

Some Aspects of Activities of the Technology of Effective Microorganisms in the Americas

G. S. Kozawa

Plant/Production Manager, EM Technologies, Inc., Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

Abstract

EM Technologies, Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in June, 1993, in the State of Arizona, United States of America. Through these four years, projects were initiated with major universities, non-governmental agencies, farmers and agriculturists, livestock industries, waste water treatment plants, and recycling organic materials. An effective EM network operates in Southern Arizona and Southern California. EM Technologies, Inc. has many applied research activities throughout the Americas – Canada, United States of America, Mexico and Central Latin America. These projects highlight the efficacy of EM in a multitude of environments. The success of these programs are presented.

Introduction

Four years have transpired since EM Technologies, Inc. was incorporated in the State of Arizona, USA. With Mr. Izuo Miyashita at the helm of the company, we have gained much needed experiences and learnt many lessons. When we started our company, it was an unknown entity in the field of many experienced microbial products corporations. It was an “uphill battle” to use a metaphor. We gained some ground and lost others as in the saying, “three steps forward and two steps backward”. In this atmosphere of uncertainty, we received much help from individuals who were associated with Joheri Fellowship, U.S.A., and also, from Japanese-American community who heard about us through their contacts in Japan, especially, from Okinawa Prefecture. We were encouraged by these groups. We put out advertisement in a magazine but responses turned out to be just a curiosity or wanting samples to test. We didn’t get much from them. The grassroot approach worked the best. It has taken time **but it worked !**

This technology was so new that people will ask us for research data to validate what we have done. However, there were few who were looking and found us. These are the people who made the difference for us. There were many donations and samples went out for research. The results show promise, no results, just the same as a control, etc. However, for those who used the product in the field from the beginning, they saw the results. Unlike other countries in the world, we are a country of LAW. The Environmental Protection Agency has 50,000 pages of regulations that only an attorney-at-law can understand. Also, we have a tendency to look at the effect and think of the preventive measures instead of looking at the cause and finding the solution. We are a country of “instant” gratification. These are the “uphill battle” we faced. In spite of these factors, we are working diligently and steadily to make a dent and “take the hill” one contour at a time.

Representative Activities

In the State of Arizona, especially in Southern Arizona, where the City of Tucson is located, we have established EM Technology through EM Bokashi Network. It began as a small project endeavor at a local elementary school to recycle cafeteria left-over food. We introduced the technology to the school and a parent was in charge of recycling cafeteria foods. It grew to receive the environment award from the city. The L.E.A.P. award! It is a highest honor that a school can receive for environmental projects. The school received \$ 125.00. Then, many parents and teachers took notice of the recycling program. From there, EM Bokashi Network grew to many other Tucson Unified School Districts. Our staff is conducting training seminars for teachers to gain their understanding and support. One of the noticeable work in the area is with the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind. They are fermenting all of their cafeteria left overs with EM and composting them further in the ground. This is then “dug up” and sold to the community as a fertilizer. It is becoming a popular item in the community.

Next on the agenda is our work with the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department. Our discussion

with Tuscon Water Department didn't "take off" as we wanted. The bureaucratic red tape as usual put a hold on our project. However, Tuscon Parks and Recreation took notice and we are doing a project of treating a Ft. Lowell Park Pond 3/4 acre feet at water. The water comes from "back wash" filter water from the part pool and reclaimed water from the City of Tuscon. It is an interesting project and we have the results.

In the State of California, Los Angeles EM Fukyu Kai (Los Angeles EM Volunteer Promotion Association) took the cause of EM and EM philosophy to heart. They appeared on the local Japanese TV Network and received twenty minutes of coverage. Since then, things are not the same anymore. They had a goal of converting 1,000 people to this technology and they are almost there. They now have a goal to reach 10,000 people in Southern California. Again, these are the people who are very concerned about the community and the world. They are very dedicated people. This is grassroots approach!

Through their efforts, EM Bokashi Network has spread to three schools in Southern California: two private schools – International Bilingual School and Nishi Yamato School. The third is a Culver City School, a junior high school, with a total language submersion program. The El Malino Junior High and Nishi Yamato School will have their presentation at the 14th annual Okinawa Conference on Applied Microbiology at the EM Internet site. The volunteer group has done fantastic work.

In the State of Washington, the Sultan River Nature Farm and EM Northwest, Inc. have spread its wings in Western and Eastern Washington. Two dairy farm lagoons are being treated with EM in the West, and in the East, we have a "timothy" hay farmer who is selling hay to Japan and apple orchard farmer wanting to change over to organic apple farm. Also, we will have our first commercial production of EM Bokshai in the town of Snohomish at **Dayville – Feed & Hay**.

In the State of Texas, we are working with an enthusiastic convert to EM, Mr. Stan Frank, an attorney-at-law, who is going "hog wild" promoting EM throughout the state. He has introduced EM to rice grower who is doing his own field experiment to see what types of application strategy will give the best results. Also, his activities have reached an organic cotton farmer of Koi Association in Texas. He is one of the many dedicated individuals in United States who is marketing and promoting EM.

Our new expansion areas are in West Palm Beach, Florida, and Weaverville, North Carolina. Again, these are the people who were seeking something that had worth and future. As one man said, "I have made enough money, now I want to leave a legacy to my children and others that I contributed to the betterment of the environment". Now, we are attracting people of this calibre.

In Central Latin America, we have done well with so many people of varied backgrounds helping us with the promotion of EM. In Nicaragua, the national University of Agriculture has done wonderful work in efficacy test using EM and EM Bokashi. It is presented as a poster. Dr. Tabora of E.A.R.T.H. University has done good work in the "black sigatoka" experiment.

In Mexico, we have completed our efficacy test and it was very successful.