Agriculture Update, Vol. 3 No. 3&4 : 354-357 (Aug. & Nov. 2008)

Constraints and suggestions made by the vermicompost makers in Saurashtra zone of the Gujarat state

N.B. JADAV AND P.S. GORFAD

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:
N.B. JADAV
Millet Research Station, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Junagadh Agricultural University, JAMNAGAR (GUJARAT) INDIA

Accepted : *July, 2008*

ABSTRACT

Vermicompost is a mixture of worm casts, which are rich source of primary, secondary and micro nutrients, vitamins, growth hormones and immobilized micro flora. The present study was carried out to know the knowledge of vermin compost practices, constraints and suggestion of produces with thirty-five respondents of Gujarat State. All vermicompost produces had medium level of knowledge in respect to vermicompost production practices. The major constraint faced by vermicompost producers were poor economic condition, lack of subsides from govt., difficulties in selling and lack of marketing infrastructure for vermicompost. Prime suggestion were It increases fertility of soil and also enhances the physical condition of soil, it is advisable to use vermicompost as much as possible over chemical fertilizer, Quality of product is increased by use of vermicompost hence product fetches good market prize.

Key words : Vermicompost, Knowledge, Constraints, Suggestions.

Sustainable agriculture is one in which the goal is permanence, achieved through the utilization of renewable resources. This leads to development of concept of organic natural farming. Among various components of organic/natural farming, vermicomposting is a key component for making compost through earthworms. In vermicmoposting the waste garbage which might be a polluting agent is turned to valuable compost. Earthworm in general is beneficial to agriculture. They are good friends of the farmers, as they are continually ploughing and manuring the soil. (Barley 1959).

Vermiculture deals with rearing and maintaining of earthworms for vermicompost preparation. Earthworms decompose waste organic materials and given out in a granular form which is known as vermicompost. It also includes cocoons and young stages of earthworms. It also has different organic waste materials like crop residues, straws, leaves, animal waste, residues of green manuring crops, household waste material etc. Generally there are 3200 species of earthworms occurring in nature. Out of these *Eisenia foetida* and *Eudrelis eugina* are used for preparing vermicomposed. Earthworm has numerous enemies: chemical fertilizers and pesticides/fungicides, which are responsible to reduce earthworm population. Vermicompost can be good supplement to inorganic source of plant nutrients. Rural people are living in the close vicinity of nature. They have developed their vermicompost production practices.

Vermicomposting technology is applicable to the rural as well as the urban society. It not only helps in commercial aqua farming but also acts as a convenient source of earthworm for growing ornamental fishes in aquarium. Thus, vermicomposting can be included as a component of sustainable life-style. Application of vermiculture and vermicomposting in aquaculture is eco-friendly and bio-ethically acceptable (Anonymous, 2005).

Hence, this study is proposed with the following objectives:

- To examine the level of knowledge of vermicompost maker towards vermicompost practices.
- To find the constraints faced by vermicompost producers.
- To seek suggestion from the vermicompost producers to overcome the constraints.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out at Saurashtra region of the Gujarat State. Thirty five respondents were selected from the vermicompost producer from Rajkot, Junagadh, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Surendrnagar, Bhavnagar and Amreli districts of Gujarat State by purposefully random sampling method. The investigators were familiar with the farming community of the said area.

The selection of the districts and respondents were done purposively because vermicomposting in this area were famous for adopting new scientific practices. The data were collected with the help of well-structured interview schedule by holding the personal interview with the vermicompost producers at their shed or home.