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# TRAINING REPORT (FIRST BATCH OF TRAINEES) SWITCH AFRICA GREEN

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## Promoting Biogas Technologies Project



GHANA NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION CENTRE

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## 1. Background Information

The Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre (GNPCPC) as part of implementing the project Promoting Biogas Technologies, the Centre was to train a total of 100 artisans. The GNPCPC placed an advert in the newspapers for candidates interested to submit an application designed for candidates who are interested in taking part in the training.

A total of thirty five applications were received and a selection committee was setup to identify those who qualify. A total of 5 participants were disqualified as they did not meet the criteria set in the advertisement.

The main aim is to provide artisans with hands on skills to construct biogas plant at the proficiency level. The objectives of the training are as follows;

- Train artisans in the basic technology and health, safety and environment issues in relation to the construction of a biogas plant.
- Help artisans to know the various types, functions and basic operation of a biogas plant.
- Develop capacity of artisans to know how to operate a biogas construction business.

## 2. Methodology for training

The facilitators were experts in the industry who helped to develop the training materials. These were;

- Dr. John Afari Idan of the Biogas Technologies Africa Limited. He has been constructing biogas plants for more than 25 years.
- Dr. Henry Akplu a retired lecturer and expert in entrepreneurship development.
- Ing. Daniel Digber of the Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre an energy expert.
- Mr. Moses Pumpuni of VULPEC Ghana Ltd.

The facilitators used a participatory interactive approach to lecture participants and also in the transfer of knowledge and skills. They also sometimes used local language to facilitate the learning process.

The training involved three processes;

- Theoretical learning; The theoretical learning involved lectures in the training room for 4 days and a site visit to see some biogas plants. There was also a presentation by VULPEC Ghana Ltd, a company operating in the biogas industry.

- Field visits: There was a one day field visit to different sites within the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA) to see different types of biogas plants that have been constructed. Some of the types include;
  - The conversion of septic tank to a biogas plant.
  - Fixed dome biogas plant.
  - Baffle type biogas plant.
- Practical training: This was expected to be done at a selected site where participants will construct a biogas plant. They were also attached to 2 companies for industrial attachment or training.

There was a total of 8 units or modules which the participants were taken through. The participants were assessed on their training which was made known to the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI), a national institution accredited and recognized for training of artisans and technicians in vocational training.

### **3. Training outcomes**

A total of thirty (30) participants were trained in the construction of a biogas digester. These participants have also been attached to two companies for industrial training as part of their training.

Two certificates were awarded to the participants. These are;

- Certificate of participation.
- Certificate of proficiency II from the NVTI.

### **4. Visibility**

Visibility activities were implemented during the training programme. Some of the visibility activities include the following;

- Newspaper advertisement of training was done.
- Bags with logos of all project partners were embossed on it was presented to all participants.
- Polo t-shirts was also printed with embossment of the logos of all project partners and given to all participants of the training.
- Note pads with the logos of all project partners embossed on the notepads.

## 5. Evaluation of training

Participants were asked to evaluate the course of training with an evaluation form to be completed by the participants.

Out of a total 27 participants who completed the course evaluation form the following was realized;

- 85% of the participants strongly agree or disagree that they are satisfied with the course content and structure.
- 89% of participants were satisfied with the quality of instruction.
- 85% of the participants agree or strongly agree that the course was well organized.
- All (100%) participants agree or strongly agree that the field visit added to their experience.
- 70% agreed or strongly agree that they were satisfied with the length of the course while 19% disagree or strongly disagree.
- 96% agree or strongly agree that the course taught them new skills and new knowledge.
- All (100%) agreed or strongly agreed that the skills and knowledge gained will help them in their new career path.
- In terms of quality of food provided all participants were satisfied and 89% of the participants were happy about the training materials.
- More than 60% of participants got to hear about this training through friends.

## 6. Challenges

About 30% of participants were graduates who due to their knowledge and experience were ahead of the class who have majority of artisans. The team informed participants that training was targeted at artisans after the meeting with the Council for Technical and Vocation Education Training (COTVET) and Energy Commission to discuss possible ways of collaboration.

Subsequent training programmes will ensure that only artisans are recruited for the training. The project will liaise with Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies to help identify more artisans to be trained.

## 7. Conclusion

The training programme for the first batch of trainees was successful despite the fact that there were few challenges the organizing team encountered.

Generally, participants were satisfied with course content, instruction and organization of the course.

However, the team hopes to organize logistics better to ensure that all logistical requirements needed for training are made available on time.

## 8. Appendix

### FIRST BIOGAS TRAINING PROGRAMME IN PICTURES



First batch of trainees



Theoretical Training



**Field visit with Dr. John Idan**



**Field visit with Moses Pumpuni**



**Setting out to commence**



**Mixing of concrete and laying of bricks**



**Graduation and award of certificate**



**Graduation and award of certificate**