Inclusive Green Horticultural Processing Sector in Kenya.

BACKGROUND
In Kenya the Horticultural sub sector is the fastest growing industry within the agricultural sector, recording an average growth of 15% to 20% per year. Nevertheless, high energy input costs are a challenging and hinder the potential growth, with energy costs accounting for 40% of the manufacturing production costs in Kenya. Besides, the resource-intensive nature of the horticultural processing industry and its high dependency on natural resources pose significant challenges for its development, considering Kenya’s vulnerability to climate change. In view of this, the switch to improved resource efficiency and sustainable consumption is an undeniable need. Nonetheless, the Horticultural Processing sector faces a number of constraints at financial, technical, policy and market level that hinder the switch to green, especially in the case of MSMEs.

OBJECTIVES
The project aims to foster the adoption of SCP practices in the Kenyan horticultural processing industry in order to support the transformation towards an inclusive green economy. To attain this objective, the project will provide Kenyan Horticultural Processing Micro, Small Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), eco-entrepreneurs and business service providers with the necessary knowledge and tools to promote and adopt SCP practices and seize green economy opportunities.

ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES
- Analysis of the Value Chain, gaps identification and selection of best SCP.
- Provide technical advisory services to MSMEs for the implementation of best SCP. Capacity building on the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and certification of MSMEs against ISO standards.
- Creation of a panel of expert service providers on SCP by training business intermediaries and service providers on mechanisms to support environmental certification and SCP uptake by MSMEs.
- Capacity building on green financing and assistance for the development of Green Business Plans. Facilitate contacts between MSMEs and financing institutions to present the Green Business Plans developed.
- Promote Public Private Partnerships and Voluntary Agreements between supply chain actors to increase the share of green products marketed through business match-making meetings and networking sessions.
- Consumer awareness raising campaigns to increase the demand for sustainable food products.