

**Workshop on
Community Based Composting Initiative in Kushtia Pourashava**
February 10, 2008



With the support from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and in partnership with the Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF), Government of Bangladesh, Waste Concern is promoting 3R (reduce, reuse and recycling of Waste) initiatives in Kushtia Pourashava (a secondary town) through a number of interventions (i.e., source separation of waste, awareness and training programs, decentralized co-composting etc.)

Kushtia Pourashava, DOE, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Waste Concern jointly organized “Workshop on Community Based Composting Initiative in Kushtia Pourashava, Bangladesh” on February 10, 2008 at the Pourashava Auditorium. The event was supported by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). About 200 participants from Pourashava Officials, DC Office, DoE, Civil Surgeon office, Local Government Bodies, LGED, DAE, NGOs, CBOs and other government and semi Government offices were present at the workshop. Dr. Khandaker Rashedul Haque, Director General, Department of Environment (DoE) attended the workshop as chief guest while Mr. Anwar Ali, Chairman, Kushtia Pourashava as Chairperson.

A presentation on Solid Waste Management and Recycling Potential in Kushtia Town Using 3R was made by Mr. A. H. Md. Maqsood Sinha, Executive Director and Mr. Iftekhar Enayetullah, Director, Waste Concern, highlighting the relationship between urbanization and solid waste management problem in Kushtia, prospect of waste recycling and its positive impact on overall environment and climate change and also the need for an action plan to improve solid waste management through 3R principles.

The open discussion session raised a number of important issues such as; need of training on solid waste management at root level, support for efficient waste collection, awareness raising among the citizens on source separation and composting initiative, sustainability of composting initiative, awareness raising among the farmers for using compost instead of chemical fertilizer for the betterment of agricultural land quality etc.

As a head of the concerned government authority, Chief guest Dr. Khandaker Rashedul Haque hoped to redefine DoE as a collaborator who will cooperate in environment preservation issues, rather than remain as a regulatory body only. He requested the participants to take necessary steps and generate practical ideas.