



“Green jobs in Africa” – Regional training course

Nairobi – May 17-21, 2010

Background

The debate on sustainable consumption and production and on the related climate change aspects has been on the international scene for a number of years now. Climate change represents a global challenge producing manifest, negative consequences on the environment, economies and the people. In Africa for instance, the phenomenon is placing extra-burden on food security and rural livelihood, as recently underlined by FAO. Important social consequences are assessed or predictable, including on the world of work.

The context calls for transformed institutional and corporate practices. As a matter of fact, there has been a growing number of national commitments and experiences towards greening economies and sectoral policies (energy, industry, others), and that applies to Africa too, though the scope of such initiatives varies greatly from a country to another.

Green jobs, meant as decent work that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment, serve as a bridge to a “low-carbon” and sustainable future. They reconcile economic growth with a sustainable environment and social equity and effectively contribute to the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals, challenged by climate and environmental change.

Millions of green jobs already exist in sectors such as energy efficiency, energy supply, transportation and waste management, and there is evidence of a larger potential, but only a fraction of this potential is being tapped. Additional proactive policy initiatives and public-private investments are needed. To overcome the different impediments to green jobs worldwide, governments and social partners need knowledge and tools to assess potentialities, monitor progress, close skills gaps and scale up investments.

The regional course described here is part of a larger ILO effort to address the learning needs expressed by its constituents. This is the first of two events to be run in 2010 in the African region. These events are jointly promoted by the ILO Regional Office for Africa, ILO Geneva and the International Training Center of the ILO.

Objectives

The ultimate objective of the course is to empower participants to provide meaningful inputs to national debates and policy making on the social and labour dimensions of climate change.

The focus is on the labour market implications of environmental and economic policies, notably in terms of employment generation, skills development and job quality.

Knowledge required for gathering a sound and operational understanding of basic concepts will be shared. Relevant policy frameworks will be analysed. Participants will learn to formulate common arguments in a multi-stakeholder context in order to minimise the negative socio-economic effects of change, in line with the Decent Work Agenda and other national development frameworks.

Course Implementation

The 4-week course consists of 3 training modules:

- **Module One - On-line induction:** During the first week (May 10-14), participants will be networking through the green jobs platform. On an individual basis, a series of key concepts regarding climate change, sustainable development, green jobs, adaptation and mitigation will be acknowledged. This **first distance learning module will prepare a common base of understanding** and guide participants towards the consultation of relevant national policy papers, such as the Decent Work Country Programme, national climate change strategies, national reports to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the National Adaptation Programme for Action and designated authorities for the Clean Development Mechanism.
- **Module Two – Face-to-face in Nairobi:** The central part of the course will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from May 17 to 21, 2010. The course will be taught by experts on sustainable development issues from the ILO, ITCILO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The **face-to-face training will be conducted in a participatory way, in order to ensure a ‘learning by doing’ process and encourage interaction among participants.**



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- **Module Three – On-line follow-up:** During the module in Nairobi, participants will **start the design of a Green Jobs Action Plan**. This plan will be further developed at distance, supported by the green jobs platform. At the end of week 4 (June 4th, 2010), participants will be encouraged to submit a draft proposal for a Green Jobs Action Plan to be implemented in their respective domestic context. This final follow-up assignment will be closely guided by a tutor to allow for greater in-depth examination of the national context.

Target Audience and language

The course is addressed primarily to ILO constituents from a selection of English speaking African countries, namely Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland and Sudan.

The course will be conducted entirely in English and therefore a good command of the English language is essential. It should be noted that a second edition of this course, planned for later this year, will be conducted in French.

How to enroll?

The training event is fully funded by the Regional Office for Africa ROAF. Selection of participants is done through the social partners' Secretariats and reference persons in the region.

Invited participants are kindly requested to fill in the nomination form and send it, together with a letter of support from the organization/unit by **April 23, 2010** to:

Ms. Maude Veyret-Picot

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Social Dimension of Trade and Investment

International Training Centre of the ILO

All questions regarding the technical contents and training material should be directed to the person mentioned above.