

The entire scheme is sustainable only if:

- households can afford pit emptying
- enterprises can make a profit while adhering to the rules and regulations
- treatment operations meet the established treatment objectives and are profitable or operated at least cost
- the responsible authority can achieve sustainable iFSM at minimal costs.



Photo 3: Private entrepreneurs – stewards for clean cities

SANDEC has conducted financial assessment studies on FS collection enterprises in Bamako (Mali), Ouahigouya (Burkina Faso) and Kumasi (Ghana). The studies reveal that FS collection is a profitable business if haulage distances remain short and if licensing fees and sanitation taxes levied by public entities are channelled back to subsidise the system. In West Africa for example, private entrepreneurs (Photo 3) have taken the lead in managing the stewardship for safeguarding the urban environment through well-managed FS collection (Jeuland 2004). In Ouahigouya (Burkina Faso), a PhD study is in progress to devise stakeholder involvement methods and a methodology to evaluate strategic scenarios for iFSM as an integral component of urban sanitation upgrading (Koanda *et al.* 2004). Furthermore, SANDEC is investigating the impact of stakeholder involvement on iFSM sustainability.

Dissemination, Training and Competence Building

An increasing number of national and municipal authorities, including external support agencies feel the need to improve

FSM. We are responding to this need by strengthening our efforts to assist selected institutions in building expertise on technical and managerial aspects as well as on monitoring and applied research in FSM.



Photo 4: Training of trainers – key elements in building professional competence

The specific ongoing activities comprise:

- Producing guidance documents and briefs on technical and non-technical aspects of FSM.
- Developing training modules and training professionals and trainers in FSM (Photo 4).
- Identifying institutions in the South interested in developing FSM expertise and assisting them in their efforts.
- Liaising with multilateral and bilateral support agencies, often key players, in formulating urban sanitation strategies.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIT	Asian Inst. of Technology (Bangkok, Thailand)
CIS/UNR	Centro de Ingeniería Sanitaria, Univ. Nacional de Rosario (Argentina)
FS	Faecal sludges
FSM	Faecal sludge management
iFSM	Improved FS management
IWMI	Inter. Water Management Institute (Africa Office)
KMA	Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (Ghana)
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah Univ. of Science & Tech. (Kumasi, Ghana)



Photo 5: Ghanaian sanitation experts and treatment plant operator at an FS treatment plant in Ghana (left: FS settling-thickening tank; right: stabilization pond for settling tank supernatant)