

TRAINING ON “WEALTH FROM WASTE: BIO-COMPOST AND ITS UTILIZATION IN THE FIELD CROP” FOR SC FARMERS OF WEST BENGAL

ICAR-CRIJAF has developed a technology for leaf litter and crop waste management for its rapid composting and making cost-effective compost as a source of organic plant nutrients. Decomposition of admixture of tree leaf litter is done using fruit-based effective microorganisms (EM) and green sunnhemp plant treatment under aerobic conditions. This leaf litter and crop wastage can also be converted through vermi-composting. A three-day farmer’s training was organised from 13–15 September 2022 at ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore, West Bengal, to disseminate the bio-compost production in farmers’ fields under SCSP. This technology of bio-composting may provide an alternative approach to waste management for a clean environment. This compost can also reduce the use of chemical fertilisers in crop cultivation and help in lowering agriculture's GHG emissions. The programme was organised through interaction-based training sessions covering topics like: bio-compost production technology; vermicompost application based on nutrient requirements of crops; production technology of sunnhemp as green manure crop; role of bio-compost in organic and natural farming; vermicompost production technology under an integrated farming system; production technology of fruit-based microorganism for bio-compost preparation, etc. with practical sessions.

Altogether, 15 Scheduled Caste farmers of West Bengal interacted with scientists of ICAR-CRIJAF. In the valedictory session, Dr. Gauranga Kar, Director, stressed the use of biocompost to improve the soil and plant quality and emphasised the production of bio-compost, vermicompost, and green manuring crops like sunnhemp to curtail the use of chemical fertiliser and thereby the cost of cultivation. Dr. Gouranga Kar, Director (ICAR-CRIJAF), Dr. A.K. Singh, Principal Scientist (Soil Science) & Course Director, and Dr. M.S. Behera, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) and Course Coordinator, also distributed Vermi-bed and Sunnhemp seeds to all farmers. Dr. M.L. Roy, Sr. Scientist (Agril. Extension) and Dr. Sourav Ghosh, Scientist (Agronomy) conducted the training.



ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore