Kabarole Research & Resource Centre

Fort Portal Municipal Council
& RWENZORI THINK TANK

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MANAGING URBAN WASTE

A CASE OF FORT PORTAL MUNICIPALITY CDM PROJECT

The Fort-Portal Municipality CDM messages

- Keeping Fort Portal municipality clean through proper disposal of both solid and organic waste.
- Produce organic manure from the waste that farmers can use in their gardens to improve production and incomes.
- Reduce emissions of green house gases such as CO2 and Methane into the atmosphere
- Government should provide funding for waste management by the municipalities.
- The municipality needs to embark on a long term strategy of managing wastes at source, in order to reduce the costs of manage wastes.

Introduction

Waste management in urban centers is increasingly becoming a global concern as population continues to swell- as it equally swallows within its wake of waste materials. More challenging is the issue of the carbon and methane emissions from these wastes and garbage –as it fumes up –unabated into the atmosphere- thereby depleting the ozone layer, whence causing global warming.

Cognizant of the effects of these wastes and greenhouse emissions, the global nations –under their banner of the (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change(UNFCCC) convened in Kyoto, Japan on the 11th of December, 1997, to form the Kyoto protocol.

The protocol was however not operationalised until 16 February 2005. The high profile protocol seeks to inter alia, combat the adverse effects of climate change, and global warming.

According to the UNFCCC, the goal of the Kyoto Protocol is the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system

As a way of reducing or limiting green gas emissions, the Kyoto Protocol introduced three market-based mechanisms, thereby creating what is now known as the "carbon market." The Kyoto mechanisms are: Emissions Trading, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI).

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment –under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries. Such projects can earn saleable Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits -each equivalent to one tonne of CO2.

It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind, providing a standardized emission offset instrument. The mechanism stimulates sustainable development and emission reductions, while giving industrialized countries some flexibility in how they meet

Workers sorting the garbage before loading it onto trucks to Kitere Waste management plant

Good looking garden due to the manure at Kiteere

A clean Fort Portal Town

their emission reduction or limitation targets.

One beneficiary of such a noble cause and gesture to sustain the environment is Fort Portal Municipality in Western Uganda. The Municipality is not only just properly disposing off garbage, but its also turning the garbage into manure –which is used for commercial farming by the communities around the municipality.

> ***"I used to suffer looking for manure to mulch my garden, but now I have a nearby place where I go and pick as much as I want" said Musana James, a farmer in Kibimba Parish, in reference to the manure processed at the Kitere project.***
>
> The Fort Portal Municipality Mayor, His worship Edison Asaba Ruyonga agrees with Musana.

The Cleaning Development Mechanism (CDM) project in Fort-Portal began in 2008 with support from the World Bank, through the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The plant located at Kitere Village in West Division is built on 6.7 acres of land, which the municipal council purchased from an individual in the area.

In the past, garbage flowing was a common phenomena in several parts of Fort Portal Municipality because the municipality had no dumping place. Garbage was being dumped on the road sides, near restaurants, hotels –and anywhere. This condition messed and littered many streets and made them unhygienic – for businesses operate.

However, with the introduction of the CDM project in Fort-Portal there has been tremendous and remarkable improvement in the waste management –that has thus led to Fort Portal town, ostensibly considered by many, as the cleanest town, in Uganda currently.

The communities around the waste management project are full of praises for the 2 year old initiative. Some attribute the improvement in their crop harvests to the tonnes of the organic manure produced

'This project will go a long way in addressing the challenges of declining fertility ratios of the soils in our farmers gardens' Said Mr. Asaba, who together with the technocrats, has been at the helm of driving the project since it began.

The project has also greatly contributed to the reduction of methane and CO2 emissions into the atmosphere by processing the waste in a simplified with simple technology. For example, waste collection since the project was started improved by 2fold.

Under the CDM project, three garbage trucks and twenty skips have been purchased and distributed to the three municipal divisions, and the plant set up and running.

Similar CDM project are also being implemented in the municipalities of Mbarara, Mbale, Mukono, Lira, Soroti, Jinja and Kabale

When the garbage is collected from the different skips around the municipality and delivered at the plant, it is sorted into 2 different classes. These are; the one that can decompose, and the other that can't decompose which mainly includes plastics and metal. The garbage that decomposes is sprayed with cow dung mixed with water and leachate that act as catalyst. The waste is then left for 2 weeks before it turns into manure that is then available to the neighboring communities at a cost to meet some of the running costs.

The non-decomposable waste is currently not being utilized, but the municipality is hoping that, industries like Nice house of plastics will come to their rescue buy some of the plastic waste, but without which the accumulation of the solid waste will most likely be another added problem for the municipality to manage.

Some of the other challenges currently being faced at the plant include;

- High costs involved in running the plant and more so the cost of paying workers. The municipality currently spends close to UGX 60 Million (approx. 20,000 US$) a year on paying workers alone, money that comes from local revenue. The fear of the municipality officials is that, without central government intervention and that of other stakeholders, this cost is likely to affect other sectors like repair and maintenance of roads.
- Residents of the municipality do not sort their own waste at the household level. This is a major challenge that if addressed carefully, will go a long way to tackle the cost of sorting wastes at the plant.
- Proper garbage disposal is still a problem because some residents are not using the skips.
- Apathy from some of the farmers –as some of them are not willing to utilize the manure partly because of the cost involved but they are also not sensitized enough.

Recommendations

- The National Environment Management Authority, through the ministry of Environment should table a bill in parliament that supports the waste management plants in all the districts of Uganda.
- Funding is urgently needed to embark on educating urban residents to manage wastes at source so as to reduce the waste management cost.
- Municipal waste management and over all environmental management should be managed through Private Public partnerships.

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