



Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon grass growing and Education in Uganda

Activity 3.9 Make new products (soap and candles)

Date and Location:

No	Date	Location
1	Feb 10 th 2019	Uganda industrial research institute

Introduction:

This report presents an explanation of what SORAK went through in its attempt to make products that would use lemon grass essential oil as a raw material. The activity took the form of training for SORAK staffs basically on creating two items, namely candle and liquid soap

Purpose/ Objective of training/ activity:

The purpose of this activity/ training was to equip staffs with relevant skills in candle making as well as liquid soap production using lemon grass essential oil as one of the raw materials. This would help SORAK in the future to make use of distilled oil whose local market is not well forthcoming.

Participants:

	Male	Female	Total
SORAK staffs	3 Mafabi Martin Matovu Bazilio and Muhammad Kyeyune	2 Nnakiruuta Hadijah and Babirye Maria Gorret	5
Youths	4	8	12

Facilitators:

The training was facilitated by resource persons identified from Kampala namely;

Ms. Nakato Florence and Ms Namutebi Harris who are entrepreneurial consultants with general practical knowledge of how to make products like liquid soap and candles. They are specialized in offering trainings in making and general business knowledge.

Activities:

The following activities were conducted.

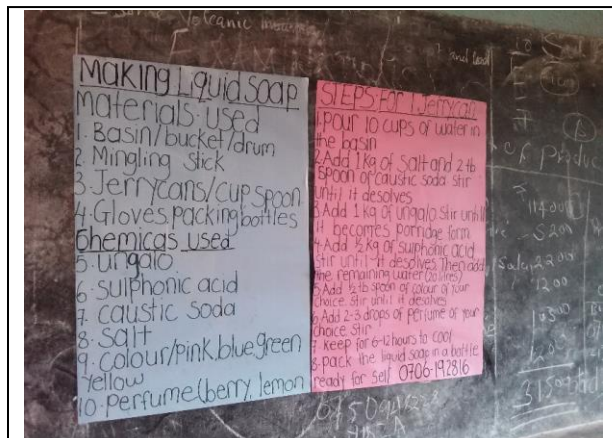
1. Preparation of items for the production namely candle wax, candle molds, chemicals (Ungalo, Sulphric acid, caustic soda, salt, coloring ink (pink blue, green and yellow), and

perfume (berry lemon) and utensils including basin, bucket, drum, mingling stick, jerry cans, cup, spoon, gloves, and packing bottles.

2. Participants were taken through the steps of making those products and learned how we can blend them with lemon grass essential oil to obtain marketable products. Details are following.

The steps explain making 1 jerry can of liquid soap.

- Pour 10 cups of water in the basin
- Add 1kg of salt and 2 tea spoons of caustic soda. Stir it in water until it dissolves.
- Add 1kg of ungallo and stir until it becomes porridge form
- Add 1/2kg of Sulphric acid and stir until it dissolves. Then add the remaining 20 liters of water.
- Add ½ tea spoon of any color of your choice and stir until it dissolves
- Add 2-3 perfumes of your choice and stir until it dissolves
- Keep in a safe place for 6-12 hours until it cools
- Pack the liquid soap in the bottles



Display of the materials needed to make liquid soap and steps to follow when making liquid soap



Material for candle making on display during the training while participants look on.

Outcomes:

1. SORAK staffs equipped with skills in making of candles and liquid soap and got prepared to commence with these products making in the third year of JFGE funding.
2. After the trainings from Industrial research institute, SORAK staff also trained out of school youths in the making of candles and soap. This took place in Lusilira where SORAK office is located.
3. Participants appreciated the usefulness of lemon grass and how it can be used to blend important and useful products.
4. The activity prepared SORAK to plan for future revenue generating activities that can keep the organization moving even without future donor support.

Major challenges:

1. SORAK needs to design a marketing strategy for these productions (how and where to sell, who will be the customers, how to reach the market, and pricing strategies, organizing a production team etc).
2. The design needs to include ideas how to make the products attractive and outstanding in the market. These strategies will be developed during the product development phase.

Recommendations:

Participants and trainers made the following recommendations;

1. SORAK to begin making the products with the next funding that was anticipated in 2019.
2. SORAK needs to conduct market research to ensure that there is a market for the products and the products are competitive. This would also ensure continued production and supply chain.
3. To train staff on other products making to ensure that SORAK staff are able to make alternative products such as perfume and tea in the future.

Conclusion:

In summary training of staff in value addition with lemon grass essential oil in the making of candles and liquid soap was an enriching experience. SORAK anticipates exploring deeper and making of these products. This would ensure revenue creation and sustainability of the organization's activities if these production and sales are successful.