

Study of the constraints faced by the farm women in production of vermicompost

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ABSTRACT

The present study was purposively conducted in Parbhani, Gangakhed, Jintur and Purna talukas of Parbhani District of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state as the considerable area under vermicompost production existence in order to assess the participation of farm women in production of vermicompost. Three villages from each taluka were selected randomly. Ten farm women from each village were selected as the respondents for the study. The ex-post-facto statistical design was used for the present investigation. From the findings, it can be concluded that, majority of the farm women were from middle age group, educated up to higher secondary school level, medium land holding. Majority of the farm women were from medium category of annual income, socio-economic status, social participation, sources of information, extension contact. While in case of constraints in production of vermicompost, preparation of bed, mortality due to high temperature, overburdening due to house and farm activities, difficulties in separation of earthworm, pH of mixture, lack of proper guidance and earthworm were eaten by birds, these were the major constraints faced by the farm women in production of vermicompost.

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Key words : Constraints, Farm women, Vermicompost

INTRODUCTION

Farm women play an important role in farm enterprises. Since immemorial women support to the family by earning and undertaking various type of work. Farm women are considered as invisible work force in agricultural operations, besides having an anchoring role in the management of their families. Farm women equally participate in different economic activities like crop production, livestock management, sericulture and other miscellaneous activities such as mushroom cultivation etc.

The aim of modern farming system as to maximize production through use of increased quantities of external inputs such as chemical fertilizers without due consideration to their ill effects. Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizer has causes several problems on farm as well as outside farm. Chemical fertilizers deteriorate the fertility of soil and now our production is stagnated and many effort are failed to increase the productivity and leads to health hazards (Kharmale,2006).

Indian cities and rural area produce nearly about 7000 million metric tonnes of organic waste (Bhide, 1998). The recycling of organic waste through vermicomposting is possible. It is observed that in cotton crops produced organically get Rs. 1000/- more market price as compared

to cotton crops produced chemically. Vermicompost is a mixture of worm, casting, organic matter and other beneficial organisms (Kale and Bano,1992).

The term vermicomposting means use of earthworm as versatile bioreactor for composting organic residues. Vermicompost contains various amino acids, minerals and micro-organisms which humidify organic matter in the surrounding soil and act as bio-fertilizer for plant.

The vermicompost technology not only gives vermicompost but also gives allied product like vermiwash, vermicast etc. The vermiwash has importance for spraying on crops and also helps to fetch good price for its produce in market. In organic manures vermicompost is the highly efficient fertilizer which is made from the farm waste and involves advantages of increase in crop production and improve the quality of agricultural product. Vermicompost is one of the best organic matter which has more advantages over the FYM and compost. But actual production of vermicompost is very limited and is essential to increase its production. Hence the present study was undertaken of farm women in production of vermicompost with the help of following objectives to study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of farm women in production of vermicompost and to study the constraints faced by the farm women in production

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