



## Study of the participation of 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 being 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. It was found that characteristics of the respondents like education, land holding, annual income, socio-economic status, source of information, social participation and extension contact had positive and significant relationship with participation level whereas age showed negatively significant relationship with participation in production of vermicompost.

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### INTRODUCTION

Vermicomposting is less labour-intensive than traditional plant composting because the worms do almost all of the work. All compost mixes microorganisms, organic matter and nutrients, but adding worms also improves soil structure. Due to the slime produced by worm bodies, nutrients stay in soil even after a good rain. Worm castings hold beneficial microorganisms longer than the traditional compost. Worms can eat up to half of their body weight per day and -under optimal conditions -reproduce quickly, making vermiculture a self-sustaining business.

Vermicomposting is the process of creating compost with worms. The worms are fed items like kitchen scraps, which they digest to create castings that are used for a variety of applications. This process has multiple benefits.

Besides housing beneficial microorganisms, worm castings protect the plants. Root diseases are reduced due to the diversity of organisms present, none of them becomes populous enough to cause damage.

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 works force in various agricultural operations.

According to NATP Annual Report (Anonymous, 2003), vermicomposting as enterprise has been promoted at centres like Udaipur, Dharwad, Parbhani, Hisar, New Delhi and Ludhiana, where more than 100 beneficiaries has been running this enterprise successfully and earning good amount of money.

Hence, the present study was undertaken to find out extend of participation level of farm women in production of vermicompost with the help of the following objectives: to the study relationship between personal and socio-economic characteristics of farm women with knowledge in production of vermicompost and to study the participation level of farm women about production of vermicompost.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was purposively undertaken in Parbhani, Gangakhed, Jintur and Purna Talukas of Parbhani district of Marathawada region of Maharashtra state as the considerable area is under vermicompost production existence in order to assess the

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