



LIFE Project Number
<LIFE05 TCY/MA/000141>

FULL PROJECT TITLE

‘Design and Application of an Innovative Composting Unit for the Effective Treatment of Sludge and other Biodegradable Organic Waste in Morocco, MOROCOMP’

Task 7: Dissemination and training

**Deliverable 19: 2nd Training session / Workshop for farmers
“Compost use and application on land”**



May 2008

2nd Training session/workshop in the framework of MOROCOMP project

Location: Premises of the beneficiary (UCD)

Date: 22nd May 2008

Participants: Various farmers associations, organisations and individuals participated in this event. In total 45 people attended the training event.

The 2nd Training session/Workshop was performed on the 22nd of May 2008 at the Zemamra site (Morocco) where the composting system is installed. The training session/workshop had the form of a demonstration – tour to the composting facility since it was considered that it would be easier for the farmers to get familiar with the concept of compost and composting and be informed of the benefits of using compost as a soil conditioner both economically and in terms of its properties.

The demonstration included the following:

- The role and the importance of composting and thus the significance of the in-vessel composting system
- The type of waste that the system can treat
- The importance of compost application in agriculture among which are:
 - Reduced need for inorganic fertilizers
 - Increased yielding potential
 - Better soil structure leading to greater workability of soil and increased traffic tolerance
 - Improved water holding capacity
 - Plant disease suppression
- Compost samples produced from the in-vessel unit were given to the participants in order to feel the texture of the compost and to check themselves that it does not cause any odour nuisance and it has nothing to do with waste but it is rather a valuable product.
- Visit to the field experiments where cultivations of sugar beets and maize took place. The farmers saw the difference in plant growth where compost was applied. Also they realised that fertilizers can be reduced or even replaced by compost. Farmers comments were very positive when they realised that the growth of

plants was so successful when compost was used. The farmers were informed on the quantities of compost used per hectare.

- Also the impact of different doses of compost was presented. In the field experiments it was quite obvious to realise how the compost type and quantity can influence the cultivations growth.
- The farmers were also informed how to use the compost. A demonstration took place on how the soil is mixed with the compost followed by cultivations.
- Extended information were given with respect to the alternative uses of compost such as use in agriculture, horticulture, reclamation/erosion control, home gardening etc.
- The farmers were informed which organic waste can be used for the production of compost. It was realised that significant quantities of waste is produced by the farmers and this waste can serve as a feed material to the composting in vessel pilot system.

