



Monitoring Visit Report

Date: 12th June 2024 & 25th June 2024

Project Name: Youth-Led Green Transition Project

Locations: Colombo & Kalutara

Objective: Evaluate and assess the development and progression of selected entrepreneurs following their participation in the Youth-Led Green Transition Project.

Participants: Mr. Upul Jayathilaka

Ms. Lihini Chalodya

Ms. Rochana Silva

The monitoring visit encompassed the completion of the following activities:

	Date	Time	Entrepreneur's name	Registered name of business	Activity
1	12 th June 2024	11.40 a.m.	Umesha Handapangoda	Hushele - Infinisha (Pvt) Ltd	Monitor the progress of the businesses and evaluate the new green transitions they have implemented since participating in the Youth-Led Green Transition Project. We provided tailored advice to help further improve their sustainable practices and overall business growth.
2	12 th June 2024	12.30 p.m.	Movindu Halloluwa	Ceylon Big 5	
3	12 th June 2024	1.30 p.m.	Shakya Perera	Lala Studio (Pvt) Ltd	
4	25 th June 2024	9.35 a.m.	Dhananjaya Gamage	Black Bamboo Plants Nursery	
5	25 th June 2024	10.17 a.m.	Sachith Samuditha	Climblanka	
6	25 th June 2024	11.00 a.m.	Ravidu Sadaruwan	Mihithala Products	
7	25 th June 2024	12.24 p.m.	Kasuni Chamudika	Sustain U	
8	25 th June 2024	2.15 p.m.	Devindi Abeydeera	Mishra	



Individual Evaluation of Entrepreneurs' Progress:

1. Hushele - Infinisha (Pvt) Ltd

Entrepreneur: Umesha Handapangoda

Current Progress:

Sustainable Ingredients: They prioritize organic, sustainable, and cruelty-free ingredients, partnering with suppliers who adhere to fair trade practices.

Optimized Transportation: Transportation routes have been optimized to reduce carbon emissions.

Energy Reduction: Efforts to reduce energy consumption in manufacturing processes include the use of a solar dehydrator for drying raw materials, minimizing the need for energy-intensive dehydrating machinery.

Eco-friendly Packaging: The use of bubble wrap has been eliminated, replaced by eco-friendly honeycomb craft paper packaging materials.

Community Employment: Employment opportunities have been provided to low-income earners and jobless individuals in Nochchiyagama.

Product Innovation: Introduction of new products such as the “Black Miracle Hair Cream” to replace toxic hair gels, creams, and messy oils, and Hushele Flutter Glow skin essence inspired by the vibrant colors of Sri Lanka's endemic butterflies like the Blue Oak Leaf, Crimson Rose, Ceylon Cerulean, and One Spot Grass Yellow.

Sustainable Packaging: Transitioned to more sustainable packaging options like recyclable or biodegradable materials, reduced packaging waste through innovative design techniques, and offered a 15% discount for returning packaging for reuse.

Zero Waste Manufacturing: Utilizes zero waste manufacturing processes to minimize waste and energy consumption, avoids harmful chemicals, and uses natural, biodegradable alternatives. For example, Aloe Vera peels are used in powder products, and potato peels are repurposed as fertilizer.

Inclusive Products: Improved inclusivity by expanding the product range to cater to diverse skin types, tones, and needs.

Organic Store Partnerships: Partnered with organic stores such as Umandawa Green Hut.



Regulatory Compliance: Registered the factory premises with the Department of Ayurveda.

Educational Outreach: Educates the public about butterfly conservation and eco-friendliness through their social media channels.

These initiatives reflect a robust commitment to sustainability and community engagement, setting a commendable example in the green transition. During our visit, we were impressed by the numerous innovative and sustainable practices implemented by Umesha Handapangoda at Hushele - Infinisha (Pvt) Ltd.



(Displaying innovative solutions: showcasing solar dehydrator and eco-friendly honeycomb craft papers.)



2. CEYLON BIG 5

Entrepreneur: Movindu Halloluwa

Current Progress:

Eco-Friendly Carry Bags: Developed two types of eco-friendly carry bags and engaged a group of unemployed women from the community to produce them. Additionally, flexible work schedules were introduced to be more family-friendly.

Inventory Management: Developed a structured rack system and designated specific places to store and maintain stocks and raw materials.

Community Support: Began donating to the Victoria Home for Incurables, supporting inclusive individuals and recognizing their efforts in various business activities.

New Eco-Friendly Products: Introduced new eco-friendly products, including 100% cotton and handloom towels for wildlife travels, as well as 100% cotton t-shirts.

Movindu Halloluwa's efforts at CEYLON BIG 5 exemplify a dedication to sustainability, community empowerment, and innovation in eco-friendly product development.



(Displaying their eco-friendly bags and highlighting their advancements post-project.)



3. Lala Studio (Pvt) Ltd

Entrepreneur: Shakya Perera

Current Progress:

End-of-Lifecycle Process: Implemented a process to encourage customers to participate in the extended producer responsibility initiative, ensuring sustainability even after the product's lifecycle ends.

Product Tagging: Introduced new product tags indicating CO₂ emissions per product, along with valuable details such as material origin, time spent on making the product, and end-of-lifecycle plans.

Inclusive Employment: Partnered with the Specialized Training & Disability Resource Centre - The Employers' Federation of Ceylon to onboard differently-abled personnel, creating job opportunities and empowering individuals.

Community Engagement: Visited the Sumaga Ruhunu Circle of the Deaf in Matara to introduce the concept of 'upcycling', promoting sustainability and community involvement.

Shakya Perera's efforts at Lala Studio (Pvt) Ltd reflect a strong dedication to sustainability, inclusive employment, and innovative business practices, setting a commendable standard in the industry.



(Presenting their operational studio and showcasing new products crafted through upcycling methods.)



4. Black Bamboo Plants Nursery Entrepreneur: Dhananjaya Gamage

Current Progress:

Reusable Pots: Transitioned to using reusable pots, significantly reducing the nursery's plastic waste footprint.

Eco-Friendly Fertilizer: Introduced controlled-release fertilizers, resulting in reduced ammonia emissions and contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment.

Community Expansion: Expanded operations to semi-urban areas, strengthening ties with local growers, reducing transport costs and expenses, and creating job opportunities for the community.

Dhananjaya Gamage's initiatives at Black Bamboo Plants Nursery demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community development.



(Presenting their transition to reusable pots and explaining their collaboration with out-growers.)



5. Climblanka

Entrepreneur: Sachith Samuditha

Current Progress:

Reduction of PET Bottles: Implemented a policy to significantly reduce the usage of PET bottles and prohibit their presence on-site, contributing to a reduction in plastic waste.

Reforestation and Biodiversity Conservation: Initiated a tree-planting project at the Kodigahakanda Sanctuary to support reforestation and enhance biodiversity conservation efforts.

Sustainable Food Practices: Started incorporating wild vegetables and fruits into food preparation, promoting biodiversity and reducing reliance on commercially grown produce, which often demands significant resources and chemicals.

Sachith Samuditha's initiatives at Climblanka reflect a strong commitment to sustainability, environmental conservation, and innovative practices in food sourcing and waste reduction.



(Providing advice on enhancing business sustainability and sharing details about their tree-planting program.)



6. Mihithala Products

Entrepreneur: Ravidu Sadaruwan

Current Progress:

Plastic Waste Reduction: Initially used plastic bottles due to issues with solid build-up, but implemented a customer incentive program offering a 10% discount for returning plastic packaging to mitigate environmental impact.

Transition to Glass Bottles: Adopted the use of glass bottles for shampoo packaging, aiming to reduce plastic usage and promote eco-friendly alternatives.

Ravidu Sadaruwan's efforts at Mihithala Products demonstrate a commitment to addressing environmental concerns through innovative packaging solutions and customer engagement in waste reduction initiatives.



(Showcasing new products and the raw ingredients used in their production process.)



7. Sustain U

Entrepreneur: Kasuni Chamudika

Current Progress:

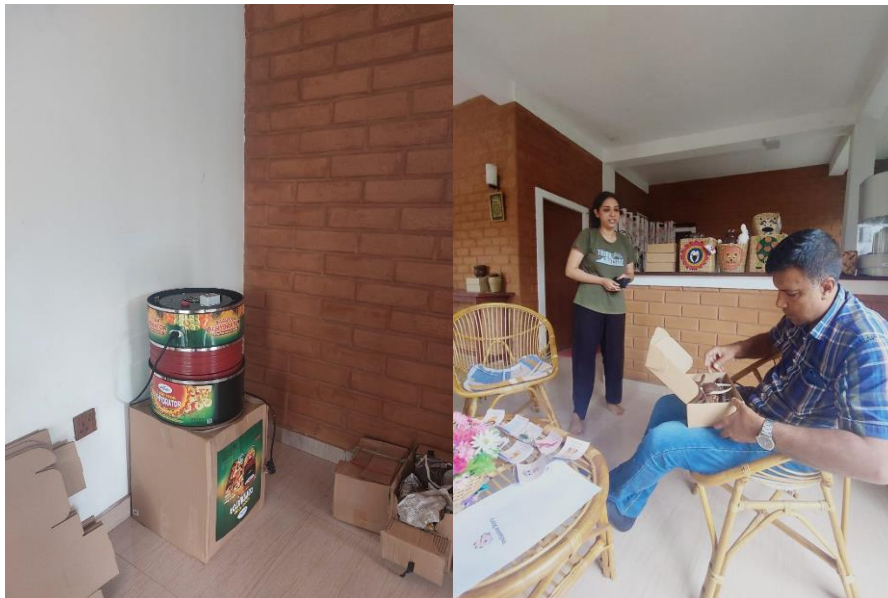
New Product Ranges: Introduced new product lines such as Bobee products, Grazyy & HD collection, positioning the business as an eco-friendly design hub.

Home Decoration and Kitchen Equipment: Developed home decoration items using reed grass and coconut shell designs, and kitchen equipment made from coconut shells. Also introduced eco-friendly products like coconut shell flower pots.

Expansion of Operations: Expanded operations to include cane, bamboo, and coir alongside reed grass and coconut shell products, diversifying their eco-friendly offerings.

Biodiversity Awareness: Designed a new product range named Bobee Products to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation.

Kasuni Chamudika's initiatives at Sustain U illustrate a commitment to sustainability, innovative product design using natural materials, and promoting biodiversity conservation through their product offerings.



(Presenting their new dryer and showcasing products created using coconut shells and other sustainable materials.)



8. Mishra

Entrepreneur: Devindi Abeydeera Gunaratne

Current Progress:

Community Employment: Hired two part-time employees from low-income families within the community, contributing to local employment opportunities.

Social Responsibility: Regularly contributes to Embark Sri Lanka, supporting the wellbeing of street dogs through charitable initiatives.

Sustainable Energy: Installed solar panels to reduce electricity consumption, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable energy practices.

Business Development: Acquired knowledge about e-commerce strategies and copyright licenses, enhancing business operations and legal compliance.

Devindi Abeydeera Gunaratne's efforts at Mishra highlight a blend of community support, environmental sustainability, and business development, reflecting a holistic approach to entrepreneurship.



(Displaying their workspace, showcasing produced items, materials used, and newly installed solar panels.)