

Our Experience of SRI

For utilizing natural resources and locally available low-cost inputs for sustainable production, SRI is most suitable choice. And for the economically poor tribal farmers having small fragmented holdings SRI is the most appropriate system which can give food security to some extent and there by preventing the tribals from migration and indebtedness. We have taken up SRI (Organically) in about 40 Acres during the current Kharif season supported by SDTT, Agriculture Department (Orissa) and others.

Awareness generation programs, video shows and exposure visits to SRI fields helped in generating interest in the farmers and their acceptance. The staff and farmers were trained in SRI cultivation. At the same time farmers were also trained for preparation of vermin compost and Bio-fertilizers and pesticides (Handi Khata & Amrit Pani). Six vermi compost pits were established initially for this purpose through the farmers. For green manuring Dhanicha seeds@10kg/Ac were shown. Besides, 2 tons of FYM/Compost, 3 kgs of PSB, 2 kg of Azotobactor and 40 kgs of neem cake per acre were applied. After final ploughing is over, treated paddy seeds @ 2 kg per Acre were shown in the raised nursery beds. After puddling and leveling the fields, markings were made at 30cm distance with wooden markers and 10-12 day old seedlings were transplanted @ one seedling in each square.

Three weedings were done with mechanical weeders (Mandwa weeders). As some of the Mandwa weeders broke-down wooden weeders were made indegeiously and used for weeding. Pest and disease management was done organically by handi khata and amrit pani.

Due to late transplantation (for delayed monsoon) flowering was delayed due to the cooler climate of the hilly track in Mohana Block (Gajapati District). To expedite flowering spraying with potash (10 kg in 100 litres of water) and hot water sprays were done which were fruitful.

Depending upon the soil types and varietial characteristics there were 25-65 tillers in each plant. The crop is now in various stages from flowering to maturity. Harvesting was done in one SRI plot along with the nearby control plot. The yield obtained in SRI plot was Q22.40 /Ac against Q16.70/Ac in the traditional field of the same variety (locally known as Kisan) in which chemical fertilizers were used.

We hope to up-scale the SRI program significantly in the coming seasons in the surrounding areas.

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