Focus on Japan

Japan Organics Recycling Association Activities

To achieve its goals, JORA will promote public awareness, development of recycling systems and markets, and educational programs.

Toshiaki Tadano

RECOGNIZING the vital need to recycle the 280 million tons of organic residuals generated every year in Japan, the Japan Organics Recycling Association (JORA) was established on August 1, 2000. The objectives of JORA are to promote efficient and relevant reuse, thus playing a key role to create a sustainable society and preserve the environment. Efficient utilization of unused organic resources will become one of the major industries of the 21st century.

To achieve these objectives, various activities have been planned and some already launched. JORA activities can be classified into: Promotion of public awareness; Development of human resources; and Development of recycling systems. JORA is going to support activities of local citizens for organics recycling, promote mutual cooperation among generators, processors and users of recycled products, organize conferences and establish a nationwide network by organizing the Green Forum.

With these concepts, JORA is going to 1) organize training courses, lectures, seminars, and offer information to people engaged in the organic resource recycling industry, 2) give independent certifications to coordinators, advisors, production managers, etc. in order to secure leaders, specialists, special technicians for respective recycling systems such as composting, production of methane and ethanol, feed, carbonization and others, 3) commend the contributors in research and development, production, distribution, etc., and 4) support research and development personnel.

Compost is a major recycling product at present, but recovery of production costs for processing organic wastes is difficult. There are various requests from users, such as: “We cannot obtain what we need;” “We cannot believe the quality of compost;” and “is inconvenient to obtain compost,” etc. Significant markets need to be formed, but market development programs are lacking.

Formation of local systems adaptable to each region is important for recycling/reuse of organic wastes, because the characteristics of the waste materials are different in each region. Present and future status of organic wastes generated in each region have to be deeply analyzed. Then, on the basis of these considerations and analysis, the recycling systems that are well adaptable to each region should be promoted.

JORA plans to 1) Survey, research and develop organic resources recycling technology and marketing, 2) Prepare organic resource recycling manuals for composting, heat-energy generation, carbonization and feed; and 3) Evaluate and commend the organic resource recycling systems, technology and products.

It is especially important that JORA is going to establish “Bio-Recycling Stations” in two or three regions which furnish model installations for high-quality composting, animal feed, heat-energy production, carbonization, recycling of building wastes as well as the functions for research and information management for recycling of organic wastes. It is expected that these stations will become a model for development of an efficient recycling system in each region.

Toshiaki Tadano serves as vice chairman of JORA and is Emeritus Professor at Hokkaido University. A report in October 2000 BioCycle provides additional information on JORA.

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