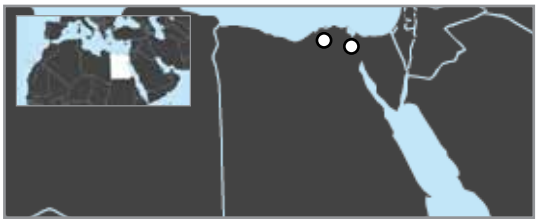
Composting, Egypt

Composting addresses some of the developing world's biggest environmental and agricultural challenges: soil degradation, excessive use of water, increasing amounts of waste, and threats related to climate change.

Location



The project owner operates two composting sites in Egypt. The first site is located in a desert area (known as El Katiba) 60km northeast of Cairo near the Nile Delta. The second site is near Alexandria.

Project

Various types of organic waste are used as input material, such as wood, straw, coffee residue, manure, and fresh plant waste. All input materials are sourced from local and regional farms, agricultural and animal husbandry industries, processing industries, municipalities, private organizations and public organizations. Preference is given to organically certified suppliers of organic waste materials.

The compost utilized in the projects is produced according to strict and approved composting technology guidelines and specifications. The composting process is aerobic due to mechanical aeration and strict controls of temperature, humidity and oxygen levels inside the compost mounds. Aerobic composting results in zero methane emissions. In contrast, the anaerobic baseline situation releases copious amounts of methane into the atmosphere.

It takes six to ten weeks to produce the final composting product. The end product is suitable for organic and conventional farming. A recent study* indicates that sustainable composting projects have a greater potential to reduce GHGs than landfill gas projects.

* Rogger, C., et al. Composting projects under the Clean Development Mechanism: Sustainable contribution to mitigate climate change. Waste Management (2010), doi:10.1016/j.wasman.2010.09.007

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact:

- The economic situation of farmers is being improved because compost applications increase yields and avoid the high cost of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- About 20 full-time jobs with above-average working conditions have been created.
- Donations of money and compost to social institutions support the poor and local communities.

Environmental impact:

- Organic fertilizer from composting helps to address some of the biggest environmental problems in the region, such as lack of fertile land, soil degradation, and pollution of rivers and groundwater from an excessive use of chemical fertilizers.
- Regular use of compost makes crops more disease resistant (leading to less need for chemical pesticides).
- Local air quality has improved thanks to the project activity (because aerobic composting does not produce foul-smelling methane).
- Use of compost can increase the water-holding capacity of the soil by up to 70% (particularly important in dry climate).

Checklist Project 300 271 / 300 057

✓ 3rd party verified::	by TÜV Nord
✓ Transparency:	provided by the Markit Environmental Registry
✓ Annual CO_2-reduction:	120,000 tCO_2e
✓ Social and environmental benefits:	as documented in our database
✓ Marketing material:	pictures available

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