



BATTAMBANG



BACKGROUND

Battambang is the second-largest city in Cambodia, with a population of more than a quarter of a million people. Battambang Province is located in the country's highest rice-producing area and is referred to as "the rice bowl" of Cambodia.



CITY FACTS

POPULATION	250,000
ORGANIC WASTE	86.5%
TOTAL WASTE GENERATED	147 tons/day
TOTAL WASTE COLLECTED	25% of households in the city centre

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Battambang generates approximately 147 tonnes of waste per day. The management of solid waste has been outsourced to a private operator, CINTRI, which is responsible for the collection and disposal of the waste. According to CINTRI staff, its waste collection service covers 6,402 households (of 25,603) in the city centre. This leaves 75 per cent of households resorting to burning, dumping or disposing of waste into waterways and open spaces. The municipality is confronted with the challenge of generating and managing its resources to increase the coverage and improve the waste management service.

The waste is collected and transferred to collection points. Seven compactor trucks pick up the waste from those points and transport it to the dumpsite 7 km outside the city. CINTRI is also responsible for managing the dumpsite, which was constructed in 2010 and consists of four relatively small basins (40x40 m) with a depth of 4 m. It is not possible for a compactor to enter the basins, and there is no leachate collection. As a result, it is filled with water during the rainy season and quickly fills up with waste because there is no compaction. The basins were full by the end of 2011, and there was a concern that the capacity of the dump was limited and urgently needed to be expanded.

There is a composting plant operating next to the dump. The plant was financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Thuringian-Cambodian Association (TKG). The plant is independently owned and run by the COMPED NGO. The plant receives roughly 14 tons of waste per day, of which 86.5 per cent is estimated to be organic. Typically, the composting process takes four months, and the plant is producing a monthly output of 7 tons of compost, most of which is sold at a price of 300 riel (\$0.075) per kg. Although the waste taken to the composting plant is mainly from the city markets, there is a problem with inorganic matter mixed in with the organic matter.



COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

In a COMPED-conducted survey, which included 96 households, 56 per cent of the respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the waste collection service. The surveyed community members, however, were concerned about pollution and visible waste in the streets, odour from discarded waste and the deterioration of the local environment from current waste disposal practices.



PLANS FOR THE IRRC

The composting system in Battambang is promising, but it could benefit from an upgrade in its technology. The most pressing issue for the composting plant is to receive organic-only waste. Thus ESCAP has agreed to help the city of Battambang and COMPED to improve the collaboration between all parties and initiate a process for separating waste at two of the town's main markets to improve the quality of waste that can be used for composting and thereby increase the plant's efficiency.