A whopping 25 quintals of organic manure prepared at the solid waste management (SWM) units in the villages of Landa, Bharthal Randhawan, Daumajra and Aloona Tola in Doraha Block of Ludhiana in Punjab have been handed over to the Forest Department for use in their plantations.

With the organic manure, the Forest Department can curb the use of chemical fertilizers and enhance production of marketable forest products.

Organic manure which is typically made of plants, animal waste, and minerals improves the structure of soil and leads to healthy vegetation. On the other hand, chemical fertilizer which although will help plants grow more quickly, will do absolutely nothing to sustain the soil and improve it for future use.

Significantly, the SWM projects in these villages have generated local employment, provided an additional source of income for Gram Panchayats, and have led to a cleaner environment in villages.

According to Ms. Navdeep Kaur, BDPO Doraha, currently there are eight successful SWM projects running in Doraha Block. Further, samples of manure produced from their wet waste have been collected and tested at Block level.
The manure was packaged into 3-kg and 5-kg sized packets and sold to the Forest Department. In this way, the Gram Panchayats have been made vendors and payment to them for the manure would be made through the material component of the MGNREGA Scheme by the concerned BDPO. It results in a win-win situation for all concerned.

The entire process of collecting segregated garbage from households to scientific preparation of organic manure and generating income from sale of the same has significantly contributed to visual cleanliness of villages while providing a fillip to organic farming.

Further, plans are afoot to get them packaged and sold through Self Help Groups (SHGs), while efforts for tie-ups with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and private nurseries are ongoing.