

## Europe uses pee in farms

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
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Organic manure that includes organic waste, undigested vegetable waste along with urine produced by domesticated animals has been traditionally used since ancient times as a natural fertiliser, say experts. Urine is used in organic farming as well. In Europe, human urine is treated and used. The same is followed in India.

Dr G.V. Ramanjaneyulu, executive director of Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, said, "Sources of phosphorous (soil is the major source) are dwindling, urine can be the best source as it is rich in both nitrogen and phosphorus. In Tamil

Nadu, eco sanitation projects are underway; IIT-Delhi students are working on a project where an entire village's urine is being collected and used in agriculture. Even in Karnataka, it is being done by a group called Eco Scan. If the collection system is proposed correctly, urine is the best free fertiliser."

Keeping in mind the hygiene concerns, expert say that the medium of transportation should be cleaned properly. Dr S. Ramakrishna said, "For plants grown indoors and in gardens using human urine, the mud should be dealt with carefully."

The use of gloves is a must, and the vessel used in carrying urine should be cleaned properly, leaving no chance

for bacterial formation. Children should not be allowed to play with the mud."

"Once collected, urine can either be stored or used immediately. The application can be done in a variety of spreading methods.

The most basic application would be to use a watering can. One can dilute urine anywhere from 1:1 to 1:15 ratio with water, the most common being 1:5.

Take care to apply the urine directly to the soil, avoiding feeding the leaves and fruits. To aid in the absorption of the urine, it is suggested to dig up a small amount of soil and pour the urine there. Afterwards, push dirt back to cover the urine," stated experts.