

Method Demonstration of Cono Weeder at Pillekothur, Pennaiyar upto Krishnagiri Reservoir Sub Basin

SRI : ROTARY WEEDER – A KEY AND CRITICAL INPUT

The critical components of SRI are use of younger seedling, square planting, irrigation as wetting and drying, Cono weeder or rotary weeder operation and LCC based nitrogen management. Of all, the predominant critical input i.e., the use of weeder operation at 10-15 days after transplanting and there after at 10 days interval for three or four times till the operation does not disturb the tillers. This weeder operation helps in



a lot many ways. Top soil is continuously kept muddy and nearer to colloidal and hence less irrigation water requirement. Soil is heaped and earthed up covering fewer lower nodes near the tillering zone of the hills leaving ample scope for increasing the phyllocrons. Stirring of soil near the root zone aerate well in turn better root respiration. Crown of all is that partial pruning of roots induce newer root proliferation. This helps in better and efficient absorption of nutrients and translocation towards its sink (produce). There are different types of weeders are available. Worldwide, 64 different types of weeders are documented in the use of SRI planting. The type of weeder usage mainly depends up on the soil condition and water stagnation. The main concept is to disturb the soil around rhizosphere region thereby providing adequate aeration the soil. Allowing the roots to respire and pruning of older roots, there by freshly formed roots are white in colour.



For emphasising the importance and to demonstrate the easy technique for weeder operation, a field day was conducted at Pillekothur village of Shoolagiri block. Dr.A.K.Mani, Professor and Head, Regional Research Station, Paiyur

welcomed the gathering. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore presided and



gave the special address. Dr.S.Vijayabaskaran, Associate Professor of

Agronomy, Scientist in charge of Ponnaiyar sub basin demonstrated the weeder operation after giving technical address. Many scientists from Regional Research Station, Paiyur participated in the field day. Around 70 farm men and women participated and got the first hand



experience of operating the rotary weeder. The simple technique for using the weeder in sandy soils is just pushing forward and backward by holding the handle on both the hands. In deep clay soil, mishandling will make tough the operation and will get buried.

The best way for using the simple 4 kilo implement is holding the stem by one hand and pushing forward and pulling backward by holding the handle with the other hand. Whenever one feels the depth or looseness of soil, lift the stem just and push forward with ease. A man or woman with little training can very well operate around 30 cents in a day. This little wonder implement costs Rs.350-400/- only.

