

Wonder in system of rice intensification- to bags from 1acre! Are you ready for the kuruvai challenge

Highlight

- Suited for saline and alkaline soils- Gives a maximum of 12.7 tonnes/ha.
- Suitable for Navarai, Kar, Karuvai seasons.
- Medium height, non lodgini type.

Agriculture does not give profits- this is only said by people who do not practice proper agriculture, Agriculture when done with proper planning and involvement, does yield better results. I am a perfect example for this 'says Pandian of Peringotir village, near Sankarankoil, Thirunelveli.

Agriculture in this area is rain fed type. But in this region Mr.Pandian is growing banana, rice and coconut by well irrigation and is getting profit. He is followed by a number of other farmers in the region. He has become a model farmer in this region after experimenting with the hybrid rice CO.R.H-3 released by TamilNadu Agricultural University. He cultivated this under the system of Rice Intensification (or) single seedling Rice cultivation.

We met Pandian to hear from him. 'Every farmer should know what is happening around him and also should keep abreast of what new technologies have been developed. Farmers should keep in contact with the extension officials to get more information. This is my experience'. He said that he came to know about Hybrid Co.3 from the extension officials. They said to him about its pros and cons. Now with minimal efforts he is getting good benefits.

Cultivation Practice :

Banana garden- best suitable for nursery:

After deciding the variety, I decided to prepare the nursery in the banana garden, since heavy sunlight can be avoided. This is essential for the growth of the seedling. Beds of 1m width and 5m length and ½ ft deep. This was layed with polythene sheet. Over this, soil, sand and manure was applied to a height of 2cm. Germinated seeds were broadcasted and it was watered daily using sprinkler, 14days later the seedlings grow to a height of ½ a feet. Since the seedlings were only ½ ft tall, the neighboring farmers doubted about its yield. I also had the same doubt but the agricultural officers assured me of its yield.

60 Tillers to a maximum:

I applied farm yard manure at the rate of 10 tonnes/acre before transplanting and broadcasted daincha. It was ploughed insitu after growth. The land was ploughed thrice to get a fine tilth. The 14days old seedling was transplanted only 1 seedling was planted at a place, maintaining a spacing of 25*25cm (with the help of a rope). The plants began to grow well because of its short stature and good aeration. Along with the plants, weeds also grew up. Conoweeder was used to remove the weeds once in 10days. These weeds turned as organic manure to the crop and it gave better aeration to the root system. As a result, a number of tillers appeared in each plant. About 60tillers arise from a single plant, 'Pandian explains'.

300 grains from 1 earhead, 4200kg from 1acre:

Urea @ 1bag/acre, Potash @ 2bag/acre was applied 20days after transplantation. The same was applied 45days after transplantation. Pests were not a great problem. Pesticide was sprayed only once. The plants grew up well with the Farm Yard Manure and daincha applied before transplanting. The villagers were astonished to see the number of tillers and the plant growth. Gains formed in all the tillers. Each earhead produced less than 300grains. During harvest it was found that the yield was 70bags (each bag holds 60kg). i.e., 4.2 tonnes/acre.

During the cropping season, water source was shifted from pond to well as the former dried up. Irrigation was done once in 3 to 4 days. It was found that it survives well in drought also. In the conventional system the seed requirement is 30kg/acre. But in this case only 3kg was used. Moreover it has given 1tonne more per acre. Now our villagers are ready to use this hybrid. System of Rice Intensification is a new concept SRI combined with the new hybrid has given astonishing yields. Pandian is happy that he has been a part of this experimentation.

Duration-115 days, Yield-30% more

Dr.Mohanasundaram, Professor and Head, Paddy Breeding station, TNAU, tells about CoRH 3 which is suitable for Kuruvai season. TNAU has release 4 hybrids so far. They are CoRH 1, CoRH 2 and ADT RH 1. CoRH 3 was released for cultivation in 2006. This hybrid has good cooking qualities over the previous hybrids and it is also resistant to earhead diseases, Tungra virus, Green leaf Hopper and Brown Leaf Hopper.

Yield: 12.7 tonnes/ha.

When compared with the other rice hybrids in India for yield and cooking quality, it was found that CoRH 3 was in the second position, due to its ability to grow in saline and alkaline soils, higher yield in system of Rice Intensification (12.7 tonne/ha), medium height, non lodging type and ability to grow in Sornavari, Kar, Kuruvai and Navarai season. The rice has good grinding properties hence traders are ready to pay more than the other rice hybrids. This, hybrid is superior to all other hybrids released so far says Dr. Mohanasundaram.

Contact : Pandiyan : 04636-291717.

Source: web.thehindu@thehindu.co.in Copyright © 2010, The Hindu