

Stories of Parivartan

Project Code: P0981

Implementing Partner Name: Arpan Seva Sansthan

State: Madhya Pradesh

District (s): Bhopal

Block (s): Phanda

Village (s): Moondla, Borkhedi, Barkheda Salam

The Challenge:

The farmers faced several challenges, including soil fertility issues due to the lack of proper waste management, which led to soil degradation. The excessive use of chemical fertilizers further exacerbated soil degradation, depleting the soil's natural nutrients and microorganisms. This approach also increased farmers' expenses, as they had to purchase chemical fertilizers regularly. Moreover, the environmental pollution resulting from these practices affected not only the farms but also the surrounding ecosystem, impacting the health and well-being of the villagers. Ultimately, the reduced crop yields and lower quality produce also took a toll on farmers' livelihoods, making it challenging for them to support their families.

Our Intervention:

*Arpan Seva Sansthan, in collaboration with HDFC Bank Parivartan, launched an initiative to establish three vermi compost units in Moondla, Borkhedi, and Barkheda Salam villages. Each unit catered to five farmers, aiming to reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers and promote sustainable agriculture practices. The intervention involved setting up specially designed vermi compost units and introducing Red Wigglers (*Eisenia fetida*) worms for efficient decomposition. Farmers received training on vermi composting, including worm management, waste collection, and compost harvesting.*

The team provided technical support and regular monitoring to ensure the success of the intervention. By converting organic waste into nutrient-rich compost, the vermi compost units aimed to improve soil fertility and reduce environmental pollution. This sustainable practice promoted environmentally friendly farming practices, sustainable agriculture, and improved the livelihoods of farmers in the region.

The Result:

The intervention yielded remarkable results for the farmers. Each unit has produced 18 quintals of vermi compost in one cycle of 55 to 60 days, which will produce 324 quintals per year. This will lead to 30% improvement in soil fertility, resulting in healthier crops and reduced soil erosion. The farmers will reduced their reliance on chemical fertilizers by 50%, minimizing environmental harm. Consequently, crop yields will be increased by 25%, generating an additional income of ₹80,000 to ₹100,000 per annum from each unit.

The success of the vermi compost unit demonstrated the potential of sustainable agriculture practices in improving farm productivity, reducing environmental pollution, and enhancing farmers' livelihoods. These farmers became models for environmentally friendly farming practices, inspiring others to adopt sustainable methods. The intervention not only improved the farmers' economic situation but also contributed to a healthier environment and sustainable agriculture practices. The results showed that vermi composting is a viable and effective solution for farmers.

Beneficiary Testimonial: -**Mukesh Verma**

"I'm thrilled with the results of the vermi compost unit, even after just 2 months of production. I've already seen an improvement in soil fertility, and my crop yields are looking healthier. I've earned an additional income of ₹5,000 from the sale of vermi compost, and I'm expecting this to increase significantly in the coming months."

Nirmal Mewada

"The vermi compost unit has been a great addition to my farm. In a short duration, I've reduced my reliance on chemical fertilizers and seen a noticeable improvement in soil health. I've earned an additional income of ₹4,000 from the sale of vermi compost, and I'm excited to see the long-term benefits of this sustainable practice."

Kishan Lal

"I was skeptical at first, but the vermi compost unit has already started

showing promising results. Since then this unit has stated producing vermi compost, I've earned an additional income of ₹3,500 from the sale of vermi compost, and I'm expecting this to increase as my crop yields improve. I'm proud to be adopting sustainable agriculture practices that benefit both my farm and the environment."

Image:

