

Turning waste into organic manure

The Pammal Exnora has come out with a unique way of converting wastes into organic manure.

Waste is not a waste until it is wasted, was the start word for Pammal Exnora. Volunteers of Exnora started visiting all the 21 wards of Pammal Municipality to collect the segregated wastes from households. All the wastes collected will be taken to the compost yard constructed at Visweswaram.

The organic wastes are dumped in bins and water mixed with cow dung is applied on them to get it decomposed. And it will be allowed to decay for about a week. Then it will be transferred to other sections and earthworms will be put into the bins. The process will take another three weeks. Likewise the wastes will have to cross four stages to become dried up organic manure in 40 days. They make 20 kg of organic manure per day out of wastes.

"Though we handle loads of garbage the yard do not stink as the cow dung takes out the smell", says a worker in the compost yard. Separately an earthworm-breeding centre is functioning at Sankar Nagar to support this cause. At present the compost yard handles organic wastes up to three tonnes. Inorganic wastes amount to six tons. Inorganic wastes up to two tonnes can be used for land filling. PESICO has pumped in Rs. 15 lakhs to support this project.

Machines to handle wastes like pet bottles, jars, glass items, milk covers and tube lights have been



COLLECTIVE EFFORT: The compost yard of the Pammal Municipality has been built as a joint venture with the local body, Exnora International, Pepsico and residents. PHOTO: A. MURALITHARAN.

acquired with fund from sponsors. They have tied up with companies who use them as raw material.

Space and infrastructure

"The yard which is handling the wastes for three wards cannot handle the wastes for all the wards," says Mangalam Balasubramanian, vice-president, Exnora International. She is in pursuit of getting

another two acres of land adjacent to this place to handle the huge quantum of wastes. "A retaining wall is the immediate need to prevent from others entering the premises", Ms. Mangalam says.

Exnora Green Pammal has provided employment to 105 people who are involved in this campaign. The truck drivers of Municipality have been assigned the job of bring-

ing the segregated wastes to the yard.

"We work with an aim to make the municipality a litter-free zone along with it we provide employment to many people. We conduct training sessions to Self Help Group women and make them ready for employment. We have already conducted training sessions to women in vermi composting in areas like

Peerkankaranai and Pallikaranai and many more sessions coming up," says Ms. Mangalam.

With the Municipality handing over the charge to Exnora, there is a hue and cry about the garbage clearance among the councillors and residents. Several residents are not sure about the programme taking off. Ms. Mangalam said these are all starting trouble.

"Once the volunteers are accustomed to the job, the system will function smoothly," she said. Moreover, she is still to get enough number of vehicles and other equipments to handle such a large volume of garbage. "Everything will be set right in a week's time," she added. With the support from the district administration, Municipality and residents of Pammal, she vowed to make Pammal a garbage-free area.

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