SEVANATHA’s Experience in Community Based Solid Waste Management in Sri Lankan Cities

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Some Basic Data on Solid Waste

- **Per Capita Generation of SW in Sri Lanka by localities (in 2008)**
  - Capital City (Colombo) – 0.85 kg
  - Other Municipalities – 0.75 kg
  - Urban Council Areas – 0.60 kg
  - In Rural Areas – 0.40 kg

- **Total Municipal SW generation** – 6400 tons per day in 2008.
- **Total Collection** – 2700 tons (42.2%)

- **Composition of Solid Waste**
  - Biodegradable Waste – 62.0%
  - Paper – 6.5%
  - Polythene & Plastic – 6.0%
  - Glass – 2.0%
  - Other Waste – 17.5%

Solid Waste Management (SWM) Policies, processes and Challenges

- **Responsible Institutions**: Local Authorities (M.Cs, U.Cs, P.Ss)

- **Responsible Ministries**:
  1. Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils
  2. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

- **Responsible Institutions**:
  1. Central Environmental Authority
  2. Provincial Solid Waste Management Authorities
  3. Project support units operating under relevant Ministries ie: JICA Assisted SWM support Center of the Ministry of LG & PC
  4. Donor supported Programmes (ex: European Union, UNOPS, UN-ESCAP, Red Cross, etc)
  5. Local NGO initiated projects : SEVANATHA, Energy Forum, etc.
## SWM Policy Environment in Sri Lanka

- Legal Provisions contained in the Municipal Council Ordinance, Urban Council Ordinance and Pradeshiya Sabha Act
- SWM is an obligatory Function of MCs, UCs, and PSs
- The first National SWM Policy and Strategy was formulated in year 2000
- The Second National SWM Policy and Strategy was formulated in year 2008
- The Western Provincial Council has established a Provincial SWM Authority in 2007

### Objectives of the new SWM Policy (2008)

- Ensure Environmental accountability and Social responsibility of all waste generators, managers and service providers
- Involve individuals and all institutions in integrated environmentally sound SWM Practices
- Maximize resource recovery of waste to minimize the volume to be disposed
- Minimize adverse Environmental impacts of waste disposal to ensure health and wellbeing of the people and ecosystems
Policy Principles

- Manage Solid Waste with special emphasis on 3R Principles (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) and appropriate treatment of final disposal.
- Adhere to National Environmental standards formed under the National Environmental Act.
- Apply market base instruments including the “Polluter Pay” approach in SWM.
- Resource Maximization and producer responsibility approach.
- Efficient law enforcement recognized as essential mean of SWM.
- Partnerships will be encouraged to ensure efficient and cost effective SWM Process.
- Appropriate resource mobilization strategies and financial mechanism on SWM will be promoted.
- Sustain the participation of all stakeholder Groups in the entre SWM Process.
Currently Implemented SWM Programmes in Sri Lanka

- **The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) Implemented “PILISARU” SWM Programme: Towards Garbage Free Sri Lanka**
  - Country wide Programme

- **JICA Assisted National SWM Support Centre Programme**
  - Operational in Five (05) Provinces out of 09 provinces in Sri Lanka

- **European Union Assisted UNOPS SWM Programme in the Eastern Province**
  - Operational since 2007
  - Coverage all the urban centers in the Eastern Province

**NGO Implemented Programmes**

- SEVANATHA’s SWM Programme (in Colombo, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Kalmunai and Kalutara)

- Energy Forum’s SWM Project (in Hambanthota town)

- Red Cross supported SWM Programme in Kalutara District
SEVANATHA’s SWM Programme

Approach:
- Follow 3R Principles
- Promote Community Based Projects/ Practices
- Partnership with urban Local Authorities, donors and other stakeholders
- Experience and information Sharing locally and regionally
- Experiments and innovations

Track Records of SWM Activities of SEVANATHA
- Engaged in Community based SWM since 1997
- Pioneer in introducing Home Compost Bins in Sri Lanka since 1997
- Pioneer in introducing collection centers for Recyclable waste since 1998
- Pioneer in introducing the use of market waste for bio-gas generation
- Developed training modules on Community based SWM Practices
- Provide training for LA officials, NGOs, School children and University students
- Participate in National and Provincial level Steering Committees/ Policy forums of SWM in Sri Lanka
- Shared SEVANATHA’s experience with regional partners such as the CITY NET (JAPAN), ACHR (BANGKOK), EDNA (Vietnam), Waste Concern (Bangladesh)
- Shared experiences of use of home compost bins with NGO Partners in Asian Region
- Supplied over 50,000 compost bins to urban Residents
- Assisted in establishing collection centers for Recyclable waste in Municipalities
Currently Implemented SWM Projects by SEVANATHA

- Continuous training on Community based SWM emphasizing on 3R Principles
- A project in Kalmunai Municipality in the Eastern Province covering 3000 families. **Project Period** – July 2007 till July 2010

- Community Based Compost yard in Matale Town (MEC Compost Yard)
  - Started in July 2007 and continue to date
  - Funding support: UN-ESCAP support through SEVANATHA
  - Partnership Among: UN-ESCAP, SEVANATHA and Matale Municipality
  - **Coverage**: Residential units – 578, Pavement Shops – 92, Small business units - 170

**Replication of MEC Compost Model**
- The Central Environmental Authority provides Grant assist to LAs to initiate similar compost yards in other towns under PILISARU Programme.
- Sri Lanka Navy has replicated it in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka
Highlights of SEVANATHA’s SWM Activities

Experiments and Improving the Home Compost Bin

1996 to 2001

2001 to 2007

2008 onwards

Using Compost for Homegardens
Introducing Collection Centers for Recyclable Waste

Collection Center Matale Town

Collection Center Dickwella Town

Collection Center Kalmunai Town
Manually Operated Community Compost Yard in Matale Town
Processed Compost for Sale
Challenges Faced by SEVANATHA in promoting community based SWM Approaches

**MACRO level:**
- Lack of commitment for SWM by the key stakeholders of SWM Process (ie: Law enforcement, introducing new regulations, initiating new projects, entering into partnerships)
- Poor commitment of the waste generators to do source separation and safe handling of waste
- High dependency on LA service by the residents/ waste generators
- Low priority by the central government to implement the SWM policy
- Lack of Research on user friendly tools and methods of handling waste
- Less involvement of Private sector in SWM

**MICRO Level Issues:**
- Limited funding support for SWM initiatives by local stakeholders and donors
- Difficulty to retain the trained staff
- Poor Market for recyclable Waste items (Price fluctuation)
- Poor Market for compost in some localities
- Lack of incentives for NGOs to initiate SWM Projects by the Government
THANK YOU