

Linking organic waste and agriculture in a circular economy

Multi stakeholder sharing forum SUMMARY

This summary document provides an overview of the multi stakeholder networking forum held in Colombo Sri Lanka, 20 June 2024, which sought to bring together representatives from the organic waste value chain to showcase the best practices linking agriculture and organic waste, explore how this could be strengthened in the future and facilitate future collaborations by connecting relevant stakeholders. The forum included 39 organic waste value chain stakeholders - from government, civil society, private sector, academia, and development partners.

About the Research Partnership

The forum was hosted by KMC in collaboration with the project, 'Sustainable Organic Waste Value Chains'. The project is implemented through a partnership between the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS-ISF), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Janathakshan (GTE) Ltd, and Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL).

The research project is funded under the Knowledge and Linkages for an Inclusive Economy (KLIE) Grants Program of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

See work from the research partnership to date: [Click here.](#)

Forum Overview

Welcome Forum participants were welcomed by Pay Drechsel, Senior Fellow Advisor and Interim Country Manager, IWMI Sri Lanka, Sophie Gordon Second Secretary, DFAT Australia, Federico Davila, Research Director, UTS-ISF.





Panel Speakers and Q&A Expert panel presentations and Q&A: • Nalin Mannapperuma, Director of the Waste Management Authority (WMA) (Western Province). • Anuradha Wijayawardhana, Community Development Officer, Kaduwela Municipal Council (KMC). • Renuka Silva, Principal Agriculture Scientist at Horticultural Crops Research and Development Institute (HORDI). • Professor M. Esham, SUSL / Project team.

Group Activity and Q&A Forum participants were allocated into four groups to consider a scenario and identify ways to improve the situation drawing on their unique and varied experience and expertise related to different parts of an organic waste value chain – linking municipal waste management and the agriculture sectors. 1: Existing users are doing some composting but need to improve the quality in order to improve their home gardening. 2: Households new to composting and waste segregation need access to equipment and training. 3: Local authorities have difficulties in managing organic waste and they would like to reduce cost burden. 4: Selling organic waste-derived products is a challenge, but the Council wants to do so as a new revenue stream by 2030.



Networking – exchange and learning


Forum participants were invited to consider together the key scenario and questions:

-  How can we **better link** organic waste and agriculture in a circular economy?
-  What needs to **change** to support links with relevant stakeholders to support the needs of improved organic waste management? Who is **responsible** for **taking action** on this?
-  What type of **technical and social processes** are needed to support better organic waste management?
-  What type of **investment** would be needed to improve organic waste management?

The figure below shows the ideal flow of food waste in a circular economy.



Invitation for continuing engagement

 Our research partnership welcomes continuing multi-stakeholder engagement. To reach us please email: Keren Winterford (keren.winterford@uts.edu.au) or M Esham (esham@agri.sab.ac.lk)