

Tamil Nadu's Gunaramanallur Panchayat benefits from vermi composting



Gunaramanallur village panchayat that is situated in Keelapavoor Block of Tenkasi District in Tamil Nadu produces 1800 kilograms of vermi compost in a year. The initiative has enhanced livelihoods of stakeholders and the practice of the farmers that are using the compost in their agricultural fields.

The agrarian village had embarked on this activity in accordance with the State Government order of 2017 which permitted the construction of vermi compost sheds to produce compost and promotion of agriculture in all 12,139 village panchayats of the State.

The initiative was well under way in 385 villages in 2017-18, thereby increasing agricultural productivity by creating durable infrastructure for bio-fertilizers and post-harvest and storage facilities for agricultural produce, as per the revised schedule-I of MGNREGA.

Gunaramanallur was one of the 21 village panchayats which began this successful initiative which has provided considerable benefits for its stakeholders while providing a positive impact on the society.

Consisting of 17 habitations and 5204 households, Gunaramanallur has a population of 12,986, most of which are engaged in agricultural work. When the initiative was first propagated, it was approved by the district administration amid widespread enthusiasm by the Panchayat Secretary, Mr. P. Muthukumar, SHG members and Thooimai Kavalars (sanitation workers).

Within a year, the impact was felt. The panchayat produces 1800 kgs of vermi compost which is sold at Rs.8/- per kg. It also sells live worm used for vermi compost at the rate of Rs.500/- per kg. The sale proceeds go towards the salary of the Thooimai Kavalars which augments their livelihood. Research indicates that compared to ordinary soil the earth

worm castings contain 5 times more Nitrogen, 7 times more Phosphors and 11 times more Potassium.

Understanding the science and importance of soil nourishment, the farmers of the panchayat have favoured organic manure, making it a win-win situation.



Collection of garbage from all homes and segregation of the same is carried out by the Thooimai Kavalars. At the SWM yard, biodegradable is shredded before being laid on the vermi bed for further processing and generation into vermi compost.

In the meantime, the school children in and around the panchayat visit the vermi compost yard and witness first-hand the production of organic manure by earth worms of different species. They learn the SWM procedure for converting non-recyclable waste into green manure for use in agriculture.

Most of all, they appreciate the efforts of the panchayat in keeping their ecosystem clean and hygienic, understanding the best way to organic farming through vermi composting.

In appreciation of the efforts of the panchayat and its successful venture to produce vermi compost and the changed attitude of the farmers towards organic farming, Zoho which has a base in Mathalamaparai has presented the panchayat with a battery vehicle to assist them in SWM.



