



Collection and Characterization of Domestic Solid Waste in Cotonou

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Received July 01, 2013; Accepted March 10, 2014

Abstract: The present work was carried out in Cotonou from October, 2011 till January, 2012. It consisted, in the collection and characterization of the domestic solid waste in Cotonou. The characterization of the household waste of 13 districts give in mass 51.02 % of biodegradable materials; 27.59 % of fine sand; 9.06 % of plastics; 3.57 % of papers and boxes; 3.01 % of metals / scraps 2.85 % of textiles; 1.52 % of glasses; 0.91 % of shoes / leathers; 0.54 % of bone and shells; 0.21 % of used batteries. On the other hand waste collected from two markets give in mass 67.37 % of biodegradable materials; 9.12 % of plastics; 6.59 % of cardboards and papers; 5.16 % of fine materials; 4.38 of shells, carapaces of crabs and pearls; 2.78 % of metals; 2.14 % of glasses; 1.83 % of textiles and foam fragment; 0.62 % of shoes and leathers. On the whole, the biodegradable materials of 13 districts are less important than those of two markets. However they are valuable through composting).

Keywords: *domestic solid waste, collection, characterization, biodegradation, Cotonou*

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