



## Attitudes of Households toward Home-made Compost Application in Kalutara Urban Council Area

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### Abstract

A previous study on pro-environmental behaviour of households in Kalutara Urban Council area showed that believes related with the attitudes of the households regarding the solid waste management; however, the various benefits and the scope of potential compost applications are not known by many households. Composting household organic wastes is an alternative to landfill use. The purpose of this study was to address the information on knowledge of compost production and its usage on home-made compost production, issues arisen in compost production and the attitudes towards the home-made compost production. A questionnaire survey of 75 randomly selected households in Kalutara city including Kalutara South, Kalutara North and Katukurunda which consists of 11 wards was used. The survey questionnaire addressed issues such as problems experienced by compost users, sources of information about compost production, and barriers to use compost for potential households. The present study explored the issues of concern and the attitudes of those who already use homemade compost as well as non-compost users in Kalutara Urban Council area. According to the results, it revealed that many of the households do not practise composting at their homes although they (66.7%) had the knowledge of compost production. The major source of information on compost production was gained from newspapers and television. Only 11% of households always produce compost while 28%, and 30.5% made compost occasionally, and seldom respectively. The household that never made compost was 30.5%. Among the compost producers 15 % use compost bins while others use compost pits and informal heaps. The present study discovered that although the knowledge of the compost production is high in households, their application is very poor. Most of the households are reluctant to use bio-degradable waste in their homes to make home-made compost. Instead they used to dispose non-biodegradables to the tractors of Urban Council for landfilling and burn the bio-degradable waste such as plant litter and kitchen waste. Many of the households complained about the limitation of land for composting, time and effort and fly problem. Further, the results of the study suggest that attitudes of the households are the key to promote more widespread homemade compost use. All the other issues are part of or closely related to sources of information and barrier for the production of compost. To make compost a more widely used input in home garden, more information needs to be disseminated and the quality of compost needs to be improved while keeping consistency. For that, an educational programme should be conducted for households to promote using compost and to realize that composting reduce their waste material for disposal and the benefits of organic home gardening.

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