

SAFE DISPOSAL OF EXCRETA USING AN ECOLOGICAL SANITATION TOILET



Section 1

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HOW TO USE THE FLIPCHART

1. The flipchart is designed to stimulate interaction with community members. Encourage the audience to ask questions and make comments.
2. The questions in the text will help you to guide the discussion. Possible answers to these questions are included so that you can supplement the comments from the audience.
3. The flipchart is more effective when used with a small audience (15-25 persons). If you have more than 25 persons in a community, have two or more sessions.
4. Select a comfortable place and make sure everybody can see the illustrations very well.
5. Hold the flipchart straight. Talk loudly.
6. Demonstrate as much as possible
7. Have the audience summarise the major stages of the day's discussions.

ILLUSTRATION 1

Let us learn about how our household/community can safely dispose of excreta using an Ecological Sanitation (ECOSAN) toilet.

ILLUSTRATION 2

How excreta are disposed at the household and community levels.

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. What do you see in the illustration?
2. Solicit answers to what the community understands about excreta
3. Discuss how excreta are disposed at the household/ community level

ANSWERS:

1. A child openly defecating, a man using a communal pit / trench latrine, a woman using a VIP, a man using a bucket latrine and a woman using a flush toilet.
2. Excreta are:
 - Faeces
 - Faeces plus urine
 - urine
 - they are also called toilet
3. Excreta disposal:
 - Pit /trench latrine
 - Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine
 - Open defecation (drop latrine)
 - Flush toilet



ILLUSTRATION 3

Consequences of not having access to sanitary toilets

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. Solicit answers to what individuals understand about ECOSAN toilets
2. Discuss why people do not have access to sanitary toilets
3. Discuss the consequences of not using sanitary toilets
4. Ask about who may be affected when people defecate in the open

ANSWERS:

1. ECOSAN toilets:
 - Toilet that is clean
 - Toilets that do not give out bad odour
 - Toilets that do not provide breeding ground for flies
 - Toilets that have good sanitation, privacy and protection
2. Access to sanitary toilets:
 - Cannot afford sanitary toilets
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Cultural/religious preference
3. Consequences of not using sanitary toilets
 - Fly and odour problems
 - Pollution of drinking water
 - Excreta/Sanitation-related diseases to humans diarrhoea, typhoid, cholera and worm infestation
4. People who may be affected:
 - Everyone in the community:
 - Working class
 - Children and school pupils
 - Adults and their families
 - Foreigners including tourists

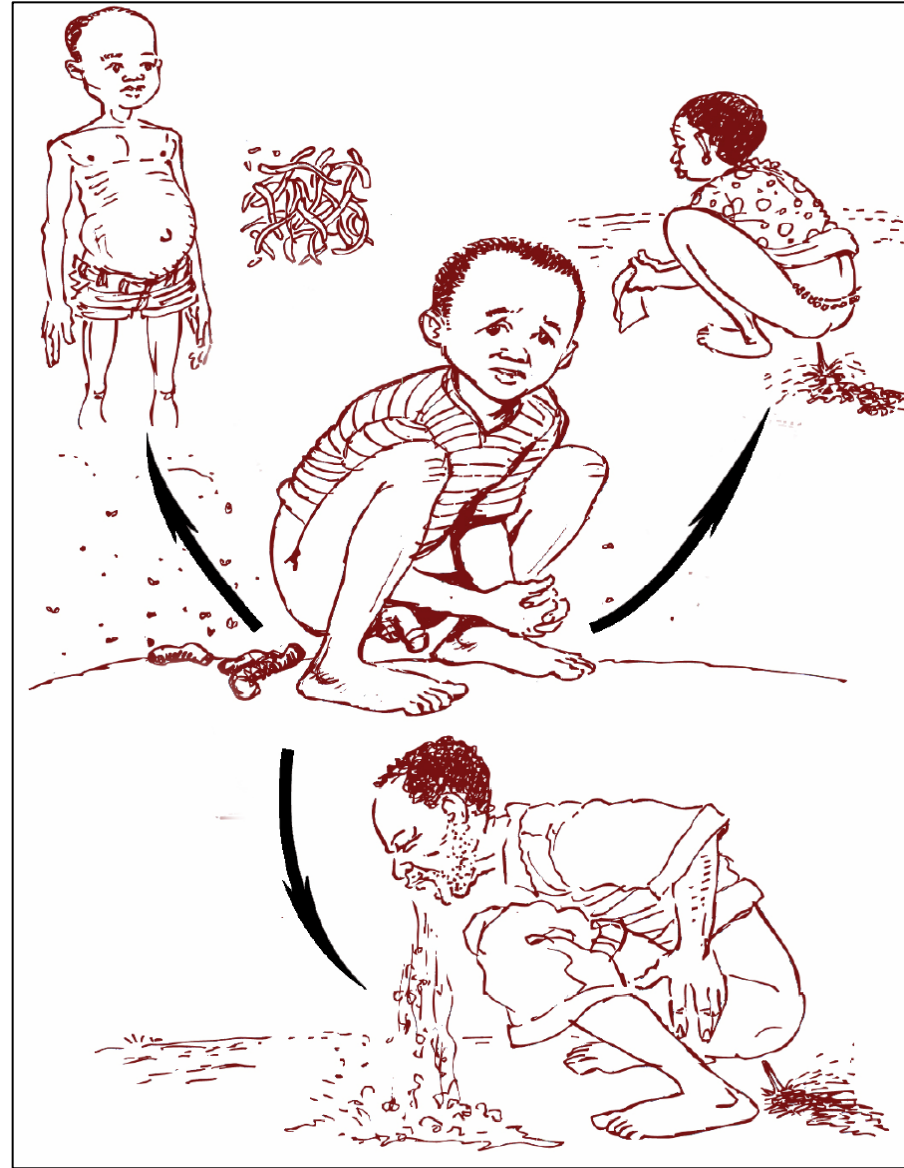


ILLUSTRATION 4

Creating awareness of an ECOSAN toilet that reduces health risks

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. Ask community members whether they know about any low cost sanitary toilets. List the examples (Will depend on whether they have been exposed to a sanitation project)
2. Explain what the ECOSAN single brick chamber (vault) urine-diverting toilet is. Emphasise on the separation of urine from faeces

ANSWERS:

1. Low cost sanitation toilets
 - Kumasi Ventilated Improvement Pit (KVIP) latrine
 - Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine
2. It is a urine-diverting/separating toilet which uses a squat plate/pan that diverts/separates the urine from the faeces
 - Urine is led through a pipe into a urine storage container
 - Faeces are dropped down into a container (10-20 litre bucket) held in a brick chamber (vault)

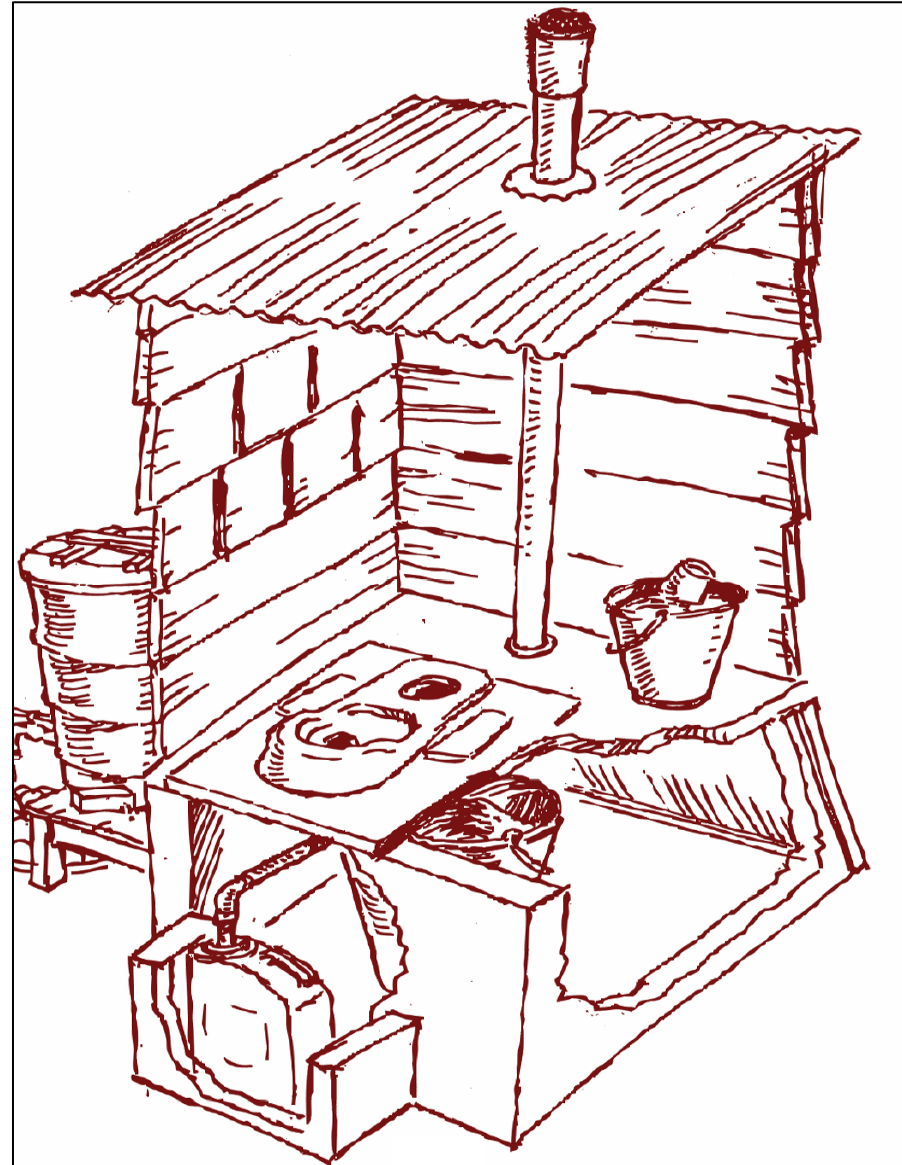


ILLUSTRATION 5

How the ECOSAN toilet works.

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. What do you see in the illustration?
2. Discuss the uses of the ECOSAN Toilet
3. Explain how the ECOSAN toilet works as a processing unit

ANSWERS:

1. The illustration shows an ECOSAN toilet with the following:
 - A squat plate with two separate holes for the urine and faeces
 - An outlet pipe that drains into plastic container
 - A bucket container that receives the faeces
 - A ventilation pipe
 - A bucket containing a mixture of dry sand and ash
 - A water container for hand washing
2. Uses of ECOSAN
 - Disposal system
 - Processing unit
3. How ECOSAN works
 - Urine is directed into the front part of the squat plate
 - It is diverted through a pipe into a storage container
 - Urine is thus separated from the faeces and used as a liquid fertiliser
 - The faeces drop directly into a separate container (bucket) held within a chamber
 - Some dry soil mixed with wood ash (4:1) is added to cover the faeces after every visit using a small cup. When the bucket is nearly full the contents are deposited in a composting site away from the toilet
 - This natural process is entirely biological resulting in a valuable humus-like soil that can be used to enhance the growth of food and three crops



ILLUSTRATION 6

How to use the ECOSAN toilet

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. What do you see in the illustration
2. Discuss the usefulness of adding dry soil and ash after every visit to deposit faeces

ANSWERS:

1. The illustration
 - A boy using an ECOSAN toilet
 - The boy puts away used toilet paper in a container
 - He pours a cupful of premix dry soil and ash (4:1) into the bucket to cover the faeces
2. Usefulness of adding dry soil and ash
 - Converts, purifies and hasten the conversion of the mass of excreta into safe and rich compost
 - Dries the faeces to reduce odour and flies
 - The reduction of odour makes the toilet pleasant to use
 - The control of flies is important for health reasons

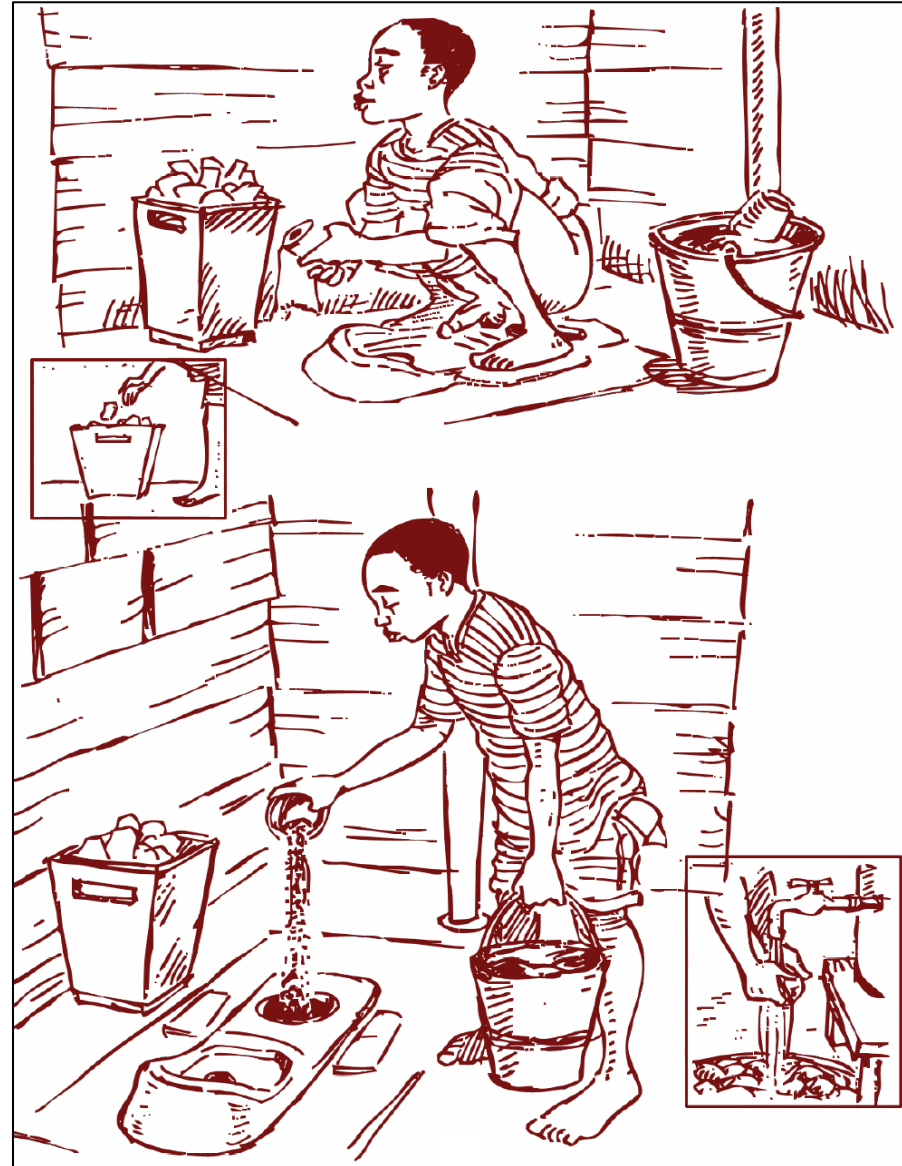


ILLUSTRATION 7

The 'don't's' of using urine diverting toilets

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. What do you see in the illustration?
2. Discuss what users of the urine diverting toilets should not do after visits to deposit faeces.

ANSWERS:

1. - A man squatting and dropping faeces through the urine outlet of the squat plate
- A man passing urine through the faeces outlet of the squat plate
- A man standing to pass urine through the urine outlet of the squat plate
- A man pouring a cupful of premix dry soil and ash into the urine outlet of the squat plate.



ILLUSTRATION 8

Benefits of hand washing facilities in ECOSAN toilets.

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. What do you see in the illustration?
2. Ask community members whether they wash their hands after visiting the toilet
3. Discuss the usefulness of washing hands after every visit to deposit faeces

ANSWERS:

1. A woman washing her hands after a visit to the toilet
3. Usefulness of washing hands
 - Improves personal hygiene
 - Reduces infection by germs

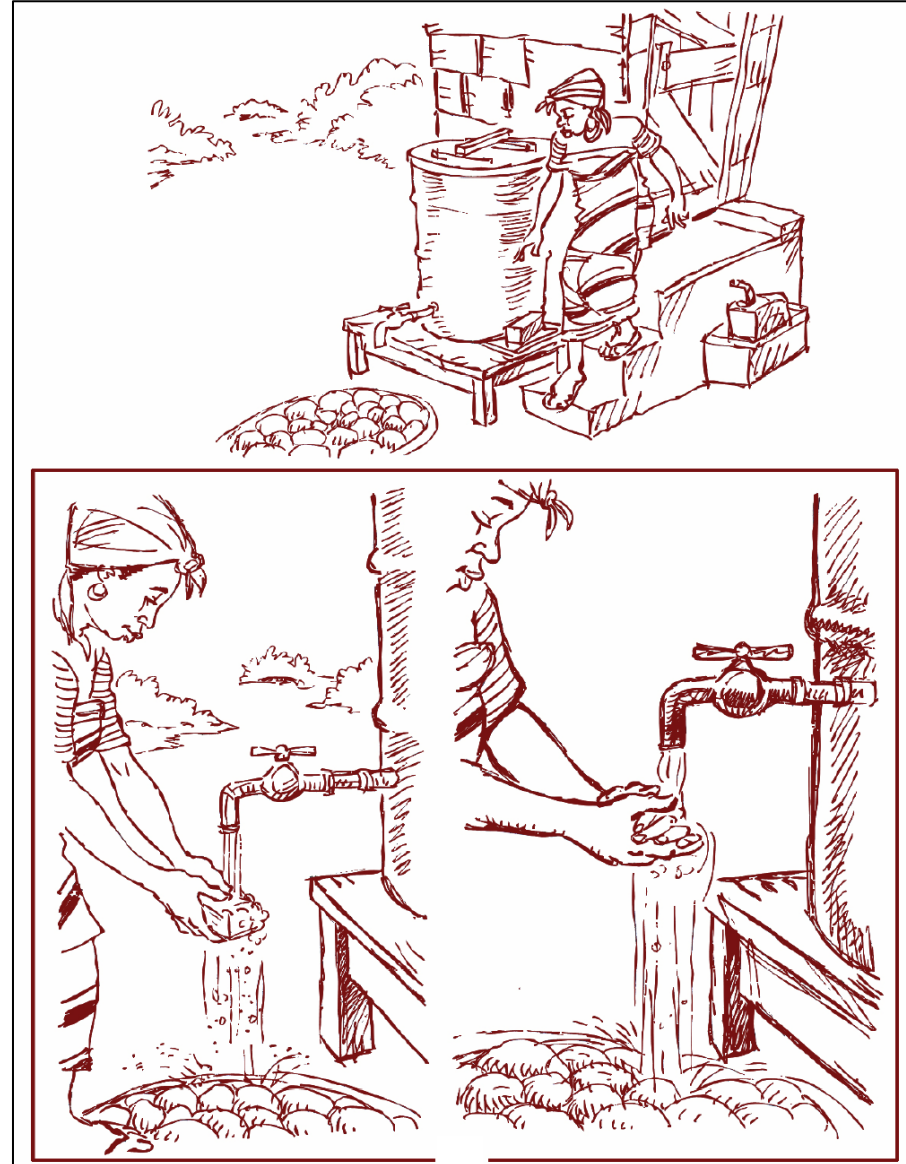


ILLUSTRATION 9

Benefits of the ECOSAN toilet to the household/ community

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. Solicit answers to what they think are possible advantages of the ECOSAN system. Note them down
2. Explain the benefits of using the ECOSAN toilet.

ANSWERS:

- 2 Improved sanitation and recycling of excreta for agriculture:
 - Leads to a safe way to dispose of excreta
 - Allows for safe and easy handling of the solid component (faeces plus soil and wood ash)
 - Allows for separate collection of urine for use as liquid fertilizer
 - Provide compost that may be used for food and tree crops farming
- Odour and fly control
- Reduces the fly and odour/smell problems associated with pit latrines and open defecation
 - Dryer faeces as a result of its separation from the urine and the mix of dry soil and wood ash have the effect of reducing odour and flies

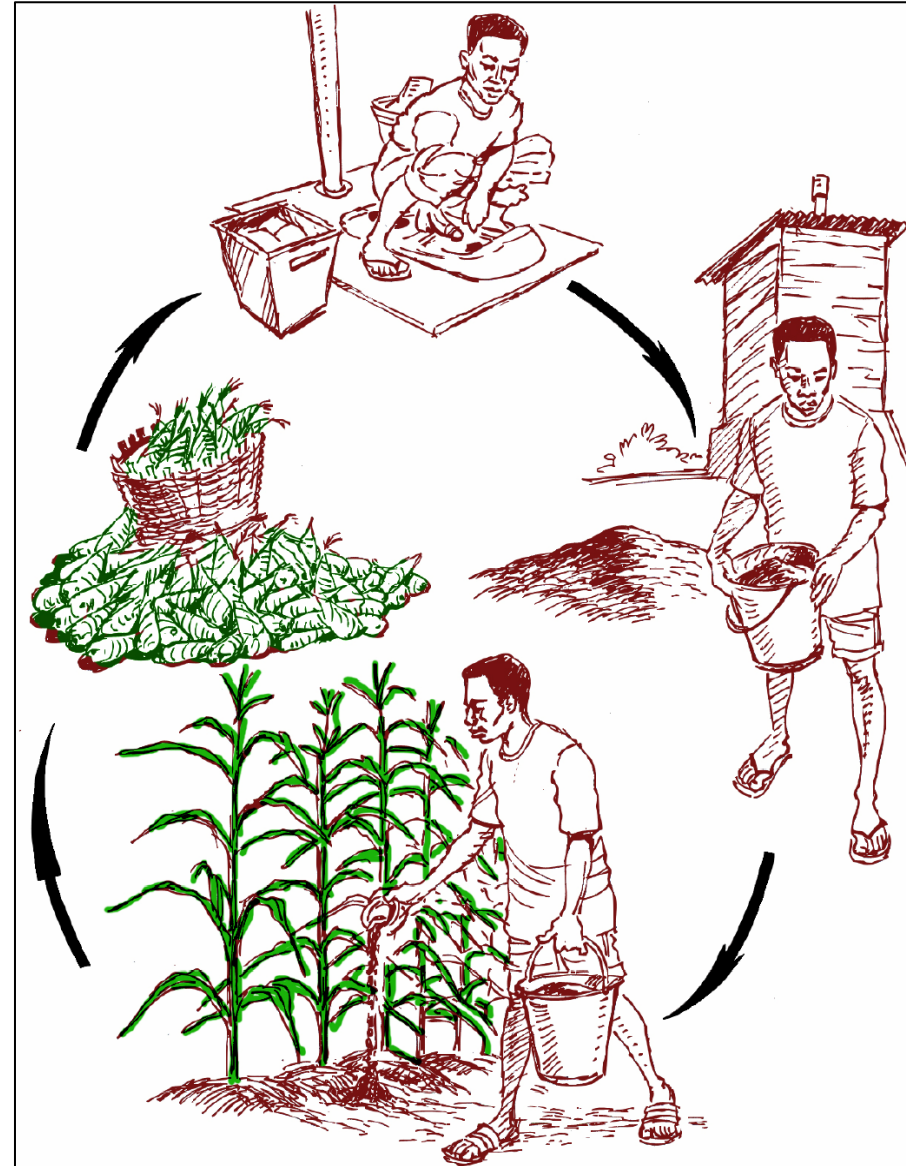


ILLUSTRATION 10

Routine maintenance of the urine-diverting toilet

NOTE TO THE COMMUNITY OFFICER

1. Explain the importance of routine cleaning of the toilet
2. Discuss when and how to clean and maintain the toilet

ANSWERS:

1. Importance of routine cleaning:
 - To enable the toilet system function very well
 - To prevent any fouling from taking place
2. Cleaning and maintaining the toilet:
 - Clean once every month or two
 - Wash the bucket chamber, the faeces and urine containers after removing and emptying them
 - Clean the squat plate including the sidewalls with water
 - Flush out the urine pipe with water
 - Wash down toilet floor and chamber with water
 - Pull out and clean out cobwebs that may have developed in the vent pipe with tree branch or dry cloth
 - Wash the vent thoroughly and clean out with water
 - Allow all parts washed (bucket, urine container and vent) to dry and put back

