

Constituency Member Contributions Technical Solutions

Country: India

Organization: AIWC – All India Women’s Conference
(Constituent Branch: Sthree Sakthi Mahila Samajam)

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Inclusive, sustainable waste management in Delhi

Description of the project: The inhabitants and enterprises of Delhi are generating excessive waste and civic authorities have no systematic sustainable waste management in place. A survey conducted in BudhVihar, a colony located in southwest Delhi, reflected that the locality has improper waste and drainage system, water logging, health issues. Each household generates in average 1 kg of kitchen waste everyday. To address this challenge, AIWC is training women from the locality in waste separation and home based compost system. They produce compost in a cycle of 45 days with ‘Khamba’, with a set of 3 earthen pots kept on top of each other. Layer of waste and cocopeat are filled in the pots on rotation and, after decay, the waste turns into organic matter.

Climate impact: Dumping of waste in landfill or burning it releases carbon dioxide and pollutes the environment. According to the Press Information Bureau, India generates 62 million tonnes of mixed waste containing both recyclable and non-recyclable every year, with an average annual growth rate of 4% (PIB 2016). This project aims to mitigate GHG emissions at micro level, sensitize the targeted households and support a sustainable waste management system at source.

Gender impact: The women from the Delhi suburb community were informed on various issues relating to waste, including health hazards. They were also trained to package and sell the compost to other households and local markets, either as organic matter or with sapling planted in a small pot. The project raises women’s technical skills and knowledge, and their capacities in income generating activities, as well as implementing preventive health measures.

Scalability / replicability: The project is cost effective and replicable at household level, as well as in other similar communities. It can also be scaled up to a community based waste management system, using the business model of compost pits and leading to a proper waste management system within the area.



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