

# Demand for vermicomposting units under subsidy scheme doubles in Queen of Hills

TNN | Oct 24, 2020, 04.07 AM IST

UDHAGAMANDALAM: The demand for vermicomposting units under the subsidy scheme from the horticulture department has gone up among farmers in the district.

A few years ago, the horticulture department started with one or two vermicomposting sheds. After the hill district was declared as organic last year, the horticulture department sanctioned 50 vermicomposting units under the subsidy scheme. This year, the demand has doubled to 100 units.

The cost involved in setting up a 600 cubic feet vermicomposting unit would be around Rs 1 lakh. The horticulture department sanctions a subsidy of Rs 50, 000 for a compost unit of the prescribed size, according to Shiva Subramaniam Samraj, joint director, horticulture department.

He said, “A few years ago we started with one or two units of vermicomposting in the process of creating awareness among the farmers about organic farming.” The official said, “After the district was declared as an organic district, the demand for the units increased. For the first time, we sanctioned 50 vermicomposting units with 50% subsidy last year.”

This year the demand for the vermicomposting units under the subsidy scheme doubled. As many as 100 farmers applied for the subsidy for vermicomposting units.

“But the government has sanctioned only 65 units under the subsidy scheme. We have recommended to the government for the remaining 35 applications for the units”, Samraj said.

The 600 cubic feet vermicomposting shed with four divisions should have waterproof roofing. Any agri-waste could be

dumped into the shed. One to two kilograms of earthworms put inside the shed would convert the agri-waste in 45 days of time.

“It is a success story in the Nilgiris. Farmers show more interest in organic farming as the produce is chemical-free. Also, this makes them self-sufficient for manure,” the official said.