



# VERMICULTURE

## What is Vermiculture?

Vermiculture means artificial rearing or cultivation of Earthworms. It involves the use of specific earthworm species to turn organic waste into a natural fertilizer.

## Of what importance is Vermiculture?

We get organic manure out of vermiculture with Nitrogen which is 5 times than that in the ordinary soil, Phosphorus that is 7 times than in ordinary soil and Potassium that is 11 times than that of ordinary soil.

The application of vermicompost buffers the PH of the soil and improves its structure. Vermicompost does not easily disappear from the soil like other inorganic manure.



Vermibeds in a vermiculture unit are structured on a raised ground and are composed of 4"-6" layer of any slowly biodegradable agricultural residue such as dried leaves/straw/sugarcane trash and others

## What does it require to do Vermiculture?

Vermiculture requires an organic management system which depends on the available organic waste, the human recourses, the time and machinery. This answers the questions on whether to do it on a small or large scale. It can be done in boxes or plastic containers. The primary requirements to begin a vermiculture unit are; a container, beddings, feed for the worms and a cover.

## What is the Economic Value of Vermiculture?

Vermiculture basically has three products with economic importance; Solid manure, Liquid manure and Worms. Each dried solid manure packed in 10Kgs can go up to Ugx25,000 while a 5 liter liquid manure from worms can go up to Ugx10,000. Worms multiplication is a serious business venture because worms contain high protein contents that are good for birds and fish. Therefore the demand for worms among poultry and fish farmers cannot be met. A kilogram of worms can go up to Ugx40,000.

## What are the Advantages of Vermicomposting?

Vermicompost is an ecofriendly natural fertilizer prepared from biodegradable organic wastes and is free from chemical inputs. It does not have any adverse effect on soil, plant and environment and it improves soil aeration, texture and tilth thereby reducing soil compaction. It improves water retention capacity of soil because of its high organic matter content and it promotes better root growth and nutrient absorption. Also, it improves nutrient status of soil-both macro-nutrients and micro-nutrients.