

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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of vermicompost.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

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 knowledge level of farm women about production of vermicompost. Three villages from each taluka were selected randomly. The list of farmers of selected villages was prepared with the help of Gramsevak and Agricultural Assistant of respective village. The farmers from each village were arranged alphabetically and random sample of 10 farmers using vermicompost production were drawn by randomization. Thus, on the basis of random sampling selected farmers from each village were personally interviewed with the help of specially designed interview schedule. The data were subjected to ex-post-facto statistical design.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A study pertaining to participation level of farm women in production of vermicompost was conducted using 120 farmers from selected talukas of Parbhani district. The results obtained are presented in Table 1 and 2.

From Table 1, it can be concluded that, majority of the farm women engaged in vermicompost production were from middle age group (54.17 per cent), educated up to higher secondary school level (44.17 per cent) and medium land holding (58.34 per cent). It also observed that majority of the farm women were from medium category of annual income (66.67 per cent), socio-economic status (45.00 per cent), social participation (75.84 per cent), sources of information (55.00 per cent) and extension contact (56.67 per cent).

From Table 2, it is observed that the major constraints faced by the farm women in production of vermicompost are Lack of proper guidance regarding vermicompost 30.00 per cent, problem of natural enemies 26.66 per cent, Constraints in preparation of bed 23.33 per cent.

It is also found that, mortality of earthworm due to high temperature, over burdening in house and farm activities, difficulties in separation of earthworm from vermicompost, deciding pH of mixture in vermicompost production, mortality of earthworm during transfer, unavailability of cow dung, difficulties in preparation of feeding mixture, oppose of family member for production of vermicompost were the constraints faced by 22.50 per

Table 1 : Distribution of farmers according to distinct categories of personal and socio-economic characteristics

Characteristics	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
Young (0-30)	28	23.33
Middle (31-50)	65	54.17
Old (51 above)	27	22.50
Total	120	100.00
Education		
Illiterate	6	5.00
Can read and write only	11	9.16
Primary School(1-4)	17	14.16
Middle school(5-10)	26	21.68
Higher secondary(11-12)	53	44.17
College (13 and above)	7	5.83
Total	120	100.00
Land holding		
Marginal(0-1.00)	6	5.00
Small holding(1.01-2.00)	12	10.00
Semi medium(2.01-4.00)	28	23.33
Medium(4.01-10.00)	70	58.34
High(10.01 and above)	4	3.33
Total	120	100.00
Annual income		
Low (0-44000)	18	15.00
Medium(44001-100000)	80	66.67
High (1.00 Lakh and above)	22	18.33
Total	120	100.00
Socioeconomic status		
Low (3-11)	8	6.67
Lower middle(12-18)	36	30.00
Middle(19-25)	54	45.00
Upper middle(29-32)	18	15.00
High(33-40)	4	3.33
Total	120	100.00
Social participation		
Low (0-9)	11	9.16
Medium(10-25)	91	75.84
High(26 and above)	18	15.00
Total	120	100.00
Sources of information		
Low (0-5)	25	20.84
Medium(6-9)	66	55.00
High(10 and above)	29	24.16
Total	120	100.00
Extension contact		
Low (0-9)	24	20.00
Medium(10-15)	68	56.67
High(16 and above)	28	23.33
Total	120	100.00

Table 2 : Distribution of farmers according to the constraints faced by the farm women in production of vermicompost

Sr. No.	Constraints	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Constraints in preparation of bed	28	23.33
2.	Difficulties in separation of earthworm from vermicompost	26	21.66
3.	Mortality of earthworm during transfer.	23	19.16
4.	Mortality of earthworm due to high temperature	27	22.50
5.	Over burdening in house and farm activities	27	22.50
6.	Lack of proper guidance regarding vermicompost	36	30.00
7.	Deciding pH of mixture in vermicompost production	24	20.00
8.	Unavailability of cow dung	21	17.50
9.	Oppose of family member for production of vermicompost	12	10.00
10.	Other		
	Natural enemies	32	26.66
	Difficulties in preparation of feeding mixture	16	13.33

cent, 22.50 per cent, 21.66 per cent, 20.00 per cent, 19.16 per cent, 17.00 per cent, 13.33 per cent and 10.00 per cent farm women, respectively

These findings are in line with the findings of Jadhav (2000), that (27.45 per cent) respondents were facing major problem of bed preparation followed by (17.14 per cent) as earthworms are eaten by natural enemies like birds.

Conclusion:

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 encountered by farm women in production of vermicompost were, 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 are eaten by natural enemies like birds and unavailability of cow dung and lack of proper guidance etc.

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