Vermicompost

Benefits of vermicomposting

- Enhances aeration and water retention.
- Provides essential elements like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium and growth promoting hormones.
- Promotes stronger and healthier plants.
- Suppresses diseases and reduces plant diseases and pests.
- It is environmentally friendly: reduces waste and promotes sustainable farming.

Method of preparation of vermicompost

- To produce vermicompost using polythene sheets, collect organic waste such as vegetable peels, fruit peels, unripe grass, and garden clippings. Then put the organic waste into a polythene sheet pit.
- Spread a layer of partially decomposed cow dung over the waste and continue filling the pit with alternating layers of organic waste and partially decomposed cow dung.
- Cover the material with a jute bag to retain moisture and temperature. Turn the waste gently every 5-6 days to provide aeration.
- After 2-3 weeks, add about 1 kg of earthworms (preferably *Eugenia foetida* species) per cubic meter. Regularly check the humidity level.
- After 8-10 weeks, the waste will decompose into dark, crumbly vermicompost. Harvest the compost by separating it from the worms using a sieve. Reuse the worms for another batch.

IRRI International Rice Research Institute CGIAR

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Plot No.: 340/C, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar, 751007, Phone: +91674-2584949, Website: www.irri.org