



UOWIAP NEWS

2nd quarter Newsletter

UOWIAP project partners pay working visit to Bioprotect, Burkina- Faso

Three faculty members of Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS), Drs Dzidzo Yirenya-Tawiah, Ted Yemoh Annang and Benjamin D. Ofori working on the Utilization of Organic Waste for improvement of Agricultural Productivity (UOWIAP) with partners from MDF West Africa and Ministry of Food and Agriculture, undertook a three day study tour of BIOPROTECT an NGO in Burkina Faso in May 2017. The aim of the visit was to familiarize themselves with BIOPROTECT activities regarding the culturing and use of *Trichoderma* for compost quality enhancement. The visit entailed both in-house and field activities. The team, led by Claude Savadogo, project Director of Bioprotect visited Niessega about 130km northwards of Ouagadougou to interact with compost producers and organic farmers involved in the project.



Compost processing site



Team in a group photograph with vegetable farmers

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Home gardening with compost

Compost use in home gardening: Farmer's impression

“ I am very excited to see how beautiful my home garden has turned out.” This is the feedback received from Madam Grace of Pokuasi when the UOWIAP team visited her garden as part of its field monitoring activities. The project had earlier distributed **100 kg** of compost each to 40 farmers for on-farm field demonstration. While some farmers had lost their crops due to heavy rains, others were excited to see the effect of compost on their crops. Many of the farmers applied their compost to vegetable crops such as okro, green pepper, cabbage and lettuce. Other farmers also testified of the effect of compost on the crops took a longer time than inorganic fertilizer. Some of the farmers had produced their own compost after going through and on-farm compost production demonstration.



Awareness creation among School Children

UOWIAP has sought to use participatory processes to engage its key stakeholders throughout the project. Children were identified as key stakeholders based on the premise that what they learn today will shape the world tomorrow. The project organised a half-day training programme for 96 school children from Okyirikomfo and Bodumase Basic Schools. The specific objectives were to build capacity, create and share knowledge and build strategic partnerships. The students were also taken through the process of compost production. At the end of the day many of the teachers and the children showed appreciation for the tools for informal learning used by the facilitators, Dr. Elaine T. Lawson and

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Trainees graduate in a Grand ceremony

Twenty trainees who went a three month intensive skills training in compost production and entrepreneurship were awarded certificates of Participation on the 2nd of June, 2017. The ceremony which was held at the premises of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Pokuasi was Chaired by the Director of the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana, Prof. Christopher Gordon, with the Guest Speaker , the Municipal Chief Executive of the Ga-West Municipality, Mr. Nii Lamptey Wilkenson encouraged the granduants to use the knowledge and skills they had acquired for job creation. He further promised to lend his full support to the project through provision on land for this vocation in the Municipality. The leader of the trainees Mr. Kodwo Nssaful expressed sincere appreciation to the project for opportunity to aquire the skills for their own future economic situation enhancement.