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NEWS AND ARTICLES

DEMONSTRATION OF COMPOST MAKING FROM KITCHEN AND GARDEN WASTE

Written by: Bebe Norlita Mohamed, Nurul Hidayah Mohd Khairlani, Ts. Mohd Hafizz Wondi, Nurul Syahirah Mansur, and Muhamad Nasarudin Sulaiman

In conjunction with the Community Program for Raising Awareness on Open Burning under the Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystem in Malaysia (SMPEM) Project 2025, a session on the preparation of compost fertilizer from kitchen waste was held. The main objective of the session was to educate the local community on sustainable waste management practices by recycling kitchen and garden waste into compost fertilizer. Compost fertilizer produced from kitchen and garden waste is often rich in nutrients that enhance soil fertility.

Facilitators explained the essential components of composting, focusing on the need to balance "brown" (carbon-rich) material, such as dried leaves and cardboard with "green" (nitrogen-rich) kitchen waste. This balance is critical because carbon provides energy and nitrogen supplies nutrients for the necessary microbial growth. The benefits of using Effective Microorganisms (EM) were also explained by facilitators, which were shown to speed up decomposition, improve compost quality, and reduce odors. Participants were then guided through the practical process. They learned step-by-step instructions on building a compost bin and correctly layering the materials. To ensure success, facilitators stressed the importance of system maintenance, including regular turning for aeration and consistent monitoring of moisture levels.



The session received positive feedback from the community. Participants discovered just how simple and beneficial composting can be, particularly when using kitchen and garden waste that would otherwise be thrown away. By the end of the workshop, many participants expressed their intent to start composting at home as a sustainable way to manage their waste. This outcome successfully demonstrated how small changes in daily habits like managing kitchen and garden waste can significantly impact both the environment and the community's gardening efforts.



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