

Research Project FR2: Mid-term Evaluation

EREC Comments

Project Title	Building up organic material circulation system among urban and rural area: Toward the integration of local perception and scientific knowledge
Abbreviated Title	Organic Material Circulation
Project Leader	OYAMA Shuichi
Project Period	5 years Full Research
Affiliated Program	Global Environmental Culture Program, MATSUDA PD

General advice and comments of the EREC

The project has a combination of innovative, bottom-up approaches to circulating urban waste for agriculture in Japan and 5 African countries. Rather than situating this in terms of the Green Revolution, it would be better to situate this in terms of the challenges of connecting urban waste to use in agriculture to promote circularity and improve the environment.

In addition to the action in individual cases, more data is needed on the innovations. Measuring a wider range of benefits beyond crop production, e.g. biodiversity or pollinator/habitat restoration could help make the case for these approaches. To go beyond it is necessary to identify the barriers (or enablers) of adoption for each type of innovation.

There are several frameworks that might be applied, for example looking at information asymmetries. There may also be symbolic constraints in how compost is viewed as pollution, and labor or other economic constraints for composting in dense urban areas and transferring it to where it can be used.