**MTI8404:** Introduction to Apple Platform

**iOS Project**

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**Background**

In recent years, industries in Kenya have rapidly started adopting the use of briquettes in their industrial combustion and their massive boiler heating. This is in support of the use of renewable energy largely led by the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) in order to curb and mitigate the adverse effects caused by deforestation which results to soil erosion and desertification. Deforestation was previously on the rise due to burning of charcoal and wood in order to supply the necessary heat for the industrial thermal operations.

GVEP’s approach to providing a sustainable solution for this has seen them invest in production of biomass briquettes to increase the quality and uptake of this alternative fuel. A briquette is a compressed block of coal dust or other combustible biomass material such as charcoal, sawdust, wood chips, wheat straws, coffee husks, bagasse used for fuel or kindling to start a fire. This compressed block eventually ends up like charcoal after going through the briquetting machine and during combustion produces a high calorific value necessary to keep the thermal operations of industries efficiently reliable and sustainable.

Many industries in Kenya such as, Bata Shoe Company, All Packs Limited, Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), Kenya Breweries and bread maker Elliots are major consumers of briquettes in their industrial operations. A company known as Hermisons Company Limited does large scale production of briquettes for this industries.

A challenge currently existing is the availability of the raw materials necessary to process the briquettes for different clients. Other companies like Hermisons are also finding it hard to access materials such as charcoal, sawdust, wood chips, wheat straws, coffee husks and bagasse that would help them provide a constant supply of briquettes to their clients. On the other hand, farmers with these raw materials are just discarding them as waste as they are not aware of their value which if provided to the briquette-making companies will help keep their business constantly running and in turn give farmers some income on this.

**Project Idea**

From the foregoing background, our project idea lies in the middle of these two main parties i.e. briquette-making companies and the farmers. Our aim is to provide a digital solution through an iOS application that enables various farmers to register and notify what raw materials they readily have which on the other end briquette-making firms get to view and place order in order to come and collect them. Farmers do not need to contact the briquette-making firms as once the briquette-making firms see a post of the available raw materials, weight, location, cost and contact of the farmers, they contact them when in need of these materials. This is to prevent the farmers from throwing these precious materials in order to earn income on it and on the other hand have briquette-making companies deliver to their customer satisfaction. Our revenue strategy is to charge both parties for this service on every transaction.