What is Vermiculture?	Vermiculture is the culture of earthworms.
	• The goal is to continually increase the number of worms in order to obtain a sustainable harvest • The worms are either used to expand a vermicomposting operation or sold to customers who use them for the same or other purposes. • Glenn Munroe-Manual of On-Farm Vermicomposting and Vermiculture(Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada)
What is Vermicomposting?	• Vermicomposting is the process by which worms are used to convert organic materials (usually wastes)into humus-like material known as vermicompost. • The goal is to process the material as quickly and efficiently as possible. • *Glenn Munroe-Manual of On-Farm Vermicomposting and Vermiculture(Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada)*
What is Vermicompost?	• Vermicompost appears to be generally superior to conventionally produced compost in a number of important ways • Vermicompost is superior to most composts as an inoculant in the production of composts tea; • Worms have a number of other possible uses on farms, including value as a high-quality animal feed; • Vermicomposting and vermiculture offer potential to organic farmers as sources of supplemental income.
Facts about Worms / African Night Crawler	• There are 4000 kinds of earthworm known to humanity but nowadays only 10-15 are used as vermicultures in different countries. • Many species grow to a length of only a few centimeters, but some tropical species attain a length of up to 3.3 m (11 ft). • They are hermaphrodite and some species live for ten years or longer. • Produce most cocoons over a period of 20 weeks • Peak biomass at 10-12 weeks and began to lose wt at 14 weeks • Peak cocoon production after 10 weeks • The optimum temperature for growth and survival is 25C but they died at temperatures below 9C and above 30C. • The moisture content for optimal growth is 80-50% MC, with considerable decreases in growth at 70-90%MC. • All species are very sensitive to ammonia and cannot survive long in organic wastes

	containing much ammonia (e.g., fresh poultry manure) • They are tolerant to pH but given a choice, they prefer more acid material, with an apparent pH of 5.0
Five Basic Things That Worms Need:	• A hospitable living environment, usually called *"bedding"*. • Adequate *moisture (greater than % water content by weight)* • A *food* source • Adequate *aeration* • Protection from *temperature* extremes