**Decentralized composting- A sustainable approach for organic waste management**

Over the past few years, there has been a rapid shift towards a sustainable waste management in the country with the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission. The mission stipulates source segregation, material recovery and; to move from ‘linearity’ to ‘circularity’. Urban India generates between 1,30,000 to 1,50,000 metric tonne (MT) of municipal solid waste/day. 51% of this waste is biodegradable; indicating through composting, its volume can be reduced to half. **Decentralized composting (Dc)** is a localised solution for composting wherein waste generators from one or more urban housing societies, collaborate to compost organic waste at a specific site. It has the potential to manage large quantity of organic waste at- or near-source, thereby avoiding it to be diverted to landfills, reducing the resultant carbon emissions, environmental externalities and waste disposal transportation cost. Realising its importance, the researcher in the present study chose an apartment for starting Dc by installing a compost bin in the parking area. The residents in society’s monthly meeting were informed of the initiative, its environmental and financial benefit and were encouraged for waste segregation. Furthermore, the cleaner was directed to fill the compost bin with segregated waste collected from separate dustbins kept at each floor. In a year, the organic compost and its monetary benefit were gained by the residents. Thus, sustainable waste management through composting is an important step towards bringing cleanliness and sanitation in the society for which, the community (people) have to come together and take active participation in reaching this goal.

Keywords: Decentralized composting, organic waste, environmental benefit, sanitation, community participation