## 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%

**Source** – National Policy on SWM in Sri Lanka, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources(2008)

# Solid Waste Management (SWM) Policies, processes and Challenges

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

#### Responsible Ministries:

- i. Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils
- ii. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

#### Responsible Institutions:

- i. Central Environmental Authority
- ii. Provincial Solid Waste Management Authorities
- iii. Project support units operating under relevant Ministries ie: JICA Assisted SWM support Center of the Ministry of LG & PC
- iv. Donor supported Programmes (ex: Europeon Union, UNOPS, UN-ESCAP, Red Cross, etc)
- 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 covering3000 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**



#### **Using Compost for Homegardens**







#### **Introducing Collection Centers for Recyclable Waste**



**Collection Center Matale Town** 



**Collection Center Dickwella Town** 





**Collection Center Kalmunai Town** 









### **Manually Opperated Community Compost Yard in Matale Town**













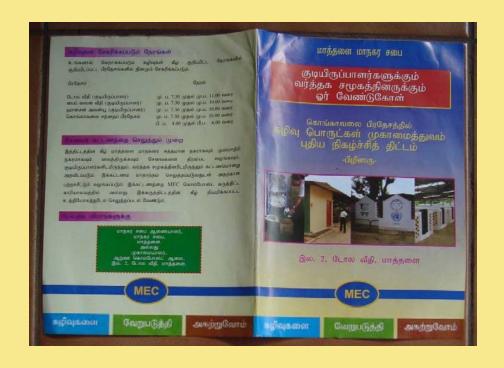
















#### **Processed Compost for Sale**









## 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