



FERTILE GROUNDS INITIATIVE: A CONSERSED ACTION TO IMPROVE SOIL FERTILITY, INCREASE YIELDS AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017

FERTILE GROUNDS INITIATIVE (FGI)

Welcome to the newsletter of the Fertile Grounds Initiative! With this newsletter we would like to keep you informed on the progress of the FGI project.

CAN NUTRIENT RECYCLING BECOME A BUSINESS IN ETHIOPIA?



On May 25th and 26th, in Ethiopia, a workshop was held on 'Challenges and opportunities to improve nutrient recycling in agriculture in Ethiopia'. About 50 participants from farmer organisations, agricultural enterprises, governmental organisations and research were present. During two days we discussed the role of organic fertilizers in integrated soil fertility management, the quality of organic fertilizers and how to make a business out of compost.

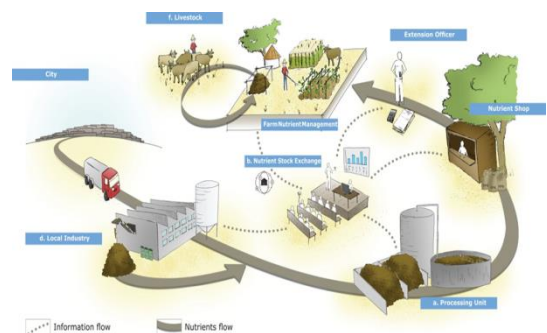
It was concluded that there is a big need for organic fertilizer in Ethiopia, but to control the quality of compost, standards are needed.

A large number of stakeholders is involved before one can make a business out of organic waste products for agriculture. Also, a lack of knowledge was seen by the farmers who therefore hesitated to use compost.

This workshop will have a follow-up next year to keep the network on improve nutrient recycling alive. You are invited to elaborate within the follow-up.

UPCOMING EVENT: TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR SOIL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA: FROM CONCEPT TO BUSINESS CASE

Re-using soil nutrients is one of the keys towards sustainable agricultural intensification. However, to implement and scale nutrient re-using processes, viable business cases are essential. During a side event in the Wageningen Soil Conference, existing and potentially business cases will be discussed. We wish to stimulate business cases and partnerships that can take part in the active development of the FGI concept. You can register by sending an email to: jennie.vanderkolk@wur.nl.





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START OF LIFT-FGI PROJECT

In January 2017, the LIFT-FGI project started. This project is financed by DfID through DAI Europe Ltd. This



project, in the Yilmana Densa worida in Amhara is working on validating the potential for organic production and improving farmers' soil management practices. One of the key activities is to build capacity of stakeholders and provide training to farmers associated with the compost hub. In this way FGI is building on awareness of the importance of the use of organic fertilizers within farm management. In the next newsletters, we will keep you informed on the progress.

GOODBYE – HELLO



In May we said goodbye to Aniek Elemans, who finished her contract for Wageningen UR. She was on a two year YEP assignment (YEP stands for Young Experts Programme, which is a special program for young professionals entering the international labour market, and are working in the field of food or water. Selected experts get special coaching and assistance from the YEP program,

which is financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Aniek has been instrumental in the start-up of the LIFT FGI program in Ethiopia and we will dearly miss her relentless drive and positive energy. Fortunately, we managed to find a replacement in the person of Hanna Habtemariam, an Addis Ababa University PhD candidate who also enrolled in the YEP program. So we welcome Hanna Habtemariam on the team!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date, venue	Information
Side Event during the Wageningen Soil Conference: Towards a circular Economy for Soil Nutrient management in Sub-Sahara Africa: from Concept to Business Case	August 29 th , Wageningen, Netherlands	http://www.wur.nl/en/Research-Results/Projects-and-programmes/Wageningen-Soil-Conference-2017.htm