All about Earthworms

Now-a-days the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture has reached its peak. This harms the human health as well as environment. The process of agricultural modernization has been an important contributing factor towards this. This deprives the land from its fertility and leaves it unfit for further agricultural operations. Hence, a better alternative of such chemical monsters is required to overcome these ill-effects. Therefore, a shift from chemical to organic farming is appreciated. Production efficiency, economic efficiency and employment generation efficiency of any system is a direct measure of its preferability. Therefore, this study deals with the requirements, methods, advantages, etc. of vermicomposting as well as its applications in agriculture. The main purpose of this process is the quick and efficient conversion of the organic waste materials into the nutritious fertilizer for plants.

Verms & Vermitechnology Earthworm's vermicompost is a nutritive organic fertiliser rich in NKP,
micronutrients, and beneficial soil microbes. They are scientifically proven to be excellent growth promoters and protectors for crop plants. In experiments with corn and wheat crops it displayed excellent growth performances in terms of height of plants, colour and texture of leaves, as well as the appearance of fruiting structures. There is also less incidences of pest and disease attack and reduced demand of water for irrigation. This book discusses and presents data which suggest that the vermicompost of earthworms contributes to an increase in the yield of crops when used as a fertiliser.

Vermicomposting The success of industrial agriculture and the green revolution in recent decades has often masked by significant externalities, affecting natural resources and human health as well as agriculture itself. Environmental and health problems associated with agriculture have been increasingly well documented, but it is only recently that the scale of the costs has attracted the attention of planners and scientists. Increasing consciousness about conservation of environment as well as of health hazards caused by agrochemicals has brought a major shift in consumer preference towards food quality. This timely book is a one stop resource for agriculturists, planners, policy makers and other stakeholders who are involved in organic cultivation. The findings emanated from this study would be helpful for Ministry of Agriculture, organic producers, organic input users and other associations involved in organic produce supply-chains in the country.

Organic Fertilizers This book, Organic Fertilizers - History, Production and Applications, aims to provide an update on research issues related to organic fertilizers, highlighting their importance in sustainable agriculture and the environment. We aimed to compile information from diverse sources into a single volume and to give some real-life examples, extending the appreciation of organic fertilizers that may stimulate new research ideas and trends in relevant fields. The contributions in this field of research are gratefully acknowledged. The publication of this book is of great importance for those researchers, scientists, engineers, teachers, graduate students, agricultural agronomists, farmers and crop producers who can use these different investigations to understand the advantages of using organic fertilizers.

Organic Farming for Sustainable Agriculture How to set up and maintain a worm composting system.

Advances in Waste Management Vast information is available in the literature on the subject on any aspect of life of earthworms. However, the information is widely scattered and it takes quite long time and effort to dig the information. In this write up, an attempt has been made to fill up this gap. There are nine chapters in the book with topics like Common Traits Of Earthworms, Dissimilar Characteristics
Of Earthworms, Attributes Of Earthworms, Life Of Earthworms, Vermicomposting, Vermiwash, Vermicompost Tea And Fortified Vermi Tea. The last chapter "Return To Virginity" discusses ways and means to revive back the lost fertility of the soil over the time and the role of earthworms can play in this endeavor. Appropriate references have been quoted to enable the reader to reach to the related links.

Organic Amendments and Soil Suppressiveness in Plant Disease Management Earthworms (Verms) have long been described as the intestine of the earth, friends of farmers and so on, because of their manifold functions in the soil. Recently, earthworms have come to be recognized as one of the bioreactors due to their ability to degrade organic waste materials into available vermin-compost and the technology is being described as vermiculture technology or Vermitechnology. Due to population explosion beyond the limit and rapid urbanization, total agricultural land area is decreasing day by day. These are directly affecting the crop production. Although due to the usage of various chemical fertilizers and pesticides, yield of crop production have been increased multi-folds, but their excessive and imbalance usage causing tremendous alterations in natural soil environment. In order to cope with this trenchant problem, the vermitechnology has become the most suitable remedial device of the day. Therefore, the present book entitled Verms & Vermitechnology has been edited to make the low cost vermitechnology a grand success among the farmers, researchers and academicians.

Microbes at Work

Earthworm Vermicompost This book provides a timely review of concepts in plant disease management involving microbial soil suppressiveness and organic amendments. Topics discussed include the impact of suppressive soils on plant pathogens and agricultural productivity, the enhancement of soil suppressiveness through the application of compost and the development of disease suppressive soils through agronomic management. Further chapters describe diseases caused by phytopathogens, such as Pythium, Fusarium and Rhizoctonia, interaction of rhizobia with soil suppressiveness factors, biocontrol of plant parasitic nematodes by fungi and soil suppressive microorganisms.

Handbook on Vermicomposting: Requirements, Methods, Advantages and Applications Garden Myths examines over 120 horticultural urban legends. Turning wisdom on its head, Robert Pavlis dives deep into traditional garden advice and debunks the myths and misconceptions that abound. He asks critical questions and uses science-based information to understand plants and their environment. Armed with the truth, Robert then turns this knowledge into easy-to-follow advice. - Is fall the best time to clean the garden? - Do bloom boosters work?- Will citronella plants reduce mosquitoes in the garden?- Do pine
needles acidify soil?- Should tomatoes be suckered?- Should trees be staked at planting time? - Can burlap keep your trees warm in winter?- Will a pebble tray increase humidity for houseplants? "Garden Myths is a must-read for anyone who wants to use environmentally sound practices. This fascinating and informative book will help you understand plants better, reduce unnecessary work, convince you to buy fewer products and help you enjoy gardening more."

Vermiculture Technology Vermiculture refers to the artificial rearing or cultivation of earthworms for the production of vermicompost to benefit humans. The utility and variability of research work in this field could be of great use to the agricultural community. The book provides the basic concepts of vermitechnology in a manner suited to a broad spectrum of graduates and researchers.

Rediscovering Earthworms Rampant industrialization, urbanization, and population growth have resulted in increased global environmental contamination. The productivity of agricultural soil is drastically deteriorated and requires a high dose of fertilizers to cultivate crops. To ensure food security, farmers are compelled to apply excess chemical fertilizers and insecticides that contaminate soil, air, and water. Heavy loads of chemical fertilizers not only degrade the quality of agricultural land but also pollute water and air. Use of chemical fertilizers also accelerate the release of greenhouse gases like nitrous oxide and methane along with nutrient runoff from the watershed in to lower elevation rivers and lakes, resulting in cultural eutrophication. Farming practices globally in developed, developing, and under-developing countries should utilize and promote sustainable methods through viable combined environmental, social, and economic means that improve rather than harm future generations. This can include use of non-synthetic fertilizers like compost, vermicompost, slow-release fertilizers, farmyard manures, crop rotations that include nitrogen-fixing legumes. Organic fertilizers like compost and vermicompost improve soil properties like texture, porosity, water-holding capacity, organic matter, as well as nutrient availability. The purpose of this book is to document the available alternatives of synthetic fertilizers, their mode of action, efficiency, preparation methodology, practical suggestions for sustainable practices, and needed research focus. The book will cover major disciplines like plant science, environmental science, agricultural science, agricultural biotechnology and microbiology, horticulture, soil science, atmospheric science, agro-forestry, agronomy, and ecology. This book is helpful for farmers, scientists, industrialists, research scholars, masters and graduate students, non-governmental organizations, financial advisers, and policy makers.

A Textbook of Vermicompost: Vermiwash and Biopesticides Sustainable Food Systems from Agriculture to Industry: Improving Production and Processing addresses the principle that food supply needs of the
present must be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Responding to sustainability goals requires maximum utilization of all raw materials produced and integration of activities throughout all production-to-consumption stages. This book covers production stage activities to reduce postharvest losses and increase use of by-products streams (waste), food manufacturing and beyond, presenting insights to ensure energy, water and other resources are used efficiently and environmental impacts are minimized. The book presents the latest research and advancements in efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly food production and ways they can be implemented within the food industry. Filling the knowledge gap between understanding and applying these advancements, this team of expert authors from around the globe offer both academic and industry perspectives and a real-world view of the challenges and potential solutions that exist for feeding the world in the future. The book will guide industry professionals and researchers in ways to improve the efficiency and sustainability of food systems. Addresses why food waste recovery improves sustainability of food systems, how these issues can be adapted by the food industry, and the role of policy making in ensuring sustainable food production Describes in detail the latest understanding of food processing, food production and waste reduction issues Includes emerging topics, such as sustainable organic food production and computer aided process engineering Analyzes the potential and sustainability of already commercialized processes and products

Prospects of Organic Waste Management and the Significance of Earthworms The Kjeldahl Method for Organic Nitrogen volume presents a broad and comprehensive survey of the method as applied to natural products and organic nitrogen compounds. The quantitative determination of an element as widely distributed as nitrogen is of great importance, and the truth of this is borne out by the tremendous amount of literature published throughout the years. The analysis of nitrogen can be divided into two classes: inorganic and organic. This book is concerned only with organic nitrogen compounds, and specifically their determination by the Kjeldahl method. The book opens with a chapter on the historical background and the work leading to the evolution of the method. This is followed by separate chapters that discuss each of the several divisions of the method, e.g., salt addition, reduction, oxidation, catalysts, distillation.

Earthworms This new volume looks at the evolution and challenges of sustainable agriculture, a field that is growing in use and popularity, discussing some of the important ideas, practices, and policies that are essential to an effective sustainable agriculture strategy. The book features 25 chapters written by experts in crop improvement, natural resource management, crop protection, social sciences, and product development. The volume provides a good understanding of the use of sustainable agriculture
and the sustainable management of agri-horticultural crops, focusing on eco-friendly approaches, such as the utilization of waste materials. Topics include ecofriendly plant protection measures, climate change and natural resource management, tools to mitigate the effect of extreme weather events, agrochemical research and regulation, soil carbon sequestration, water and nutrient management in agricultural systems, and more. Key features: Discusses sustainable agriculture within the framework of recent challenges in agriculture Looks at the development and diversification of crops and cultural practices to enhance biological and economic stability Discusses innovative nanotechnologies in research and production technologies Highlights the development of new varieties in agri-horticultural crops Discusses use of recent technologies for soil-plant-microbe-environment interactions.

Automation in Agriculture The production of degradable organic waste and its safe disposal have become the current global problem. The rejuvenation of degraded soils by protecting topsoil and sustainability of productive soils is a major concern at the international level. Vermicomposting is compatible process with sound environmental principles that value conservation of resources and sustainable practices. Vermicompost is known to be the world best organic fertilizer. Vermiculture is for vermicompost. Vermiculture means artificial rearing or cultivation of worms (Earthworms) and the technology is the scientific process of using them for the betterment of human beings. Vermiculture technology has improved the crop productivity by increasing soil fertility through ecological methods of farming. Vermiculture has been embraced throughout the world right from the developed countries to the developing countries. Vermicomposting is a panacea for solid waste management. It is a simple kindred process of composting, in which certain species of microorganism such as earthworms are used to enhance the process of waste conversion and produce a better end product. Earthworms serve as nature plowman to facilitate these functions. They form gift of nature to produce good humus, which is the most precious material to fulfill the nutritional needs of crops. The utilization of vermicompost results in several benefits to farmers, industries, environment and overall national economy. This contains experiments from the field, vermicomposting materials, earthworm life cycle, ecological types earthworms, role of earthworms, vermicomposting, advantages of vermiculture, vermitech technology. This book majorly deals with advantages of vermicomposting, vermicomposting in daily life vermiculture v/s vermicomposting, earthworms: ecological types, physical and chemical effects of earthworms on soils, fertilizers use and deterioration of soil environment, vermicomposting materials, feeding vermicomposting materials, ideal conditions for life of earthworms, earthworms: their application in organic agriculture, maintenance of vermicomposting beds, vermicomposting: general procedures at agricultural farms vermicomposting: kiss plan, vermicomposting: a world scenario, soil fertility and texture, advantages of vermiculture, small scale or indoor vermicomposting, large scale or outdoor vermicomposting ect. This book is an invaluable resource for
Textbook of AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY Co-edited by international earthworm expert Clive A. Edwards, Vermiculture Technology: Earthworms, Organic Wastes, and Environmental Management is the first international, comprehensive, and definitive work on how earthworms and microorganisms interact to break down organic wastes on a commercial basis. Many books cover the importance of composting

Vermicology

Vermitechnology This book is written by Dr. KESHAV SINGH, Dr. GORAKH NATH, Mr. DEEPAK KUMAR BHARTIYA, and Dr. ADARSH PAL VIG and is edited and technically improved by Dr. DEBMALYA BARH. The book provides a comprehensive detail of vermicomposting and its various applications in eco-friendly organic farming supported by authors' own experimental data. The book is divided into 11 chapters that provide why earthworm is important in modern agriculture; how the vermicompost and the vermiwash can be produced; socio-economic impacts of vermicomposting; and a detail account of "meaningful uses" of various vermicomposts to improve soil fertility and yield and quality of various crops supported by 15 illustrations. 382 suggested readings including references that are used in this work are also provided at the end of the book. Authors hope that the book will be very useful in various ways to encourage and learn organic farming and eco-friendly agricultural practices using earthworm. This book is one of the initiatives of Institute of Integrative Omics and Applied Biotechnology (IIOAB) in promoting Indian researchers, higher education, R&D, sustainable agriculture, and ecology and environmental awareness.

Earthworms - The Ecological Engineers of Soil According to Prof. D. Despommier, by the year 2050, nearly 80% of the earth's population will reside in urban centers. Furthermore, the human population will increase by about 3 billion people during the interim. New land will be needed to grow enough food to feed them. At present, throughout the world, over 80% of the land that is suitable for raising crops is in use. What can be done to avoid this impending disaster? One possible solution is indoor farming. However, not all crops can easily be moved in an indoor environment. Nevertheless, to secure the food supply, it is necessary to increase the automation level in agriculture significantly. This book intends to provide the reader with a comprehensive overview of the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and automation examples in agriculture.

Composting Technology This book presents some of the latest technologies in waste management, and emphasizes the benefits that can be gained from the use of recycled products. Divided into four
sections, it deals with phytoremediation, aquatic weed management and the treatment of solid- and water-based wastes, such as those arising from agricultural, industrial and medical activities. With its special emphasis on the utilization of recycled products, this volume will be of interest to students, academicians, policy makers and others who have a practical and academic interest in dealing with the waste society generates.

The Complete Technology Book on Vermiculture and Vermicompost The book “Principles of Organic Farming: Textbook” has been designed to fulfill the requirement of undergraduate students of agriculture faculty considering the syllabus of 5th Dean’s committee of ICAR. This book makes an attempt to present the available information on organic agriculture in a very simple and lucid language based on the experience of the author. The book contains chapters on an introduction to organic farming, promotion of organic agriculture in India, organic ecosystems and their concepts, organic nutrients resources and their management, insect pests and disease management in organic farming, weed management in organic farming, organic crop production, certification process and standards of organic farming in India, processing and labelling of organic produce, economic viability of organic farming, marketing and export potential of organic products.

Management of Organic Waste Agricultural biotechnology plays a significant role in developing agriculturally important crops that provide high yield with enhanced nutritional value and show improved resistance to pathogens. This book, a collaborative endeavour involving contributions from renowned academics from India and abroad, discusses the techniques of plant tissue culture, the fundamental basis for the development of innovative crop improvement strategies, and emerging paradigms in plant genome research. The book describes the benefits of the production and use of biofertilizers and biopesticides to overcome hazardous effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It explains the importance of microbes in bioremediation and the methods of biomonitoring to target contaminants. Besides, coverage also includes the topics on bioinformatics in agriculture, biodiversity, bioethics, and agricultural pollution. This text is suitable for the undergraduate and postgraduate students of agriculture and biotechnology. It will also be useful to researchers and agronomists.

Sustainable Agriculture This book in two sections represents the current trend of research in ecology and biology of earthworms. In section "Ecology and Diversity" the authors reported the ecological and geographical uniqueness and diversity of earthworms in different environmental terrains of Siberia and Mexico. Functional interaction between earthworms and soil nematodes was elucidated with reference to vermicomposting and agricultural systems. Importance of digital library was highlighted for
inventorization and taxonomical identification of earthworms. In section "Vermicomposting" the importance of maintaining pure cultures was discussed from the viewpoint of growth rate and the reproduction of composting species. This section includes article describing the management-related issues like roles of physicochemical parameters of soil and feed mixture on growth and reproduction of commercially important species of earthworm.

Principles of Organic Farming: Textbook Natural Remedies for Pest, Disease and Weed Control presents alternative solutions in the form of eco-friendly, natural remedies. Written by senior researchers and professionals with many years of experience from diverse fields in biopesticides, the book presents scientific information on novel plant families with pesticidal properties and their formulations. It also covers chapters on microbial pest control and control of weeds by allelopathic compounds. This book will be invaluable to plant pathologists, agrochemists, plant biochemists, botanists, environmental chemists and farmers, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate students. Details microbial biopesticides and other bio-botanical derived pesticides and their formulation Contains case studies for major crops and plants Discusses phytochemicals of plant-derived essential oils

Biology of Earthworms "Simple text and full-color photographs describe the features, behavior, and life cycle of earthworms"--

Earthworms in Waste and Environmental Management Meeting the food requirements of an ever-increasing population is a pressing challenge for every country around the globe. Soil degradation has a negative impact on food security by reducing the cultivated land areas, while at the same time the world population is predicted to increase to 9.2 billion in 2050. Soil degradation adversely affects soil function and productivity and degraded soils now amount to 6 billion ha worldwide. The major factors are salinization, erosion, depletion of nutrients due to exhaustive agricultural practices and contamination with toxic metal ions and agrochemicals, which reduces the activity of soil microbe. In addition, poor soil management also decreases fertility. As such, measures are required to restore the soil health and productivity: organic matter, beneficial microorganisms and nutrient dynamics can all improve the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil. Understanding the role of soil health restoration and management in sustainability and nutritional security calls for a holistic approach to assess soil functions and examine the contributions of a particular management system within a defined timescale. Further, best management practices in cropping systems are important in ensuring sustainability and food and nutritional security without compromising the soil quality and productivity potential. Rational soil management practices must allow environmentally and economically sustainable yields and restoration of
soil health.

Ecological and Practical Applications for Sustainable Agriculture This book reports research on the utilization of organic waste through composting and vermicomposting, biogas production, recovery of waste materials, and the chemistry involved in the processing of organic waste under various processing aspects. A few chapters on collection systems and disposal of wastes have also been included.

The Worm Farmer’s Handbook The main aim of this book is to bridge the gap between aerobic and anaerobic waste treatments by concentrating on studies of earthworms. In particular, vermicomposting is being discussed as well as its properties and applications. Other subjects touch on the treatment of palm oil mill effluents, the various importance of earthworms, its scope and future aspects of earthworm research, and the impact of waste management practices on human health.

Organic Input Production and Marketing in India Efficiency, Issues and Policies (CMA Publication No. 239)

Soil Health Restoration and Management Conferentieverslagen over: omzetting van dierlijk en menselijk afval door wormen, beheerstechniek betreffende deze omzetting, wormen als diervoeder, inschakeling van wormen bij de produktie van plantengroeimedia, wormen voor bodemverbetering, wormen als indicatoren voor milieuverontreiniging A collection of conference reports on the vermicomposting of human and animal waste, the production of hormone like compounds by worms, worms as soil improvers and worms as indicators of soil pollution

Report and recommendations on organic farming

Garden Myths This book is a concise and well-illustrated treatment of the conventional knowledge and modern utilities of earthworms. The first two chapters deal with earthworm morphology, food relationship, behavior, functional role, interaction with soil biota, and the influence of environmental factors. Earthworms found in the tropics and sub-tropics are also discussed in this section. The third chapter provides a good account of utilizing species of worms to produce high value manure through vermitechnology and its application in agriculture. The nutritional and medicinal values of earthworms are illustrated in the fourth chapter, while the fifth c provides information on how earthworms are used successfully as indicators of ecological perturbations, soil quality and for remediation of contaminated soils. The book will immensely benefit students, faculty and researchers in biological, agricultural and
environmental sciences. It is also a source of information for anyone interested in knowing more about earthworms.

Effect of Vermiwash and Vermicomposting Leachate in Hydroponics Culture of Indian Borage (Plectranthus Ambionicus) Plantlet Focusing on organic farming, this book presents peer-reviewed contributions from leading international academics and researchers in the field of organic agriculture, plant ecosystems, sustainable horticulture and related areas of biodiversity science. It includes case studies and reviews on organic agriculture, horticulture and pest management, use of microorganisms, composting, crop rotation, organic milk and meat production, as well as ecological issues. This unique book addresses a wide array of topics from all continents, making it a valuable reference resource for students, researchers and agriculturists who are concerned with biodiversity, agroecology and sustainable development of agricultural resources.

Sustainable Agriculture

Natural Remedies for Pest, Disease and Weed Control Food Processing By-Products and their Utilization An in-depth look at the economic and environmental benefits that food companies can achieve—and the challenges and opportunities they may face—by utilizing food processing by-products Food Processing By-Products and their Utilization is the first book dedicated to food processing by-products and their utilization in a broad spectrum. It provides a comprehensive overview on food processing by-products and their utilization as source of novel functional ingredients. It discusses food groups, including cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, marine, sugarcane, winery, and plantation by-products; addresses processing challenges relevant to food by-products; and delivers insight into the current state of art and emerging technologies to extract valuable phytochemicals from food processing by-products. Food Processing By-Products and their Utilization offers in-depth chapter coverage of fruit processing by-products; the application of food by-products in medical and pharmaceutical industries; prebiotics and dietary fibers from food processing by-products; bioactive compounds and their health effects from honey processing industries; advances in milk fractionation for value addition; seafood by-products in applications of biomedicine and cosmeticals; food industry by-products as nutrient replacements in aquaculture diets and agricultural crops; regulatory and legislative issues for food waste utilization; and much more. The first reference text to bring together essential information on the processing technology and incorporation of by-products into various food applications Concentrates on the challenges and opportunities for utilizing by-products, including many novel and potential uses for the by-products and waste materials generated by food processing Focuses on the nutritional
composition and biochemistry of by-products, which are key to establishing their functional health benefits as foods Part of the "IFST Advances in Food Science" series, co-published with the Institute of Food Science and Technology (UK) This book serves as a comprehensive reference for students, educators, researchers, food processors, and industry personnel looking for up-to-date insight into the field. Additionally, the covered range of techniques for by-product utilization will provide engineers and scientists working in the food industry with a valuable resource for their work.

Food Processing By-Products and their Utilization Choice Reviews, Outstanding Academic Title Techniques and systems for processing food scraps, manure, yard debris, paper, and more Turning waste into wealth sounds too good to be true, but many worm farmers are finding that vermicomposting is a reliable way to do just that. Vermicast—a biologically active, nutrient-rich mix of earthworm castings and decomposed organic matter—sells for $400 or more per cubic yard. Compare that to regular compost, sold at about $30 a cubic yard, and you'll see why vermicomposting has taken root in most countries and on every continent but Antarctica. Vermicomposting is also one of the best sustainable solutions for organic waste management. Vermicomposting manure and crop wastes on farms improves crop yields while reducing demand for off-farm inputs. Vermicast has higher nutrient levels and lower soluble salt content than regular compost, and it improves soil aeration, porosity, and water retention. Plus, vermicast suppresses plant diseases and insect attacks. Municipalities, businesses, community gardens, schools, and universities can set up vermicomposting operations to process food residuals and other waste materials. The Worm Farmer's Handbook details the ins and outs of vermicomposting for mid- to large-scale operations, including how to recycle organic materials ranging from food wastes and yard trimmings to manure and shredded office paper. Vermicomposting expert Rhonda Sherman shares what she has learned over twenty-five years working with commercial worm growers and researchers around the world. Her profiles of successful worm growers across the United States and from New Zealand to the Middle East and Europe describe their proven methods and systems. This book digs into all the details, including: Choosing the right production system Regulatory issues and developing a business and marketing plan Finding and managing feedstocks Pre-composting: why and how to do it Monitoring an active worm bed Harvesting, screening, testing, packaging, and storing vermicast Markets for earthworms and vermicast Food security: how vermicast benefits soils and plants Keys to success: avoiding common pitfalls From livestock farms and restaurants to colleges, military bases, and prisons, Sherman details why and how commercial-scale vermicomposting is a fast-growing, sustainable solution for organic waste management. The Worm Farmer's Handbook is the first and only authoritative how-to guide that goes beyond small-scale operations and demystifies the science and logistics of the fascinating process that is vermicomposting.
Sustainable Food Systems from Agriculture to Industry Among the goals of environmentally sound waste treatment is the recycling of organic wastes. The most practiced options are composting and anaerobic digestion, both processes being carried out by microorganisms. This book provides an overview of the various ways microbes are doing their job and gives the reader an impression of their potential. The sixteen chapters of this book summarize the advantages and disadvantages of treatment processes, whether they are aerobic like composting or work without oxygen like anaerobic digestion for biogas (methane) production. These chapters show the potential of microorganisms to create valuable resources from otherwise wasted materials. These resources include profitable organic, humus-like soil conditioners or fertilizer components which are often suppressive to plant diseases. Composts may thus improve soil carbon sequestration, or support sustainable agriculture by reducing the need for mineral fertilizers or pesticides. If anaerobic digestion is used, the biogas produced may replace fossil fuels. Thus, proper biological waste treatment with the help of microorganisms should contribute to a reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas production.

Worms Eat My Garbage

The Kjeldahl Method for Organic Nitrogen

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