A CANDY FOR A PEE: The Evolution of Human-Sanitized Urine as Fertilizer Option in Niger

LOW-COST ACCESSIBLE FERTILISER
Sanitized human urine, commonly referred to as OGA (“the boss”) by women’s groups in Niger, is a natural fertilizer with no/low cost that increases pearl millet production up to 30%. The development of OGA started with the need to search for fertilizer options accessible to the most vulnerable and poor farmers, especially women that have limited resources to purchase chemical fertilizers or to collect and transport manure.

WHY CANDY FOR PEE
OGA is collected in a container by all members of the household. The significantly positive effect on pearl millet yields led to fast and increasing adoption by both women and men. Soon, some business started around it, i.e., farmers started selling OGA. Then the price of a cane of 20 liter OGA increased from 1000 FCFA in 2017 to 1750 FCFA in 2023, making OGA collection an attractive business, especially for women—who therefore give to children “a candy for a pee”.

PROCESS

1. COLLECTION
OGA is freshly collected with local materials by each producer in their own way.

2. STORAGE
OGA is stored in sealed 20 liter drums and needs to be kept for 2 to 3 months to be sanitized.

3. TRANSPORT
The transport of Oga to the field

4. APPLICATION OF OGA ON THE FIELD
A) Tying a handkerchief around the nose.

B) When the soil moisture is adequate, non-diluted OGA can be applied using a small recipient at the rate of 0.2 liter per planting hill, at 14 and 35 DAS. Under relative dry soil conditions application rate is 0.4 liter (i.e., 1:1 diluted) per pocket.

5. EFFECT OF OGA ON THE FIELD
Pearl millet varieties panicle yield as affected by OGA treatment during the 2020 cropping season

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