

USING OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC “COULD RESCUE KENYAN PLASTICS INDUSTRY”

Symphony Environmental's d₂w oxo-biodegradable additive - which makes plastic degrade to a pre set timespan, could be the saviour of the Kenyan plastics industry according to a recent article in the country's Business Daily newspaper .

The Kenyan government has recently brought in a host of measures to discourage the use of plastic shopping bags because, if they get into the open environment, they can lie or float around for decades and perhaps hundreds of years. These regulations have already resulted in higher costs to consumers and have resulted in the lay-off of 5,000 workers in the plastics industry, according to the East African Plastics Association.

Shazia Khan, the managing director of Fujairah Plastics, the company that will be distributing d₂w in Kenya from this month, believes that oxo-biodegradable plastic, (www.biodeg.org) could be the key to lighter regulation of plastic bags and prevent any further job losses in the Kenyan plastics industry.

"We cannot ignore plastic bags because they are here to stay," he said. "but with d₂w additive, manufacturers can make bags which are not harmful to the environment. They can be made to self-destruct after three months, two years, or longer if required."

A growing number of manufacturers are hoping that using d₂w will boost Kenya's plastics manufacturing sector. Local producers and suppliers who have tried bags made with d₂w say that Kenyan users can now choose between bags that degrade completely soon after use, or longer lasting oxo-biodegradable bags, such as re-usable shopping bags.

The Kenyan consumer is a determined user of plastic bags, as indicated by the latest figures. (More than 4,000 tonnes of plastic bags every month, according to a survey carried out by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis), with local supermarkets handing out more than two million plastic bags each year).

Reusable bags introduced by supermarkets have failed to gain ground, according to Business Daily. Kenyan shoppers find them costly and cumbersome, and some shoppers forget to carry them.

Symphony's d₂w additive is currently used in around 70 countries, and last year enough was sold to make over 5 billion products.





For further details, go to: www.d2w.net or www.biodeg.org

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