

Short Communication

Vermi Compost: A Sustainable Income generating Activity for Flood Affected Farmers

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The indiscriminate use of chemicals in modern intensive agriculture concerns the contamination of food with agro-chemicals and also pollution of environment, soil and water. This made us to think about alternate forms of agriculture to produce food devoid of contaminants. Besides, in the present era of global warming and climate change, the face of agriculture has to be more environments friendly, hence the main emphasis should be for development of production technologies which are sustainable in long run. Organic agriculture is one among the broad spectrum of production methods in which utilization of organic composts like vermin compost is the major part of production methods that are supportive of the environment and restricts the use of synthetic inputs. The utilization of vermin compost has gaining popularity and is in great demand because of its eco friendly nature and low cost. It can be prepared easily and plays a major role in improving the growth and yield of different field crops, vegetables, flowers, seedling preparations and ornamental plants; it can be used at any stage of the crop development. Keeping in view the emerging need, a study was carried out in five operational villages with the objective to assess the profitability of the vermi composting as an income generating activity^[1].

The village namely, Barwapatti, Khairatia, Gobraha, Piperahi of block Dudhahi, District Kushinagar was selected for introducing vermin composting activity. Vermicomposting was identified as an income

generating activity on the basis of availability of cowdung in abundance. Initially ten rural men/ women from each operational village, who were willing to start the activity and had enough cowdung for preparing vermi compost were selected and trained. The aspects covered in the training were process of making vermin compost, precautions while preparing, application for various crops, accounting, packaging and marketing. To start the vermin composting as an income generating activity one demonstration unit of vermin bed was made at the backyard of ten farmer's houses and each farmer were supplied earthworms.

Good quality vermi compost can be prepared easily at home with very little input cost. Table-1 highlights that about 9.45 q vermin compost was prepared by the respondents in 45-50 days. About 90 kg worms were also produced. The respondents were preparing compost not only to meet their farm requirement but also for sale. The table showed that 69.19 % of vermin compost and 43.85 % of worms were utilized by respondents for Farm use and 30.81 % of vermin compost and 56.15% of worms were sold in local market by the respondents in nearby town at the rate of Rs 2.5 per kg vermin compost and 30 Rs per kg earthworms. The respondents earned Rs.225 per unit by selling of vermin compost and earthworms in just 45-50 days as the initial cost for them was nil.

Table 1 Production Utilization and Sale of vermi compost and Worms

S.No.	Production (kg) vermi compost	Utilization for Farm (%)	Production of Worms (Kg)	Utilization for Self (%)	Profit from Sale(Compost & Worms) Rs.
1	98.3	74.57	9.00	33.33	242.5
2	85.1	100.00	8.25	36.97	156.0
3	97.9	43.82	9.15	45.36	287.5
4	79.2	73.48	8.01	56.30	157.5
5	96.4	55.39	9.30	51.61	242.5
6	88.1	88.65	7.59	20.94	205.0
7	99.3	79.86	9.20	58.70	164.0
8	89.5	60.89	8.87	32.36	267.5
9	99.4	69.82	9.95	49.75	225.0
10	111.8	45.44	10.68	53.18	302.5
Mean	94.5	69.19	9.00	43.85	225

Data present in table 2 indicate that vermin composting is a profitable income generating activity as by investing 1400 Rs., a

net return of 3667 with B:C ratio of 3.61:1 may be earned.

Table 2 Profitability of Vermi Compost as an income generating activity

Total Cost	Gross Return	Net Return	B:C Ratio
1400	5067	3667	3.61:1

It was also reported by the respondents that the output from the plants/trees was much better and tastier and expressed that vermin compost production was a simple activity requiring only a few hours in

a day. Therefore it may be concluded from the ongoing discussion that in rural areas the agro waste and animal waste may be utilized for better use.

References

1. Gupta, M. and Jain, S. (2011). Vermi composting: A Sustainable Income

Generating Activity for Rural Women, *Agricultural Extension Review*, Vol. XXIII