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Research Article

VERMICOMPOST TECHNOLOGY IN MALIA TALUKA OF SAURASHTRA IN GUJARAT STATE- A CASE STUDY

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Abstract- Vermicomposting is an eco-friendly way of improving soil fertility.

Keywords- Vermicompost, NGO.

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Introduction

All the fertile areas of this planet have at least once passed through the bodies of earthworms-Charles Darwin [1]. Vermicomposting is a method of making compost with the use of earthworms that generally live in soil, eat biomass and excrete it in digested form. This compost is generally called vermi-compost or wormi-compost. It is estimated that 1800 worms which is an ideal population for one square meter can feed on 80 tones of humus per year [2].

The study was undertaken to know the reasons for opting vermicomposting as a technology and find out the discontinuing of vermicomposting in selected three villages of Malia taluka of Junagadh district of Saurashtra region of Gujarat state. The data were collected from 52 respondents who were engaged in vermicomposting under the guidance of AKRSP (I) NGO. The finding of the study showed that majority of the study were of middle age group followed by young age group; matriculate; had 2 ha of operational land holding. Majority having annual income more than RS 50,000. per year . The major reasons for continuing vermicomposting reported by the respondents were Soil health improvement (100.00%), Environment consciousness (100.00%), and Selection of place (100.00%), accurate information regarding vermicomposting (100.00%). The reasons behind failure or discontinuation were NGO has not given material in free cost in the last year so they have adopted (85.68%), laggard in nature (85.68%) followed by only think about livelihood (71.40%) pointed out by all the respondents.

Materials and Methods

The study was undertaken in three purposively selected villages of Malia taluka *viz.*; Old Vandarvad, New Vandarvad and Dhanej. A list of 52 respondents was engaged in vermicomposting practices in selected villages. A sample of 40 respondents was selected from these villages by random sampling technique using proportional allocation. The tabulated data were analysed with the help of frequency and percentage.

Result and Discussion

Background functioning of the concerned NGO

There is a well known NGO in Gujarat and also in other state too. It promotes organic farming concept with reference to vermicomposting and encouraging the farmer and other people who are not adopting such farming. The emphasis laid on the soil health improvement and earn while learn vermicomposting. It was supplying the kits to the individual who are adopting vermicomposting. It is also engaged in the work of Water shed development, cooperative irrigation management, helps in drought prone area ,working on restrict salinity in Ghed area of Saurashtra region, established SHGs in different villages especially for women empowerment and also engaged in the Agriculture marketing facilities provide to the farmer and covers the different extension activities. So, AKRSP (I) is the well organized NGO with different works carried out by them.

Reaction of the farmers / adopter of vermicomposting technology

All the individuals who receiving the kits were satisfied with the quality of materials including under kit, because all materials are durable in nature

Reasons for discontinuation vermicomposting in the next year

Table-1 *Reasons for discontinuation vermicomposting in the next year*
n=7

Sr. No.	Reasons	Frequency*	Percentage (%)
1	Negative attitude towards vermicomposting	2	28.56
2	Laggards in nature	6	85.68
3	Only think about livelihood	5	71.40
4	NGO has given in the free cost, so they have adopted	6	85.68
5	Not proper selection of place	3	42.84
6	Not proper perception about vermicomposting	4	57.12

It is clear from [Table-1] that main reasons for discontinuation were NGO have given in free cost so they have established. Laggard in nature followed by only think about livelihood (71.40%), not proper perception of vermicomposting

(57.12%), not proper selection of place (42.84%) and negative attitude towards vermicomposting (28.56%)

Reasons for practicing vermicomposting in future

Table-2 *Reasons for practicing vermicomposting in future*

n=40

Sr. No.	Reasons	Frequency*	Percentage (%)
1	Positive attitude toward new technology	35	87.50
2	Soil Health Improvement	40	100.00
3	Environmental consciousness	40	100.00
4	Additional benefit	20	50.00
5	Increased status	16	40.00
6	Want more income	09	22.50
7	As a part of Organic farming	20	50.00
8	Ready to produce at home or village level	13	32.50
9	Accurate information regarding vermicomposting	40	100.00
10	Proper selection of Place	40	100.00

** Multiple responses*

Majority of the respondent opted vermicomposting for soil health improvement, environment consciousness and full information of vermicomposting and selection of place followed by positive attitude toward new technology (87.50%) while 50.00 per cent of the respondent wanted to additional benefit and as a part of organic farming and 40.00 per cent of the respondent wanted to increased their status by adopting vermicompost technology. This was followed by ready to produce at home or village level (32.50%) and want more income were only (22.50%).

Conclusion

Vermicomposting is an eco-friendly way of improving soil fertility. It was found that majority of the respondents were satisfied response of NGO and material provided by them. The major reasons for opting vermicompost technology reported by the respondents were soil health improvement (100.00 per cent), environmental consciousness (100.00 per cent), and positive attitude toward new technology (87.50 per cent). For vermicompost technology 82.50 per cent of the respondents wanted to practices in the next year. As many as 17.50 per cent of the respondents wanted to adopt the practices in the next year. The reasons for their discontinuance were laggard in nature (85.68 per cent); Discontinuation of Kit of vermicompost by NGO (85.68 per cent), and only think about lively hood (71.40 per cent). While strengthening and popularizing vermicompost practices among farmers Government should also take initiative in promoting the vermicompost technology as a part of organic farming campaign in the state. Research based trials need to be organized by agricultural institutes and based on the results of trails recommendation should be made.

Conflict of Interest: None declared

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