

## Farm Women Participation in Vermicompost Production

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### ABSTRACT

*The present study was purposively conducted in Navsari, Gandevi, Chikhli, Vansda and Jalalpore talukas of Navsari District (Gujarat) 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, socioeconomic status, source of information, social participation and extension contact had positive and significant relationship with participation level whereas age showed negatively relationship with participation in production of vermicompost.*

**Keywords:** Farm women participation, Vermicompost

### 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 crate castings that are used for a variety of applications. This process has multiple benefits. Beside 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 centers 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 study the relationship between personal and socioeconomic 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 Navsari, Gandevi, Chikhali, Vansada&Jalalpore of Navsari district of Gujarat 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 of respective villages. The farmers from each village were arranged alphabetically and random sample of 10 farmers using vermocompost production were drawn by randomization. Thus, on the basis of random sampling, selected framers 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****Level in production of vermicompost****Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their participation in production of vermicompost**

n=150

Sr. No.	Category	No.	Per cent
1	Low	42	28.00
2	Medium	72	48.00
3	High	36	24.00

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their practice wise participation in production of vermicompost**

n=50

Sr. No.	Practice	Participation in production of vermicompost					
		Complete		Partial		No	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
1	Method of vermicompost making	128	85.33	12	8.00	10	6.67
2	Selection of earthworm species	92	61.33	48	32.00	10	6.67
3	Use of raw material for preparation of vermicompost pit	135	90.00	12	8.00	03	2.00
4	Size of vermicompost pit.	63	42.00	59	39.33	28	18.67
5	Preparation of pit.	21	14.00	124	82.67	05	3.33
6	Covering of pit.	131	87.34	11	7.33	08	5.33
7	Feed supply to earthworm	101	67.33	33	22.00	16	10.67
8	Application of water during preparation of bed	130	86.67	15	10.00	05	3.33
9	Separation of earthworm from vermicompost	07	04.67	135	90.00	08	5.33
10	Sale of vermicompost	82	54.66	34	22.67	34	22.67
11	Sale of earthworm	46	30.67	54	36.00	50	33.33
12	Utilization of earning from production of vermicompost	28	18.67	12	8.00	110	73.33

A critical look at Table 2, revealed that the method of vermicompost making was decided by 85.33 per cent farm women completely, while 8.00 per cent of farm women were having partial participation, only 6.67 per cent farm women were showing no participation in this activity.

Regarding the selection of earthworm species, majority of farm women (61.33%) were completely participation followed by partial participation of 32.00% while only 5.83 per cent of the respondents were from non-participation

Regarding the use of raw material, majority of the farm women (90.00%) were completely using raw material while 8.00 per cent were partially using it and only 2.00 per cent respondents were showing no participation regarding use of the raw material.

From Table 1, it is seen that half of the responemnts (48.00 per cent) were from medium participation level category while 28.00 per cent of women were in low participation level category. About 23.00 per cent of the farmwomen were belonging to high level category.

**Practice wise participation in production of vermicompost**

In case of preparation of pit, majority (82.67%) of the farm women had shown partial participation followed while only 3.33% farm women were from no participation category, In case of application of water during preparation of bed, 86.67 per cent, 10.00 per cent and 3.33 per cent were found on complete, partial and not participating categories, respectively. In case of separation of earthworm from vermicompost, 90.00 per cent respondents had shown partial participation. It was further noticed that 54.66 per cent women sold vermicompost and in case of sale of earthworms, 30.67 per cent of farm women were completely involved.

Lastly, in case of utilization of earning from production of vermicompost, it was observed that majority (73.33 per cent) of farm women were completely utilizing it.

**Relationship of characteristics of farm women with their participation in production of vermicompost**

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 only age showed negatively significant relationship with participation in production of vermicompost.

**Table 3: Relationship of personal and socio-economic characteristics of farm women with their participation in production of vermicompost**

n=50

Sr. No.	Characteristics	'r' Value
1	Age	-0.545**
2	Education	0.789**
3	Land holding	0.328**
4	Annual income	0.632**
5	Socio-economics status	0.748**
6	Social participation	0.731**
7	Source of Information	0.677**
8	Extension contact	0.681**

**CONCLUSION**

It was observed from the results that half (48.00 per cent) of the farm women were from medium level participation category. Only 24.00 per cent of farm women were from high participation category. The probable reason may be that the farm women have undergone training and realized the importance of vermicompost, It was found that characteristics of the respondent 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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