



**MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
Danida

DGBP
DANIDA GREEN
BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIPS



**Practical
ACTION**  **regenorganics**

LAUNCH OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR HOUSEHOLD ORGANIC WASTE PROJECT

TALKING POINTS

Introduction

- I am excited to join you today to unveil the *Circular Economy for Household Waste (CE4HOW) Project*. This initiative could not have come at a better time as Kakamega County strives to manage waste sustainably to create jobs and improve livelihoods.
- I also welcome the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the County Government of Kakamega, Practical Action and Sanergy (Regen Organics) to ensure this innovative project delivers for the people of Kakamega County. This demonstrates the commitment of the partners in this project.
- In addition, I thank the Danida Green Business Partnership (DGBP) for supporting this project that advances a market-based approach to waste management.

Practical Action and the Circular Economy Project (CE4OHW)

- Practical Action is an international development organisation putting ingenious ideas to work so people in poverty can change their world. We are active in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- In Kenya, we work in 16 counties, facilitating lasting and locally-owned solutions for clean energy, sustainable agriculture, climate change, and water, sanitation and waste management. We ensure our work builds thriving and resilient communities through systemic change, gender empowerment and social inclusion.
- This new project is the latest addition to Practical Action's sustainable waste management portfolio to make our urban centres fit for people. We promote circular approaches to waste management by fostering behaviour change in waste generation and disposal, facilitating opportunities for informal waste handlers, and advocating for enabling policies and market systems.
- In 2021, Practical Action carried out extensive research and published the '*Managing our Waste*' report which identified the gaps and opportunities for green business and transformation in the waste sector in Kenya. The report partly informed the design of this project and will be useful in implementing the initiative.

Why are We Excited about this Project?

Business Case for Household Waste

- Firstly, this project is innovative as it aims to **create the business case for a circular economy for household organic waste in Kakamega**. Currently, this waste stream has limited or no value.
- A commercially viable, circular economy model for household organic waste has significant potential to provide a sustainable solution to waste management, considering much of the waste generated in Kakamega and Kenya is organic.
- Sanergy, through its subsidiary Regen Organics, is building a new waste recycling plant in Kakamega to turn organic waste into fertilizer. While the bulk of its raw materials will be farm waste, it will incorporate 4,000 tonnes of organic household waste annually from 15,000 households in Kakamega.
- The project will inject resources into the waste economy by paying Waste Aggregation Centers to supply high-quality household organic waste for fertilizer production. Waste collectors will, in turn, offer household waste collection services at affordable prices, provided households separate their organic and inorganic waste.

Replication

- Another exciting part of this initiative is the **potential for replication** across Kenya and other urban centres in the developing world struggling with managing organic waste. Demonstrating a viable, market-based approach to managing such waste would be attractive to players in the waste sector.
- We aim to systematically document the learnings and experiences gleaned from this project and disseminate them widely locally, nationally and globally to facilitate the replication of this initiative.

Win-win for People and the Planet

- Another interesting element of the project is it will **create multiple wins for people and the planet**. This will be achieved as follows:
 - ✓ Reduced environmental pollution by limiting waste dumping hotspots in Kakamega, particularly in low-income settlements.
 - ✓ Reduced greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. This emission reduction can create additional income for residents through carbon credit schemes.
 - ✓ Improved food security and soil health restoration through enhanced use of organic fertilizers that boost soil structure, moisture retention and farm yields.
 - ✓ Improved livelihoods, working conditions and organization for informal waste handlers and job creation in the upcoming Waste Aggregation Centers to be built by Practical Action and owned by the County Government.

- The project contributes to all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) directly and indirectly, including ending poverty (SDG 1), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), and sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12).

Conclusion

- As Practical Action, we look forward to working with all partners in making the project a success to benefit the residents of Kakamega County.

Thank you