

Vermi compost : A profitable enterprise

Rajesh D Patel, 35 years, resident of Dungri village of Valsad block of Valsad district is having 2.5 ha land. He used to grow paddy, vegetables and orchard etc. Most of land is irrigated and his family members are engaged in farming operations. The productivity of the farm was very low. Once he attended the farmers' shibir on organic farming organized by KVK Ambheti. After completion of programme, he interacted with the SMS of KVK on different issues related; how to improve productivity of his farm? He admits that his soils are poorly fertile and thus applying higher doses of chemical fertilizers. This not only increased the cost of cultivation but also deteriorated the soil health. However situation started changing when he enrolled his name for three days long "on-campus" training programme on vermi-compost preparation

in 2008-09. After completion of the training programme, he started small unit of vermi-compost preparation at his farm under the guidance of KVK scientists. Initial success of unit inspired him to expand production unit. Today he is having 0.60ha land under the unit producing 7500 quintals of vermi-compost per annum. He is the leading vermi-compost producers of the district. He is earning Rs.2500000 only per year from this business in addition to small share of income come from the cultivation of different crops. He opined that because of continuous application of vermi-compost, productivity of his farm has also improved. He has become the resource person and role model for the other farmers in the district. The entire produce is being used by farmers of the district to convert inorganic farming to organic one.

Year	Production (qt)	Gross income (Rs)	Gross cost (Rs)	Net profit per year (Rs)	Sold to farmers	Price Rs/kg
2009-10	1500	360000	216000	144000	58	2.40
2010-11	3000	840000	540000	300000	86	2.80
2011-12	4000	1200000	720000	480000	92	3.00
2012-13	6000	1920000	1152000	768000	109	3.20
2013-14	7500	2550000	1530000	1020000	121	3.40
Total	22000	6870000	4158000	2712000	466	

He sells vermi compost under the brand name 'DHARATI AMRUT' vermi-compost. He procured FYM from other milk producers settled in his adjoining villages who are migrated from other parts of the state. As own produce vermi-compost he uses it in abundant quantity in his own farm for production of chilli, mango, brinjal and in nursery

for production of mango grafts and hybrid vegetable seedlings in plastic trays. Now he has become a successful vermi-compost entrepreneur of the district. He has enrolled himself as trainer and guest lecturer in many seminars on vermi-compost production being organized by and Non-Government organizations in Gujarat state.

