

EACOP: Contractor restores camp site into demo farm

By Aloysious Kasoma

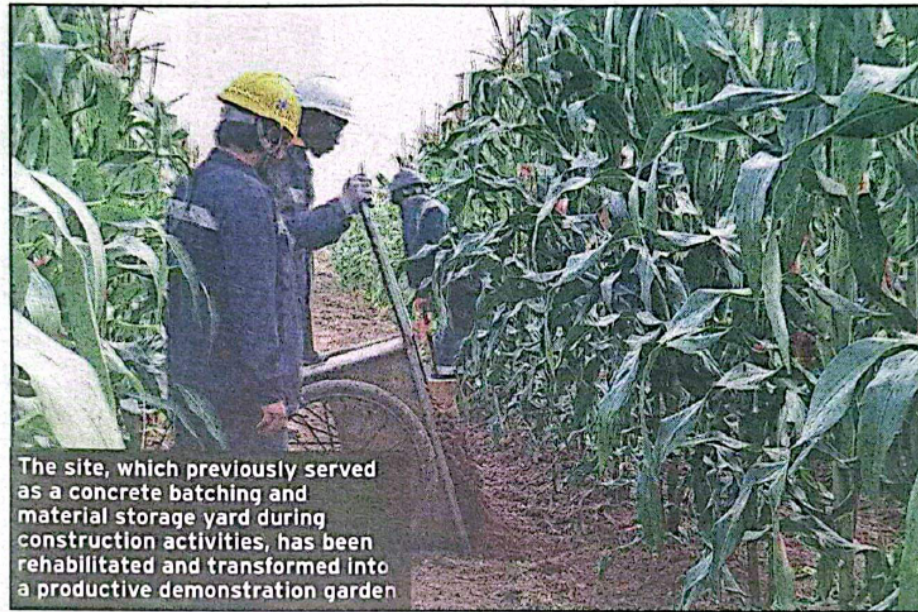
A demonstration farm established at MCPY3 Camp in Kabayola village, Ssembabule district, is showcasing how food waste generated at construction camps can be converted into organic manure to restore land and support agricultural production.

The site, which previously served as a concrete batching and material storage yard during construction activities for part of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, has been rehabilitated and transformed into a productive demonstration garden following completion of major works.

During the construction phase, the area had become heavily compacted and covered with hardened concrete residue. However, after construction activities scaled down, restoration works were undertaken to return the land to a usable state.

The reinstatement process involved clearing construction waste, mechanically loosening compacted surfaces, replacing subsoil and spreading fertile topsoil to rebuild the soil structure.

Today, the restored land hosts a demonstration farm supported by organic manure produced from a food-decomposing machine



The site, which previously served as a concrete batching and material storage yard during construction activities, has been rehabilitated and transformed into a productive demonstration garden

installed at the camp.

The machine converts segregated food waste from the camp kitchen into organic manure within less than 24 hours, significantly reducing the amount of waste that would otherwise be transported for disposal.

THE SOLE PURPOSE

Julius Ssenyonjo, the environmental lead at China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Company Limited (CPP) Uganda, said the initiative was introduced to address two

challenges simultaneously, waste management and land restoration.

"We were generating a considerable amount of food waste daily. Instead of sending it out as refuse, we asked how we could manage it better on site," he said.

"The composter gives us manure within 24 hours, and that manure is now improving the same land that had been disturbed during construction."

The manure is currently applied to crops grown on the demonstration farm and

is also used for landscaping activities around the camp, including planting grass and flowers to stabilise the restored ground.

The approach reflects the principles of a circular economy, where waste is converted into a resource and reintroduced into productive use rather than discarded.

The initiative is also aligned with Uganda's broader environmental and sustainability goals. The Uganda green growth development strategy (2017–2030) encourages

resource efficiency, sustainable land management and waste reduction as part of the country's long-term development agenda under Vision 2040.

CPP officials say the demonstration farm is not only helping to manage waste, but is also supporting community engagement and local employment.

OFFERING LASTING SOLUTIONS

Zhang Haitao, the national content manager at CPP, told *New Vision*, that the initiative contributes to national content objectives by creating opportunities for local workers while demonstrating sustainable land use practices.

"Restoration is not only about meeting environmental compliance requirements," Zhang said.

"It is also about leaving behind improved land use and creating opportunities for communities. The demonstration farm allows us to engage local workers and share practical farming knowledge that can be applied beyond the camp."

Local community members have been employed to work on the farm, handling activities such as planting, weeding and harvesting.

Some of the produce harvested from the farm supplements meals prepared at the camp kitchen, while

BEYOND THE DEMO FARM

For some of the workers, the project has also become a learning platform for improved farming methods.

Abel Tumuheire a casual labourer working on the demonstration farm, said the initiative has helped him gain practical agricultural skills.

"Before this, I was doing small casual jobs," he said. "Here I have learned about soil preparation, crop spacing and how manure improves crops. I can use these methods in my home garden."

CPP management says the demonstration farm will increasingly serve as a learning site where workers and nearby communities can observe improved agricultural practices.

These include compost application, soil restoration techniques and better crop management methods.

Although modest in scale, the initiative proves how temporary construction sites can be repurposed into productive land after project activities wind down.

a portion is shared with the workers to support their household food supply.