

Useful Organic products for agriculture purpose

Organic farming system in India is not new and is being followed from ancient time. It is a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment. The most important reason for a farm however to make its own organic inputs is that it makes good economic sense. An organic farm has to necessarily make as much of its bulk inputs as possible where the savings are enormous.

Organic products that can be made on a farm are:

1. Compost: A huge quantity of crop wastes/residues and animal wastes are always available on a farm. The common practice is to burn plant wastes which, besides being an environmental disaster, are also a waste of the huge potential of these residues. Properly recycled residues form excellent compost in one to six months, depending upon the composting process used.

2. Vermicomposting uses earthworms to eat and break up the organic wastes. Methods can be aerobic or anaerobic and above ground or below, though the best way to get high quality compost quickly is to make a heap above the ground. A by-product of vermicomposting called vermiwash which can be collected at the base of the vermicompost tank also serves the same purpose.

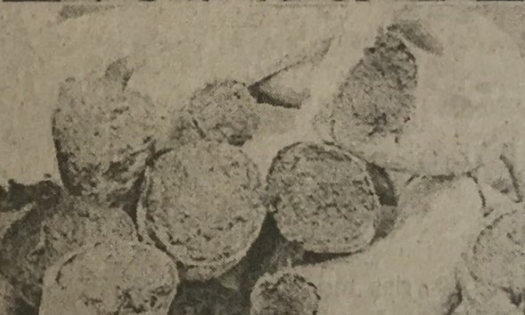
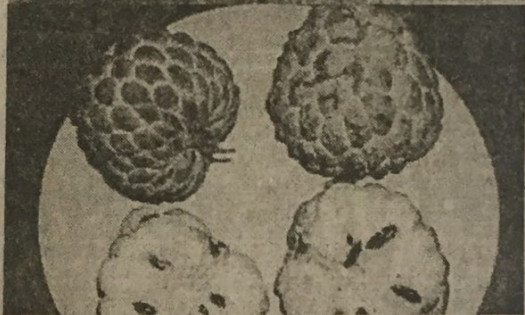
3. Biodynamics (BD): It is essentially a science of life forces and recognition of the role of nature and "higher forces" in agriculture. It was conceived by Rudolf Steiner in Germany in the 1920s.

BD 500 - Also called horn-manure, this is made from fresh cow dung fermented in a cow horn that has been buried in the soil for six months, through autumn and winter. BD 500 is used as a soil spray. Its purpose is to stimulate the growth of roots and help form humus.

BD 501 - Also called horn-silica, BD 501 is made from powdered quartz which is packed inside a cow horn and buried in the soil for six months, through spring and summer. BD 501 is applied as a foliar spray. Its purpose is to stimulate and regulate growth of plants.

4. Natural pesticides: For preparing natural bio-pesticides, a number of plants can be used. Neem, ginger, chilly, custard apple seeds, pongamia pinnata, asafoetida, turmeric, garlic, tobacco, sweet flag, tulsi and marijuana are among the many plants that are commonly used in pest control.

Many farmers use prophylactics such



as diluted cow urine and vermiwash (the fluid from a vermicompost tank) both of which can also be used in greater strengths as pesticides. Biodynamics, and Panchakavya also offer excellent prophylactics, all of which a farmer can undertake on his own farm.

Hannah Krujia
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6/7/13

24th May 2013.

KVK Phek conducts training

PHEK, MAY 23 (MExN): KVK Phek, in collaboration with the state agriculture department, Chozuba sub division conducted a training programme on May 21 on the topics, "System of rice intensification" and "Integrated Nutrient Management". A press note informed that a total of 23 participants from 5 villages attended the programme. The programme was chaired by Vekpropra and the resource person was Hannah Krujia. Hannah emphasized on the importance of package and practice of SRI technology and also elaborated on integrated nutrient management.