

Consultancy Service 2018-19

Vermicomposting

Department of Zoology





Consultancy Service to outsiders



Consultancy Service to Smt. Ajitha and her team



Vermiculture- Consultancy Services

Department of Zoology

The effect of use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers on crops, people are more concerned about their health. Thus the demand for organic foods is such that they are available at much higher price than normal produce. Vermicompost is the organic manure and its demand is increasing day by day to fulfil the requirement of organic food growers. Vermicompost acts like any high quality compost. It improves soil structure, moisture holding capacity and plant root environment. Vermicomposting also allows cat-ion exchange capacity, allowing more nutrients to be available for plants.

Vermicomposting is a modified and specialised method of composting– the process uses earthworms to eat and digest farm wastes and turn out high quality compost in two months or less. It enhances the biological and physical properties of the soil and makes it more fertile.

We the Department of Zoology are doing this Vermicomposting from 2014-15 onwards. The students of B.Sc. CBZ collect waste from the canteen, garden and other sources in the college and use it for composting. Earthworms belonging to the species *Eisenia Foetida* are used by us to turn out high quality compost from the waste in two months or less. We also use cow or buffalo dung to these organic wastes to convert the organic waste quickly into vermicompost. The students add dry leaves to the compost bed to prevent the emission of methane gas. The vermicompost will be ready in 2-2^{1/2} months. It increases the nutritional content of soil; maintain humus content, and increases the water holding capacity of soil.

In the first year 2014-15 we got only about 20kgs.of compost. The production slowly increased as we got experience. At present in this academic year i.e. 2018-19 we are able to produce 90 kgs. of vermicompost. As we got experience we are extending consultancy services to the students and faculty of our and other colleges and to persons who want to set up a vermicompost bed residing in the surrounding areas of our college. Till now we have offered free consultancy service to about 19 groups. But the Department is earning money by selling the compost at a rate of Rs.10 per kilo. The entire product is not utilised for sale, some of it is used for College garden. The money obtained is utilised for the maintenance of the bed and a small amount is given to the Lab attendant who maintains it along with students. The details of the money obtained are as follows:

Income generated through consultancy service

S. No	Year	No. of Kgs. of vermicompost obtained	No. of Kgs. sold	Amount obtained	Kgs. used for garden of the college
1	2018-19	90Kgs.	50 Kgs,	Rs.500/-	40 Kgs.

Consultancy given to the persons

S.No.	Year	No. of persons to whom Consultancy is given	Amount obtained
1.	2018-19	06	1000/-

1. Smt. K. Ajitha and her team, Phone No. 9059194969
2. P. Swathi Priya and her team, Phone No. 9703695915
3. R. Jyothi and her team, Phone No. 8106161950