17, 2015
Ten representatives of the 10 (5 women, 5 men) Kakamega beneficiary MSMEs, 5 ICIPE and 2 MFCG representatives participated in the National Stakeholder Workshop that was held on November 16 to 17, 2015 at the Boma Inn Hotel in Nairobi. The workshop was organised by Switch Africa Green to provide an avenue for the common understanding of the overall project objectives, roles and responsibilities as well as the expectations and required outputs of the country projects among the national stakeholders, grantees, partners and final beneficiaries (MSMEs). At the meeting, the Switch Africa Green grant for the project was officially awarded to ICIPE and the other 3 grantees.
The overviews and information given in the speeches and presentations provided useful background regarding the SWITCH Africa Green initiative, its origins, goals, expected outputs and outcomes, and underlying principles of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices.

SWITCH Africa Green Networking Forum, Kampala, Uganda - May 28 to 29, 2016

The project participated in the SWITCH Africa Green Networking Forum which was held in Kampala from 28th to 29th May, 2016. The SWITCH Africa Green networking forum was attended by various stakeholders that included National Focal Points, National Technical Coordination Committees (NTCCs), National Coordinators, beneficiary MSMEs from the pilot countries, representatives from other green enterprises, government representatives, financial institutions, international development organizations, civil society and investors.

The project was represented by Linet Chitambe, a community member from the Muliru Enterprise MSME, James Ligare from Muliru Farmers Conservation Group (MFCG), a partner in the project, and Dr. Wilber Lwande from ICIPE, the grantee of the project. A number of interactive sessions were held with experts, innovators and policy makers to discuss opportunities and challenges that the enterprises faced in advancing green business development in Africa. There was also a SWITCH Africa green Expo to showcase products from various MSMEs involved in the project within the 6 pilot countries. Linet Chitambe gave a presentation entitled “Up-scaling sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants by community-based conservation groups at Kakamega forest in Kenya.”
9th Africa Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP 9), Kampala, Uganda - May 30 to June 4, 2016
The representatives of the Muliru Enterprise MSME, MFCG and ICIPE had an opportunity to attend the 9th Africa Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP 9) which was held on 30th May to 4th June 2016 back-to-back with the SWITCH Africa Green networking forum. They included Linet Chitambe, a community member from the Muliru Enterprise MSME, James Ligare from Muliru Farmers Conservation Group (MFCG), a partner in the project, and Dr. Wilber Lwande from ICIPE, the grantee of the project. The Grantees and the MSME (Muliru enterprise) were able to interact with other grantees and beneficiaries from Uganda and West Africa including sharing of experiences that increased their knowledge of SCPs. They learnt how community links through partnerships are vital for promotion of MSMEs. Muliru enterprise had an opportunity to showcase their products to the attendants at the forum. There was substantive capacity building, distilling and sharing knowledge on green business development including the required policy support.

SAG-SEED Replicator Connect Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya - September 26, 2016.
A member of one of the MSMEs (Muliru enterprise), Linet Lumiti was facilitated by the project to attend the SAG-SEED Replicator Connect Workshop that took place at YMCA Central Hostel, Nairobi on the 26th September, 2016. The workshop was aimed at transferring some components of inclusive business models to another location in order to increase social and environmental impacts. At the workshop, examples and opportunities of business models that proved to work well and a range of options on how to set up plastic recycling business or biomass briquetting enterprises were presented. The community member gained knowledge and skills in the use of biomass and its social, environmental sustainability and economic impacts.

SEED Africa Symposium, Nairobi, Kenya - September 28 to 29, 2016
Through facilitation by Switch Africa Green (SAG), representatives of one of the MSME (Muliru enterprise), MFCG and ICIPE attended and participated in SEED Africa Symposium held at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi on 28th to 29th September, 2016. They included, Linet Lumiti (Muliru enterprise), James Ligare (MFCG), and Fred Nduguli (ICIPE). The themes covered at the workshop included the following: Policy dialogue; Co-creation workshop Replication Support; Accelerating Replication-Intellectual Property Protection and Management; Financing Replication: Unlocking Capital for Replication; Impact Financing Lab and Enabling Replication: Developing African LCA Networks and Capabilities among various Panel and Roundtable discussions.

Among the outcomes from the workshop were networking. Contacts were established with the Kenya Industrial Research Development Institute (KIRDI) were very important for the project particularly for potential working space (incubation) for the MSMEs in the course of scaling-up. Knowledge was gained from the case studies and exercises which were purposely provided at the workshop in order to deepen the participants’ understanding of conservation activities including cleaner energy production and use.