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Title	The ECOSAN Toolkit: A new tool to promote Ecosan.
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The ecosan toolkit: a new tool to promote Ecosan and a first hand help to users

Introduction

Dissemination of ECOSAN (Ecological sanitation) principles and technologies implies the use of a variety of important tools such as: books, articles, presentations, posters, images, videos, 3D models and so on. However, just one of the tools listed above is not enough by itself for a complete overview of ECOSAN. Normally, books are expensive and the accessibility to them is not always easy, especially in developing countries. Technical papers are hardly understood by a layperson. ECOSAN promoters use presentations, 3D models and posters to promote the concepts and technologies, but they are kept in the institutions or in the promoter's side. Concluding, no single tool is complete by itself to reach the dissemination goals, and there is a people's growing need to have access to this information.

On the other side, there is also an increasing necessity from institutions, NGO's, universities, and consultants to disseminate the ECOSAN philosophy and technologies. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to adopt an effective, popular, cheap, and accessible tool, such as Toolkit. Toolkit is a multimedia program that is able to integrate multimedia capacities such as sound, video, photography, text, illustrations, and animation in one single tool. Once the Toolkit is ready, it is easily disseminate through CD copies. Worldwide success of computers makes Toolkit an effective tool with an excellent and promissory future.

The ECOSAN Toolkit design is the result of the promotion process done in Ecuador and the need to find alternatives to reach people and share materials in a cheaper way. This paper analyzes the advantages of Toolkit for the dissemination of ECOSAN. Toolkit shows the advantages and disadvantages of the ECOSAN technologies compared to traditional systems. It allows users to understand the operation and maintenance process of the ecosan sanitation systems. Toolkit includes different visual aids and material to answer the most common questions about ECOSAN in just one single tool.

ECOSAN Toolkit structure:

The ECOSAN Toolkit is divided in six sections. The first section presents, the history of sanitation and addresses the two viewpoints of sanitarians. The first viewpoint finds a fertilizer value in excreta by improving agriculture and conserving nutrients through the soil cycle. The second viewpoint finds no value in excreta and develops a series of sanitation systems, which enrich watercourses in terms of nutrients.

The second section introduces the ecological sanitation concept. The value of excreta in terms of macronutrients, micronutrients, and excreta properties to improve soil characteristics are discussed. A description about the water flows segregation, treatment, use and recycling is also included.

Dry and wet ecological sanitation technologies and biogas combination are presented in the third section, so that the viewer can have an idea of the available technologies. In the fourth section, some worldwide-implemented projects are presented (Figure 1).

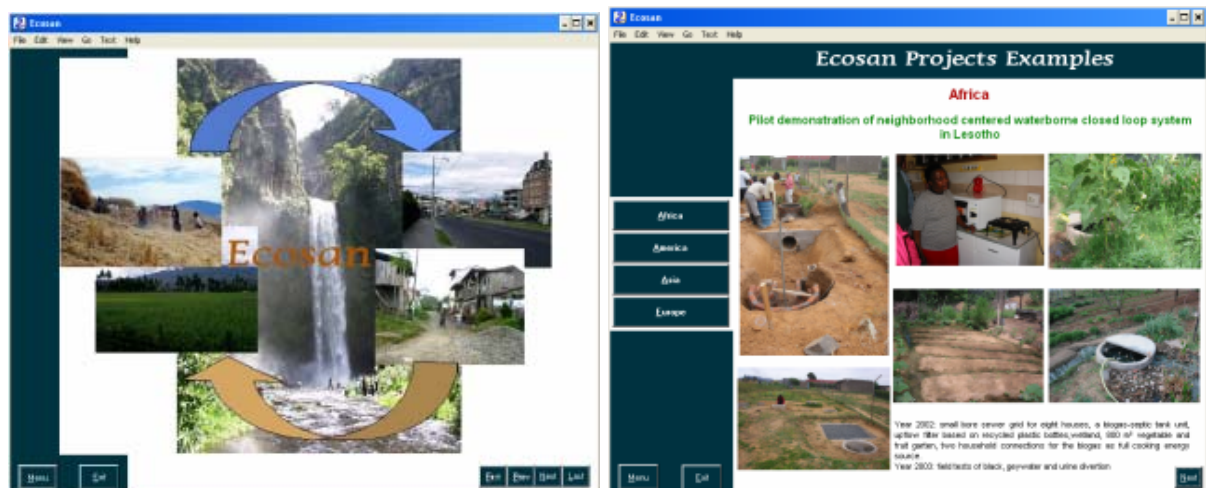


Figure 1: Ecosan Toolbox

In the fifth section, the reader can find technical papers and answers to questions such as: when urine is ready to use as a fertilizer, which is the appropriate dilution of urine for a certain crop, how long the excreta should rest to guaranty its hygiene, how the drying material for a dry toilet should be prepared, how much lime should be added, and how to built a dry toilet by oneself.

Finally, in the last section some useful links to ecological sanitation programs and web pages are provided.

Conclusions

- Toolbox allows the easily spread of ECOSAN philosophy and technologies in a cheap way.
- Toolbox will be a complete tool for promoting ECOSAN and it is a first hand help for communities and promoters.
- The ECOSAN Toolbox is a useful tool to teach new professionals about ecological sanitation, since in Ecuador, they are not aware of other solutions besides the conventional.
- Toolbox can be easily updated, as the ECOSAN technologies are constantly improved and new materials and information are generated.