

# Farmers' Practices for Weedicide-free Farming

## Sudipta Mukhopadhyay, ??, West Bengal

**Area:**  
70 Acres

**Experience:**  
9 years

**Crops:**  
Paddy, Mustard, Vegetables

- Weeds in paddy can be controlled through cultural, biological and physical practices.
  - Chemical weed control is not sustainable and unneeded.
  - Scientific Integrated approaches for weed management will reduce the cost and improve weed control in the long run Weeds are used as biofertilizer
- **Line Sowing:** for easy weed management
  - **Hand and Mechanical Weeding:** Manual weed removal , hoeing and using **cono weeder**
  - **Azola and Blue Green Algae as a cover crop:** it helps in weed control as well as help in increasing the yield
  - **Mulching:** Weeds in rabi season is managed by mulching –with **straw, water hyacinth** and also adopting intercropping. In **potato cultivation also water hyacinth** mulching is done to control weeds
  - **Straw and Plastic Mulch:** for vegetable cultivation
  - **Mix Cropping:**



# FIAM

## (Forum For Indigenous Agricultural Movement )

### An initiative towards ecological living

The Forum for Indigenous Agriculture Movement is a grassroots organization in West Bengal that works to conserve indigenous varieties of seeds. The main motto of their organization is way back to nature and pesticide free and chemical free food production, and extend organic farming. They convert 200 Farmer from inorganic practice to organic. They conserve 400 folk paddy varieties, and also various type of indigenous vegetable varieties ,pulse, wheat (33types), mastered. Name of their organic distribution center named "Chashi Ghor" is very well known in Bengal.

# How to Control Weeds in Rice?

Weeds are not the major biological threats to higher rice productivity worldwide. Weeds can be controlled through many cultural, biological, physical and practices. Chemical weed control is not a sustainable option in a long run. Integrated approaches for weed management, emphasizing on the combination of management practices and scientific knowledge, may also reduce the economic costs and improve weed control owing to the complexity of the weed community.

# Line sowing of paddy seedling:

Most of the farmers of FIAM opined the other advantages of the line sowing such as easy pest management, nutrient management, application of plant protection organic manure, inter-culture practices like weeding, hoeing etc. cono weeder can easily run .





# Manual and Cono weeder weeding:





The use of Azolla and BGA biofertilizers increased the grain and straw yields, and panicle number and nitrogen intake, by rice over no Azolla or BGA treatments. The Azolla and BGA treatments even without weeding increased rice yield up to that of herbicide and biofertilizer treatments.





Farmers of FIAM managed weed in Rabi Season specially in mustard cultivation By using straw mulching, Water hyacinth mulching as well as inter cropping such as mustard and pulses, mustard and flaxseed, mustard and chana grow together.





We have applied water hyacinth for mulching first time in west Bengal in Potato cultivation. And result is very good ,no need to manage weed .





We can use weed as bio-fertilizer for growing vegetables :





# Vegetables cultivation by using straw mulching

