



Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon grass growing and Education in Uganda

Activity 3.7 Conduct collection of solid waste for briquette production

Date and Location:

Date	Location
From January until present	Lusalira –SORAK Essential Oils factory space Kibalinga subcounty -the briquette production unit host subcounty.

Introduction:

To collect solid waste from Kibalinga sub county community is an ongoing activity that involve collecting farm waste and domestic waste which is an essential raw material for briquette charcoal production at SORAK briquette charcoal production unit.

Purpose/ Objective of training/ activity:

The purpose of this activity is to ensure a steady and continuous availability of material to be burnt into char which is a very important part for briquette charcoal making. This would later contribute to reducing the use of wood fuel (firewood and charcoal). When less wood fuel is used, less trees will be cut hence saving the environment and prevent deforestation. Better environment will lead to good climatic conditions which are essential for community prosperity as they engage in their major economic activity of farming. Also the source of briquette are organic wastes and we can add value on domestic wastes which are currently just trash.

Facilitators:

The activity is purely facilitated by the solid waste collecting staff (driver with the hired truck by SORAK, loaders/ off loaders who are hired on a temporally basis depending on the need to collect and bring waste to SORAK briquette making site. These are supervised by SORAK staff namely Matovu Bazilio and Mafabi Martin.

Activities:

1. Mobilization of 20 farmers to accept solid waste provision to SORAK collectors. Location was selected on the basis of good roads, availability of the waste that is where farmers who grow maize.
2. SORAK collectors moving to the villages to collect 60 tons of solid waste’
Collection of solid waste started in July to August 2018, we collected 30 tons of solid waste in those two months (15 tons per month) from 10 farmers. We commenced with the collection of solid waste in January 2019 and collected 30 tons in that month from another 10 farmers. This means we have so far reached 20 farmers collecting waste. We have so far collected a total of 60 tons of waste
3. Collectors collecting and dumping waste at SORAK briquette charcoal making factory



Maize cobs collected and ready to support char production for briquette making



Bags of waste collected in addition to prepare for briquette production.



Setting up Drier shade



Drier shade with solar drier tarpaulin



Organic waste used to produce char (1)



Char being removed from mixer



Briquette charcoal



Youth and women trainee studying the Briquette charcoal producing machine

Outcomes:

Enough solid waste material for briquette charcoal production was collected and stored for continuous production of briquette charcoal

Major challenges:

1. Some community members are not willing to provide SORAK with solid waste especially from their farms, yet most of them having been wasting them through burning. Some think that waste has now gained economic value, which is true, yet at this stage SORAK has not planned/budgeted for buying waste but rather for collection and transportation.
2. Continuing collecting every harvesting season of maize and other crops. And sustaining this activity through sale of produced briquette, earning revenue and using it to pay for transportation and collection fees.

Recommendations:

1. It was recommended that SORAK does much of the collection during harvesting season. This is the time when all farmers are producing crop solid waste from maize, beans, ground nuts etc.
2. It was also recommended that SORAK should consider buying cassava waste from neighboring communities to help in securing an important raw material for char binding during the process of briquette production. (1 ton of charcoal per month would spend 600,000 Ug shs of cassava flour per month.)

Conclusion:

In conclusion, collecting waste for briquette charcoal making is one of the very important activity of the briquette charcoal production chain. This needs to be handled carefully and planned well. This means SORAK should obtain a truck that can be used to collect waste on a daily basis in the future. This could also be a part of garbage collection from rural growth centers (which are small rural towns like Lusalira where our office is located.) which indirectly contribute to improve sanitation and hygiene of communities. Communities will be free from uncollected garbage.