

## **SUCCESS STORY OF PRODUCING OWN COMPOST THROUGH VERMICOMPOSTING**

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### **Introduction**

The indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides in the crop production have created serious problems of soil health, water quality & hazard to human being. Therefore, to sustain fertility and productivity of soils, there is an urgent need to promote use of organic manures by the farmers. As the state of Meghalaya is shifting to organic farming, there is a need to produce our own organic manures for our own use and to be less dependent on purchasing from other states. Vermicomposting a method of preparing enriched compost with the use of earthworms is one of the easiest methods of recycling agricultural wastes to produce quality compost. The vermicomposting is rich in plant nutrients, plant growth promoters and beneficial micro flora and enhances soil physical, chemical and biological properties of soil.

### **KVK Intervention:**

Hence looking to the needs of the farmers in the NICRA village, KVK Jaintia Hills started introduction of vermicompost unit for 2 farmers of Shri Runi Mukhim and Naphang Rympeit and they were provided with Tetra vermin bed (Size 3.5 X 1.2 X 0.6 m) and the desired earthworms. The farmers were equipped with proper trainings and demonstrations on use and maintenance of the unit.

### **Output and Outcome:**

This was proven to be a successful venture with the first harvest after 3 months to be 520 kgs. There after 2100 Kgs of Vermicompost were collected in three batches. Vermicomposting proves to be a profitable source of income where a net return of Rs 23,800 and BC ratio of 2.3:1 was achieved. The farmers could sell the produce fetching them good price and at the same time they are able to use the compost for their crop cultivation.

### **Impact:**

Initially, the farmers of NICRA village do not cultivate vegetable because of lack of knowledge, lack of irrigation facilities and unavailability of fertilizers. The farmers of the village are small marginal farmers with small land holdings with paddy as major crop which fetches low return but with the introduction of the NICRA project in the village, vegetable cultivation has become an important activity for the farmers and the limitations of non availability of compost has been met through introduction of vermicompost unit. Seeing the profitability from this enterprise with very less input and manpower required, four more farmers have approached the KVK for assistance in setting up the vermicomposting unit.



Image: Vermicompost unit



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