

**The Use of Solid Waste in Urban Agriculture:
The case of Yaounde, Cameroon
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The present situation of solid waste management in the city of Yaoundé is inefficient and agricultural practices are unsustainable. This is identified by the numerous heaps of uncollected waste along the streets and at illegal dumps. This thesis examines how the use of solid waste can improve the sustainability of urban agriculture in Yaoundé.

Considering the fact that empirical data that elucidate the use of solid waste in urban agriculture is currently limited, this thesis generates information on the solid waste management and urban agricultural system. The background for the focus of this study is the presence of uncollected waste which causes health and environmental problems and also the high rate of application of mineral fertilizers in gardens in Yaoundé.

To achieve this goal for the study, some methods were used. A series of questionnaires were administered to sampled households in the six zones of Yaoundé, to some NGOs and to farmers. The survey questions addressed waste issues, the whole waste management systems and issues in the urban agricultural system.

Findings from the research reveal that about 1100 tonnes of waste is generated per day, and three-quarters of the waste is biodegradable. Of the total amount of waste generated, just about 40% is collected. Despite the fact that much of the waste is biodegradable which offers opportunities for use in urban agriculture, the current use of solid waste in farms is low which indicates that waste recycling and reuse is low in Yaoundé.

Furthermore, this study examined ways in which solid waste can be used in urban farming in Yaoundé since this could be a potential solution to address the complex solid waste problems. The use of organic waste can contribute to limit the use of mineral fertilizer which has negative environmental effects.