Other Important technologies for farmers

Crop diversification through Broad Bed and Furrow (BBF) system

Waterlogged areas in the lowlying valley can be converted in to productive use through Broad bed and furrow land manipulation. In one ha of area, 10 beds of 4m x 100 m X 1m and 10 furrows of 6m x 100m x 1m can be made to accommodate vegetables on the beds, fodder on the slopes and rice + fish + azolla in furrows. Evaluation of cropping system on the beds and furrows of broad bed and furrow system revealed that from one ha of BBF, a net return of Rs. 198000 can be obtained from Radish – chillies (Chilli costs Rs > 50 /kg during monsoon) on the beds and rice-ratoon (azolla + fish : singhi + magur) – groundnut in the furrows. B: C ratio of lowlying paddy land can be improved to 2.77 from <1 by adopting BBF in the rice growing areas. Cropping intensity is increased from 100 % to 300 – 500 % on the beds and 300 % on the furrows.

SRI cultivation of Paddy

System of Rice intensification (SRI) has potential to increase the yield of rice with minimum inputs. SRI practice involves, raising of seedlings through mat nursery, planting the seedlings at the age of 10 to 14 days, planting of single seedlings, square planting (25 X 25 cm) and Cono weeding at 20, 30, 40 and 50 days after transplanting. The main concern about SRI in Andaman Islands is that, whether it will with stand high rainfall when the young seedlings are transplanted in the field. The SRI method out performed the normal method by recording 20 -25 per cent higher grain yield. Due to heavy rainfall of 368.3 mm at harvest stage, normal planting led to complete lodging and recorded only 2.2 t /ha compared to SRI planting (6.2 t/ha) where in no lodging was observed.