

# Farming with compost in Africa

Producing quality compost can be done by any farmer. All you need is waste from compost. Waste used is obtained from fruit remains like pineapples and mango peels all mixed together.

Other ingredients are from pineapple crowns, cardboards, wood shavings and poultry manure. All these are mixed together in pile form to give compost pile. When compost materials consist of both wet and dry, the dry materials are put down first then wet materials on top. This helps dry materials to absorb the moisture from the wet materials. The different ingredients brings together micro-organisms from different sources hence producing a very rich compost.

## Mixture breakdown

Accelerating the breaking down of the mixture tissue is done by a starter or accelerator. Incase you do not have an accelerator, chop the materials into smaller sizes so that they can break down faster.

It takes 2-3 months for mixture to be fully matured. Within the same period, a farmers should do the following; turn the mixture form time to time to remove stale air and redistribute micro-organisms. Adding more dry materials for pile to heat up or green materials when it's over heating.

## More bio-diversity

Compost liquid is brewed from the compost by putting the compost in a sack and immersing it in water. The microbes and nutrients in the soil sip slowly into the water and the process takes between 7-10 days. The compost is then taken out and and the liquid is stirred and applied.

The compost tea helps plants to resist diseases as well as be drought resistant. It is usually sprayed on the leaves when the water is conducive and there is some degree of moisture in the soil.

## **Applying compost**

The compost is usually applied between the plants on top of the soil just next to the plant. When ready, compost is sweet smelling.

For leaf farming, composting is the best form of reusing waste created on the farm.