Make Compost Fertiliser from Organic Waste

You can make your own fertiliser for the garden or farm using waste you would otherwise throw away

More than 40% of all waste in The Gambia comes from animals or plants – this is called organic waste. If we dump organic waste it can attract pests and spread disease.

But you can make money from it!

One of the best things we can do with organic waste is to make compost from it. Compost is a very useful fertiliser for farmers and gardeners. It is a very good thing to make in the rainy season, when the wet and humid conditions make composting very easy.

Benefits of Compost

- Compost makes ideal conditions for plant growth
- Compost releases goodness into the soil slowly, unlike synthetic fertilisers
- The nutrients in compost stay in the soil and don’t run into waterways where they can cause pollution
- Compost helps sandy soil retain water
- Compost makes any soil easier to work with, saving fuel and time
- Compost reduces the need for pesticides and can protect plants from diseases and pests

You will need:

**CARBON-rich material**

Woody organic waste such as small branches, dry leaves, coconut husk and groundnut shell

**NITROGEN-rich material**

Smelly organic waste such as dung, fish heads and bones
There are two different ways of composting:

1. Dig three holes. Every week you remove the material and put it in the next hole, mixing it up. Do this for 3 weeks and then the compost is ready.
2. Build a cell (as shown in the picture) then follow these instructions.

On the bottom layer, put woody waste like mango leaves, small branches or groundnut shells.

Then put a middle layer of rotten fish and spread a layer of ash powder to stop the smell.

On top, put more woody material. Leave it for 3 weeks, making sure it does not dry out.

If you want to sell your compost to farmers or gardeners, you should sieve it.

Talk to farmers and agricultural stores to see how much people pay for imported compost. You can sell your compost in rice sacks.

Would you like to learn more about managing waste properly? Would you like to start a recycling or composting business? Contact Women’s Initiative The Gambia +220 718 7413 isatouceesay2002@gmail.com

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