



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Beneficial Soil Organism!!



Earthworm: Typically contain 150– 350 earthworms per m² and high populations more than 400 earthworms per m²). It can construct up to 8,900 km of channels per hectare, decreases soil erosion by 50% via increased soil porosity and water infiltration.



Ant:- Ants are effective predators and modify soil chemical properties by increasing the amounts of organic matter, N, P, K and physical properties by transporting food and soil materials during feeding and mound and gallery construction.



Termites:- Termites are wood-feeding, plant and humus-feeding species, and fungus growers. They play a very important role in the soil formation and decaying of dead plant material that are not degraded by the microorganism.



Millipede:- Millipedes are soil specialists living on the ground, in shallow subterranean habitats, among the leaf-litters or in the soil which consume organic materials and perform same as earthworm.



Centipede:- Centipedes feed on decaying organic matter and consume a tremendous amount of soil-dwelling larvae. Their tunnel aerates the soil, allowing water and nutrients to reach the roots of plants and grasses.



Dung beetles:- Beetles represent almost one-fourth species in soil with identified being saprophagous, phytophagous and predators. They help in soil nutrients cycle, increasing porosity and percolation of soil.



Ground beetle:- Ground beetles (family Carabidae) are important predators found in agricultural landscapes. They prey caterpillars, grubs and adults of other beetles, fly maggots and other small soil dwellers. They can consume their body weight in food daily.



Springtails:- Springtails are common insects that live in leaf litter, compost piles and lawn soils, recycling dead plant material into nutrients. Springtails eat harmful bacteria, fungi, lichens, algae and decaying vegetation, fertilizing the soil in the process.



Mites:- Mites are the most important predators of the soil micro- and mesofauna, feeding voraciously on nematodes and microarthropods. They enhance the growth of fungi in leaf litter, stimulate the soil enzyme activity and soil microbial communities.

थप जानकारीका लागि

नेपाल सरकार । कृषि तथा पशुपन्छी विकास मन्त्रालय

कृषि विभाग । बाली विकास तथा कृषि जैविक विविधता संरक्षण केन्द्र

हरिहरभवन, श्रीमहल, ललितपुर, नेपाल । फोन नं.: ०१-५५२११५१, ५५५०२२६ । ईमेल: cdabc2018@gmail.com

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