PITHPLUS

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The coir processing is one of the important industries in coconut producing countries. Coconut coir dust is the major waste material that is produced by industries processing coconut husk for extracting coconut fibre and poses disposal problem besides making the land unfit for any other uses/activities. With environmental pollution becoming more stringent, processing of coir dust has become very essential.

Coir dust consists of short fibbers (2 mm or less) and pith (dust), which are left behind after processing of coconut husk. Coir dust accumulates in large dumps outside the mills, which process the husk for extraction of industrially valuable long fibres. It is estimated that there is accumulation of one million ton of coir pith in the coconut growing states in India. The high lignin and cellulose content in the pith makes it non-biodegradable. When burnt, it smoulders, emitting large quantity of smoke for several days causing air pollution.
Indian scientists developed a technology named as Pithplus for the bio-conversion of coir dust in to a very useful organic manure which has application in agriculture and horticulture industry. The product obtained after bio-conversion has excellent properties of being used as growing medium especially in soilless containers for growing high value horticulture crops.

The global agro-industry has been facing a serious crisis due to steady built up of biological resistance resulting from an over application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It is here that organic amendments become useful. While synthetic fertilizers are generally more available, less expensive, and have quicker results, they have played havoc with our ecosystem. Factors like salinity and less water holding capacity make soil unsuitable for cultivation.
Coir pith manure, under such situation offers to be an ideal soil re-conditioner, soil structure improver and soil substrate with excellent water holding capacity. Therefore the coir dust generated from the coir fibre processing industries needs to be processed to a form suitable for agricultural and horticultural use especially for the floriculture production and landscaping. The coir dust could also be an excellent substitute for various peat products since it also has high water holding capacity and ability to last long in the soil.

SALIENT FEATURES & ADVANTAGES:

- The bio-conversion technology so developed offers an excellent opportunity for converting the coir waste which is otherwise an environmental problem, to a very useful organic manure (soil conditioner),
- It is found to be perfect organic growing medium for fruits and vegetables.
- The bio-converted organic manure from coir pith, therefore, found to be most popular soil conditioner throughout the world



