

# GREEN ECONOMY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE JUSTICE INNOVATION FUND (CJIF)

## THE RESCOPE PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GEN

### TRAINING IN VALUE ADDITION

Mathews Shaba Mpofo, a trainer in sustainable livelihoods from Malawi came to share his knowledge and skills with the participating communities in Kapiri Mposhi, Zambia

Many smallholder farming families in Zambia and elsewhere in the region of sub-Saharan Africa feel let down by the agricultural system that has been introduced to them. In spite of decades of interventions by various players, many are seeing deepening poverty.

It was therefore with much excitement and expectancy that the beneficiaries of the Climate Justice and Innovation Fund (CJIF) project from communities in Monze and Kapiri Mposhi welcomed the trainer, Mathews Mpofo to the training in value addition that was held in early April 2019. Fifty participants made up mainly of women, youth and elders representing the social enterprise groups and smallholder farmers participating in the CJIF project often burst into song and dance during the course of the training. The training covered the production of

soap, ointments, chillie sauce, shoe polish, and other products. Soap was made from local palm oil and caustic soda using the cold process. Fig. 1 A woman preparing the ingredients through pounding using a mortar and pestle.



Fig. 2 Making chilly sauce

Our values and principles of effectiveness which we use to evaluate ourselves are:

- ✚ Promoting deep and thoughtful care for the environment
- ✚ Emphasis on identification and use of local and indigenous resources and knowledge
- ✚ Inclusive and active participation of the school community
- ✚ Genuine and wide participation of young people at all levels of our activities
- ✚ Making learning fun, practical and relevant
- ✚ Systematic / regular learning from experience and planning ahead strategically
- ✚ Ensuring implementation of activities based on creative and well thought out designs and plans
- ✚ Ensuring documentation and transparent information sharing
- ✚ Encouraging sharing of knowledge, skills and practices among school communities

Participants were encouraged to use existing and traditional knowledge and skills to make a wider range of products. Among such skills are the making of clay products such as pots and the recycling of plastic into craft items. Fig. 3 shows table mats that they are making from waste plastic and grass.



Fig. 4 shows women elders teaching others how to make clay pots.



### Other developments

The participating communities have also been trained in Agro-ecological practices such as rain water harvesting, natural soil improvement, intercropping and mulching. Crop diversification for nutrition and income security is being promoted and so the farmers are cultivating herbs such as lemon grass and vetiver grass for essential oil production. Other crops include legumes, tubers, small grains and tree crops such as fruits. Farmers are also encouraged to diversify into beekeeping as shown below.

Fig. 5 A bee keeper in one of the participating communities.



Resilience in the face of climate change is a key feature of this project. The project is promoting the cultivation of drought tolerant traditional crops such as Bambara nuts, cowpeas, millet, sorghum and cassava.

Watch this space for more!

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The Rescope Programme uses the Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) process as a tool for school communities to develop demonstrations of agro-ecology that meet local needs. The Programme seeks to work closely with relevant government Ministries, NGO's and CBO's. The different partners are assisted to establish comprehensive In-country schools sustainable land-use projects and programmes that share experiences at a regional level.