The Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW) is a five year (with an optional sixth year) activity contributing to the achievement of USAID/Jamaica's SO2 – "improved quality of key natural resources in areas that are both environmentally and economically significant". R2RW comprises three Components contributing to the achievement of the results under SO2. Component 1 assists targeted organizations identify and promote sustainable environmental management practices by resource users. Component 2 focuses on identifying and supporting solutions to improve the enforcement of targeted existing environmental regulations, primarily in the Great River and Rio Grande watersheds. Component 3 provides assistance to key organizations to support, coordinate, and expand watershed management efforts in Jamaica. For more information about R2RW, please contact one of the following organizations:

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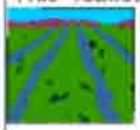
Some Suggestions for Waste Management on Farms

Farming activities are considered among the chief sources of pollution in most watershed areas in Jamaica.

The high concentration of farms in these areas is due to the fact that the soils are fertile, and water is an important component of most farming enterprises. Among the sources of pollution are agricultural chemicals, soil erosion and farm wastes.

The Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW) in collaboration with the Pesticides Control Authority is working diligently to reduce the improper use of agricultural chemicals. The R2RW is establishing practical, affordable and effective soil conservation methods. The management of farm waste still needs much attention.

This leaflet is intended to suggest some approaches that can help to reduce pollution in the Great River and Rio Grande Watersheds, and elsewhere. These approaches can also be used in home gardens.



It is very difficult to avoid the creation and accumulation of excesses in the farming industry. A small seed uses gaseous materials, warmth from the air,

water and nutrients from the soil to grow and create more and more materials (or bio-mass). Materials are also brought in from the outside.

Some of these methods are consumed by man (and other creatures) as food, clothing, housing, and recreation. Some are recycled and re-used, but whatever is not used for any immediate purpose is treated as waste. These include dead plants and animals, crop residues, unconsumed food.

Much of what is now regarded as waste and nuisance on a farm can be of value. The various possible uses include:

? ? Feed for animals;

? ? Mulch or incorporated into the soil as organic matter; and

? ? Soil conservation barrier.

Very little should be available to be washed into streams and rivers to cause pollution.

With proper management, almost all the organic waste can be used on the farm or in the home garden. Here are some simple steps that can be followed:

? ? All possible sources of waste should be identified and classified as to whether they are of minor, moderate or major significance.

? ? Each source should be examined for possible ways of reducing the cause and amount of the waste.

? ? Every form of waste should be quantified and classified as to reducible, re-usable, recyclable or those to be disposed of.

? ? ***The best possible method of disposal should be used, removing only glass, tins, and plastic from the farm.***

If help is needed for treatment or disposal, this should be quickly identified, and the request made for assistance from an appropriate agency or person.

The timing for waste disposal is important. Food waste should be fed to animals quickly or buried to avoid infestation of rats and mice, cockroaches and other pests.

Manure should be quickly treated to avoid decomposition and offensive odors. Materials for mulch or compost can be accumulated in protected places until there is enough to be useful.

Tins and bottles should be kept free of water to avoid mosquito breeding. Small plastic containers and paper boxes can be used to propagate plants.

Uses can be made of some materials that may not have direct value to farming. For example stones can be used for paving pathways, to form soil conservation barriers and gulley plug, soil conservation barrier or harbor for twining plants. Some forms of gray water can be used for irrigation.

As the benefits to be gained from the proper management of farm waste becomes more obvious, for example improved growth, production and quality of plants grown with mulch or compost, growers will be encouraged to try other uses. The more materials are used on the farm or in home gardens, the less will be left to cause environmental pollution.