## Project Update: October 2015

## Objective 1. Characterisation of soil macrofauna in urban agricultural spaces as organoponics, organic farms and intensive production plots.



1.1. Soil macrofauna sampling was carried out in Havana del Este and Alamar localities belonging to Habana del Este municipality, in July 2015 (Annex 1). The sampling was not possible in the Cojimar locality, as was previously reported, and was replaced by H. Este locality. Taxonomic identification work developed until now recorded three phyla, seven classes, 19 orders, 43 families, 35 genera and 23 species of soil macrofauna, in organoponics

systems, organic farms and intensive production plots. The work continues in the laboratory and this taxonomic inventory would be the first result of this type for urban areas in Cuba. 1.2. The results obtained until now in these urban areas were reported in the postgraduate course on soil ecology convened by the Ecology and Systematic Institute, which was developed from October 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2015. An educational talk on the same theme was accomplished too, with the presence of technical and professional personnel involved in the care of the soil (Annex 2).



Objective 2. Promotion of the functional importance of the macrofauna and their use as practical indicators to assess and conserve soil quality, with capacitation to professionals, technicians and producers.



2.1. The pamphlet committed, which provides information on the composition and the functional importance of soil fauna in the conservation of soil fertility, was developed (Annex 3). In this pamphlet is included not only the macrofauna but the soil mesofauna too, as another important biological component in the improvement of soil fertility. This pamphlet has been distributed in the developed educational activities. The intention is to continue the educational and informative work exposed in the project.

2.2. Manual about soil macrofauna (1st Rufford Small Grant outcome) has also been promoted and distributed in digital format in the developed educational activities.

## Objective 3. Validation of practical indicators of macrofauna from its relationship with physico-chemical soil properties and the knowledge of local communities about this fauna.

## Marque con una cruz las respuestas necesarias, correctas o más completas. 1. El suelo está formado por influencia fundamentalmente de:

1.1 Clima 🔲

1.2 Clima + Material mineral de origen (roca madre, arcilla, arena) + Tipo de veoetación sobre el suelo

<ol> <li>Cuáles organismos viven en el interior del suelo o sobre su superficie ende son con siderados biota del suelo? :</li> </ol>					
2.1 Lombrices de tierra	2.6 Milpiés		2.11 Escarabajos		
2.2Ranas	27 Arañas		2.12 Cucarachas		

2.2 1.0100	27 Midildo	2.12 00081801805	_
2.3 Cochinillas	2.8 Hormigas	2.13 Chinches	
2.4 Ciempiés	29 Caracoles	2.14 Orugas	
2.5 Ratones	2.10 Babosas	2 15 Grillos	

Coloque 1, 2 o 3 según el efecto que usted considera de cada organismo sobre la fertilidad del suelo, solo en aquellos que señaló amba como biota del suelo. (1): Beneficioso. (2): Neutral. (3): Dañino:

3.1 Lombrices de ti	erra 🗔	3.6 Milpiés	3.11 Escarabajos
3.2 Ranas		3.7 Arañas 📃	3.12 Cucarachas
3.3 Cochinillas		3.8 Hormigas	3.13 Chinches
3.4 Ciemplés		3.9 Caracoles	3.14 Orugas
3.5 Ratones		3.10 Babosas 🔄	3.15 Grillos

Los componentes de la biota del suelo cumplen diversas funciones y provocan diferentes impactos en el suelo, los cuales podrían ser:

b) su porosidad y la infitración de agua y raíces 4 2 Triburan y descomponen la materia ománica. In que a) disminuye la reserva de nutrientes y la fertilidad del suelo 📃 b) aumenta la reserva de nutrientes y los libera como elementos esenciales para el crecimiento de las plantas. 4.3 Depositan sus heces fecales en el suelo, lo que contribuye a 14 Clms - Material mineral de objesn - Tipo devegetación sobre el suelo - Organismos 4.4 Modifican y crean nuevos sitios o microhiàbitas, lo que infuye sobre 4.4 Modifican y crean nuevos sitios o microhiàbitas, lo que infuye sobre a) una mayor actividad de animales y microorganismos descomponedores de la materia orgánica b) una mayor actividad de organismos plagas y consumidores de otros animales pequeños.

> c) una mayor actividad de organismos que se alimentan de material vegetal y controlan el ingreso de este material al suelo 5. Un suelo fértil o con calidad está asociado a:

5.4 Mayor abundanda de organismos que descomponen la materia orgánica como las Inomáces de terres, las occimitias, los milpiés, los caracoles y otros que cumplen igual fancim

3.1. The committed poll was elaborated to check the knowledge on the composition and function of the soil macrofauna, focused on personnel of professional, technical and productive level (Annex 4), which was also developed during the educational activities mentioned. The intention is to continue this work until the completion of the project to deliver a final assessment.

3.2. During the macrofauna sampling, soil samples for analysis of physical and chemical properties were taken. The physical-chemical analysis of these urban soils is being conducted at this time, so the results will be provided in the final report of the project.

