

## VERMICOMPOST UNIT

A vermicompost unit has been established and maintained for the production and supply of earth worms and vermicompost to cater the needs of the station as well as farmers.

Vermicomposting is the process of degradation of organic wastes by earthworms to achieve three objectives viz.,

- To upgrade the value of organic waste material so that it can be reused
- To produce upgraded materials *in-situ*
- To obtain a final product free of chemical or biological pollutants.

Any type of containers can be used. The number of earthworms will depend on the container size. A volume of 0.3 m<sup>3</sup> (1 m x 1 m x 0.3 m ) can accommodate 2000 worms. The container can be constructed in brick masonry and cement, wood or even plastic trough can be used. Composting has to be done under a roof to avoid direct sunlight and rain.

In Mecheri Sheep Research Station, Pottaneri, three different types of vermicompost models have been established for demonstration to the farmers and vermicompost production. The earthworm *Eudrillus eugeniae* is used in all the three models. The three different models of vermicompost production is as follows:



**Vermicomposting in tarpaulin bags**



**Vermicomposting in rings**



**Vermicomposting in solid brick blocks**

The vermicompost and earth worms are sold to the farmers.