

Focus and Discourse on Organic Waste: Jordan and Egypt

Background

Egypt and Jordan both face the challenge of organic waste comprising more than 50% of their solid waste streams, with landfilling and dumping as the primary disposal methods. Both countries seek strategic approaches to the management of organic waste, addressing local challenges and global commitments, like the Global Methane Pledge. A circular economy approach with a specific focus on organic waste presents a multitude of benefits including value-added products, decrease of methane emissions and leachate from landfills, creation of green job opportunities, etc.

The idea to tackle this situation in a collaborative effort was born on the sidelines of the hybrid conference 'The Challenge: Combating Global Warming with Waste Sector Actions' organized by the German Environment Agency in 2021 and is related to the German-MENA university network project supported by the PREVENT Waste Alliance. The concept was further developed in 2022 when the University of Rostock and representatives of Ain Shams University and Jordan University of Science & Technology met in Germany. The university partners reached out to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Jordan and the Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA) in Egypt, which both welcomed the project and issued letters of support to the University of Rostock.

Project

The project 'Focus and Discourse on Organic Waste: Jordan and Egypt' is a collaborative effort by the University of Rostock in Germany, Egypt Solid Waste Management Center of Excellence at Ain Shams University, and Jordan University of Science and Technology.

It aims to facilitate the development of comprehensive policies and strategies for planning and implementing organic waste management systems. The main beneficiaries are decision-makers and experts of both countries (WMRA, Jordan Ministry of Environment), administration, municipalities, academia, private sector, international agencies, etc. The advisory assistance also targets educational staff and students specializing in environmental programs, particularly at the project partners Ain Shams University in Cairo and Jordan University of Science & Technology.

Project title	Focus and Discourse on Organic Waste: Jordan and Egypt
Funding organization	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection Advisory Assistance Program
Supervising agency	German Environment Agency
Beneficiaries	Ministry of Environment in Jordan Waste Management Regulatory Authority in Egypt (WMRA)
Project partners	University of Rostock, Germany Egypt Solid Waste Management Center of Excellence Jordan University of Science and Technology
Project duration	October 2023 to February 2026

Project Goals

- Improving higher/university education related to organic waste management to support sector development in both, Egypt and Jordan.
- Promote the National-level coordination and strengthen the regional experience exchange on waste management and related aspects.
- Enable the local and regional beneficiaries and stakeholders, especially WMRA and the Ministry of Environment (Jordan) to cooperate across sectors and in the nexus of methane reduction, climate adaptation, or urban planning.
- Improve the access to information for all stakeholders especially WMRA and the Ministry of Environment (Jordan) in order to change the perception and attitude on organic waste management and ultimately the transition from traditional landfilling to more sustainable options.



Source: <https://pixabay.com/>

Planned activities

Work package 1: A National working group

A National Working Group (NWG) of stakeholders and target groups in Egypt and Jordan will be established under the leadership of WMRA in Egypt and the Ministry of Environment in Jordan to open up the discussion on organic waste management.

Work package 2: Improved information access for decision-makers, experts, and students

A desktop research project will analyze the value chain of organic waste management in Egypt and Jordan. To fill the data gap, fieldwork will carry out surveys with waste facilities. The results will be reported to the NWG to examine the current situation and to develop Bachelor/Master theses and further research activities in Egypt and Jordan.

Work package 3: Improved capacity of university/higher education in the field of waste management and circular economy.

Waste professionals from universities in Germany, Egypt, and Jordan will work together to design, develop, and give lectures on organic waste management integrated as part of the existing programs in Egyptian and Jordanian universities.

Work package 4: Changing perceptions of waste management and circular economy

National discussions and a conference in each of the participating countries with international audiences as well as a study tour aim to support a change in the perception of organic waste management. Activities in this work package are designed to discuss and disseminate the project's findings and ideas.