

PROTOCOL WECF Workshop Compost making in EECCA Region

At the WECF Agriculture meeting on 22nd January 2008 composting and recycling of nutrients were identified as key technologies for organic and sustainable farming and an integral part of ecological sanitation. To promote, implement and spread composting as a suitable technology for sustainable farming written information material, brochures and leaflets, special training manuals, demonstrations will be needed.

Most of the information material on the practical application at farm level of composting technologies is not adapted to the local climatic conditions (i.e. hot summers and cold winters), nor are the ready-made devices as often displayed in leaflets available in the EECCA region. Furthermore, these published materials are usually only available in English, not in Russian or local languages.

Before starting to make compost a study is needed on the kind and amount of organic material available in different parts of the region.

WECF will organize a workshop in October 2008 to develop in collaboration with partner organizations in the Empowerment and Local Action program a written information brochure (in English and Russian), a training manual and demonstrations on all aspects of composting which are adapted to the local conditions.

WORKSHOP

- Goal:*
1. To provide experts from WECF ELA partner organizations working on agriculture with skills and knowledge on compost making.
 2. To produce a brochure, a flyer and eventually a poster ready for translation and distribution by a core group of experts
 3. To collect reference material for further in-depth reading
 4. To develop a manual for conducting training at farmer level on the preparation and use of compost
- Date:* 13 – 16 October 2008
- Duration:* 4 days
- Place:* RCDA Information Centre for Alternative Technologies, Misaktseli, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Participants:* **Georgia** – RCDA (Rostom Gamizonia), SEMA (Besik Kalandadze), PAROS (Armen Daribinian), Greens Movement of Georgia (name of participant to be confirmed), Georgian farmer

Armenia – AWHHE (Lusine Nalbandyan) Charitable Women (Tatev Avgyan), Armenian farmer (vermiculture)

Ukraine – Vozrajdenie (Ivan Ivannovich)

Kyrgyzstan – ULGU (name of participant to be confirmed), BIOM (Dimitry Vetoshkin)

WECF – Boris Schiele, Anna Samwel, Toos van Oers (facilitator)

Language: Russian, with translation into English

- Output:*
1. A brochure on the preparation and use of compost at farmer level under local climatic conditions; in English and Russian. The brochure will provide all information needed to start making compost at farmer level. It will also serve as reference material for training, demonstrations and to answer questions.
 2. A flyer to arouse people's interest and to make them realize that composting is a valuable and useful technology for farmers.
 3. A poster; see flyer, but on "poster size".
 4. A brochure on the application of urine.
 5. A manual to conduct farmer level training on the preparation and use of compost and the application of urine.
 6. A collection of reference material for further in-depth reading.

PREPARATION

All participants will be requested to send their information material on the preparation of compost and the application of urine in either English or Russian to WECF (Anna, Samwel, Toos van Oers). They will collect all available information and make it available to all participants. Participants will be requested to read this material in preparation for the workshop. Participants will be expected to be familiar with the principles of composting at the start of the workshop

APPROACH

The focus will be on the principles of composting. The variety in regional and local conditions and availability of materials for composting may be too large to take into consideration. Based on the target group and the local situation the implementing NGO's will be able to adapt the material. The target group for the brochure and training will be small scale farmers.

During the workshop we will work as much as possible in small groups on developing the information materials. For the application of urine a separate brochure will be developed.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

1. Introduction
2. Presentations by participants; current practices for composting in their region, experiences and vision on compost making
3. Carousel with 4 questions:
 - a. Why are farmers not composting ?
 - b. How to overcome these constraints
 - c. What information/tools/material would you need to make farmers start composting
 - d. What are the main target groups of your intervention on compost making?
4. Further proceedings of the workshop depend on the table of contents of the brochure that will be prepared.

Preliminary table of contents, open for further discussions:

- a. **Why should we make compost?**
- b. **Fertilizing: the role of organic matter and compost** (Organic matter and soil processes, compost)
- c. **The composting process** (Heating phase, Cooling down phase, Maturation phase_
- d. **The practice of composting** (Organic material, Micro-organisms, Air, Moisture, Site of the compost heap, Size and setting up of the heap)
- e. **Methods to make compost** (e.g. Heating process or block method, Pit composting, Trench composting)
- f. **Composting specific materials** (Composting domestic waste, using urine and feces in composting, etc.)
- g. **Putting compost to use** (Fertilizing, potting soil, planting trees, Liquid manure and plant teas, etc.)
- h. **Your own organic fertilizer** (Advantages and disadvantages, Whether or not to start preparing organic fertilizers)

Appendix 1: Practical questions as a guideline for starting (as used in Agrodok 8 'Preparation and use of compost')

Appendix 2: Composition of different organic materials for composting (e.g. C/N ratio)

Useful addresses.

5. Develop a training manual for farmer-level trainings on the preparation and use of compost (parallel to the work on the brochure)
6. Work on the flyer, poster and collection of reference material

A detailed program will be available before the start of the workshop. A demonstration/excursion will be part of the program.