

VERMI COMPOST REAPS RICH HARVESTS

- *Case story of a labor-turned-farmer.*

Parvatamma and her husband work as agricultural laborers in Mallapuram village of Kalyandurg area. They have 2 Sons and a Daughter. Their only concern, now a days is to provide higher education to their children. But with high inflation and astronomical expenses on education on one



hand and their hand-to-mouth income on the other, they lost hope and thought that their desire will remain a day-dream. However the family decided to take some land on lease and do cultivation. They also learnt about the potent of sustainable agriculture practices which are low cost and eco-friendly like Vermi compost as a fertilizer, in an awareness campaign organized by AF on Sustainable Agriculture, in their village. Though for many years they have been thinking of taking some land on lease, yet they couldnot implement the idea, because of the un-affordably high investment costs of cultivation. They came to know about Vermi compost and some decoctions of locally available herbs their investment costs will come down drastically to their affordable limits.

They took 2 acres of dry land on lease from a land owner and sowed groundnut during Kharif 2009. They practiced SA practices especially the

"We believe that Vermi compost is the best alternative to chemical fertilizers. We will continue producing and using Vermi compost in future. As the expenditure for producing vermi compost is less we were able to save some amount. This helped us to send our three children to Kalyandurg for higher studies. We are happy to become farmers from laborers. Whenever AF staff brings some visitors to our field we feel happy and proud."

- Parvathamma & Family
Mallapuram village.

application of vermi compost and bio-pesticides. AF provided them some incentive, to construct 3 Vermi compost units in their farm land and provided them technical guidance on how to produce Vermi compost. Totally, they produced 3.6 tons of Vermi

compost during the year from the 3 pits. Of the compost produced, they applied 0.5 ton to the groundnut crop.

They have spent Rs. 1,000 on the Vermi compost units, Rs. 600 for the decoctions (Bio-pesticides), Rs. 3,000 for groundnut seed and Rs. 6300 towards labor and other costs. Totally, they spent Rs. 10,900 on their 2 acres of groundnut crop. They got 12.8 quintals (32 bags) of groundnut yield, which was sold @ 2,750 per quintal. The total income from groundnut crop was Rs.35,200. After deducting the investment, their net income from groundnut crop is Rs.24,300.

They sold the remaining 3.1 tons of Vermi compost @ Rs. 4 per Kg. to farmers from their own village and the surrounding villages and earned an amount of Rs.12,400. Totally, the family has earned Rs.36,700 during the year. Now more farmers from the village are coming forward to practice the preparation and application of vermi compost. Parvathamma has been selected as a Community Resource Person (CRP) by IKP.