

IFAD at COP26

Climate change response through green jobs for youth

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Chantal Adiko, 32 is the founder of [AfricaCompost](#), Beninese organic fertilizer production company, - one of IFAD's [Market Gardening Development Support Project \(PADMAR\)](#) beneficiaries - located in Calavi, a border town of Cotonou. She has been involved in entrepreneurship for several years now and her organic fertilizer production company is attracting many agricultural producers. She was among the 5 finalists of the 2018 [Food Connection Challenge](#), an initiative of BoP Innovation Center and Crosswise Works that calls upon SMEs in Nigeria and Benin to submit their innovative ideas to reduce post – harvest losses.

Africa-Compost is taking organic waste that would otherwise be left to simply decay in garbage dumps and processing it through special facilities where it is converted into microbiological compost. The compost helps to improve the quality of the soil, makes plants more robust and resistant to pest attacks, and helps farmers cut down on the use of pesticides and make food safe. This helps tackle one of the biggest problems in rural areas: the massive use of chemical fertilizers that has made the ground infertile, caused soil erosion and led to contaminated water.

The idea behind starting this business came with the raising awareness about the harmful effects of pesticides on health and environment and the lack – or limited availability – of organic fertilizers.

Chantal had to face multiple constraints in her journey to become a successful young entrepreneur: starting from drudgery, the long distance between the production site and the promoter's place of residence, the unavailability of water drilling, and the lack of rolling stock to transport raw materials.

AfricaCompost has two departments: Composting and Nutrition. It is on composting that they benefit from the support of PADMAR through the ASAP funds in installing new infrastructures to increase their production and processing of the organic composting.

The COVID-19 outbreak definitely posed new challenges that Chantal succeeded in transforming into opportunities. In fact, during the crisis, there was a renewed interest in local and healthy produce and growing demand for it and new sales channels, above all through the social media and on-line platforms, opened up. Since borders were closed, many were therefore forced to buy local foods. The Online shop they launched and the home delivery of AfricaCompost's products created trustful relationships with old clients and helped finding new ones, allowing many of them to discover the wonders of local production, pushing them to subscribe.

During the pandemic, they innovated their business through the revaluation of tasty flours for increased visibility and client satisfaction. These are products that come into the base of the Beninese diet and strengthen customers' health.

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Africa-Compost fertilizer is therefore facilitating production and processing of local crops, ensure soil conservation, environmental protection, and food security.

Besides her entrepreneurial success, she removed gender tags and stopped regarding this career path as no-go area for girls, showing how women can succeed in fields that have been traditionally reserved for men. This commitment places the young Chantal among the few women with a thirst for a better tomorrow. "We are at the beginning and the demands are already beyond us" she said. For this reason, the young company increases its production with each campaign. The objective of Chantal is to always increase the quantity of compost to 3000 tons and more. According to Chantal, entrepreneurship is a foundation for sustainable development.

Chantal Adiko is a young student in Master of Pharmacology and Cell Physiology at the University of Abomey-Calavi. She always underlines the importance of including agriculture in the curricula of primary and secondary schools since the learning and training needs of rural young people have not been systematically addressed in education agendas so far. Current learning/training opportunities in rural areas remain, in fact, insufficient to allow young people access the key skills and knowledge that will allow a smoother transition toward decent and rewarding "green jobs" for rural youth inside a productive and sustainable rural economy.



Noel Nizeyimana is a young greenpreneur from Rwanda. He has a bachelor degree in Agriculture (soil and environment management) and trained in solid waste management. Noel came up with business ideas while he was dealing with urban agriculture, and solid waste management issues as part of his undergraduate program in Soil and Environment Management in 2014. He saw that the waste management situation in Huye city, where his campus was located, was not well managed. The waste was piled up mostly in the streets and in unmanaged landfill sites, which lead to several serious health and social threats to the communities including diseases, insufferable odour, leakage of pollutants into water sources, methane gas, and exposing the waste-collectors to toxic and hazardous substances.

After realizing that problems, he decided to create Greencare Rwanda which was officially registered in 2016 and licensed in 2017 by Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and Rwanda Utility and Regulations Authority (RURA) respectively. He came up with business ideas to provide sustainable solution for solid waste management by converting waste into valuable products, 75 -80% of that waste is biowaste which are converted into packaged compost branded grekompost by using windrow composting system, the loaded waste at the Facility are mixed due to the lack of separation of waste at source, the first step is sorting, the biodegradable waste are sorted and piled under a covered shed for efficient decomposition, after 60 days of composting process, the compost are sieved for good quality of packaged organic fertilizers in bag of 50 kg for marketing and delivering to the farmers for soil fertility and productivity. The 15 % is the plastics waste which has being transformed into ecological pavers and bricks by mixing appropriate ratio of plastics to sand under a desired temperature as construction materials

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Today Greencare Rwanda has a production capacity of 400 tons of compost per year and 2,560 meters squared of ecological pavers per year. we have employed 25 permanent young men and women working in compost and ecological pavers production, with five agro dealers' companies that distribute GreKompost to the farmers across the country.

Just like any business, challenges are inevitable. Among their day to day challenges include insufficient skills and knowledge on the best technology for solid waste management. "Lack of stakeholder's inclusivity for solid waste management implementation, lack of a proprietary model or policy for funding and financing solid waste management projects is still a problem.

This business responds to the climate change by reducing greenhouse gas like methane from landfilling, promoting circular economy by transforming waste into resource, creating the jobs for young people and women, reducing land contamination under water contamination of heavy metals from landfilling site.

In addition, Greencare is growing and scaling this model of solid waste management as sustainable solution to convert waste into resource, they have a target in 2025 to replicate this model to the 5 secondary cities for more production of compost, because ¾ of Rwandan soil is acid with pH under 5,4 which are need more organic matter / compost to improve soil fertility and productivity, environmental protection and fight against climate change.

Greencare Rwanda ltd is a member of the Rwanda youth Agribusiness forum since for 2017 for benefit the opportunity for young people, like access to information, training and workshop for different agricultural practices, exchange and share technology, market opportunity and investors



Sam Bbosa is a Ugandan based in Kampala. Sam has a wealth of expertise and skills in labour markets and employment– including crosscutting themes of gender, youth and environment. With growing interest in sustainable rural livelihoods and development, he has in recent years advised a number of international development organisations on mainstreaming a green dimension in value chain analysis and market systems approaches. As an expert on green jobs, Sam is part of a two-man team currently assessing the potential for greening IFAD's Africa Agribusiness Hub program and implications for green jobs creation for youth. A Mo Ibrahim scholar, Sam holds an MSc Development

Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London UK and a BSc Population Studies, Makerere University Kampala, Uganda.



Drew Gardiner is an Employment Policies Specialist and member of the Global Technical Team of the International Labour Organization's Employment Policy Department. He is responsible for advising governments and social partners on addressing employment issues in national development plans, including on green transitions, gender equality and digitalization. He was previously the Chief Technical Adviser of the ILO's "Taqeem Initiative" which undertakes impact evaluation of policies and

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programmes on women's and youth employment. He is a researcher, speaker and adviser on evidence-based active labour market interventions and has mobilized and managed a portfolio of labour market programmes related to skills, entrepreneurship and employment services across Africa and the Middle East, working with stakeholders from the United Nations, the private sector and government. He has a B.A. in International Relations and French from the University of Calgary and an MBA from the University of Geneva.



Robert Meloche is the Head of Programs for the Visa Foundation, overseeing an international portfolio of grants and investments designed to support inclusive small businesses and to increase the supply of capital managed by diverse investment teams. Since joining Visa in 2012, Robert has led a variety of the company's partnerships with international and civil society organizations, including managing Visa's relationship with the World Economic Forum and serving on the Executive Committee for the Tipping Point Fund on Impact Investing. Robert joined Visa from the non-profit microfinance sector, having served as Vice President at Opportunity International. In 2016, Robert was named an Aspen Institute First Mover Fellow. Robert's Twitter handle is (@robmeloche)