



PRACTICAL TRAINING REPORT

**ONE DAY TRAINING AT NTAGA CELL-MUGESERA SECTOR-
NGOMA DISTRICT ON SUPPORT FARMERS IN ACCESSING
AND USING LOCALLY AVAILABLE ORGANIC MANURE
(COMPOSTING)**

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INTRODUCTION

The performance of the Rwandan economy depends mainly on the production of the primary sector, where agricultural production plays a vital role. The Government of Rwanda has doubled its efforts in extension services in increased use of agricultural input where farmers are encouraged to utilize locally available organic manure (composting) to increase natural agricultural production.

In an effort to promote cooperative sectors especially rural women engaged in pineapple production, the Government of Rwanda through RGB and its partners – UNDP and implementation organization -SAFE provide ***Training and Support farmers in accessing and using locally available organic manure*** (making compost fertilizers). Rwanda is able to achieve naturally high yields and quality and support year-round horticulture production.

The compost is the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material that has been sanitized through the generation of heat and processed to further reduce pathogens and stabilized to the point that it is beneficial to plant growth. Compost bears little physical resemblance to the raw material from which it originates.

Furthermore, it is also an organic matter source that has the unique ability to improve the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of soils. It contains plant nutrients, the specific characteristic of a compost product determines how, and in which applications it can be best utilized.

An overview on the importance and advantages of Using Compost as a fertilizer compared to inorganic fertilizer:

- **Improves soil texture and is environmentally friendly.** Compost improves the soil, which in turn supports healthier and more productive plants. Compost provides virtually all of the essential nutrients for healthy plant growth, and it slowly releases those nutrients over time to give plants a slow, steady, consistent intake of the elements essential for growth. Compost also improves the soil's structure, making it easier for soil to hold and use the right amount of moisture and air.
- **Makes a good additive to the soil.** Compost will improve the texture of both clay and sandy soil; indeed, compost is the best additive to make either clay or sandy soil into rich, moisture holding, and loamy soil. Additionally compost improves plant vigor and provides immunity from diseases.

THE OBJECTIVES OF ACTIVITIES

The overall objectives of this training workshop were as follow:

1. *General understanding of organic manure and composting,*

2. *Capacity building among farmers/cooperative members on organic manure making,*
3. *The importance of using organic manure for a naturally high yields and quality of pineapple production,*
4. *Increase awareness on agroforestry programme to increase biomass for organic production.*
5. Providing technical support to the farmers/ cooperative members.

THE ACHIEVED ACTIVITIES

This three days training workshop started on June 7th, 2023 to June 9th, 2023. The training was organized by SAFE, 31 participants selected from KOABANAMU cooperative members was attended. The participants were selected based on the one who could teach others.

It focused on two days of training in classroom where participants were having theory on:

- *General understanding of organic manure and composting*
- *agroforestry system to increase biomass for organic production,*
- *the importance of using organic manure, agroforestry methods*

And one day of practices on how to make compost at household level or for commercial purpose, here all 31 participants had participated in making organic manure from crop residues, animals manure, ashes and water.

During this practices, the participants have shown that composting is a controlled, aerobic process that converts organic materials into a nutrient rich soil amendment through natural decomposition. Compost is made of different alternative layers, the first layer is made of crop residues, the second with green herbs which is easily decomposed, the third action is to spread the ashes from the kitchen and the fourth action is watering, the fifth action is to put a layer of animals residual (animals manure). in this process you should make sure that each layer should have the same measurement. This process repeat accordingly to the height and materials you have. the following are some photos during the practice:



Picture 1: instructor was explaining to the participants the role and benefit of making compost at farm yard. June,2023



Picture 2: after baring the soil it is very important to put down the trees to let the air circulated. June,2023



Picture 3: shows the first layer which is made of dried crop residues



Picture 4: it shows participants putting the second layer which is made of green herbs (having fast decomposition level). June,2023



Picture 5: it shows one of participants putting the ashes on the two first layers. June, 2023



Picture6: a man watering the two layer.june,2023



Picture 7: shows a woman putting on the animals manure.june,2023



Picture8: This woman trying to repeat the process.June,2023

Conclusion

This practice was successful and the set objectives were achieved. Members had acquired knowledge and practice . Beneficiaries had decide to apply the same at farm yard and household level. It was a well recommended organic manure for pinneapple grows.

Photo recorded





