

SCRIPT PLASTIC RECYCLING KENYA

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TAGS:

environment, development, plastic, waste management, business, innovation

SELLING POINTS:

- suitable for any environmental day or seminar
- sustainable development
- no involvement yet of foreign or local non-governmental organizations
- pure local idea and initiative
- no external funding
- positive thinking. Plastic waste as business opportunity instead of a problem

PRESENTATION

They call the blossom of the desert.

The growing number of waste plastic bag in Kenya in Africa.

In this East African country some 300 million plastic bags are used.

Just as much as an average Western country.

The plastic bags are popular because they're useful and cheap.

The government hasn't found a solution yet for this waste problem.

But meanwhile a sly Kenyan business man found his own solution.

As the only one in the country he's able to recycle the bags into something handy.

From empty bags to.. fencing poles.

His company can't handle the demand anymore, and it only seems to be the beginning.

Since many countries in Africa have the same, or even bigger problems, with plastic waste.

Length: 3'04"

BETA

Evans Githinji is 32-years old.

For almost a year now he has a factory in Nairobi.

Inside there is a huge pile of plastic waste.

Which he recycles in to these fencing poles.

SOUNDBITE EVANS WALKING OUTSIDE

Evans shows from where he gets his materials.

You don't have to go far.

Just outside the factory plastic bags are waving in the wind.

That's everywhere in Kenya where people live.

There is no system for collection...

and it takes 1,000 years before they decompose naturally.

A major environmental problem,

and Evans makes money on it.

QUOTE EVANS GITHINJI

An idea came up how to prevent this waste of going back to the environment.

So we needed to make something solid and we thought fencing post is a good option.

SOUNDBITE MACHINE

This second hand machine Evans bought for 10,000 Dollars.
You need a lot of plastic bags to make the poles.
Therefore our business man opened 23 collection yards in Nairobi.
On each site 100 youths bring plastic they picked from the streets.

SOUNDBITE WALKING THROUGH PLASTIC

For 15 cents per kilo they're very productive.

QUOTE NICK OTIENO foreman yard

It depends on the supply, but we get 3 to 4 tons every day.

The bags go to the factory by lorry.
There they are grinded, and heated in the machine.
At 300 degrees the material is pressed into a mold.
Patrick Warungu watches the process carefully.

QUOTE PATRICK WARUNGU operator

- How long does it take to make one pole?

It may take 15 minutes.

Depending on the size.

But as it progresses it reduces the time.

SOUNDBITE HOT PLASTIC

When the plastic comes out the mold,
the pole is ready for processing.
They're used as markers like this...
and in fences replacing wood.
They seem popular in Kenya.

SOUNDBITE EVANS

I still have fifty.

Evans is continuously on the phone with customers.
He can't handle the demand anymore.

QUOTE EVANS GITHINJI

Like now our production is 100 poles per day.

And the order are higher than that every day.

Evans is going to buy more machines.
It already made him nice money.
He drives a nice car, with a dvd player on-board.

SOUNDBITE DVD-PLAYER

He is proud, but says it's still about saving the environment.

QUOTE EVANS GITHINJI

I feel great because I'm doing something good for this nation.

And this can be replicated anywhere in the world.

And that's good since many African countries

have plastic waste.

Evans is ready and shows us the latest application for his poles.

SOUNDBITE HAMMERING

Building houses, because they're strong enough to serve as support beams.