



## PLASTIC FREE MAURITIUS: DEFINING THE ROADMAP



### **Session 3: Plastic Pollution, Marine Litter and Micro-plastic**

#### Where we are now?

- Low cost of plastics encourages its abusive use.
- Almost 98% of plastic is used for packaging in textile industry in view of its water impermeable property.
- Microplastics can act as transport vectors by accumulating harmful chemicals from the surroundings
- Landbased sources of pollution from agricultural run offs and wastewater effluents make that microplastics find their ways to our lagoon and ocean.
- Farmers leave their plastic packagings (fertilisers, compost), potting bags and plastic mulch in fields which degrade into microplastics which enter the food chain through agricultural production and agricultural run offs which end up in our lagoons and seafoods.

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Where we are now?

- Microbeads in personal hygiene products like body scrubs, household cleansing detergents as well as cosmetics end up in our wastewater effluents thereby our water bodies ,our lagoons and seafood chain.
- Uncivic attitude with littering , dumping along with unsustainable patterns of consumption and production make the macro find their ways in our water bodies, canals and drains.



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Where do we want to go?

- To achieve a plastic free environment in Mauritius through a sustainable plastic economy.
- Shift from linear make-take –consume and dispose business model to a circular economy where plastic waste becomes a resource for green businesses.
- Household Waste sorting and segregation to facilitate recycling.
- Work towards making recycling of plastic waste become efficient and economically profitable.
- Adoption of 6 Rs principle in our day to day living and in businesses-Reduce, reuse, recycle, Redesign, Refuse and Replace.



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How do we get there?

- To achieve sustainable mode of consumption and production through :
  - change on way of doing business through the circular economy, plastic waste recycling and industrial symbiosis.
  - adoption of sustainable lifestyles through adoption of ecofriendly products free from microbeads and microplastics.
  - Sensitisation and awareness raising
  - Research & Development on microplastics / nanoplastics
  - Innovative policy measures and technology
- Need closed bins to contain windblown plastics
- Move from fossil based plastics to plant based ones
- Adoption of Best Environment practices
- Minimise plastic packaging
- Choose packaging materials with less impacts