

Turning garbage into gold-sharing experience from Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

Today, environment degradation has become a matter of concern and it cries locally and world over. Further, with the increasing population, changing life styles and access to powerful technologies farming can easily become a major source of damage to the environment. Therefore, it is essential that the extension system make special efforts to build the sensitivity and capacity of the farming communities with regard to eco friendly farming alternatives as opposed to exploitative systems. The present study gives a real-life example of how recycling through vermicompost can be done which provide beneficiaries not only personal and economical gain but also in a long term help environment to sustain. It reviews the concepts of vermicompost particularly in the selected rural areas of Vadodara district of Gujarat in India. The contribution of this paper is to provide evidence, from a sample of 44 participants. Further, trainers prepared by project worker could provide training to the 90 other beneficiaries located in different urban and rural places. In all, the present paper highlights how beneficiaries of farming community can enhance the values of environment by using eco friendly technique of vermicompost. Further, it also focus on recycling of waste by farm participants in generating most useful and nutritive production of manure through vermicompost, which helped them to use in their own farms and also to supplement income at the household level.

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Key words : Environment degradation, Recycling of farm and household garbage, Vermicompost – an eco-friendly technique, Low cost manure production, Sustainable environment

INTRODUCTION

Environmental Status in India:

Today, environment degradation has become a matter of concern because of the systematic approach of viewing the earth and man as one of its many sub-systems. There is a growing realization of the constant interaction between the subsystems with each other and with the environment. These issues revolve around the central concept of quality of life with reference to the environment quality, depletion of natural resources and growing pressures of population. Environment cries locally and world over. Hence, environment requires, ecological balance, which leads to sustainability.

Exploitative land use practices in rural India:

Human communities are an integral part of the eco system. In farming by far the largest human activity, people make use of the natural resources like soil, water and bio diversity in a given climatic situation for making a living and lately for making money as well. Some of these resources are renewable, within limits and others are not. The manner in which these natural resources are utilized may amount to 'exploitation' or 'conservation' of these resources. It is necessary in the larger interest that our resource use pattern in farming requires to be more

conservational rather than exploitative. But, the Indian farming patterns from several instances have been witnessing the exploitation, in all its severity. In this regard country with huge population seems to be the worst sufferers. Further, modern agriculture based on chemicals also does not allow sustainability. The concept of soil, as a living system, is central to alternative farming systems as opposed to chemical farming. It is essential to establish and maintain an active and abundant soil life in order to produce healthy plants. Therefore, the soil must be 'fed' in a way that the activities of beneficial soil organisms, necessary for recycling nutrients and producing humus, are not inhibited. But use of present chemical fertilizers in agriculture, leads to many problems such as loss of soil productivity from excessive erosion and associated plant nutrient losses, surface and ground water pollution from pesticides, fertilizers and sediment, impending shortages of non-renewable resources and low farm income from high production costs. So, need for an alternative agricultural system arises. It requires such a system, which should integrate traditional practices with modern understanding of life science. These viewpoints conclude that agricultural extension is essentially a means to improve over all manipulative ability of the farmers. Also, with the increasing population, changing life styles and access to powerful technologies farming can easily

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