Adani Power introduces Vermicomposting technology in Tirora

**District Correspondent
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ADANI Power Ltd, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd and part of the Adani Group, a global integrated infrastructure player, announced that it has introduced a new sustainable livelihood development programme of vermiculture in 18 villages in Tirora, Maharashtra, which will support the livelihoods of locals, especially farmers of the region, where it is setting up a 3,500 megawatt power project.

The vermiculture programme is part of the Adani Power’s conscious efforts towards safe removal and environment-friendly management of fly ash, released during electric power generation, at plants in Tirora, Mundra in Gujarat and Kawai in Rajasthan.

We have always been firm believers in operating our power plants in an environment-friendly manner. After the success of this pilot project of vermiculture in Mundra, we have now introduced this successfully at Tirora. Adani Power believe in promoting sustainable knowledge and skill development in an environment friendly manner among the communities around which we operate,” said Vinod Jain, CEO, Adani Power.

As per the programme, farmers of the region have been imparted technical training in the making of tonnes of fly ash in two months period.

Nearly 400 locals, including farmers have been trained in this programme across the villages of Adani Power's Tirora plant.

Adani Power mixes fly ash with organic matter, in the form of cow dung, on a 1:1 ratio and inoculates it with anaerobic earthworms for 50 days. The concentration of phosphorous and potassium in the fly ash is increased and the fly ash is made nutrient rich.

Amounts of insoluble minerals from fly ash are broken down into more soluble forms and the results in increased bio-availability of the nutrients in the Vermicompost series.

The main idea for promoting the vermiculture programme is to make farmers of the Tirora region self-sufficient as well as reduce the dependency on inorganic fertilizers. The programme is designed to provide an alternative to conventional methods of organic farming.

In its Vermicomposting unit at Ravalwadi, Dharmawada, Garada, Churd, Kutchwadi, Jamoniya, Barbaspura, Thane-goan, Bhavupar, Chirawadi, Chakali and Chamari, the Vermicomposting unit produces compost by consuming 1000 metric tonnes of fly ash per month. The compost is then used as a soil conditioner for agricultural activities.

Cattle dung is available in abundance from villages near the project. Therefore, appropriate composting technology was required, which not only protects and conserves the environment but also supports the recovery of the important nutrients present in it. Vermiculture is a viable, cost-effective and rapid technique for the efficient management and disposal of agricultural as well as industrial wastes.

Pertinently, Adani Foundation has collaborated with the Environment Department of the state government to conduct training for farmers on using fly ash as a source of plant nutrient in agriculture.

Adani Power’s Tirora plant, which is the central India’s largest private power station, contributes 2,640 MW to the company’s total generation capacity of 8,620 MW. The plant is currently operating four units of 660 MW and will soon commission its fifth unit. The full capacity of 660 MW, achieved in 2017, has contributed significantly to the growth of the state's power generation capacity.