

Three-Day Long Training Program on Community Based Decentralized Composting for Municipal & NGO Professionals from Vietnam and Sri Lanka held at Dhaka

(March 19 to 21, 2007)

The growth of urban populations and economies in Asia and the Pacific has resulted in a corresponding rise in solid wastes that municipal governments are finding difficult to dispose. Solid waste in least developed and low-income developing countries of the region is characterized by its high organic content. As much as 70 to 80 percent of the waste generated is organic. Many local governments devote about 20 to 40 percent of their annual budgets to collecting, transporting and disposing solid wastes. The traditional approach to solid waste management focuses on end-of-line solutions that are capital and technology intensive, and therefore are costly.

To address this issue UNESCAP started a regional project on solid waste management. As the first step of the project, UNESCAP undertook a survey of potential innovative practices. This process resulted in identification of the decentralized community-based compost plants, initiated by Waste Concern. The prime goal of this model is to convert organic waste into compost using decentralized approach. This model is promoting the concept of 3R (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle of waste). There are three major activities to run a compost plant, they are 1.) waste collection 2.) composting organic waste and 3.) marketing of compost.

In this backdrop, a regional workshop was organized in Dhaka in September 2004 to study the experience of Waste Concern. Mayors along with the officials and interested NGOs from Matala city of Sri Lanka and Qui Nhon City, Vietnam were invited to participate in this workshop and later these cities were selected by UNESCAP to replicate Waste Concern's model in their respective cities.



Compost plant constructed in Qui Nhon City of Vietnam

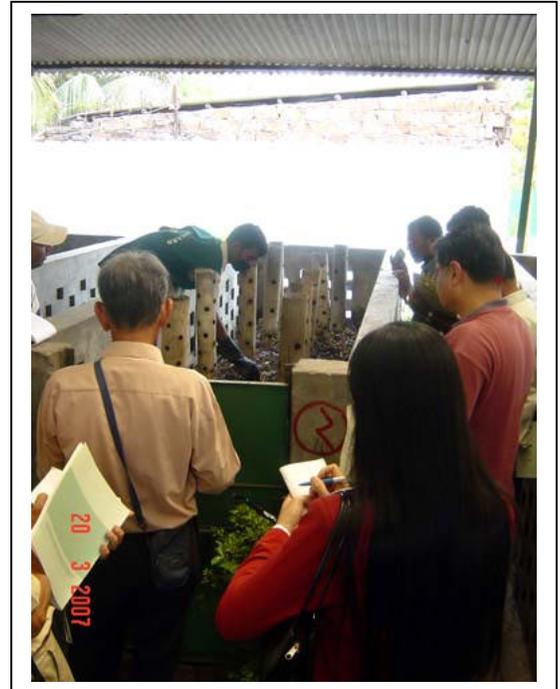


Compost plant constructed in Matala City of Sri Lanka

During 19, 20 & 21 March, 2007, Waste Concern in partnership with UNESCAP organized a 3 (three) day long study visit-cum-training workshop on the management of community-based compost plants in Dhaka. The major objective of this training program was to provide hands-on training to selected members of the community as well as supervisory staff directly involved with the compost plants already established in Qui Nhon City of Vietnam and Matala City of Sri Lanka. A manual entitled 'Decentralized Composting for Cities of Low- and Middle- Income Countries: A Users' Manual' developed jointly by Waste Concern and SANDEC, SDC and UNDP was followed during the training program. On March 21, 2007 a press conference was also organized by Waste Concern and UNESCAP in Dhaka to disseminate the outcome of replication and the workshop.

Trainees were exposed to the following topics:

1. Compost Manufacturing process including quality control;
2. Compost enrichment process; and
3. Use of raw compost as well as enriched compost in agriculture.



On March 20 , 2007 participants visited the compost plant at Dholpur, Dhaka to have hands-on training on aerobic composting process



On March 20 2007 Trainees visited the Regional Training Center located at Katchpur (one hour drive from Dhaka city)



On March 21, 2007 participants visited Waste Concern's organic farm located at Narshingdi (two hours drive from Dhaka city)



On March 21, 2007 a press conference was organized jointly by Waste Concern and UNESCAP in Dhaka to inform about the news of replication