

Project Progress Report

Project Title: Turning Trash into Treasure by
Introducing Compost Plant on the University of
Barishal Campus

Organisation Name: University of Barishal
Geophysical Society (UBGS)

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Project info

The project titled "Turning Trash into Treasure by Introducing Compost Plant in Barishal University Campus" is an initiative taken by the University of Barishal Geophysical Society (UBGS) to convert the organic wastes of the hostels and canteens of Barishal University into compost fertilizer. The objectives and goals of the project are versatile, well defined and planned in such ways that it will leave a positive impression on the waste management systems of the educational institutions. After the proper completion, the project can be a role model for educational, municipal and industrial institutions. The estimated budget of the project is 400000tk from which we already have received 250000tk. Though before receiving the amount, we initiated the project but we could not contribute to the fulfilment of our desired objective promisingly due to lack of funds. After receiving the funds, we have started to build the infrastructure in full swing. Already the positive impacts of the project have started to be spread and a sense of resilience among the students can be felt. We, the project officials strongly believe that after the completion of the project not only the goals of the project will be achieved but also the positive result of the project will leave a long-lasting impact on the waste management system of the campus.

Objectives of the Project

The goals of the project are specific and well-defined. Introducing a better waste management system can make the university campus more suitable for study. It will leave

a positive impact physically and psychologically on the students and tourists. To accomplish the project in a successful manner, some objectives are needed to gain.

Including,

- Using most local and available materials and procedures to construct the compost site to keep the project budget friendly though a compost site is one of the cheapest ways to treat the waste.

- Constructing a miniature version of the compost plant to examine if the desired fertilizer is produced which has already been done by our team.

- Identifying the agricultural lands that are in the nearest position to the river and convincing the owners to use organic fertilizer.

- Instructing the university gardener to use the organic fertilizer from the compost plant

- Assigning a committee from University of Barishal Geophysical Society (UBGS) to maintain the plant and to ensure the best outcome of the project

- Ordering the committee to provide a monthly report during the UBGS monthly meeting.

- Evaluating the changes in the university waste condition in qualitative and quantitative ways (Interviews, observations, measurements) in the first month of plant setup.

- Taking notes and advice from the participants and experts to improvise the project with time.

- Trying to involve nearby inhabitants to bring their waste to the compost site

- Being a sustainable and long-lasting solution for waste management the compost plant requires maintenance, UBGS will assign a small part of its budget to maintain and improvise the site.

- Conducting publicity programs about the project on the university's Facebook pages to attract students to volunteer for the project and to make them familiar with the waste

management plans.

- Recognizing our fundraiser through a student program and Facebook posts to inspire other clubs and students to generate innovative ideas.
- Organizing a seminar about the application processes and outcomes of the ICCCAD programs to spread the goals of ICCCAD among the commons.

The CAP-RES project has three objectives as follows:

Objective 1: Create enabling environment and foster individuals to enhance their knowledge of climate change issues and develop their problem-solving skills

Objective 2: Generate factual evidence from local practices to scale up at the global level.

Objective 3: Improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness in decision-making and putting into practice in climate intervention

Based on these above objectives which one is more relevant to your project? How your project activities achieved this objective? (Maximum 200 words)

Among the above-mentioned objectives, though the project has the versatility that will contribute to fulfilling more or less all the objectives but the project has the direct contribution to fulfil the objective 3.

Before the planning and the initiation of the project, the University authority had to deal with the immense hassle to manage the waste materials. All types of waste were used to be dumped indiscriminately here and there. No separation of the organic and inorganic waste was used to be conducted. The potentiality of the organic waste to be used as fertilizer was not explored and the waste materials used to be a major problem for the students and the aesthetics of the university campus. So, it can be mentioned that the previously adopted and yet-existing waste management policy of the University authority was not perfectly suitable in the context of waste management.

Our project already has introduced its positive upcoming results to the university authority and lot of appreciation, inspiration and positive responses have been provided by the authority and the teachers. So, it can be concluded that the project will influence the authorities to change their point of view about the upcoming decision-making.

Team Composition

A team of 16 members is working to complete the project. Here is the list of the team members

- 1. Md Abdullah Salman (Adviser)*
- 2. Md Mahmudul Hasan Rakib (Director)*
- 3. Md Wabidur Rahman (Treasurer)*
- 4. Mostofa Jaman Rabbi (Field Evaluator)*
- 5. Farzana Akhter Mou (Representative)*

6. Obaidur Rahman Akon (Logistical Assistant)
 7. Md Sayem (Technical Operator)
 8. Shahriar Kabir Shoeb (Boys-Hostel Coordinator)
 9. Farzana Moury (Girls-Hostel Coordinator)
 10. Shoibur Rahman Khan Sifat (volunteer)
 11. Israt Jahan Raka (volunteer)
 12. Hafizur Rahman (volunteer)
 13. Sadia Islam Nishat (volunteer)
 14. Md Shahjalal (volunteer)
 15. Rupanti Choudhury (volunteer)
 16. Md Arabe Khan (volunteer)
- *The UBGS Committee will be responsible for the maintenance of the compost plant*

Location

The proposed working area is located at University of Barishal campus which is situated at Karnakathi on the eastern bank of the 'Kirtonkhola River' beside the 'Barishal-Patuakhali highway about 2 kilometers from the center of Barishal City. The university campus is founded on 51 acres of land. It lies within the latitude 22.6599° N and longitude 90.3621° E. UBGS team has proposed a site which is situated at position between the botanical garden of BU and 'Karnakathi Canal' as stated in the provided map. This site has been selected after considering the required water supply from the canal. The site is also well accessible from all the hostels. It is also at the nearest position from which the cultivable lands are easily accessible.

Reached people (Direct and indirect)

Direct Reached people: As mentioned earlier, the project is not fully in operation due to the partial transfer of the estimated budget. Though the partial or near full completion of the, it has created an impactful impression among the students and teachers. We experienced huge excitement and interest among the mass students. UBGS members are working relentlessly with enthusiasm to complete the project.

Directly involved individuals in the projects are nearly 150 (Members of UBGS and Students of the Department of Geology and Mining)

Male: 90 (Approximately)

Female: 60 (Approximately)

At the operational stage the project will be able to attract whole student community of the University of Barishal.

Indirect Reached people: We already have organized an inauguration program of the project where High officials including the vice chancellor of the University of Barishal were present. That was an impactful step which drew the attraction of students and many policymakers. We have shared our ideas about the project through our social media platforms. Our club members personally tried to reach to the people not only through social media but also personally. We have received a lot of positive responses.

Summary findings

As the project is not in operation yet, it is hard to list the solid findings. However, some issues can be mentioned that have been created after the initiation of the plant building like

Resilience among the mass students is rising.

Curiosity about waste management among the masses is increasing.

Students, teachers, and the whole of the university community are highly optimistic about the success of the plant and are eager to support the project

Describing findings of the project

After the inauguration and the initiation of the project, we are getting huge responses from the students. Dailly we are receiving volunteer requests. The students are interested in helping us with the project. Our plant has become a top topic in the groups of the university social sites. Many of them have come to us to know about the mechanism and outcome of the project. So, it can be said that we already have been able to raise awareness among the students about waste management.

Till now from the time we initiated our setup, many students and teachers visited the plant. We found that the students are curious about the project and many of them have learned this process of waste management from us. They are well satisfied and many of them have desired they will work on such kind of plants in their respective home, farms, communities and villages.

Every day teachers visit the plant, they appreciate our efforts and the fundraiser's contribution and are also giving us instructions. It has been experienced that our teachers are well optimistic and they deeply want to make the plant successful

Measuring Progress

How many project activities you have done? (These might be workshops, focus groups, or performances, etc). Please list all of these

1. The university-allotted land for the compost plant was covered by herbs and shrubs. We cleaned the allotted land mass.
2. The work of the compost has been inaugurated to attract students and other individuals to the project.
3. A full plan has been formed and reviewed by the experts in order to make the plant more effective.
4. A training session has been arranged to let the workers and volunteers to know their respective area of activity.
5. A concrete-based, tin-shaded 20 feet×20 feet facility has been built to house the plant.
6. Most of the materials of the original plant have been bought but few of them are yet to be bought due to the shortage of budget.
7. 25 dustbins have been bought for collecting waste from different points of the university campus.
8. An electrical motor has been bought to ensure the water supply to the plant.
9. A permanent worker has been selected and trained to maintain the plant along with the UBGS committee.

10. All the hostel and canteen authorities and workers are informed and trained in such way that they can co-operate and help us to make the plant successful.

Identifying new skills and where to learn more

Some skills and insights about waste management have been learnt and captured by the UBGS officials so far though the plant has not been fully functional yet.

Different training sessions arranged by the project director have enabled the team members to know about the versatile potential of waste

Most of the team members now know the function of a compost plant and the building process of a compost plant

During our planning stage, we consulted experts which has enriched our knowledge of waste

During the so far building stages of the plant, we have collaborated with different professional workers which helped us to gain skills about basic building process.

Most importantly, we have acquired the common knowledge of project management and the project is constantly leaving some positive impacts on our communication skills.

What knowledge or skills do you think would have improved your project?

We along with the experts of our university believe that our already gained skills, planning, and present efforts are good enough to make the project fruitful.

What are the challenges/Risks you faced during the project activities? How you overcome/minimize those challenges?

Though we have not faced that many difficulties yet through our current activities but there are some challenges with which we had to deal and yet we are dealing with, such as,

Budget Issue: *The prices of every material especially the construction materials have increased drastically from the time when we estimated the budget. As a result, we are slightly struggling to complete the project within our budget. We consulted the experts and undertook some effective steps to keep the project cost within the budget.*

Land Acquiring: *At first, we faced some administrative problems to acquire land on our university campus. Later with the support of our honourable vice-chancellor, we managed a good strip of land for our project.*

Write down the “lesson-learn” of your project

-The main lesson we have learned from our current progress of the project is, it takes a small step to trigger a revolution. After the initiation of our plant student are showing their utmost concern about waste management. They are willing to spread the concept. The success of the plant may attract more of them to show their concern about waste management.

Add most relevant photos of your activities with captions (not more than 4).



Figure 4: Cleaning the Acquired land



Figure 3: Inauguration program



Figure 1: Building House to Accommodate the Compost Plant



Figure 2: Project Team with the Newly Made House and Some Equipment

Write a feedback on this innovation fund. (Write a paragraph within 400 words)

This innovation fund is highly effective in finding out the creative thoughts of the students of the university clubs. Being part of different organizations and clubs, the students remain attached to extra-curricular activities. They bear excellent ideas and thoughts that can change the environmental, societal, and economic conditions of particular fields and regions. But due to the lack of funding and budgets most of these ideas end in smoke. We, UBGS members believe that attempts like the 'Youth Innovation Fund-For University Clubs' will be able to explore many practical and innovative ideas that will leave long-lasting impacts on the environment and the economy of the country. We came to learn about the program through the social media page of ICCCAD. We were unaware of such a salutary program but one of the enthusiastic and ambitious members of UBGS discovered the advertisement of the program. Now the program is well reached to other clubs of the University of Barishal. We not only applied for the program but also circulated it to others through our social media pages. Being a newly established club, we were struggling to be recognized to the masses of students. Though we ran few

*programs but such a large budget project really is helping us to uplift our club's position to the students. We are getting huge response from the students. This grant has actually strengthened the basement of the club. We UBGS community are highly grateful to the authority for giving us the chance to implement our idea which not only increased our enthusiasm but also helped us to contribute to the **University of Barishal** campus. Representatives of the program authority are highly co-operative and they gave us the least chances to express lacking. The ultimate framework and structure of the project is excellent and effective. A step to make the program more reached and recognized can be taken to reach it to most of the university clubs. If the authority mails the circulation to the clubs that already have applied for the grant and instructs them to recirculate it on their social media sites. Then we believe more responses can be created and more innovative ideas can be explored. Authority can also mail the details of the grant to the faculties and deans of the universities which will increase the rate of received applications and thus the ideas.*