

National Dialogue Ghana 2019

NOTHING TO WASTE SEIZING AGRO-WASTE TO CREATE JOBS AND WELLBEING

Date: October 31 | 13:00 – 17:00 **Venue: FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF)**

Every day, the Ghanaian capital of Accra produces more than 3,000 metric tonnes of waste. Unfortunately, that's not unusual: around the world, highly-populated communities with poor waste management systems and unhealthy disposal practices rack up similarly grim statistics.

In Accra — one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa — unmanaged domestic waste is often dumped into open spaces, streams or rivers, while agricultural outputs also result in water and land pollution. Over 47% of Ghana's population is exposed to pollution that exceeds the maximum allowable rates. In economic terms, poor sanitation costs Ghana's economy around US\$290 million per year, which works out to around 1.6% of its GDP.

Although these issues are yet to be resolved at the national level, innovative projects and entrepreneurs are emerging and offering solutions at the local government and small-business scale. For instance, a community in Tamale, Northern Ghana, is harnessing rice husks to build eco-toilets; meanwhile, in Kumasi in the south, young students are organized into small enterprises to recycle plastic and clear up agricultural land.

The **National Dialogue Ghana 2019** will bring together experts, practitioners, policy-makers and citizens in an interactive session in Accra on October 31st, with the aim of making connections between existing solutions, and improving current waste management models and practices.

The dialogue will address the following questions: what are the main kinds of agricultural waste in Ghana, and how can they be turned into useful material? What is the relationship between general waste and agriculture in the country? And, how can we leverage the waste management sector to create opportunities for youth from different backgrounds?

Following on from the Global Landscapes Forum's Accra conference, the National Dialogue offers a deeper opportunity to connect with local actors on one of Ghana's biggest challenges. There is real potential to transform Ghana's waste into profitable inputs to generate better living standards, new job opportunities, and landscape restoration across the African continent and beyond.

PARTICIPANTS

- Ghanaian citizens or residents seeking ways to overcome waste issues that affect your community.
- Decision makers from the public or private sector.
- Academic, technical experts and entrepreneurs in the field of waste and/or agricultural management.

MAIN TOPICS

- Exploring practical solutions for the agro-waste management sector
- Developing pathways for upscaling focal agro-waste management initiatives and creating jobs that contribute to landscape restoration
- Building collaborative networks between organizations implementing agro-waste solutions
- Addressing the fragmentation of present innovations in waste management

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Agenda

13:00	Welcome and participants' introduction
13:30	Mapping Exercise: understanding the waste issue in Ghana
14:10	Expert's insights: the cause and challenges of waste management
14:20	Turning problems into opportunities
15:10	Expert's insights: Solutions to waste management
15:40	World Café: explore and analyze key stakeholders and actions needed
16:45	Wrap up and final reflections

Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR

Global Landscapes Forum

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood initiatives, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIRAD, CIFOR, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Ecoagriculture Partners, The European Forest Institute, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, IPMG, CIAT, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, INBAR, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, Rights and Resources Initiative, UN Environment, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation part of Wageningen Research, World Agroforestry, World Resources Institute, WWF Germany, Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL), World Bank Group

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