

Report on Steering and Management Committee meetings

Faculty of Sciences El Jadida, El Jadida Morocco

Date and location: The meetings of the Steering and Management Committee of the project were held in El Jadida on 9th of November 2007.

Participants of the Steering Committee meeting: The participants who attended the meeting were:

Name	Organisation
M. Kouam	President, University Chouaib Doukkali
A. El Hattab	Director of Sciences, Ministry of National Education, Higher Education, Executives Training and Scientific Research
A. Moulid	Director of Regional Office of Agricultural Development of Doukkala
K. El Hariry	Member of Moroccan Parliament
Y. Boughaleb	Dean of Faculty of Sciences El Jadida
A. Sahibi	Chief of the Cooperation Division, Ministry of Regional Planning, Water and Environment
M. Loizidou	Professor, National Technical University of Athens
O. Assobhei	Professor, Faculty of Sciences of El Jadida
S. Bakkas	President, Association ANDALOUS
N. Brine	Regional Inspection of Doukkala Abda, Ministry of Regional Planning, Water and Environment
K. El Moutai	Vice President, Association ANNAMAE for Self-employment
M. Lahlou	Ministry of National Education, Higher Education, Executives Training and Scientific Research
M. Mountadar	Professor, Faculty of Sciences of El Jadida

M. Rafrafi	Regional Office of Agricultural Development of Doukkala (ORMVAD)
K. Zourarah	President, Association GREPEN

Prof. Assobhei presented the progress of the implementation of the project until October 2007 and explained in details the activities that were carried out and the results that were obtained. Specific reference was made on the operation of the composting system and the trials that were developed. It was underlined that the produced compost was of a high quality as it was confirmed by the measurements and chemical analyses which were carried out at the laboratory of the beneficiary and the Greek partner.

Prof. Loizidou mentioned that the recorded data related to the operation of the prototype system and the quality of the compost product indicated that the system operates efficiently and it could be used as a guide for applications at large scale in the country.

The representatives of the competent authorities expressed their great interest in the composting technology that is developed via the project and requested to have more information on the potential application of the composting system at large scale. Prof. Assobhei and Prof. Loizidou pointed out that analytical data would provide to them in the next stages of the project's implementation and in particular, after the completeness of Task 5 (Deliverables: Report on the alternative uses of compost and Report on the market opportunities for the compost products) and Task 6 (Deliverables: Technical specifications concerning optimum operation of compost units, Technical specifications concerning the quality and compost products and their potential uses, Guidelines concerning the requirements for compost uses, Manual for physicochemical compost analysis). Also, Prof. Assobhei and Prof. Loizidou underlined that the beneficiary and the Greek partner will provide the necessary additional technical consultation to the competent authorities in order to support them in the development of composting systems at large scale in the country.

Finally, Prof. Loizidou mentioned that the Moroccan national authorities must develop the appropriate legislative framework which will govern the construction, operation, control and monitoring of the composting systems and to encourage the unobstructed promotion of the compost product to the market.

Participants of the Management Committee meeting: The participants who attended the meeting were:

Name	Organisation
O. Assobhei	University Chouaib Doukkali – Co-ordinator
M. Mountadar	University Chouaib Doukkali
A. Aajjane	University Chouaib Doukkali
J. Amine	University Chouaib Doukkali
S. Etahiri	University Chouaib Doukkali
M. Kabil	University Chouaib Doukkali
M. Loizidou	National Technical University of Athens
S. Malamis	National Technical University of Athens
E. Kapetanios	National Technical University of Athens
M. Rafrafi	Regional Office of Agricultural Development of Doukkala
B. Droussi	Regional Office of Agricultural Development of Doukkala

During the managerial meeting, the following issues were discussed:

i. The action plan of the project and its implementation according to the time – schedule

Firstly, Prof. Assobhei presented the general progress of the project until 31 October 2007. Specific focus was given to the implementation of Task 3: “Development of sludge aerobic composting processes – Optimisation of the operation of the pilot

composting system”. The members of the working group of the beneficiary explained in detail, the trials that were developed during the implementation of the Task. Also, he mentioned that the system operates smoothly and some operational problems were fixed successfully (in one of the composting trials a malfunction occurred to the bioreactor’s motor suspending temporarily the operation of the bioreactor).

Then, the members of the working groups of the beneficiary and the Greek partner discussed thoroughly the results that were obtained from the laboratory measurements and chemical analyses concerning the quality of the compost products and they finalized the format and the content of the deliverable that should be prepared for the implementation of the Task.

Furthermore a detailed discussion took place with respect to the delays that arose during the implementation of Task 4 on the open field experiments and solutions were suggested in order to cope with the situation.

In addition, all the participants agreed that the pilot composting system should be operated not only until the end of the project but also after its completion in order: i. additional data and information on the composting technology to be provided and ii. expand the demonstration character of the project (organization of site visits for all those which are interested in the field of composting).

ii. Implementation of the 1st training course/workshop

The participants discussed on the first training session/workshop that had been held on 8 November 2007. They stated that the event was implemented successfully, fact that indicated the high interest of the attendants – representatives of the actors involved in the composting technology and its possible implementation of composting systems in the country.

iii. Current activities of the project

Prof. Prof. Assobhei presented the activities that were currently taking place according to the time – schedule of the project (Task 4: Evaluation of compost products as soil improvers). He provided information on the series of phytotoxicity tests that were under development, aiming at the examination of the effects of the compost products to the quantity and quality of the yield of selected cultivations and also the effects of compost to the physicochemical characteristics of the soil where compost is applied. The tests include laboratory and open field experiments which are carried out by the UCD laboratory team, while it was agreed that NTUA should perform laboratory phytotoxicity tests for comparison reasons. The land where the open field experiments took place is very close to the composting site and belongs to ORMVAD. The selected seeds for agricultural applications included sugar beet and wheat which are the primary cultivations that are being practiced in Doukkala region.