

# Using organic waste from (peri-)urban centers

## Results of a supra-regional GTZ-sector project

### **Separate collecting and composting of organic materials from urban waste can be done to everyone's advantage. The main benefits are:**

- The sale of compost brings in revenues which help reduce waste disposal charges.
- The urban farmers benefit from improved soil fertility and yield thanks to the valuable compost.
- Local authorities use less land for disposal sites and landfills, while improving general urban hygiene.
- The recycling of the organic component of waste helps prevent water and soil contamination.
- Separate collection and composting creates and secures incomes both for city refuse collectors and urban farmers.

### **Organic waste materials can be recycled as a carefully processed high-grade product for agricultural use.**

- Organic waste must be correctly separated prior to collection. For long-term treatment of soils, only quality compost will ensure that no damage is done to plant production or the environment.
- A system of separate collection requires careful planning and preparation. This means dealing with a number of technical, organizational, administrative, legal and financial questions.
- Only an active and clear waste management strategy can open the way to successful recycling of organic materials.
- If recycling measures for organic waste are to be sustainable, they must be financially viable

Although the benefits might seem obvious, the potential for using organic material in urban waste for plant production in urban and peri-urban agriculture is still largely untapped in many countries. The reasons for this are usually twofold:

- a lack of knowledge of the value and correct use of compost; and
- insufficient initiative on the part of municipal waste management

**The GTZ project's booklet (and disk) are designed to tackle the first point, while concrete projects are needed to address the second in a sensitive manner.**

# DECISION MAKERS GUIDE TO COMPOST PRODUCTION

## Software Tool - Economic Model

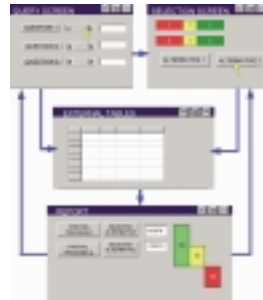
### Objectifs

Instrument for decision-making for organic matter collection and processing at municipal levels by:

- Finding the expected gross margin taking into consideration the specific local framework conditions already in the planning phase
- Determining the best possible way of technical implementation related to the costs by variation of the parameters
- Getting information about the process of composting and making sensitive regarding the economic efficiency

### Concept

- Query of the local and the further specific framework conditions
- Division of the organic waste collection and composting into singlesub-processes. The user chooses the best way of realisation and gets the costs related to it.
- The user gets a report about the expected costs and revenues immediately.
- The user varies different parameters in order to optimise the result.



### Results

The user gets information about the following issues already during the planning phase:

- the amount of the operation costs of the compostin per year and per ton of compost
- if there will be gains or losses
- the distribution of costs
- where there are saving potentials

The user will be made sensitive to the economical aspects of the composting process

### Software Characteristics

- "Visual Basic for Applications" as programming language, MS EXCEL as software platform
- The entire guide operates without keyboard and can be completely controlled by the mouse
- Individual toolbars, explanatory help texts and navigation buttons
- For further explanation, there are deposited information surfaces with dialog boxes for every question and every alternative
- The setting of values is made by spin buttons
- The settings which have to be made by the user are controlled concerning completeness and logic, otherwise there will be a warning indication
- The technically conditioned dependencies between certain alternatives are taken into consideration

### For further informations

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