

## **Community Nursery for SRI by TNAU at Peddanaicken Palayam, Upper Vellar Sub Basin**

For System of Rice Intensification (SRI), raising mat nursery is the most essential pre-requisite and initially it requires higher skill. Mat nursery is one kind of nursery in which the rice seeds are spread uniformly in a raised bed and utmost care is executed for its fertilizer application and irrigation and this type of nursery provides ambient environment for producing 14 days old young seedlings. During the commencement of SRI method, larger population of farmers have to be well educated on this new method of nursery raising which hinders the effective spread of SRI to larger areas.



The “Community Nursery” in which farmers of a locality were convinced to form a larger area of nursery and seedlings were distributed as per their share and thereby the economics of large scale production was conferred on these farmers.

The advantages of Community Nursery are:

- Nursery can be raised with the available borewell water in the sub basins well ahead of receipt of water in canals
- In the salt affected areas, community nursery provides an opportunity to raise nursery before the onset of monsoon and decrease in the EC level
- As mat nursery requires much skill, community nursery effectively provides skill to the few farmers at the initial stages, which would spread later.
- Community nursery helps for better monitoring.

Depending upon the each farmer's demand, the extent of community nursery was designed and all the agronomic packages were taken care of by the scientists and their team and this congregation eased the effective supervision. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has conducted farmers meetings to convince the farmers on the concept of community nursery and the benefits of such nursery was highlighted in such meetings. The farmers were convinced and large scale community nursery to the tune of 5 cents were raised at Peddanaicken Palayam in Upper Vellar sub basin during 2008-09.



Similar exercises for formation of community nursery were initiated at Pillae Kothur Village in Pennaiyar (Upto Krishnagiri Reservoir) sub basin.