Learning and Working

Motivating for Skills Development: A Campaign Package

Version February 2006

1 Campaign Package Overview
2 Campaign Flyer
3 Information for Stakeholders
4 Guide to being a Successful Facilitator
5 Activity Check List
6 Videos 'Learning and Working'
7 Booklets for each of the Videos
8 CD-ROM with print files of above documents
Booklet 7.07 – FRUITS 2

This booklet complements the video clip on “Fruits 1” on DVD 1. It gives a short summary of the content of the video and contains illustrations followed by technical texts, which will make it easier to understand and recall the activities shown in the video. The booklet can be copied and handed out to participants, so that they can make notes on them or use them as a reference for later.

A transcript of the soundtrack of the video is included at the back of the booklet. Whenever the locally spoken language is different from the language used in the video, the facilitator may wish to use this text transcript as a basis for comments and explanations in the local language.

Comments and Observations

The video focuses on a cheap and widely available raw material – the multi-purpose banana plant. Many good ideas on how to make use of the different parts of this plant are presented. The facilitator should encourage the participants to be even more creative and think about other products that could be made out of the plant – bags, dolls, decorations, packaging material etc.

Occupational Health, Safety and Hygiene

It is the facilitator’s responsibility to draw the attention of the participants to hygiene issues arising from the scenes shown in the video. Hygiene is always an issue when handling food items. In the following text, the facilitator finds some general advice, but further information should be obtained by anybody who wants to take up the food production activities shown in the video.

It is very important to prepare food safely to avoid harmful bacteria from spreading and growing. Hands should be thoroughly washed and cleaned with soap before handling food. The use of sterile latex gloves is also an option. It is recommended to wear a face mask when handling food. Anything that touches the food before, after and during preparation – utensils, working surface, storage containers, etc. – has to be kept clean. How food is stored is also important for making sure it is safe to eat. Use sealed bags and containers. Keep the storage area dry and not too warm.

The area where you are preparing and storing the food should be kept very clean. Keep out flies, mice, ants and other pests.

Video FRUITS 2: Summary

What can you do with a banana? You will find answers to this question in this video: for example “papitas” (banana chips).

The leaves of the banana tree, once dried, can be used as material for every kind of basket or mat.

The leaves of the banana tree may also be of interest to artists. Baneco, a form of art in Haiti using banana leaves, has found an international audience.
Notes:
Video FRUITS 2: Technical Information

The Basketry made from Dried Banana Tree Leaves
Cut the dry leaves of banana trees.
Divide each leaf into equal strips of around 3 to 4 cm width.

Around a set of three or four of these strips, wind another strip to get a podgy form that you wind around like a spiral.

Each spiral turn has to be fixed on the previous in a regular gap with a knot to obtain a strong tray.

You can also the roles vertically, with knots one on top of the other, to make baskets in any form and size.
The leaves can be plaited, too.

The “Papitas” (Banana Chips)
Peel the bananas, cut them into thin slices and separate the pieces so that they do not stick together. Then fry them in oil.

After some minutes, the papitas are fried.

Drain them, add some salt and put them into bags: 4 or 8 slices per bag, which you now can sell at the market.
Video FRUITS 2: Text of Soundtrack

Plantains, cohunes, miscanes¹: many names for one fruit – the banana. Bananas can be found almost everywhere in Haiti, in all the markets.

In the neighbourhood of Ticherie, Porte-au-Prince, Eddy Gabrielle and his family process plantain bananas into papitas, a kind of chip.

They peel the bananas, cut them into thin slices with a grater, and separate them, so they do not stick together.

Then they fry them in oil.

Meanwhile, Jean-Baptiste uses the heat from his oven to make small plastic bags of different sizes.

In a few minutes, the papitas are fried. They are drained, salted and put into the bags – four to eight slices according to the size of the bag, which is to be sold in the market.

The fruit is not the only part of the banana, which is used. In this small village of Vichynais, Jean Vengine goes out every morning to cut dry leaves from his banana plantation.

He separates each leaf into equal strips, three to fours centimetres wide, and around a bunch of three or four of these strips, he winds another strip to make a kind of roll, which he wraps into a spiral.

Each turn in the spiral is fixed to the previous one at regular intervals by a knot to obtain a solid tray.

You can also wind the roles vertically with knots on top of each other.

He produces baskets of all shapes and sizes, which can then be sold, for example, here at the side of the road.

The leaves can also be woven into mats, choosing different colours to create a chessboard effect for example – or even attached several rolls together to form a longer mat, which you can lay down on.

In Haiti, they even use cut and assembled banana leaves for a form of art called Baneco.

Harold has been using bananas leaves to create works of art for years.
The Campaign Package

This Campaign Package has been developed and provided by the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Bonn, Germany. Its purpose is to facilitate the organisation of campaigns for mobilisation and motivation of young people, and for providing them with vocational orientation and guidance. The focus is on marginalised youth in the informal sector of least developed countries.

The package consists of eight components.

The current pilot version is being provided in English only. It will be evaluated in the field. Depending on the feedback that UNESCO-UNEVOC will receive, the package will be developed further.

The activities presented in this Campaign Package are not a guarantee of monetary success. The content is based on research, examples and advice from experts. Every attempt was made to ensure accuracy, and neither the authors nor the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre can be held responsible for incorrect information or changing circumstances.

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Booklets accompanying the Video Series “Learning and Working”

The video series was filmed in Haiti. We would like to express our special gratitude to the people of Haiti.

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