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Impact of Training Programmes in Nellore District in Acquiring Skills of Vermicomposting Technology

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ABSTRACT

A Study was conducted to ascertain the level of Acquired Skills of trainees with respect to vermicompost production technology of training imparted by K.V.K. Nellore under ARYA programme. Farmers were selected from adopted villages namely Purandharipuram and Reddipalem of Buchireddipalem mandal and namely Chavatapalem and Sriramapuram of venkatachalam mandal were imparted training on vermicompost production technology. 60 trained and 60 untrained farmers from these four villages were selected for study purpose making the sample size up to 120 farmers. Findings of the study shows that Mean score on skill acquired in vermicomposting technology of trained farmers was 36.30 compared to that of untrained farmers being at only 12.15 out of a possible score of 100. The mean difference was 26.15, which is statistically significant at 0.01 level of probability indicating that the skill acquired among trained farmers was significantly higher than that of untrained farmers. With respect skill acquired in various components of vermicompost technology, majority of trained farmers (40-70 percent) were found to be 'partially competent' on eighteen of the twenty five competencies/skills in vermicompost technology. Among the untrained farmers, majority farmers (ranging from 75to 94 percent) were found to possess less competency in all the twenty five components of competencies/skills in vermicompost technology.

Keywords: *Skills acquired, Vermicompost technology, KVK training, Impact, Competency.*

INTRODUCTION

Vermicomposting is a bio-oxidative process in which detritivorus earthworms interact intensively with micro-organism and other fauna within the decomposer community, accelerating the stabilization of organic matter and greatly modifying its physical and biochemical properties (Dominguez, 2004).

The technology can be practiced in every home for fast recycling of the domestic wastes for vermicompost formation. It is capable of supplying necessary nutrients to help sustain plant growth. It also saves water, energy, landfills and helps rebuild the soil (Arora et al., 2012).

The vermicomposting is gaining strong foot hold among the farmers of Andhra pradesh due to its multifunctional roles in benefits in agriculture and different initiative taken by government to popularize it. The transfer of vermicomposting technology is highly successful and widely adopted by the farming community. It has a visible impact on the economic upliftment of resource poor small and marginal farmers and provided with self-employment opportunities to the youth. It improves the soil physical condition which provides better environment for plant growth. From vermicomposting extra production can be marketable for generating extra income. Hence, there is an urgent need to sensitize the agricultural farmers about vermiculture technology for organic agricultural production. To acquaint farmers about the proper technology of vermicomposting, group wise training programme were conducted at K.V.K Nellore of ANGRAU University under ARYA Programme. The aim of training was to develop potential knowledge and skill of the trainees to carry out defined task and responsibilities related to vermicomposting. The success of any training programme depends greatly on the perception of the trainees towards it. Hence it is worthwhile to assess the impact of vermiculture technology training programmes in terms of trainee's perception. Keeping the above fact in to consideration the study "Impact of Training Programmes on Adoption of Vermiculture technology Practices", was being conducted in Adopted villages of KVK Nellore under ARYA Programme.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Nellore district of Andhra pradesh. As a part of village adoption programme under ARYA the 4 mandals from Nellore district were being selected namely Venkatachalam, Buchireddipalem, Naidupeta and Indukuripeta. Among the adopted four mandals Buchireddi mandal and Venkatachalam were being selected purposively for training farmers on vermicompost technology because the resources needed to set up an vermicompost units were available in full pledged manner. Among this Farmers were selected two from adopted villages namely Purandharipuram and Reddipalem of Buchireddipalem mandal and two from adopted villages namely chavatapalem and sriramapuram of venkatachalam mandal imparted training on vermicompost production technology. Total of 120 farmers as 60 farmers were trained and other 60 farmers untrained being selected as respondents. Data collection was done by using interview cum questionnaire method.

Skill scale developed by Singh (1983) was used in this study after making certain modification. It contains the five components regarding vermicompost technology. These components categorized as (a) Preparation of vermicompost pit and shed. (b) Preparation of Vermi-bed and filling of vermicomposter. (c) Practices during vermicomposting. (d) Preparation of Vermi-wash and Vermi-culture. (e) Harvesting and packing of vermicompost. In order to measure the score obtained by trained farmer and un-trained farmer, the schedule was used for collection of data against each question. Final score was measured on a three point rating scale i.e. 'competent', 'partially competent' and 'not competent" and for this a score of 2, 1 and 0 was given to the respondent.

Then the skill acquired score of each respondent was calculated using the formula as

$$\frac{\text{Total obtained score}}{\text{Maximum possible score}} \times 100$$

The statistical tools such as mean, standard deviation, frequency, percentages"-test", correlation analysis were employed wherever found appropriate and data were analyzed to draw valid inferences. Software called statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) was used for data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An attempt to interpret the results was done while discussing the implications of the findings of the study. As the results in Table revealed, mean score of skill acquired among trained farmers was 36.30 when compared to that of untrained farmers" mean score at 12.15. mean score were indeed very low indicating that trained farmers" competency level was below admissible levels while the mean score of untrained farmers was dismally poor at around 12 out of a possible maximum score of 100. Untrained farmers were incompetent.

Mean difference was 26.15, which is statically significant at 0.01 level of probability (t=10.234). This result implies that the skill acquired in vermicompost technology by trained farmers was significantly higher than that of untrained farmers. Range of scores among trained farmers was between 10 and 70. High value of standard deviation indicated wide variation among trained farmers. Untrained farmers were much more consistent and varied less among themselves on scores of skill acquired in vermicompost technology.

Table -1 Frequency distribution of skill acquired in vermicompost technology by respondents (n=120)

Statistical components	Trained farmers (60)		Untrained farmers(60)	
Mean	36.30		12.15	
SD	15.867		6.70	
Range	10-70		0-26	
Mean difference	26.15(t=10.234[**])			
Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<Mean–SD)	10	16.66	16	26.66
Medium(Between Mean+SD)	35	58.33	30	50.00
High (>Mean+SD)	15	25	14	23.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Thus it can be concluded that the untrained farmers could not acquire any of the skills in vermicompost technology were up to a moderate level of competency by trained farmers, but up to very low level of competency by untrained farmers. Mean score on skill acquired in vermicomposting technology of trained farmers was 36.30 compared to that of untrained farmers being at only 12.15 out of a possible score of 100. The mean difference was 26.15, which is statistically significant at 0.01 level of probability indicating that the skill acquired among trained farmers was significantly higher than that of untrained farmers. With respect skill acquired in various component of vermicompost technology, majority of trained farmers (40-70 percent) were found to,, partially competent" on eighteen of the twenty five competencies/skills in vermicompost technology. Among the untrained farmers, majority farmers (ranging from 75 to 94

percent) were found to possess less competency" in all the twenty five components of competencies/skills in vermicompost technology.

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