MANUAL Of

JATROPHA CURCAS:

A GREEN GOLD PLANTS

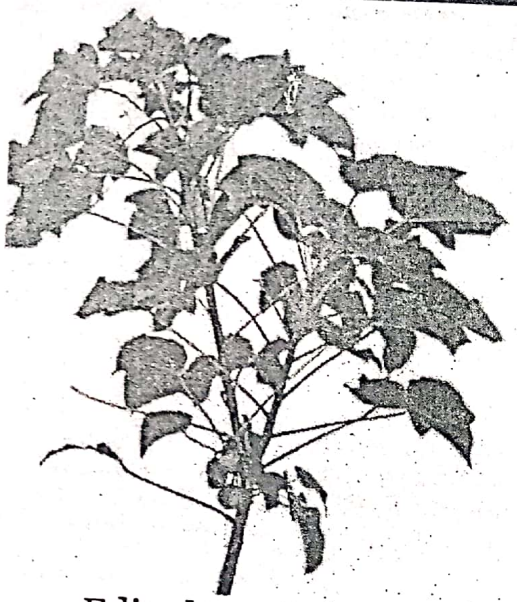


Vol. 1

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ISBN 978-978-961-854-5

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JATROPHA ORGANIC FERTILIZER

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Introduction

Since the use of inorganic fertilizer, there has been a gradual decline in soil productivity due to the absence of soil microbial content. Agricultural practice lacking in the use of organic manures/crop residues has resulted in reduction of physicochemical and biological properties of the soil. *Jatropha curcas* cake contains large amounts of nitrogen (6.0), phosphorus (2.8) and potassium (1.7) which is comparable to and sometimes better than that from other seed cakes e.g. castor seed cake has nitrogen (4.2), phosphorus (2.0) potassium (1.3); neem seed cake has nitrogen (5.5), phosphorus (1.0), potassium (1.5) while safflower has nitrogen (7.9), phosphorus (2.1) and potassium (2.0).

Jatropha curcas cake can be used as organic manure after aerobic fermentation. Organic manure increases the microbial activity in the soil, improve the soil structure, water holding capacity, drainage, exchange capacity and seed germination. Jatropha cake, like that of neem, has pesticidal properties which helps to protect the crops from pests and brings about a reduction of plant parasites and nematodes.

-Materials needed
-Jatropha seed cake
-Old compost
-Soil

Method of Production

1. The fertilizer should be produced far from human dwelling since it has a foul smell.
2. The preparation should be done under a shade to avoid drying up and slowing of thefermentation process

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3. The preparation should be raised to avoid water logging
4. Jatropha seed cake is spread out in layers and some old compost is spread on it as seeding material. This is then covered with a thin layer of soil. The layers are built up until the heap is about 50 cm in height, 200 cm wide.
5. A second heap can be started immediately after the first one is ready. During the dry season, water should be sprinkled on to the heap to make it moist once in 12 days.
6. The heap is turned upside down after a week. The height of the heap will reduce as it decomposes. The heap should be turned around every 13 days for the first two months. Thereafter, it should be left as it is for two more months, after which it is ready for use.

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