

Abstract: Third International Conference on Ecological Sanitation

Title	Onsite Sanitation in Lesotho From an Eco-Idea to a Business Opportunity
Keywords	
Author(s)	Mantopi Lebofa
Address	TED (Technologies for economic Development) Box 1172 Maseru 100 Lesotho
Telephone	++266 22 31 77 95
Fax	++266 22 31 02 88
Mobile	++266 62 00 00 63
E-mail	mantopi@yahoo.com
Abstract ID no	M/5

Onsite Sanitation in Lesotho From an Eco-Idea to a Business Opportunity

On-site Sanitation in Lesotho is a technological package where wastewater on premises with gardens is treated biologically (anaerobically and aerobically) and then used for irrigation and fertilization.

The two treatment steps are eliminating oxygen demanding pathogens in the first step and non-oxygen demanding pathogens in the second step. Thus the water is clean of diseases.

The anaerobic process produces biogas, which is used for cooking. As this is normally in rather small amount, it is just a by-product. Potentially the gas produced can be increased if the premise has also animal dung or any other organic matter or waste paper available.

The technology follows the concept of DEWATS (DEcentralized WASTewater Treatment Systems) as developed by BORDA (Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association). The system is found appropriate particularly in Maseru as many households and institutions have serious problems and cost with the disposal of their sewage.

The cost and the headache for emptying septic tanks are a real disturbance for people whose houses are not connected to a central sewer line.

On-Site sanitation does not only save the cost for emptying the septic tanks, but also leads to economising the use of water as the treated water is suddenly available for the garden. Particularly in the dry winter period this allows to operate a vegetable garden the whole year round.

The commercial extension approach has led to a tremendous demand, which allows that the extension can be done without subsidies and Governmental input.

TED has managed to build 40 installations of this kind in Maseru in the last 2 years. The demand for the technology is high but the extension speed is kept under control to avoid drop in quality and to assure that the so far 6 trainees/implementers can securely and sustainably earn their living.

Other than an often heard public opinion that biogas technology is simple, TED defines it as complicated and sensitive against technical and approach related irregularities and modifications.