

EM TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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EM technology has been in the Philippines since 1994 and although we still have much work ahead of us in order to promote this technology to reach every villages of the more than 7,100 islands of this country, we believe that a solid foundation for its promotion and acceptance has been laid in the past four years.

The introduction of EM technology was initiated by a private company, Larutan Resources Development Corporation, with a support of EMRO-JAPAN. Early this year, EM Research Philippines, Inc. (EMRPI) was organized to actively pursue the promotion of EM technology in the Philippines. The new corporate entity also took over the production of Kyusei EM-1, retaining Larutan Resources Development Corporation as its sole distributor.

Kyusei EM-1 and EM-Bokashi acquired their registration from the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority on July 8, 1997 as a microbial inoculant to enhance crop productivity. Registration of Kyusei EM-1 with the Bureau of Animal Industry was released February 1998.

Amongst the initial projects of EMRPI is the publication of a newsletter, EM Philippine News, now circulated to cooperatives all over the Philippines, researches, government institutions and agricultural colleges and universities. The newsletter chronicles the various uses and successful trials conducted both locally and internationally with EM technology. Procedures in using EM have likewise been incorporated.

EMRPI also participated in two international agricultural conferences held in Manila this year, the one The World Farmers Congress/World Agri Expo where Mr. S.P. Yadav, APNAN Director presented "The Use of EM for Agricultural Productivity Enhancement in various Asian Countries" and another the Asian Regional Conference and Exhibition on Natural and Herbal Products, also known as Biosearch '98 where Mr. Takashi Kyan, APNAN'S Senior Technical Officer presented "The Use of EM Technology in Asia."

We have been also invited to present EM technology to the Philippines' top cooperative during a forum sponsored by The Land Bank of the Philippines last August. We are presently working on this very potent channel for the promotion of EM technology and distribution of EM products in the different provinces of the Philippines.

Late last year, a collaborative trial with EMRPI was conducted by the Bureau of Soils of the Department of Agriculture, on the use of EM technology in asparagus grown in "lahar-soil." Lahar, for those who have not heard of it, was expelled by the phenomenal eruption of Mount Pinatubo volcano on 1992. Mt. Pinatubo sprinkled volcanic ashes not only on my rooftop in Manila, but as far as Taiwan and other neighboring countries. The greater bulk of this outpour

devastated the productivity in several provinces of Central Luzon, the “rice bowl” of the Philippines. Whole towns and communities were relocated and livelihoods of farmers were totally affected. Hence, the efforts of the Philippine government, to provide alternative livelihood to lahar-affected farmers is demanded.

The 50% EM treated compost 50% recommended chemical fertilizer yielded outstanding harvest as against the various treatments in growing asparagus on "lahar."

One of the regular users of EM technology, Dr. Lope Molina of Tarlac, use 50% Bokashi / 50% recommended dosage of chemical fertilizer for his rice production, and followed-up with regular foliar application of EM-FPE. To his astonishment and delight, this formula increased his harvest from 101 cavans/hectare of the previous year to 219 cavans/hectare or a staggering increase of 118%. Without using any chemical insecticide/fungicide, his rice fields remained free from tungro virus and golden snail which damaged his neighboring fields during that particular season.

The livestock production sector has actually been the sector that brings us the highest sales in the past years. A big number of farms have tested the efficacy and are already regular users of EM's 3-point application. Although we are already used to the usual feedback about control of smell at the farm, which we expect anyway, sometimes we still receive pleasant surprises from our clients.

For example, Mr. Nemi Rodriguez of Lemery, Batangas, having heard of EM at the World Farmer's Congress and noting a steady decline in the egg production of his Hi-Line layers, decided to inquire about EM. After one week of applying EM on the drinking water, he started incorporating EM Bokashi on the feeds. After two weeks, the batch which he has already started culling began laying eggs. With regular use of EM, his use of antibiotics has likewise been drastically minimized.

Industrial use of EM is also slowly gaining foothold. Metro Manila of Uniwide Sales, Inc., a company owning and operating several huge malls within Metro Manila and its suburbs, has been using EM in maintaining their smelly sewage. They have been using EM for the past two years except for a short period when they attempted to stop, only to be deluged with complaints about bad smells. They reverted back to using EM regularly and after a period, noted that there has been very minimal need to de-clog the pipelines to the wastewater treatment plants of the malls.

Cindy's, one of the big fast food chains in the Philippines has a processing plant in Barangay Tibag, Tarlac City. The community filed a complaint with the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) of the foul odor from the waste water lagoon of the plant. An officer at the DENR recommended the use of EM. After a month of weekly inoculation, the foul odor was gone and the scum on top of the lagoon water was reduced to about 25% prior to using EM. The company now spends less on waste water treatment and the complaints have been withdrawn from the DENR.

At our very own EMRPI model farm located inside the Uni-Green Compound in Barangay Anilao-Labac, Lipa City, we have grown high priced organic vegetables exclusively

distributed to Japanese and Korean restaurant clients in Metro Manila. The model farm grossed One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P150) or \$3.50 per square meter or (P 1.1M) or \$35,000.00/hectare per year. Unfortunately, our land area was too small 5,000 m² and to be economically viable as a whole. Nevertheless, our statistic showed that given a bigger and more convenient location, using EM technology, we could have achieved more than 400% the normal average earnings of a Filipino farmer tilling the same land area.

Before I end my presentation, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of two of our EM users in the Philippines who are here with us today:

Mr. Sammy Uson, who owns a poultry layer farm producing about 100,000 eggs per day. He also grows very healthy and delicious tilapia on a pond of waste water coming from his poultry farm. With 3 points program application, he was able to accomplish the purpose. Suppressed order, decreased flies, healthier chicks, and more egg laying.

And Mr. Alex Reyes, inventor and manufacturer of a mechanical shredder. He uses EM to produce organic fertilizer from shredded organic materials. He is a virtual walking EM advertisement because he recommends EM in the same breath that he makes his sales pitch for his shredder.

Somebody once said that work is never finished in a day, in a year, in a lifetime. But what is most important is that it should be started as soon as possible. The promotion of EM technology in the Philippines has definitely started and although there may be some obstacles preventing us from accelerating our efforts as we would have wanted to, it has already firmly set its foundation.

With this, I would like to thank this forum for the opportunity of presenting to you an update on the promotion of our earth saving technology in the Philippines.

We look forward to closer cooperation with everyone in the future, because ours is a technology that holds no boundaries.