

Project Update: March 2003

The project was delayed for one month because the rainy season here in Indonesia brought some heavy rain that caused flooding in some areas including Surabaya and East Java. We had to delay the project because people were busy repairing and cleaning their house and environment.

Project permission and socialisation to local government and community in East Java especially in the Driyorejo district was conducted in March 2002. The environment authority and local government welcome this project and are also trying to implement the vermicompost method to treat the organic waste. Local people were less interested because the awareness to treat the waste is still low and they still prefer to dispose their waste into the river or other disposable sites. Some farmers were interested and want to try this house waste treatment method to get the vermicompost and substitute the chemical fertilizer application on their garden.

Positive outcomes thus far include:

- People understand that they will pollute the water and their wells if they dispose their garbage into the river.
- People understand that they can treat their garbage to become a useful product such as the vermicompost.
- People understand that they should separate the garbage into organic and inorganic waste to make the treatment process easier and faster.
- People have reduced the garbage they disposed to the riverbank because the organic waste was used as worm food.