



Role of women in Vermi-bioremediation

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Abstract

The study on role of women in vermi-remediation was conducted. Women constitute 48 % of rural population in India. Women have some strong character, desirable and relevant to entrepreneurship development, such as their ability to manage business activities, devotion to the work, they take up open-mindedness and kindheartedness towards people. Specific objectives of the research were to find out the role of women in vermi-remediation.

Keywords: Vermicomposting, Bioremediation, Women

Introduction

Women constitute 48 % of rural population in India. Women in the rural construction of India has major role in the settlement of economic condition of family. Women are the most elegant resource of the society and are the dynamic source of power. Women are the backbone of the rural economy. Nowadays women are running ventures successfully and are called good entrepreneurs. Role of women in creative activities in India has been growing over the years, however the total number of enterprises run by them is significantly small.

Women make fundamental assistance to the agricultural in all developing countries. Women play a primary role in all the stages of the food cycle in all regions, but these roles differ by region. Women often administer complex households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies. Their activities naturally include producing agricultural crops, nursing animals, processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural or other rural enterprises, collecting fuel and water, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members and maintaining their homes.

They are, even today, seen only as ‘care takers’ and ‘home makers’. As a consequence they have less access to productive resources and opportunities land, education, financial services, technology and rural employment. In spite of this gender bias, the input of women to household income has been changing over the years in the rural areas.

Women have some strong character, desirable and relevant to entrepreneurship development, such as their ability to manage business activities, devotion to the work, they take up open-mindedness and kindheartedness towards people. It is a misconception that, women can not make themselves good managers. In fact the complete administrator in our society is the mother, as she plans budget, executes and shows results in the day-to-day life. This makes women as competent as men in managing self- enterprises.

The primary responsibility played by women in Indian agriculture is a well-known fact. Agriculture in India has been a joint venture of male and female members of the family. Women are said to devote 40 % of their efforts towards agricultural and 60 % for food preparation. So, it becomes all the more important to involve women while transferring farm technology. In order to increase food production for the teeming millions of India, the soil, animal and human health have been put at stake (Shobha Nagnur *et al.*, 2012).

The present study aims to evaluate rural women on the concepts of organic farming and in using farm and non farm wastes as sources of organic material. Specific objectives of the research were to find out the knowledge level of women in vermi-remediation and to improve the skills of women in utilization of farm and animal wastes through earthworms.

By Products of Vermi-bioremediation

Women can engage in recreation a very important responsibility in vermiculture managing too as they make major efforts for development and production of vermiculture by products. They are getting more employment through vermiculture enterprise.

1. Vermicompost

Vermicomposting is less labour-intensive than traditional plant composting. It is the managed, controlled process by which earthworms and microorganisms convert organic matter into

vermicompost, worm-worked material containing many nutrients that are readily taken up by plants (Dominguez, 2011).

2. Vermiwash

Vermiwash has tremendous growth promoting compound besides serving as biopesticide. In recent days the vermiwash is used as liquid manure.

3. Earthworms

Another source of income from this vermicompost production unit is through the sale of earthworms. A kilogram of worms is sold at Rs. 350.00.

4. Earthworm cocoons

For research purpose students purchase the cocoons. But collection of cocoons is very difficult.

One of the purposes of this paper is to erase the misconception that vermicomposting is a male-dominated industry and that women are involved only in menial labor. Roles women have played in vermicomposting not only include field workers, but business leaders, educators, authors, scientists, and conference organizers. Several women who have had a significant impact on vermicomposting are mentioned here, although there is others whose work, whether in vermiculture and vermicomposting, is not reported here. This review is not exhaustive but representative of the contributions women have made in earthworm science, specifically in the area of vermicomposting of solid waste.

Radha Kale, earthworm research scientist at the University of Agriculture Sciences in Bangalore, India, wrote *Vermicompost: Crown Jewel of Organic Farming* (Kale, 2006). In 2011, she reported that vermicomposting is practiced in India by rural women for self-sustenance. She stated that many farm women are marketing vermicompost to other farmers as well as using it on their own land. Kale has also written a complete update on the status of vermicomposting in India (Kale, 2011).

Thus, it could be inferred that majority of the women vermicompost producers expressed poor economic condition, lack of subsidies from government, non-availability of poor marketing facilities, supply of organic wastes and attacks by ants as most important constraints.

Conclusions

Women have played a major role in influencing organic farming than man. The vermicomposting industry offers many opportunities for women to use their knowledge, skills and talent for the promotion of their nations, their institutions, as well as their own careers. Creating awareness is the best remediation for vermin-bioremediation.

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