

Solid Waste Management and Basic Sanitation

A pilot project for the improvement of waste management and basic sanitation in Lokossa, Benin

General Information

The Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through the Advisory project Concepts for sustainable waste management and waste management at a pilot scale. The project, financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), links the two topics of sanitation and solid waste management and strives to improve both sectors through a combined approach.

Together with GIZ PEP in Benin (Water and Sanitation Programme), the Advisory project decided to implement pilot activities in Lokossa, a city located in south-western Benin.

The pilot project mainly comprises the construction of several EcoSan latrines (ecological sanitation) for semi-communitarian use and a composting site, the collection, treatment and co-composting of organic solid waste from public places and sanitary waste from latrines, training of key actors and awareness raising activities for target groups.

To ensure sustainability, the project has formed partnerships and formal agreements with local authorities and NGOs.

Target Groups:

- Households benefiting from demonstrative EcoSan latrines
- Gardeners working on the composting site
- The population of the Municipality of Lokossa
- Local authorities

Structures involved:

- City council of Lokossa
- Intercommunal group GI-Mono
- NGO PROTOS
- NGO DCAM Bethesda

Implementation:

October 2012 — August 2014

Specific objectives of the pilot project

- To contribute to the improvement of the waste management and basic sanitation in the City of Lokossa, through innovative, ecological and sustainable solutions
- To develop income-generating activities and boost the agricultural sector of the region in the long term, through the production of a natural enriched soil conditioner (compost)

Initial situation

According to the Communal Hygiene and Sanitation Plan (PHAC), the Municipality of Lokossa faces serious problems of solid waste and basic sanitation due to a non-functional solid waste management system, a low percentage of access to latrines at a household level, and low awareness of ensuing problems in the population.

On the other hand, the intensive use of chemical fertilizers has a big negative environmental impact on agricultural land in the region and is very cost-intensive for many farmers and gardeners. The quality of the soil has degenerated in the last decades and environmental impacts such as contamination of water bodies can be witnessed.



Collection of public waste, co-composting site and public EcoSan latrines

Description of the activities

The pilot project includes the construction of several EcoSan latrines: 28 domestic and 2 public latrines. Additionally, the pilot project has rehabilitated a composting facility for the treatment of organic and sanitary waste and financed the purchase of a waste collection truck for conventional municipal waste and a motorized tricycle for the collection of the sanitary waste.

This infrastructure and equipment are the basis for the project activities. The management system encompasses the collection and treatment of sanitary and organic waste and the marketing of the products.

The municipality takes care of the collection of the public waste, whereas the sanitary waste is collected by the group of gardeners that are also in charge of the waste treatment. This consists of pre-treatment, mixing and joint composting of both waste streams. The compost produced serves as organic fertilizer and is used and marketed by the gardeners. To ensure its quality and to verify its conformity to international standards, the compost is analysed by a laboratory.

Training sessions esp. for the group of gardeners form an important part of the project activities. Other important components are communication and awareness raising measures.

To ensure the sustainability of the project and contribute to the realization of similar projects, a monitoring and evaluation strategy was developed and implemented during the last months.

In addition, the dissemination of experiences from this approach through the different partners aims to

encourage the continuity and the replication of the project. Complementary informations on the project activities are available on this webpage: <http://ecocompost.wix.com/compostage-lokossa>

Sustainability of the project

The success of the pilot project in the long term depends on the successful further execution of the project by the City of Lokossa, which is host, reception entity and main partner of the project.

The responsibilities of the Municipality include the regular monitoring of the activities, mediation, the maintenance of the infrastructure and equipment needed for the project's functioning, as well as the logistical support in case of replication or further development of the project.

The Municipality officially received the project in February 2014.

Long-term impacts

This project will help boost the agricultural sector while improving the hygiene of the city as well as the health and sanitation situation of the population. The valorisation of biodegradable waste and excreta, replacing chemical fertilizers with alternative products and reducing the practice of open-air defecation contribute to environmental protection and preservation of public health.

The pilot project contributes to improve the waste collection system of the city and influence the socio-economic situation of the gardeners and the agricultural sector in general

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