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**APYN/RONGEAD LAUNCHING REPORT Biogas Clean Energy  
Project for Probiotic Yoghurt Production Community Kitchens  
Sahwa Medical Clinic, Buhongwa Area, Mwanza**

African Probiotic Yoghurt Network (APYN)

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## APYN / RONGEAD LAUNCHING REPORT

### *Biogas Clean Energy Project for Probiotic Yoghurt Production Community Kitchens*

*Sahwa Medical Clinic, Buhongwa Area, Mwanza  
5<sup>th</sup> October, 2012*

The African Probiotic Yoghurt Network (APYN) / RONGEAD Clean Energy Project for Probiotic Yogurt Productions through Community Kitchens Launching was held in the Sahwa community, Buhongwa Ward, in Mwanza, Tanzania on Friday, October 5th, 2012. The Sahwa APYN Probiotic Yoghurt Group is one of 11 APYN probiotic yoghurt groups in Mwanza, Tanzania and is one among 13 in total in East Africa, the others residing in Kigali, Rwanda and Kiritu, Vihiga County, Kenya.



*APYN/RONGEAD Public Address System and Banner that advertised the event in the Sahwa, Buhongwa area*

#### **APYN AND RONGEAD ORGANISATIONS**

This launching celebration was organized by the African Probiotic Yoghurt Network (APYN), Mwanza, Tanzania and RONGEAD, France. **APYN** supports the establishment, development, and continuation of small-scale probiotic yoghurt community health micro-enterprises that economically empower at risk and/or impoverished women and youth while at the same time improving community health and nutrition, especially for people living with HIV/AIDS.

**RONGEAD** is a France based NGO which aims at boosting solidarity and sustainable development within a global economy, acting for and with developing countries populations. Created in 1983, the organization has been working in various countries in the world, on projects using its specific skills such as agronomy, agriculture, macro and micro economy, sociology, environmental sciences, geography.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE APYN/ RONGEAD LAUNCHING**

The APYN/RONGEAD Launching represents one of many collaborative events and efforts between the two organizations. The purpose of this celebration/launching was to introduce to the Mwanza community the benefits and opportunities associated with linking small-scale economic enterprises such as the Sahwa (APYN) Probiotic Yoghurt Project with implemented biogas technology projects such as the Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED) Project carried out by RONGEAD in order to address issues of malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, poverty and environmental sustainability using local capacities and resources. In addition, the launching provided APYN with an opportunity to educate and convey to the community the scientifically proven health benefits of the probiotic yoghurt for everyone. An underlying objective of the launching included raising awareness in order to raise funds for the development and implementation of additional biogas systems as the remaining APYN kitchens. In addition, APYN used this as an opportunity to market and advertise to the community their health benefitting probiotic yoghurt product.

This celebration/ launching was of significant interest for many community members, organizations and institutions especially those involved in the following fields/ areas of operation: women's and youth economic empowerment, community health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, small-scale dairy production, agriculture, sustainable energy development, energy production, and community development.

#### **ATTENDEES**

There were approximately 70 attendees at the launching including APYN/RONGEAD representatives as well as representatives from all 11 APYN Probiotic Yoghurt Groups who process probiotic yoghurt on a daily basis. In addition, approximately 10 organizations and institutional bodies were invited including NGOs, CBOs, government officials, Street Leaders, Saint Augustine University representatives and interns from the University of Western Canada.



*Anna, Finance Manager and Community Programme Assistant, APYN, handing yoghurt out to participant*

## THE OPENING OF THE LAUNCHING

Opening remarks for the launching were given by Mama Mbogo, a member of the Sahwa APYN Probiotic Yoghurt Kitchen where the event was held. Mama Mbogo gave an inspiring speech on the health benefits of probiotics and those of sustainable energy use. She explained that the Sahwa kitchen group members are happy with the biogas unit because it is energy conserving and will reduce the groups expenses each month. She invited all attendees to participate in consuming the probiotic yogurt for improved health and many of the participants tasted the yogurt which was being passed out by some of the yogurt mama representatives as well as Ana of APYN. The opening was followed by brief introductions of the Launching Guest Attendees.



*Mama Mbogo, Member of the Sahwa APYN Probiotic Yoghurt Group*

## PRESENTATIONS

After brief introductions of the launching attendees, representatives from APYN and RONGEAD presented in-depth information about their organizations and their work with in the Mwanza, Tanzanian and African communities. This included an explanation of supporting partners and institutions reaching all over the globe.



*Esther Ghati from APYN and Manon Lelievre from RONGEAD Addressing the Guests and Community*

RONGEAD representative Manon Lelievre explained the work that RONGEAD is doing all over Africa in terms of their Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) projects. She explained how RONGEAD aims at boosting solidarity and sustainable development within a global economy, acting for and with developing countries populations. Created in 1983, the



organization has been working in various countries in the world, on projects using its specific skills such as agronomy, agriculture, macro and micro economy, sociology, environmental sciences, geography. Since 2008, RONGEAD has been working in the Lake zone, Tanzania and has started to implement the SEED project with EMEDO. One of RONGEAD's staff is based at EMEDO's office in Mwanza: this enables to have regular and constructive exchanges on the project implementation as well as to discuss potential areas and sector of development. RONGEAD plays a large role in technology implementation, stakeholder training as well as technical monitoring and troubleshooting. In addition to its role in the community, RONGEAD works with communities to ensure sustainability by training local stakeholders to problem solve and troubleshoot on their own and to ensure that economic activities are locally driven, implemented and supported at the grassroots level.

In addition, RONGEAD representatives explained the collaborative partnership between RONGEAD and APYN and the piloted success of the Sahwa Probiotic Yoghurt Kitchen and Biogas System linkage. In particular the clean energy, renewable waste usage and economic savings of the partnership, especially in terms of processing were explained.

Representing the African Probiotic Yoghurt Network (APYN) was Esther Ghati (APYN Community Programme Manager). Melissa Whaling (APYN Director), Ana Mshana (Finance Manager and Community Programme Assistant) as well as the participating interns and volunteers from Saint Augustine University, Mwanza Tanzania and Western University Canada. APYN's supporting partners; both locally and abroad were highlighted including the role of Western University, Canada and local organizations such as Kivulini Women's Rights Organization.

APYN representatives explained in detail to the audience the development and process of APYN as an institution that supports local grassroots organizations in developing small-scale probiotic yoghurt processing kitchens in order to economically empower its members and to improve community health and nutrition. This included a detailed explanation of the health benefits of probiotic yoghurt consumption for everyone, especially people living with HIV/AIDS and those suffering from malnutrition, including children.

The networking at the community level that was involved in the APYN/RONGEAD partnership was also explained alongside the recorded and tested benefits of biogas system implementation at the pilot Sahwa kitchen.

Afterwards, the Sahwa APYN Probiotic Yoghurt Group promoted the health benefits of the probiotic yoghurt and the benefits of using renewable energy sources for biogas fuel generation and cost savings.





*Community Members at the Sahwa Launching Event*

### **CLOSING OF THE LAUNCHING**

The launching was closed by Esther Ghati around 5:30pm, who conducted an open evaluation of the launching with the participants. The evaluation revealed an increase in understanding by the majority of participants about both biogas and probiotics. She emphasized the importance of events like these in raising awareness and interest and that the yogurt kitchens and biogas units provide a practical way to promote healthy households and communities. Esther closed by summarizing the importance of community buy-in; that the probiotic yogurt kitchens and biogas technologies are available for all community members to partake in, and that interested participants can contact RONGEAD and APYN for more information about how to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities.

PREPARED BY,  
APYN TEAM.