

Rapporteur Reporting for Sessions at AfricaSan 4

The first part of the session will shed light on some of the continental level political commitments that are guiding on-going work linking sanitation/hygiene to agriculture, and will provide the AUC's approach to build large scale productive sanitation for food security in Africa. The second part of the session looks at linkages between sanitation and health through selected country experiences from some African countries.

Name of Session: Sanitation and Livelihoods

Session number: AA

Convenor(s): Government of Burkina Faso, WaterAid and African Union Commission

Approx number of participants: 80 ppl

Name of Rapporteur: Bethlehem Mengistu

Copies of all slides collected?

Please give a short summary of the session: its objective, highlights of speakers and conclusions (max 300 words)

The session was aimed at facilitating debate on a global alliance and partnership for consolidating existing opportunities and pilot approaches in Africa, to support the AU Member States in implementing the continental commitment, championed by the Government of Burkina Faso to improve food security through affordable sources of plant nutrients for African farmers, while at the same time boosting fertilizer production from human generated organic waste streams.

The Pan African program on 'Productive sanitation and Agriculture partnership in Africa' consists of establishing a platform for dialogue and developing best practices, implement large scale infrastructure development in 2 African countries to draw lessons, to develop advocacy tools and necessary policies to disseminate concept and success stories etc.

What were the 3 main messages/essential points made at the session? (these could come from the summing up, from consensus in the discussion, points made by key speakers or your judgement on what was most important)

1. Waste is a powerful resource, closing the nutrient loop is key to realize this vision
2. An enabling policy for the engagement of the private sector is important, this is linked to promoting sanitation as a viable business model. However, we must also move from pro-longed piloting to taking some workable models to scale.
3. There are cultural challenges, but there is actually more than 10yrs experience of good practice of making productive work and benefit communities are various scales. Advocacy is critical shed light on technological feasibility, agronomic power, socio-economic benefits but the technological innovations can still evolve to maximize gains.

Any recommendations for Ministerial commitments from the session?

1. Sanitation as a source for energy, generating income as well as realizing food security is a key issue that needs to be recognized as a viable option to address accelerate social and economic development for Africa.

Any good quotes by speakers that capture the essence of the discussion or the state of the topic?

- 1 Sanitation is always seen as a problem linked to filth and dirt but not as an investment/economic opportunity. Waste is a powerful resource
- 2 1 person can generate 7 dollars so there is about 600 dollars in this room

Any other comments on the session?

Role of the private sector is critical to develop this model 'sanitation as a business', need to make room for the private sector. The relationship between energy and sanitation.

A key issue is affordability of any technology. An enabling policy for the engagement of the private sector is important, this is linked to promoting sanitation as a viable business model. However, we must also move from pro-longed piloting to taking some workable models to scale.

Please send this form and all slides to piers.cross@gmail.com on the day of the session. For the Wednesday sessions, please send them as soon as you can after the end of the session.

Many thanks

Piers Cross

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