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EFFECT OF VERMICOMPOST ON THE PRODUCTION OF FODDER MAIZE AND SOIL ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT: A field experiment was conducted during Kharif 2004, 2005 and 2006 to study the influence of vermicompost on growth and yield of fodder maize and their subsequent effect on soil properties. Results reveal that addition of vermicompost either alone or in combination with chemical fertilizers proved beneficial and promote the growth of the crop. The use of vermicompost 2.5 t ha⁻¹ along with 75% RDF produced fodder yield as good as 100% NPK and saved about 25 percent (40,15 and 5 kg NPK ha⁻¹, respectively) doses of chemical fertilizer besides improving the soil health in terms of increasing organic carbon content and porosity by reducing the soil bulk density.