

EcoSan toilets use & waste management

Learning from failure *AT A GLANCE*

KNOW-HOW
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Experience by Development Education Services For Community Empowerment (DESECE)

In Londo village, Bungoma North Sub-county, KENYA

In rural areas in Kenya, the connection to a sanitary sewer system is not possible and water supplies are very limited

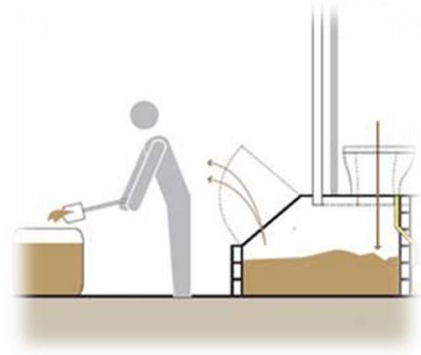
The solution was to use EcoSan toilets

Main characteristics

- Urine diversion and recycling of water & nutrients contained within human wastes go back into the local environment
- Hygienically safe, economical, and closed-loop system

Experience description

In the beginning we thought the EcoSan toilets were good, easy and people could use them properly. We assumed that due to water scarcity in the area this type of toilets could be accepted and the community could benefit from them. But the perception was different due to the local culture. We also assumed the management of the toilets' waste would be simple but, it is a process that needs experienced and willing personnel. We had initial trainings for staff and people/guests and printed a series of pictures explaining the flow of the waste and pinned them at all EcoSan toilets. We also identified staff for working on waste management and used the urine on our model farm as a top-dressing manure.



Other characteristics



REASONS FOR FAILURE

- Insufficient training for staff
- Lack of awareness-raising in the community
- Unawareness of the culture of the villagers
- High costs of trainings and maintenance
- Wrong handling of the EcoSan toilets



LESSONS LEARNED

- EcoSan toilets needs to be suited well to local conditions before being introduced
- Importance of project planning: it should be tested on a small scale first
- Importance not to ignore the culture of the locals
- There should be a pilot project of the system before implementing it



CORRECTIVE MEASURES

- ✓ Hands-on trainings on EcoSan toilets and waste management for staff
- ✓ Awareness raising training for members and institution to understand and own the system
- ✓ Continuous education for more awareness on the importance of EcoSan toilets

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Sector: Rural Development – Natural Resource Management

Period: 2012

Further material: <https://www.desece.org/>, "Good Practice: EcoSan Toilets" by St. Joseph's Hospital Kitgum

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