

A photograph of a rice field showing rows of green rice plants growing in raised mounds of dark brown soil. The plants are tall and slender, with long leaves. The soil between the rows is also visible, showing some small puddles of water. The overall scene is a lush green field under bright light.

# Aerobic Rice

**Saves more than 50% water**



# R&D Laboratory



**Molecular Lab**



**Seed Lab**

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**Questions / Feedback:** This brief is a “work-in-progress”! Next versions will have a lot more information on work done by KisanKraft’s R&D center on furtherance of Aerobic Rice technology in India and abroad e.g. field trials, development of new cultivars, mechanization, package of practice, nutritional values, bio-fortification, societal impact, methodology, bibliography of related research, water footprint, carbon sequestration etc.

It is written to communicate the merits of Aerobic Rice technology to various stakeholders in India’s rice farming. A page on [www.kisankraft.com](http://www.kisankraft.com) had been added to provide update information to everyone.

We will be revising this, as needed, based on feedback received. Please email your feedback or questions to [info@kisankraft.com](mailto:info@kisankraft.com). You may also write to our office address.



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### Executive Summary

Rice is a major source of calories for a large share of the world's population and therefore holds a prime position in research focus. It is also among the crops that consume large share of irrigation water. Water saved in rice cultivation, will help increase cultivable acreage and cultivation of additional crops.

Aerobic Rice technology is a combination of genotypes (varieties/hybrids) and package of practices. It is designed to produce high yields of superior quality grains, while significantly reducing cost of cultivation. Systematic crop improvement efforts by scientists has resulted in development of several high yielding aerobic rice varieties/ hybrids with appropriate package of practices.

Aerobic Rice is direct seeded into the field, therefore, eliminating cost of raising nursery, transplantation and its related impact on health of labors. Direct seeding also reduces 'seed rate' dramatically. There is no puddling and no standing water, hence costs associated with use of water and pumping-cost is minimized. It ensures saving of more than 60% water and 55% of labor. Fertilizer use is reduced because it no longer washes off with excess water. Certain pests and diseases don't breed in Aerobic conditions; therefore, plant protection chemical usage is also reduced. Effective result is that farmers' profit increases significantly.

Paddy fields today are known to be one of the biggest agricultural anthropogenic source of **Green House Gases** (Nitrous Oxide and Methane in particular). Aerobic Rice severely reduces these gases by eliminating standing water, and *thus, as a nation, we can reduce our carbon footprint and accrue carbon credits.*

All this is possible without any compromise in grain yield. Mixed cropping and crop rotation practices are possible. Soil health is improved as deterioration due to continuous mono-culture is curtailed.

Desirable attributes of aerobic rice, methodology of development and package of practices is presented. Comparative advantages/disadvantages and novelties/nuances are detailed later in this document.

**KisanKraft Limited** has setup a **R&D center** to develop and promote use of Aerobic Rice technology among rice farmers.



### Rice

Rice is the world's second most important cereal crop, after Wheat. Rice feeds more than half of the world's population. 'Rice is life' as it encompasses entire scope of life, including as a source of livelihood.

Rice belongs to genus *Oryza* and family Gramineae. Cultivated rice is of two kinds namely *Oryza sativa* (L.) and *Oryza glaberrima* (L.). There are 20 wild species of Rice and over 100,000 germplasm accessions in repositories.

Rice is endemic to several countries. Many different methods of cultivation have evolved over centuries and suitable varieties have been nurtured by farmers and developed by scientists.

#### Rice cultivation methods

A comparison of different methods of rice cultivation is presented below.

No	Habitat	Topology	Sowing	Water standing	Rainfed	Irrigated	Grain Yields	Puddling	Nursery	Leveling	Trans planting	Inter-cropping
1	Uplands	Higher levels of Mountains	DS	X	✓	X	Very Low	X	X	✓	X	✓
2	Midlands	Mid levels of Mountains	DS/TP	X	✓	X	Low	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Lowlands	Lower levels of Mountains	TP	✓	✓	✓	High	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
4	<b>Aerobic Rice</b>	<b>Slightly Sloping/ Flat Lands</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>✓</b>
5	System of Rice Intensification (SRI)	Flat Lands	PDS/TP	X	X	✓	High	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
6	Direct seeded Rice (DSR)	Lowlands	DS	✓/X	✓/X	✓	High	X	X	✓	X	✓/X
7	Floating Rice (Deep-Water Rice)	Lakes, Ponds	SS	✓	✓	✓	Very Low	X	X	X	X	X

**Abbreviations:** SS: Self-seeded, DS: Direct seeded, PDS: Pre-germinated Direct Seeded, TP: Transplanted

**Items 1-3:** above are based on topology of the land. This is endemic to mountainous (steep or rolling) areas. Top of the mountain is upland, middle areas are midlands and bottom ones are lowlands. The classification is purely relative and depends on the longitude, latitude, altitude etc. In terms of comparison, an upland of one area may be at the same altitude of a lowland of other area.

**Item 4:** Aerobic Rice is a classification based on the ability to maintain the soil in aerated manner. When flooded, air pockets vanish! When aerated, water vanishes! Ability to maintain soil under aerated condition through most or all the crop season is a crucial determinant of this habitat. Slightly sloping lands or perfect level lands can also be used for aerobic rice cultivation.

**Item 5:** SRI is characterized by cultivation of transplanted rice with minimum standing water. Leveling, puddling and transplanting are mandatory. The spacing given to this method is high and seed rate is less. Mechanization of seeding is possible.

**Item-6:** DSR is a method of sowing rice. What happens to the crop after sowing is unspecified in this method. The field can be aerobic or flooded.

**Item-7:** Floating rice, aka Deep-Water Rice, is the kind of rice found in lakes. This is usually self-sown, and harvested using boats.

**Note:** Among the habitats listed above, major gains in production and productivity have been realized in the irrigated (lowland, assured irrigation) ecosystem as several improved varieties and hybrids were released across the country and the world.



### ***Why is Rice grown in Puddled and Irrigated Fields?***

Historically rice was grown in both dryland and wetland conditions. Farmers started growing rice in puddled conditions for holding water to protect against shortages during crop growth period and for perceived weed suppression by impounded water, among many reasons. Excess water adds no other value to rice cultivation. Today, we have much better tools and techniques for crop management. [1], [2], [3]

Water is a scarce resource – which requires changes in farming practice. ***It is important to note that rice does not require excess standing water to grow!*** But unlike many cultivated crops, it is very special, as it can tolerate excess water. It can even grow in fully submerged in water (underwater). It can also grow with no standing water, akin to other crops like pulses, wheat, corn, sorghum, millets etc. *This range of adaptability is unparalleled, unique and bodes well for improvement efforts.*

### ***Green House Gases in Paddy fields***

Rice, when grown in standing water, has been shown to produce harmful greenhouse gasses namely Methane and Nitrous Oxide. **Methane** is produced by the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter in the soil by **Archaeobacteria**. This is precluded under aerobic condition. **Nitrous Oxide** is released from the paddy fields and from the Nitrogen that is washed away from the fields into the lakes. It is reported that 60%-70% of Nitrogen washes away into the water bodies [4].

### ***Paddy fields in Marshy lands***

For some farmers, cultivating rice is inevitable as the marshy lands cannot be used for anything else. Excessive water availability precludes any other crop cultivation. It is an avocation, livelihood and a necessity. *Marshy lands are **not** recommended for Aerobic Rice.*

### ***Important Questions in Rice Cultivation***

- Can rice be grown efficiently and sustainably, with far lesser water?
- Is rice crop asking for water?
- Are we giving it more water than it needs?
- Can we produce better rice with lesser water?
- Does standing water in the field increase grain yield, crop health or grain quality?
- Can rice be bio-fortified with essential micro-nutrients like iron and zinc?
- Will reducing water affect grain yield and quality adversely?

### ***Aerobic Rice is designed to address these questions and more!***

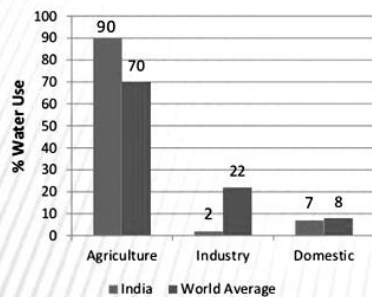
A breakthrough in rice cultivation, which was imminent, has far reaching implications for rice eating majority of the worlds' population *e.g.* saving water, mitigating climate change, bio-fortification of diet, nutritional security, health benefits to farm labor and improving profit for farmers etc.



### Water

Water is a very precious natural resource, especially for farmers. The distribution of water on the Earth's surface is extremely uneven. Only 3% of water on the surface is fresh; the remaining 97% resides in the ocean. Of freshwater, 69% resides in glaciers, 30% underground, and less than 1% is in lakes, rivers and swamps. Looked at another way, only 1% of the water on the Earth's surface is usable by various life forms. [5]

### WATER USE BY SECTORS



- India uses maximum amount of water for agriculture in the world
  - 35% higher than the world average
- Where as in the industrial sector, India's consumption is marginal as compared to the global average

How efficiently do we use our water?

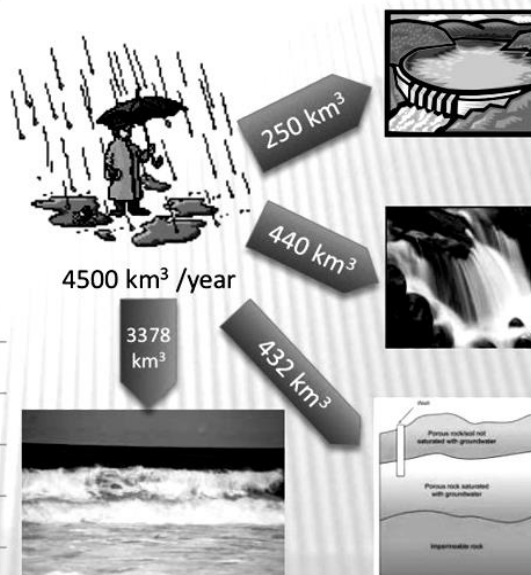
Sectors	Billion M <sup>3</sup> /year
Agricultural water withdrawal	688
Industrial water withdrawal	17
Municipal water withdrawal	56
Total water withdrawal	761

Parameters	China	India	Brazil	Russia	USA	Germany
Total water withdrawal per capita (M <sup>3</sup> /inhab/yr)	409.9	621.4	330.8	454.9	1583	391.4
Municipal water withdrawal per capita (total population) (M <sup>3</sup> /inhab/yr)	50.0	45.7	67.0	92.1	216.5	62.2
Water used per Agricultural Produce in 100 M <sup>3</sup> /US\$	4.86	22.68	2.19	1.70	10.62	0.03
Water used per Industrial Produce in 100 M <sup>3</sup> /US\$	0.38	0.39	0.15	0.58	6.61	0.27

Source: Central Water Commission of India, Food & Agriculture Organization of UN  
Note: Industrial Water includes water for power generation

### WATER AVAILABILITY AND DEMAND

- Each year, rains bring in 4500 km<sup>3</sup> of water in India
- Of this,
  - 250 km<sup>3</sup> gets stored in Dams & Reservoirs
  - 440 km<sup>3</sup> of water flows in to river and is available as surface water
  - 432 km<sup>3</sup> gets stored in aquifers
  - Rest flows in to seas & oceans
- Giving total fresh water availability of 1122 km<sup>3</sup> a year



Natural runoff (Surface water and ground water from the river basins of India)	1869 km <sup>3</sup> /year
Estimated utilizable surface water potential	690 km <sup>3</sup> /year
Ground water resources	432 km <sup>3</sup> /year
Available ground water resource for irrigation	361 km <sup>3</sup> /year
Net utilizable ground water resource for irrigation	325 km <sup>3</sup> /year

Source: Central Water Commission of India and IIT Kharagpur

**NOTE: As water is scarcer, farmers are competing with humans and Industry, and often farmers lose.**



Timely and sufficient quantity of good quality water is one of the most important ingredient for cultivation of any crop. Rain water is pure, free and just enough to raise an entire crop in most places. By using rain water intelligently and effectively, prior to using water from other sources, profitability of farmers can be improved. Cropping pattern(s) are most often determined by the quantity of rainfall, land terrain, drainability of the soil, availability of water from other sources, temperature regimes, soil health and soil wealth etc.

Water footprint has 3 components viz. green, blue and grey. **Green water** is the water in the soil which crops can access, and it may not be visible. **Blue water** is one that is seen in lakes and other water bodies, which flow into the rivers. **Grey water** is the effluent from human and industrial use and is often considered waste.

Crops differ in their water requirement, some requiring more than others. Often crops are given more water than they require. Excess water is costly for farmer, as it reduces crops/area that can be cultivated and increases larger societal cost as well. Optimum and efficient use of water is a key factor that determines productivity, product quality, profitability and sustainability of farming as a profession.

It should be noted that among all the crops that are consumed, crops with lesser water requirement, are intrinsically more nutritious (e.g. minor millets, pulses, fruits, sorghum, traditional rice) than those which consume more water (e.g. sugarcane, wetland rice). Deficit irrigation (DI) or programmed water deficit (programmed and enforced water-deficit condition) is a proven strategy to improve product quality in fruit crops and can be adopted to rice as well.

Irrigated agriculture in Asia accounts for 90 per cent of total diverted fresh water, and more than 60 per cent of this used for irrigated rice [6]. Irrigated Rice has very low water-use efficiency as it consumes 3000–5000 liters of water to produce 1 kilogram of rice [7].

In India, rice is sown to 50% of the cultivated area and consumes largest share of the available irrigation water. Each kilogram of rice, has a virtual water footprint of 3,400 liters [8].

*Exploring ways to produce more rice with less water is essential for food security and sustaining environmental health of the world. Over the past few decades, continuous efforts by scientists to save water while maintaining rice yields has resulted in many changes in cultivation practices. Irrigated wetlands gave way to SRI method. DSR & AWD were superimposed on irrigated rice fields. **Now Aerobic Rice has emerged as a better alternative to irrigated rice.***

**Aerobic Rice is a relatively new concept, and an alternate strategy**, which combines drought resistance of upland varieties with high input responsiveness and productivity of lowland varieties. Aerobic Rice maximizes the use of **Green water**, water that is not visible to human eye. Primacy to rain, and back up support from surface sources, only as needed, for the crop.

### **Water requirement comparison for rice**

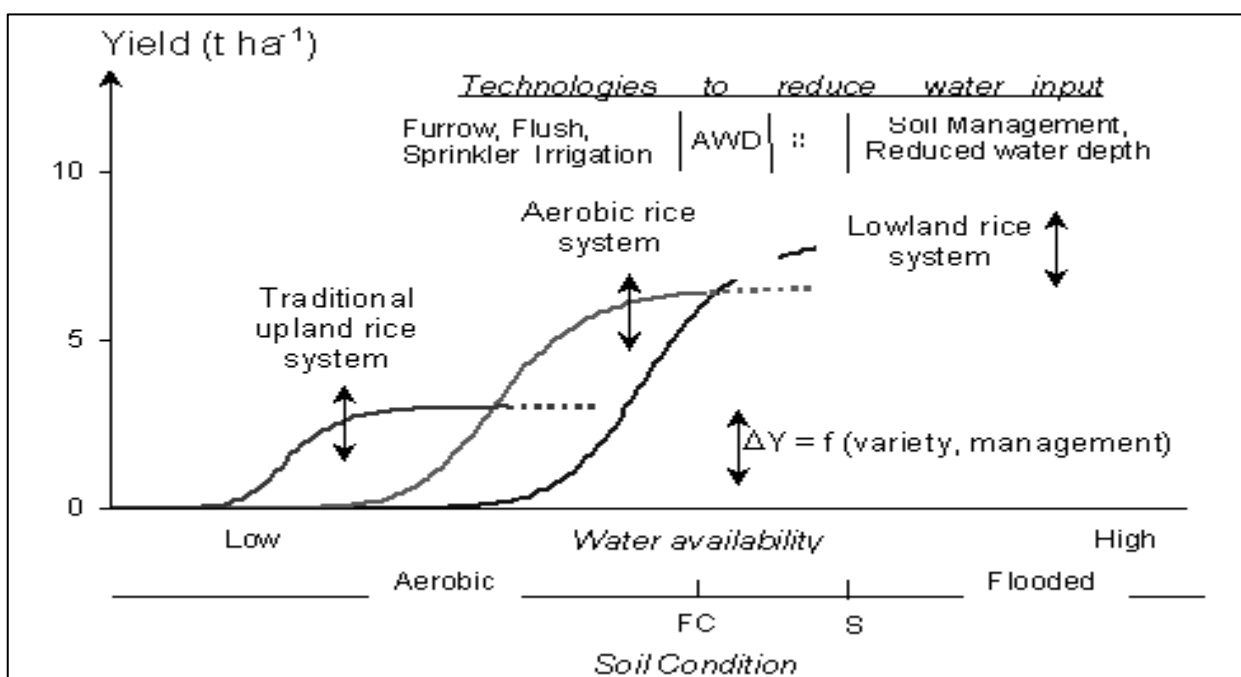
**Table 1: Consumptive Use of Water Under Different Systems of Rice Establishment**

Particulars (rainfall in mm)	Aerobic Rice	Wet-seeded Rice	Transplanted Rice
Land preparation	-	175	250
Water used for crop growth including rainfall *	560	1025	1050
Total water used	560	1200	1300
Evapotranspiration*	515	504	528
Yield (kg/ha) *	3021	3401	3842

\* Mean of 7 varieties tested [9]

**Table 2: Comparison of seasonal water requirement** [10], [11], [12]

Seasonal Water requirement (mm)	Lowland flooded rice	Aerobic Rice
Land preparation	150-300	100
Evaporation	200	100
Transpiration	400	400
Seepage	500-1500	335
Application loss (@60 % efficiency)		335
Total seasonal water requirement	1650-3000	935



**Rice production system responses to water availability and soil conditions** [13]

### Aerobic Rice

Aerobic Rice combines a “package of practice” and suitably adapted cultivars, which grows well and manifests high yield, producing good quality grains, without standing water during any stage of crop establishment, growth and maturity.

Aerobic Rice refers to soil environment saturated with air rather than water, creating an aerobic situation. This brings about a wide range of physio-chemical (edaphic), biotic and microbiological changes. A plethora of beneficial microorganisms recolonize in the rhizosphere.

Rice varieties differ with reference to their ability to tolerate aerobic condition. There are varieties which expect standing water *e.g.* Swarna, and there are varieties that do not like standing water *e.g.* Moroberekan, Azucena etc. These can be classified as **water loving** and **air-pocket loving** varieties. Some rice varieties have the required intelligence to be able to grow well under both aerobic and flooded conditions.

#### Characteristics of Aerobic Rice

A variety/hybrid must have following characteristics to be able to grow under aerobic conditions:

- Should have a certain degree of drought tolerance
- Must be deep rooted and should have high root volume with large number of fine roots, and exhibit vigorous growth [14]
- Capable of taking up Nitrogen in Nitrate form and Iron in ferric form



- d) Should prefer to grow without standing water
- e) Must be photo-insensitive and have the developmental plasticity to anticipate moisture availability (optimism)
- f) Must be amenable for dry direct seeding
- g) Grain should have acceptable physical, nutritional and culinary characteristics akin to wetland rice

### Other desirable characteristics are

- a) It's yield under aerobic conditions should be higher/ equal to anaerobic (standing water) condition
- b) Should produce higher biomass
- c) High yield and high harvest index

**IMPORTANT:** Not all varieties developed for water standing habitat will manifest aerobic adaptability, however, some may. This distinction can be ascertained easily.

### Development of Aerobic Rice

**Drought Resistance:** Aerobic Rice must be drought resistant. This is necessary to produce more rice with lesser water [15]. For drought tolerance, root characteristics like root length, volume, thickness, depth of root, root penetration ability have been established, all these must contribute to high yields under drought.

**Breeding:** Aerobic Rice breeding can be accomplished successfully by conventional approaches and/or by adopting molecular tools to select for desirable whole-plant architecture.

Breeding stratagem is designed to combine drought resistance, input responsiveness (developmental homeostasis), resistance to biotic stresses, and ability to produce higher yields with every little increment in water availability or any other favorable environmental factors.

Innovative selection programs combining participatory plant breeding, water budgeting in segregating generations, shuttle breeding and selecting for root characteristics along with grain yield ensure success in Aerobic Rice variety/hybrid development.

**Roots:** Desirable root traits, such as deep root length, high volume, thickness and innate ability to resist long periods drought are usually sourced from local accessions of rice. High productivity traits can be sourced from improved rice varieties. By crossing high yielding mega variety with drought tolerant traditional accession, high yielding drought tolerant aerobic variety can be developed. [14]

For example, by crossing **IR64**, a high yielding mega variety (from IRRI Philippines) **with** drought tolerant traditional accession **Budda**; (from Shivamogga in Karnataka), a high yielding drought tolerant aerobic variety "ARB6" was developed. Segregants were grown in farmers' fields, where in water was budgeted. Selection was done for **shoot traits** under severe stress conditions and for **root traits** (root length, volume, thickness and depth of root), in each segregant in the experimental fields. The advanced lines (ARB series) were nominated for trials along with the accession from other breeders in India and from IRRI. Trials were conducted across India under three hydrologies at each site and repeated over three years [16]. ARB lines performed well in both severe stress and well-watered condition [17]. ARB-6 was released in 2009 [18] for cultivation in the drought-prone districts of Karnataka, India.

Molecular tools can help hasten the selection process. Combining farmer participatory plant breeding tools with molecular marker assisted selection, for consistent QTLs (Quantitative Trait Loci) for root traits such as deep and thick roots in rice resulted in a new Aerobic Rice variety viz. Ashoka 200F (BVD-109), Ashoka 228 (BVD-110) and PY 84 (BVK-111) varieties released in Ranchi, Jharkhand, India and Nepal [19].

Similar strategies were adopted by many breeders across the country (Dr. Satish Verulkar at IGKV, Chhattisgarh, India and Dr. Chandra Babu at TNAU, Tamil Nadu, India) to develop drought tolerant rice varieties which now occupy large areas in their respective states.

### How is Aerobic Rice different from wetland varieties?

Aerobic Rice and wetland rice are visually similar, but there are subtle and important differences between them.

Differences that manifest under aerobic conditions, are a direct response to lack of standing water in the field and associated changes in edaphic factors like soil physical chemical, redox potential, pH, soil microflora and fauna, residual effects of previous crop and intercrop, if any. The crop responses, to these factors, is dynamic and changes

with any alterations in water regime during crop growth. Further, due to the aerobicity, a plethora of beneficial microorganisms recolonize in the root rhizosphere. This bodes well for the crop.

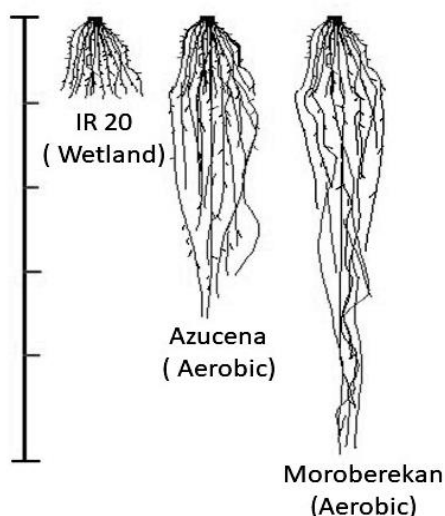
Availability of normal levels of oxygen in the root zone (normoxia) has many beneficial effects on establishment and growth of rice plants. Aerobically grown plants produce 4.4-9 times more ATPs and increased quantities of other molecules (Proteins, lipids, nucleic acids etc.,) than in hypoxia (reduced oxygen availability) or anoxia (lack of oxygen). Thus, aerobic rice is more energy efficient than wetland rice [20]; [21]; [22]; [23]. Further, the roots do not have to contend with toxins unlike anaerobic condition [24]. This is reflected in Aerobic Rice in terms of crop growth, establishment, increased biomass and productivity.

Due to reduced seed rate and single plant per hill, each plant has a larger soil volume and aerial space to explore for water, nutrients and light. Due to wider spacing between plants and rows, Aerobic Rice roots are superior in terms of root length, weight and root volume compared to wetland plant roots which are usually over crowded [25]. Extensive root growth (root length, dry weight and root volume) under aerobic condition than wetland condition have also been reported. [26]; [27]; [28]

Anatomical differences in number and area of Aerenchyma tissues add to the efficiency of roots in absorption, transport and in tiding over drought stress [29]

The number of passage cells in roots, make a big difference in managing water when in short supply. Deposition of suberin in the exodermis and endodermis of roots and the number of passage cells are more under aerobic than wetland condition which enhances tolerance to drought and salinity [30]. Because of these factors, and its energy efficiency, biomass of aerobic plant is higher than wetland rice plant.

### ***Pictorial representation of roots of Wetland rice vs Aerobic***



Color pictures of real roots are included later.

### ***Advantages, Disadvantages and Concerns***

**Advantages:** Aerobic Rice as a technology manifests highest levels of resource use efficiency. Besides water use efficiency, the nitrogen use efficiency is also higher. Not only does it save huge quantity of water, it saves other natural resources without loss in grain yield, overall production or productivity of the crop. Productivity per unit of resource used is higher. The plant is highly energy efficient, as every cycle of glycolysis yields 17 times more energy molecules compared to anaerobic condition. Root rhizosphere toxins characteristic of anaerobic condition are not found, so the plant is relatively more comfortable.

Disease and pest infestations are relatively lesser since there is no standing water. As water does not move from field to field, diseases which spread through water will not cause losses in aerobic condition. Thus, Aerobic Rice is less prone to biotic stress because of non-availability of favorable conditions for development and progression of the diseases / pests.



**Disadvantages:** Aerobic Rice is not suitable for high rainfall areas where water can't be controlled. Unlike wetlands, in Aerobic conditions both dicots and monocot weeds grow, which requires relatively extra weed management. However, weed control is still a minor problem because pre-and post-emergent weedicide sprays are available and weed management is easier. It is also not suitable for black soils because of pH constraint. All lowland varieties are not suitable to grow under aerobic condition. Only aerobic varieties can be grown and under some circumstances varieties not bred for aerobic condition, which grows well with less water can be taken into consideration. Root grub infestation will be there in 'poor soil conditions' but it can be managed with suitable insecticides. Under very severe stress condition, the grain quality may be inferior.

**Concerns:** Some reports state that Aerobic Rice exhibits loss in grain yield compared with wetland [31]. However, that was due to continuous monocropping and not due to any inherent deficiency of Aerobic Rice. By following recommended package of practice yield is not compromised. Similarly, some people have reported nutrient deficiency, but in these cases 'non-Aerobic varieties' with less nutrient acquisition ability, of rice was used. Nematode infestation has also been reported [31], even that was due to usage of 'non-Aerobic varieties'. Another factor for these negative results is due to repeated growing of aerobic rice in wetland fields.

*The grain yields obtained by the farmer, is dependent on the 'health and wealth' of the soil. Not having to impound water does not influence yield, unless there is a very long period of stress.*

*Remember that Aerobic rice is not just a cultivation system and not just a variety/hybrid. Both cultivar and package-of-practice go hand in hand.*

### Package of Practices

**Habitat:** For Aerobic Rice, soil preparation is like any other arid crop e.g. sorghum, corn, pulses, or millets. It is recommended to analyze all aspect of soil health and address any deficiency (ies) or sickness. High carbon content in soil is desirable and continuous cropping of aerobic rice, season after season, is not desirable.

**Terrain:** Aerobic Rice is not suitable for coastal areas and for places where rainfall is heavy, and water is not manageable.

**Land preparation:** Slightly sloping fields are preferred. Perfectly level lands are not mandatory. Direct seeding can be done in rows opened by plow behind bullock pairs /tractors/tillers. Soil need not be maintained at 'field capacity' during sowing or at any time during crop growth. Well decomposed FYM (25 tons/ha) should be applied and incorporated into the field and green manuring is recommended.

**Seeds:** Both hybrids and varieties of Aerobic Rice can be grown. Specially developed Aerobic Rice varieties or already released Aerobic Rice varieties, for that region, should be used. (Table 3).

**Sowing:** Seeding can be done in dry soil and germination starts when it rains or when irrigation is done. Only 15 kilograms of seeds is enough for 1 hectare against 62.50 kilograms recommended for irrigated fields. Sowing can be done in Kharif or in Summer season.

**Spacing:** Inter-row spacing is 30 cm and intra-row spacing is 10 cm. Only 1 seed is placed per hill. Seeding needs to be done across the slope, if possible, as it would place impediment in water flow enhancing percolation.

**Crop Management:** Intercropping, mixed cropping, relay cropping, and crop rotation with pulses like pigeon pea is recommended.

**Earthing-Up:** About 35 – 40 days after sowing, top dressing with Urea is mandatory, followed by earthing-up, to strengthen the base of the plants and to enhance tillering. Inter-cultivator / Kono-weeder / Rotary weeder / Bullock drawn Furrow can be used to loosen soil and also control weeds at early stage of the crop.

**Nutrient management:** The crop can be purely organic, if the soil fertility is high, otherwise fertilization with chemical fertilizers can be considered. A basal dose of 50:50:50 N:P:K is recommended. The remaining 50 N can be added in two splits. Second split at tillering stage and third split at peak vegetative stage. Application of growth stimulators e.g. silicon can enhance drought resistance, disease resistance and productivity.

**Weed Control:** Weeding must be done as needed either manually, by a blade harrow driven by bullock pairs, or using tiller / tractor. Weedicides for pre-emergent and post-emergent combinations are available.

**Water Management:** There is absolutely no need for standing water in the field at any stage of crop. Most often, water from rains would be sufficient, if rains are well distributed and sufficient.

**Irrigation:** *When there is no rain or the crop manifests water shortages, irrigation is necessary.* Irrigation can be by any available method such as flooding, sprinklers, surface or subsurface drips. Primacy to rainwater is a desirable and recommended. However, no standing water is recommended.

**Pests and Disease Management:** Aerobic Rice varieties are less prone to infestation. For minor pests and diseases recommended pesticides and fungicides sprays should be used.

**Grain Yield:** Experimental yields of 7 tons per ha have been obtained. Farmers have obtained around 5-6 tons in their fields with well crop management practices. Under severe stress conditions 1.9- 4 tons per ha have been recorded.

### ***Aerobic Rice vs SRI, AWD, DSR and Wetland rice***

**System of Rice Intensification (SRI):** In this method, very high yields have been obtained. A concern with this method has been that it is labor intensive, nursery bed preparation is mandatory, water usage is more than aerobic method. Lowland varieties seedlings will be transplanted in puddled fields with specific water management. Initially plants will be grown under anaerobic condition and then aerobic condition will be maintained or AWD will be practiced. Water usage is more than aerobic method. **However**, in Aerobic Rice method, puddling, nursery bed preparation etc. are not required and hence labor costs are less. Aerobic cultivar seeds will be directly seeded in flat or slightly sloping lands. Plant will be under aerobic condition throughout its growth period, and hence beneficial microorganisms will grow well under this condition therefore micronutrient availability will be more for plant, and in turn plants will be healthier with lesser water. There is no need for specially developed rice varieties for SRI habitat.

**Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD):** This method is used for lowland rice varieties which are adopted for flooded condition. Whenever plants are under dried condition, adopted lowland varieties may not give their full yield potential. Another important disadvantage of AWD method is the increased N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. Whereas, under aerobic condition, specific Aerobic Rice cultivars are used, which adopts well under aerobic condition unlike lowland varieties and hence the yield losses are lesser.

**Direct Seeding Method (DSR):** This method has three different kinds of growing strategies viz. wet-seeding, dry-seeding and water-seeding. In wet-seeding, land is ploughed, puddled, and leveled; pregerminated seeds (with 24-h soaking and 12-h incubation) are drilled in rows 1–2 days after puddling by using an anaerobic seeder fitted with furrow opener and closer. Land will be mostly anaerobic. In water-seeding pregerminated seeds will be broadcasted either to puddled fields or to dry fields. Dry-direct seeding (Dry- DSR) is a method where land is ploughed, harrowed but not puddled, leveled, and then dry seeds are broadcast manually it will be done before the onset of monsoon to use rainfall more effectively [32]. In some cases, seeds are covered with soil by shallow tillage. For broadcasting 60- 80 kg /ha seed is required. It can be grown in clay soil under flooded condition or in sandy loam soil with only fewer irrigations. However, in aerobic cultivation method seeds will not be broadcasted, pregerminated seeds will not be used, seed requirement is only 15kg/ha and water management is not optional unlike DSR. There are not much differences between dry-DSR and Aerobic Rice except varietal and yield differences.

**Wetland rice:** Under typical lowlands, growing crops other than rice is relatively restricted. Intercropping, mixed cropping is not possible but crop rotation with certain crops are possible. By growing Aerobic Rice varieties



soil physical property can be maintained by mixed cropping and with crop rotation practice. Under aerobic condition crop rotation with any other crop is possible unlike wetland. Crop rotation plays an important role in replenishing soil nutrients for posterity, especially atmospheric nitrogen converted to usable forms by nitrogen-fixing plants used in fallow field. Cultivating Aerobic Rice in *Kharif* season followed by any Pulses in Rabi/Summer improves soil fertility.

Further, under aerobic condition, up to 60% of water can be saved compared to wetland cultivation. Weeding can be done by mechanical method also. Labor consumption is far less, greenhouse gas emissions are less in this method. Fertilizer loss is also less than wetland rice. Most of the Aerobic Rice varieties are drought tolerant but most of the wetland rice varieties need not. [33], [34]

### **Benefits of Aerobic Rice**

#### **Health benefits to Farm Laborers**

In wetland rice, typically, plowing, puddling, and leveling operations are commonly done by men, but, women do the operations like removing seedlings from the nursery, transplanting, weeding, harvesting etc. As laborer stand in puddled fields, for long hours, days on end, the damage caused to their feet is immense. The cuts and bruises due to sensitivity to long time exposure to water, and infections thereof, causes ill health to labor. In aerobic condition all these issues are eliminated, as there is no standing water in the field. This has long term health benefits to the farm laborers, farming community and the country.

#### **Carbon Sequestration**

In Aerobic Rice fields, as the soil is maintained under aerobic condition for the entire crop cycle, the methane production is nil or minimal. Nitrous Oxide, which is produced due to nitrogen loss from the wetlands, causing eutrophication of lakes, is reduced significantly as there is no run off from the Aerobic Rice fields, however, a minimum amount of nitrous oxide is released from aerobic fields. *Each molecule of Methane has a GWP (Global Warming Potential) of 25 and a lifespan of 12.5 years. Each molecule of Nitrous Oxide has a GWP of 310 and a life span of 120 years.* Aerobic Rice is thus considered ecofriendly.

#### **Novelties of Aerobic Rice**

- ✓ Reduced water requirement by up to 60%, no puddling or standing water
- ✓ Reduced labor cost by eliminating transplantation
- ✓ Reduced pesticides and fertilizers usage (increased fertilizer efficiency) [35]
- ✓ Reduced incidence of pests and diseases
- ✓ Reduced emission of Methane and Nitrous Oxide
- ✓ Reduced mosquito population as need for large tracks of standing water is eliminated
- ✓ Intercropping or mixed cropping with pigeon-pea is possible
- ✓ Crop rotation with "**any**" pulse is possible
- ✓ Elimination of negative impacts on health of people involved in raising nursery, transplanting, weeding due to constant and long hours of work in puddled condition
- ✓ Increased profits per hectare for the farmer

### Aerobic Rice Released Varieties/Hybrids

Table 3: Varieties/hybrids with ability to grow under aerobic condition are listed below.

No	Country	Variety/Hybrid	Name	Organization
1	India	Hybrids	KRH 4	UAS, GKVK, Bangalore, Karnataka, India
			Pusa Hybrid 10	IARI, New Delhi, India
			Pro Agro 6111	Pro Agro, India
		Varieties	ARB 6 (Anagha), MAS 26 (Onasiri) MAS 946-1(Sharada) KMP-175 (Sadruda)	UAS, GKVK, Bangalore, Karnataka, India
			Pusa 834	IARI, New Delhi, India
			Ashoka 200F (BVD-109) Ashoka 228 (BVD-110) PY 84 (BVK-111)	Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India
			Danteshwari Indira Bharani Dhan 1 Kamaleshwari Poornima	IGKV, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India
			CR-Dhan 200 (Pyari) CR-Dhan 201 CR-Dhan 202 CR-Dhan 203 (Sachala) CR-Dhan 206 IR-79597-56-1-2-1 IR-80416-B-32-3	NRRI, Cuttack, Odisha, India
			Rasi DRR Dhan 42 DRR Dhan 44	IIRR, Hyderabad, Telangana
			Anna-4	TNAU, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India
			Rajendra Neelam	Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agriculture University, Samastipur, Pusa, Bihar
		Varieties	Magat IR55423-01 (APO) Sahod Utan 1 Sahod Utan 12 PSBRc 82 NSICRc 222	IRRI – Philippines [36]
			Hanyou 2 Hanyou 3	Zhejiang Yuhui Agrotechnology, Hangzhou, China
			Han Dao 297 Han Dao 502 Jin Dao 305 Danjing 5 Danjing 8 Danhandao1 Wushi Handao	China Agriculture University, Beijing, China
			RD 12 RD 33	Ubon Ratchathani Research Centre Thailand
			BRS Primavera BRS Tolento BRS Soberana BRS Bonanca Carisma Canastra Maravilha	National Research Center for Rice and Beans (CNPAP), Brazil
6	Nepal	Varieties	Sukha Dhan 1 Sukha Dhan 2 Sukha Dhan 3	
7	Bangladesh	Variety	BRRI Dhan 56	BRRI, Bangladesh



# Stages of Aerobic Rice

## Mandya, Karnataka





# Stages of Aerobic Rice

## Arasikere, Karnataka





# GKVK, UAS, Bengaluru





# Farmers' Interaction





# Field Demonstrations



Dehradun (Uttarakhand)



Farukhabad (U.P.)



Rajuri (Maharashtra)



Raipur (Chhatisgarh)



Navasari (Gujarat)



Itarsi (M.P.)



# Field Demonstrations





# Research Work

## (Field Study)





# Research Work

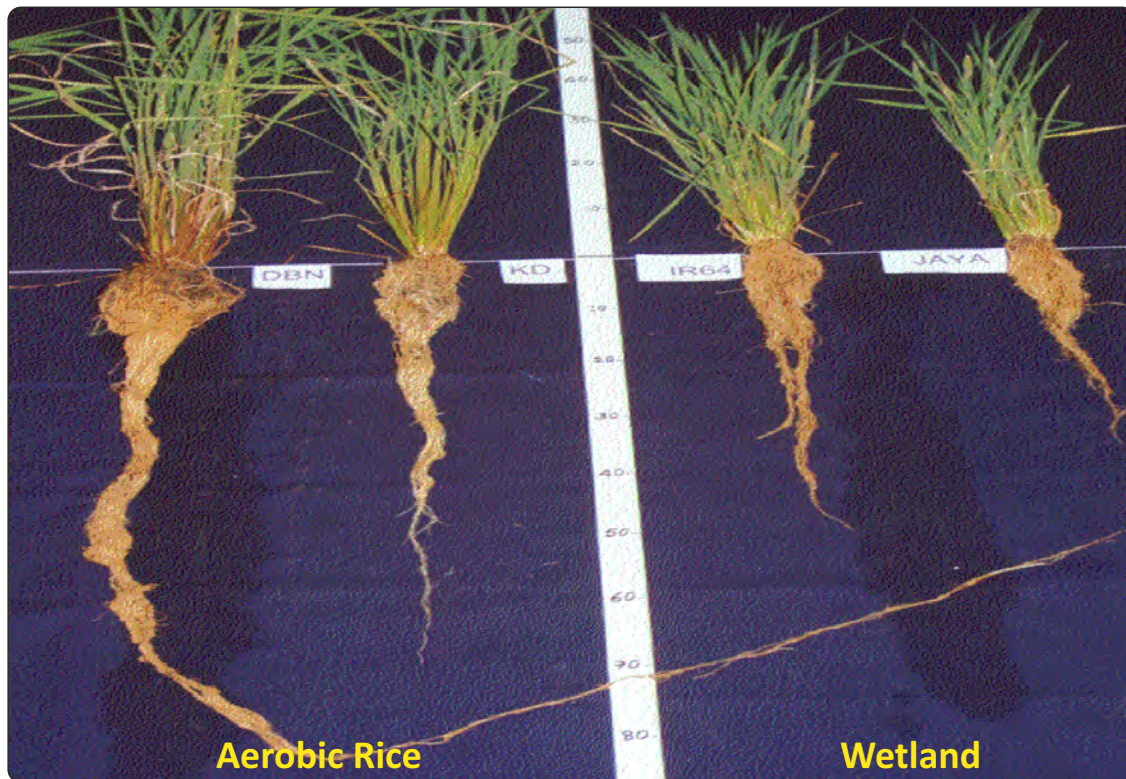
## (Root Study)





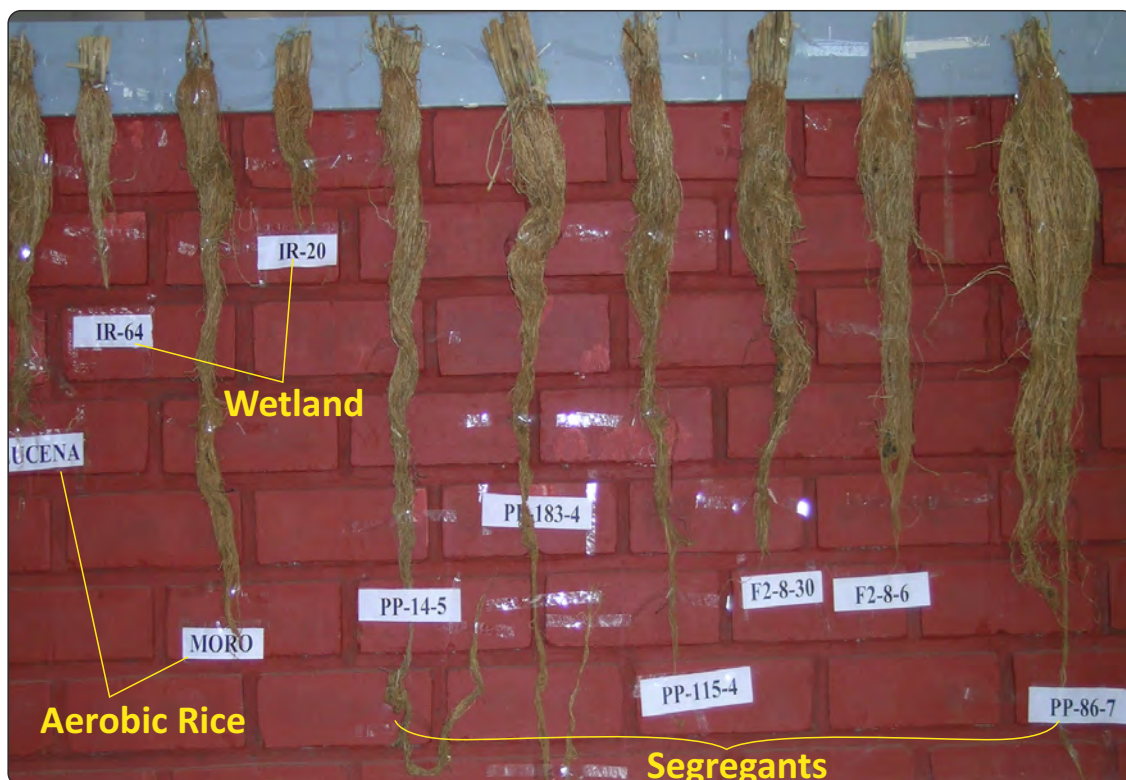
# Root Architecture

## Contrasting Root Morphology of Aerobic and Wetland Rice



- ↑ From Left to Right
1. Doddabyranellu
  2. Karidoddi
  3. IR 64
  4. Jaya

- ↓ From Left to Right
1. Azucena: Tropical Japonica, Aerobic
  2. IR – 64: Wetland Rice
  3. Moroberekan: Tropical Japonica, Aerobic
  4. IR – 20: Wetland Rice
  5. Progenies of Moroberekan & IR – 20.





# Media Coverage

**महासमुंद** ■ राष्ट्रीय, 29 अगस्त 2018 ■ 8

## एरोबिक प्रणाली किसानों को देगी राहत

**महासमुंद, 28 अगस्त (अम)।**

समय-समय पर पर्यावरण परिवर्तन के साथ फसल लेने को कठिनाई में भी परिवर्तन करना और आवश्यक हो गया है। उष्णकटिबंधीय एरोबिक धान से खेती करना किसानों को बहुत ही राहत देने के उद्देश्य से किसानों के लिए एक एरोबिक धान डेमो स्टेशन का संचालन किया। इस डेमो स्टेशन का संचालन डा. सुंदर साहू, जिला किसान प्रमुख, एरोबिक प्रणाली किसानों को देगी राहत देने के उद्देश्य से किया गया।

एरोबिक धान का फायदा यह है कि धान को खेती के लिए जल की आवश्यकता कम होती है। इसके मुकाबले यह 50 प्रतिशत कम पानी की आवश्यकता पड़ती है। और इस फसल को उन क्षेत्रों में भी उगाया जाता है, जहां पर खारिया कम होती है। एरोबिक धान को खेती करने से खारिया क्षेत्रों में भी खेती की जा सकती है। खेती को गिला करने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। फसल को दोनो, खारिया और अर्ध-खारिया के साथ खेती करने में भी आवश्यक पड़ती है, जो कि हमारी आवश्यकता के अनुसार है। एरोबिक धान को खेती करने में बहुत पानी की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है। खेती को गिला करने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। फसल को दोनो, खारिया और अर्ध-खारिया के साथ खेती करने में भी आवश्यक पड़ती है, जो कि हमारी आवश्यकता के अनुसार है।

**लागत लगती है कम**

एरोबिक धान की लागत कम होती है। खेती करने में बहुत पानी की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है। खेती को गिला करने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। फसल को दोनो, खारिया और अर्ध-खारिया के साथ खेती करने में भी आवश्यक पड़ती है, जो कि हमारी आवश्यकता के अनुसार है।

## 'Aerobic dhaan' uses just 50% of water, says Holla



**As compared to other normal variety; holds other good feature as well**

**Central Chronicle News**

Sumant Holla claimed that by utilising Aerobic Paddy, a farmer can up 55 quintal of paddy based upon per hectare quality of soil's fertility. As compared to traditional varieties of rice, without any change in the taste of this paddy, it can be sown directly. This increase yield and reduces expenditure.

Another important benefit of taking Aerobic Paddy is that there is no need to plant its sapling in nursery, or carry out tilling, levelling of farm and then re-transplanting it in the fields.

It is very environment friendly and has good anti-pests immunity in it. On this occasion Sudhanshu Mishra informed Kissan Kraft is working on increasing yield, production and betterment of life of farmers in taking up good quality crop and paddy. At present they are having 3000 dealers and 16 offices and 14 service centres all over India, he added.

**పాడి-పంట** ■ 15

## ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు

**దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం.**

ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం.

**తక్కువ ఖర్చుతో అధిక దిగుబడి**

ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం.

**తక్కువ నీటితో ఎక్కువ దిగుబడి**

ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం.

**నాలుగు నీటి తడులతో ఎక్కువ దిగుబడి**

ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం. దేశంలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో ఆరుతడి పంటగా వరిసాగు చేయడం ప్రారంభం.

**पुढारी अशापाकसय्यद, तालुकाप्रतिनिधी,करमाव**

## राजुरीच्या शिवारात बहरली भातशेती

**कोरडवाहू क्षेत्रात यशस्वी उपक्रम, कमी पाण्यात उत्पादन शक्य**



**कामवाः** अशापाकसय्यद, तालुकाप्रतिनिधी, करमाव

**पुढारी विशेष**

कोरडवाहू क्षेत्रात यशस्वी उपक्रम, कमी पाण्यात उत्पादन शक्य. राजुरीच्या शिवारात बहरली भातशेती.

## ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಯಿಂದ ಶೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಉಳಿತಾಯ

**ಭತ್ತದ ಬೆಳೆಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ನೀಡಿದ ಕೆನಾನ್ ಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ**



**ನಾಗರಹೋಲ:** ಕೆನಾನ್ ಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ. ಭತ್ತದ ಬೆಳೆಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ನೀಡಿದ ಕೆನಾನ್ ಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ.



[illegible]



# Media Coverage



## किसान क्राफ्ट ने जिले में किसानों के लिये किया एरोबिक धान प्रदर्शन का संचालन

वृक्ष इण्डिया संवाददाता, फर्रुखाबाद। उच्च गुणवत्तायुक्त कृषि उपकरण की धीक आवाश्यकता और वितरक कंपनी किसान क्राफ्ट ने जिले में किसानों के लिये एक एरोबिक धान प्रदर्शन का संचालन किया है। इस प्रदर्शन का संचालन रिजर्च एवं डेवलपमेंट किसान क्राफ्ट लिमिटेड के जोएस डीओ समरेन्द्र साहू कर रहे हैं। जिसका उद्देश्य एरोबिक धान उगाने की प्रक्रिया पर किसानों को शिक्षित करना है।

एरोबिक धान का फायदा यह है कि धान की खेती के लिये जितनी पानी की जरूरत होती है उसके मुकाबले यह 50 फीसदी कम पानी का इस्तेमाल करता है साथ ही उर्वरक, कीटनाशक, मजदूर की लागत और ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन को भी कम करता है। इस संबंध में डीओ समरेन्द्र साहू ने कहा कि एक किलो ग्राममैट्रिक चावल उगाने के लिये आम तौर पर लगभग पांच हजार लीटर पानी की जरूरत होती है लेकिन एरोबिक धान को उगाने के लिये दो हजार से ढाई हजार लीटर पानी की ही आवश्यकता पड़ती है इस फसल को उन क्षेत्रों में भी उगाया जा सकता है जहां पर बारिश कम होती है। उन्होंने बताया कि भारत की खेती और उत्पादन भात को अर्थव्यवस्था में बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। पानी को कमी और ज्ञान के अभाव में जैसे विभिन्न समस्याओं और मुद्दों का इस फसल के उत्पादन पर गहरा प्रभाव पड़ता है। जो कि हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था की वृद्धि को भी नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित करती है चावल की खेती के संबंध में सबसे मुश्किल से निपटने के लिये किसान क्राफ्ट ने हमने एरोबिक धान को गई धारा विकसित की है। जो सफल उत्पादन के साथ 50 फीसदी कम पानी का इस्तेमाल करती है उन्होंने कहा कि एरोबिक धान का इस्तेमाल कर किसान प्रति हेक्टेयर मिट्टी की उर्वरक क्षमता के आधार पर लगभग 55 क्विंटल धान को पैदावार प्राप्त कर सकते हैं चावल की पारम्परिक किशमी की तुलना में स्वाद में किसी बदलाव के बिना इस धान को सीधे बोया जा सकता है, जिससे पैदावार बढ़ता है और खर्च भी कम हो जाता है। एक महत्वपूर्ण लाभ यह भी है कि इसके लिये नर्सरी, जुताई, समतलन और प्रत्यारोपण की जरूरत नहीं होती है। यह बेहद पर्यावरण हितैषी है। यह कीटों और रोगों को घटनाओं को भी कम करता है।

इस अवसर पर सुदश मिश्रा ने बताया कि किसान क्राफ्ट किसानों को आमदनी, पैदावार एवं उत्पादन क्षेत्रों को बढ़ाने में मदद कर छोटे खेतों वाले सीमांत किसानों की जिंदगी को बेहतर बनाने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहा है। इसे भारोसेमेट कंपनी का दर्जा प्राप्त है। किसान क्राफ्ट एक देशव्यापी वितरण नेटवर्क है जिसका देश भर में 3000 डीलर्स, 16 कार्यालय और 14 सर्विस केंद्र शामिल हैं।

### किसान मित्र एसोसिएशन की बैठक संपन्न

वृक्ष इण्डिया संवाददाता, फर्रुखाबाद। किसान मित्र एसोसिएशन की बैठक बाग लक्ष्मी स्थित उपकृषि निदेशक कार्यालय में जिलाध्यक्ष अरविन्द राजपुत की अध्यक्षता में संपन्न हुई। बैठक में सर्व समितियों के निवेश लिखा गया कि कई बार धराना प्रदर्शन और जापन देने के बाद भी सरकार ने उनकी एक नही सुनी इसलिये आगामी आठ अक्टूबर को रोडब्लॉक का तबकका आम किया जायेगा। साथ ही सांसद और विधायकों को जापन देने बैठक में लक्ष्मण सिंह एडवोकेट शिवराम सिंह आनिल त्रिवेदी प्रताप सिंह राजेन्द्र सिंह अमन पाल आदि किसान मित्र मौजूद रहे।







# Media Coverage

## धान के बाद दूसरे अनाजों की भी एरोबिक किस्में विकसित होगी

नई दिल्ली। छोटे और सीमांत किसानों की जरूरतों के अनुरूप कृषि मशीनरी एवं उपकरण बनाने वाली कंपनी किसान क्राफ्ट लिमिटेड ने बीजों के विकास के कारोबार में भी कदम रखा है। कंपनी धान की एरोबिक किस्म का विकास कर उसके सफल परीक्षण का दवा किया है और अब दूसरे खाद्यनामों की एरोबिक किस्म को विकसित करने की दिशा में काम कर रही है।

उन्होंने बताया कि जब खेतों में पानी जमा रहते हैं तो धरती को आक्सीजन नहीं मिल पाता और इसके अलावा धान के खेत से ग्रीनहाउस गैसों का भी उत्सर्जन होता है। इसके अलावा खेतों में जो नाइट्रोजन और फास्फोरस का उपयोग होता है वह पानी के साथ जलाशयों और नदियों में पहुँचकर उन्हें प्रदूषित करता है। लेकिन एरोबिक किस्मों में पानी के कम उपयोग के कारण ऐसी

नई दिल्ली। छोटे और सीमांत किसानों की जरूरतों के अनुरूप कृषि मशीनरी एवं उपकरण बनाने वाली कंपनी किसान क्राफ्ट लिमिटेड के सीओओ अंकित चित्तलिया ने को बताया, हमने पिछले वर्ष बीज व्यवसाय में कदम रखा है और गैर-बासमती धान की एक किस्म के अक्षत ए-न को विकसित किया है जिसे बैंगलूर के आसपास के क्षेत्रों के किसान उपयोग कर के संतुष्ट हैं। इस एरोबिक किस्म की खासियत यह है कि इसकी खेती में पानी की बहुत कम जरूरत होती है। उन्होंने कहा कि किसान क्राफ्ट ने धान के अलावा अन्य लोकप्रिय अनाजों की एरोबिक किस्म को विकसित करने की पहल की है और इस संबंध में शोध एवं परीक्षण कार्यक्रमों के लिए आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार के साथ एक सहमति पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर भी किए हैं। अंकित चित्तलिया ने बताया कि हम आंध्र प्रदेश में 100 एकड़ भू-क्षेत्र की खोज कर रहे हैं ताकि अपनी प्रयोगशाला की स्थापना और परीक्षण खेती की योजनाओं को शीघ्रता से लागू कर सकें। आरंभ में हमारे 75 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश की योजना है। उन्होंने बताया कि किसी भी फसल की एरोबिक किस्म का मतलब है कि उसके उत्पादन में पानी को कम खपत हो। किसान क्राफ्ट के एक वैज्ञानिक सुमंत होल्ता ने बताया कि आम तौर पर एक किलो चावल पैदा करने के लिए 5,000 लीटर पानी की जरूरत होती है। आम तौर पर धान खेती के दौरान कोटों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए खेतों में पानी जमा करने का अभ्यास चीन वासियों ने शुरू किया था। लेकिन इस उपाय की अपनी खामी है।



फसलों को जड़े ज्यादा बड़ी होती हैं, जिसके लिए कम पानी की आवश्यकता होती है। इस तरह की खेती के लिए किसान सूखे खेत में सीधी बुवाई कर पाएंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि साधारणतया धान फसल उगाने में प्रति एकड़ 25 से 40 किलो बीज की आवश्यकता होती है लेकिन एरोबिक किस्म के मामले में छह से सात किलो बीज की ही जरूरत किसानों को पड़ती है। इसके अलावा फसल पर कोटेशनकों के छिड़काव की भी जरूरत काफी कम हो जाती है जो किसानों को उनके फसल की लागत कम करने के लक्ष्य से खासा महत्वपूर्ण साबित हो रहा है। एरोबिक धान पर काम करने का पहला फैसला फिलीपींस में शुरू किया गया जहाँ के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय धान शोध संस्थान ने विभिन्न देशों के कृषि संस्थानों का वित्तपोषण करते इस दिशा में शोध को अंजाम दिया।

## तकनीक के जरिये जल की कमी से निपटने में किसानों की मदद करेगी किसान क्राफ्ट

नई दिल्ली, (एजेंसी)। छोटे और सीमांत किसानों के लिए उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले कृषि उपकरणों की विनिर्माता और

मशीनीकरण और एरोबिक चावल तकनीक हैं देश में कृषि विकास की अगुआ

गैसों के उत्सर्जन की मात्रा कम हो जाती है। एक किलोग्राम पारंपरिक चावल उगाने के लिए जहाँ 5,000 लीटर पानी की जरूरत

होती है, वहीं एरोबिक चावल को 2,000 से 2,500 लीटर पानी ही चाहिए। यह फसल कम वर्षा वाले इलाकों में भी उगाई जा सकती है। एरोबिक चावल अच्छे हवादार खेतों में बिना पानी के ही बो दिया जाता है। खेतों में पानी डालने की जरूरत नहीं होती। इसे दालों, सब्जियों और तिलहन के साथ उगाया जाना भी संभव है। लंबे समय तक इस्तेमाल करने पर यह मिट्टी की सेहत सुधाराता है। एरोबिक चावल उगाने का बड़ा फायदा यह है कि इसके लिए पौध तैयार करने, खेत को पानी में डूबोने, जमीन समतल करने तथा पौध लगाने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। यह पर्यावरण के बहुत अनुकूल भी है क्योंकि इससे कम मात्रा में मीथेन उत्सर्जन होता है और यह कम लागत वाली फसल भी है क्योंकि इसमें कीड़े तथा रोग बहुत कम लगते हैं। इस मौके पर किसान क्राफ्ट लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक श्री रवींद्र के अग्रवाल ने कहा, यह देश लंबे समय से सूखे तथा खेती के अनुचित तरीकों जैसी कृषि संबंधी समस्याओं से पीड़ित रहा है। भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था पर ऐसी समस्याओं का असर बहुत गहरे तक है और यदि इसे रोका नहीं गया तो इससे देश की वृद्धि पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

जबकि इसी अवधि में कंपनी की समग्र शुद्ध बिक्री में 26 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई है।

### WATER SCARCITY IN AGRICULTURE

## Predicting, Preventing and Protecting

RAVINDRA AGRAWAL, MD AND PROMOTER OF KISANKRAFT

FOOD grain production in India, in 2016-17, was 271.98 million tons. However, by 2020, the country's farmers need to produce 300 million tons, to meet the ever-growing demand for food. Indian agriculture largely depends on the monsoon and so far, there is 10 percent deficiency in rainfall. Although IMD predicts normal rainfall for August and September, Skymet predicts that monsoon will weaken further and affect production of cereals, pulses, oilseeds etc. Changes in cropping, land-use patterns, over-exploitation of groundwater, irrigation and drainage have modified the hydrologic cycle in many climate regions and river basins of India.

Rainfall is erratic and even when overall rains are 'normal', distribution of rainfall might be 'abnormal' in timing, geographic reach and quantum distribution. Such natural inconsistency affects our agricultural production, and thus impacts the GDP and rate of inflation.

Recently government has announced that the extent of losses due to drought, land degradation and desertification is 2.54 percent of the GDP (~2.7 lakh crore rupees). Following are a few suggestions to mitigate the impact of ever-dynamic monsoon:

(1) Efficient water manage-

ment: We need to reduce the dependency on monsoon by replacing surface and flood irrigation etc. by Micro, sub-surface or sprinkler irrigation. Mulching should be promoted to reduce evaporation losses. Farmers tend to give excess irrigation whenever he has surplus water, many times at the cost of another farmer e.g. people at the tail-end of a canal. Farmers must be educated about negative effects of excess irrigation. Farm ponds should be made mandatory, especially in drought prone areas. Canals' lining should be mandatory to avoid water loss through seepage. Small check-dams and water-retention ponds on government lands, based on topological survey, should be constructed all over India. If better roads are the reflections of a developed country, better canals are the reflections of a solid agricultural economy. It will be great if we construct one km of well-lined canals for every km of road constructed.

(2) Weather forecast system: We need a lot more and better equipped weather observatories in India for better forecasting. Utilizing weather satellites and more ground stations and improving our modelling and disseminating weather forecast at block level would better assist farmers. It will perhaps narrow the gap in forecast between IMD and Skymet. IMD is targeting to increase AWS and ARS 5-8 times

by 2021.

(3) Climate-resilient varieties: Better cultivars will always be critical to agricultural adaptation. For example, now climate-resilient rice varieties are being promoted and disseminated by the Stress-tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia (STRASA) project in India. According to Seednet, rice varieties released by STRASA captured 27% of the total order for 2017 kharif season. Both flood and drought-tolerant varieties like Swarna-Sub1, Samba-Sub1, Sahbhagi dhan and DRR42, are in top 10. KisanKraft is developing and promoting Aerobic Rice - which reduces water consumption by over 50%, reduces GHG emissions, and has same yields.

(4) Package of practices: Educating farmers to adopt recommended package of practices alone would increase the farm productivity and income. Practices like summer ploughing, crop rotation, green manuring, fine tillage, proper spacing, timely inter-cultivation, weeding, fertilizer, pesticide application and harvesting should be done by adapting current scientific methods. For example, India utilizes around 170 kg of fertilizer per hectare of arable land, whereas as USA consumes only 130 kg per hectare, but has better productivity. While applying the fertilizer or pesticide "which form, when, and how" are also equally important along with



"how much". Application of recommended quantity of compost is also another practice that must be re-adapted by farmers. In case of rice, a crop that covers 28% of the irrigated land, some of the special practices like AWD and SRI can be adapted to save water and increase yield.

(5) Farming by businesses: Currently businesses in India are not allowed commercial cultivation of non-plantation crops. Farmers have much lower risk-taking capacity and they will be more inclined to change their practices by observing successes of another system in their neighborhood. Government cannot have enough model farms. Allowing businesses to cultivate will bring advanced scientific practices to villages.

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution - many ideas must be tried; but we need to move beyond subsidies and financial assistance for agricultural distress in the country.

## एरोबिक चावल- 'चावल उगाने की श्रेष्ठ और स्थायी विधि'

मुंबई, चावल भारत की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण खाद्य फसल है। धान की खेती ताजे पानी की सर्वाधिक मात्रा का उपयोग करती है और सिंचाई योग्य भूमि के 28 प्रतिशत पर इसकी खेती की जाती है। जल के बढ़ते अभाव के कारण अब हमें जल की प्रत्येक बूंद से अत्यधिक फसल उगानी होगी। एरोबिक चावल खेती की एक प्रणाली है, जिसे कम वर्षा वाली जगह में अपनाया जाता है, जैसी कि मक्का की खेती होती है। एरोबिक चावल में स्थायी रूप से जल की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है और यह पारंपरिक चावल की तुलना में 40-60 प्रतिशत तक कम पानी से उगाया जा सकता है। इससे किसान वर्षाजल का अधिकतम उपयोग कर सकता है। यह एक विशेष प्रकार का चावल है, जिसमें सूखे के प्रतिरोधी अपलेण्ड चावल और उच्च उपज वाले लोलेण्ड चावल के गुण हैं। एरोबिक चावल असंतुष्ट मिट्टी में भी तेजी से बढ़ता है और प्रति हेक्टेयर 4-6 टन की पैदावार कर सकता है। एरोबिक चावल को पौधों के प्रजनन की पारंपरिक तकनीक से विकसित किया गया है और इसमें जेनेटिक इंजीनियरिंग की विधियों का प्रयोग नहीं किया गया है। इसकी शोध सुमंत होता और सुश्री सौजन्य ने किया है।

दोनों यू. ए. एस. बैंगलोर में पीएचडी के स्कॉलर और किसान क्राफ्ट लिमिटेड की शोध एवं विकास टीम के सदस्य हैं। शुष्क भूमि की किसी भी फसल की तरह इसके लिए भी बुआई से पहले खेत को दो बार जुताई करनी होती है। एरोबिक चावल को किसी भी प्रकार की मुदा में उगाया जा सकता है। ब्लैक कॉर्टन को छोड़कर इसकी बुआई का मौसम वहीं है, जो सामान्य चावल का होता है। एरोबिक चावल के बीज 30 गुणा 10 सेमी की स्पेसिंग में सीधे बोये जाते हैं। प्रति एकड़ केवल 6 किलो बीज की आवश्यकता होती है। अच्छे परिणाम के लिए सीड ड्रिड का उपयोग किया जा सकता है। बुआई के तुरंत बाद सिंचाई की जानी चाहिए। स्थायी जल या नमी की आवश्यकता नहीं है। सिंचाई तभी जरूरी है, जब इसकी आवश्यकता हो और वह भी 4-6 दिन में एक बार ताकि मुदा स्वस्थ रहे। खेत को खरपतवार बचाने के लिए पेडिमेथलिन जैरो हर्बिसाइड का उपयोग किया जा सकता है। यह कार्य हाथ या मशीन से इंटर कल्टिवेटर्स उपयोग द्वारा हो सकता है। एरोबिक चावल बुआई के बाद 120-135 दिनों में तैयार हो जाता है।



# Media Coverage

## Drought-resistant rice variety struggles to find any takers

Sandeep Moudgal  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Even as the government remains firm on not allowing paddy to be grown in Karnataka's rice bowl Mandya fearing over-utilization of water from the Cauvery basin, a lesser-known variety of rice which doesn't consume much water seems to be struggling to create a market.

Aerobic rice needs only half the water used for conventional rice cultivation. In the trial phase for the past 10 years, it has seen little exposure. So much so, a mela was held in Mandya on Saturday to attract farmers towards the variety.

Dr H E Shashidhar, retired professor of genetics and plant breeding from the University of Agricultural Sciences, was the lead scientist who helped in the trial runs. Funded by the famed Rockefeller Foundation in the late 90s, the trials continued through the 2000s and are still on, but farmers have shown minimal interest in using aerobic rice as an alternative to traditional varieties.

"The aerobic variety can yield nearly 20-22 quintals of rice per acre at not more than Rs 15,000 as input cost. Conventional paddy cultivation approximately costs Rs 25,000 per acre for the same yield. Unfortunately, the mindset of the farmers has not changed," said the scientist.

"With people still believ-



**BETTER YIELD:** Farmer Nagaraj in his field at H Kodihalli on the Mandya-Nagamangala road where aerobic rice has been sown

### TIMES VIEW

Embroided in the decades-old Cauvery row with Tamil Nadu and having endured successive droughts, Karnataka understands that water is a very precious resource. In this scenario, the state's non-promotion of aerobic rice is bewildering. Though scientists say trial runs have yielded positive results, the government can do its own due diligence. As it consumes less water, aerobic rice should be considered as an alternative to conventional paddy cultivation. For too long have our farmers been at the mercy of erratic rainfall, and any practice which holds the slightest promise of benefiting them should be explored and aggressively promoted.

ing that paddy cannot give a good yield if not flood irrigated, farmers are not giving themselves a chance to grow this drought-resistant variety," added Shashidhar. As part

of the trial runs, UAS assisted farmers in Bidadi (five acre), Dodballapura (10 acre) and Vishweshwariah Canal farm (70 acre) in Mandya to cultivate the rice.

Industry sources claim successive state governments have ignored the variety due to increased weeding during cultivation, besides being sceptical of experimenting the most staple produce of the state. The agriculture department said it is yet to ascertain whether the variety has come to their notice or not.

The scientist has now tied up with a private company, KisanKraft, which supplies agricultural equipment, to publicize aerobic rice.

Vouching for the rice variety, firm director Ravindra Kumar Agarwal said: "We had supported a field trial in 2013 involving farmers near Bengaluru and the yield was better than puddled cultivation by the same farmers on adjoining fields."

## ಕನ್ನಡಪ್ರಭ

## ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅರಿವು

### • ಕನ್ನಡಪ್ರಭ ವಾರ್ತೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಎಚ್. ಕೋಡಿಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ಇ. ಶಶಿದರ್ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಕಸ, ಬಗ್ಗಡ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಂತರ ನೀರಿನ ಅಗತ್ಯ ವಿಲ್ಲದೇ ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂಶೋಧಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾ. ಶಶಿದರ್ ಅವರ ಕೃಷಿಯು ಉತ್ತಮ ಧಾನ್ಯದ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಭತ್ತದ ಇಳುವರಿಯನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಲು ಒಂದು ರೈತ-ಸೇವೆ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಇದು ಪ್ರತಿ ಯುನಿಟ್ ಭೂ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮ ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಇಳುವರಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಇದು 50% ಕಡಿಮೆ ನೀರನ್ನು ಬಳಸುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಧಾನಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ 70%ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಸಾರಜನಕದ ಒಳಹರಿವಿದೆ. ಈ ತಂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ದಿಂದ ಹೊಲಗಳಿಗೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯಿಂದ ಭತ್ತದ ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನೀರಿನ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಹರಿವು ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ರಸಗೊಬ್ಬರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೀಟನಾಶಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 70% -85%ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

Mandya  
Page No. 3 Sep 24, 2017  
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## ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ ಪ್ರಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ದಿಲೊ ಕಿಶಾನಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ : ಬರ್ಮಾನಕಾಲ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕತೆ ಧನ ಉಪಾದನೇರ ಜನಾಭಿಮಾನಿ ಜನ ಲಾಘೇ ಜಮೀನು, ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ ಉಪಾದನೇರ ಫೇರೇ ಪ್ರಾಚಾರ್ಯಕೆ ಪರಿಮಾಣೇ ಜಲೇರ ಸರಕಾರ ಸಾಧನೇ. ಇಲೇ ಕಮ್ ಕೃಷಿಪಾಠ ಅಭಿಧಾ ಕಾ ಕಮ್ ಜಲೇ ಸಮಸರಿಮಾ ಧನ ಡಾಚ ಉಪೇರ ಕರಾ ಇಲೇ. ಸಾಂಪ್ರತಿ ಕಿಶಾನಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ದಿಶಾನಿ ಪ್ರಾಚೇರ 120 ಜನ ಡಾಚೀಕೇ ನಡುನ ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ ಉಪಾದನೇರ ಪ್ರಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ದಿಲೊ. ಅಲೇ ಧನ ಉಪಾಪನ ಕರತೇ ಜಲಮನ ಜಲ ಕಮ್ ಲಾಘೇರ ತೇಮನಿ ಸಸಾಧನಿಕ ಸಾ, ಕಿಶಾನಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ಪದಾಠ್, ಮತ್ತರಿ, ಆಗಾಠಾ ಜಮಾನೇರ ಹಾಕು ಕಮ್ ಇಲೇ. ಬರ್ಮಾನೇ 1 ಫೇರಿ ಧನ ಉಪೇರ ಕರತೇ 1000 ಲಿಟೇರ ಜಲ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಕಿಶು ಸಮಸರಿಮಾ ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ ಉಪೇರ ಕರತೇ 2000-3000 ಲಿಟೇರ ಜಲೇರ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಇಲೇ. ಅಲೇ ಅಲೇ ಶಶಿಧರ ಜಾನಾನ ಲೇ, ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ ಖುಬ ಸಾಧನನಡಾಚೇ ಜಮೀನು ಬೀಜ ರೋಪಣ ಕರಾ ಇಲೇ. ಕಾಸಾ ಜಮೀನು ಖುಬ ಅಕಟಾ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಇಲೇ. ನಾ. ಫೊಟೊಗ್ರಫಿ ಜೇರ ಸಾಸಾ ಸಾಸಾಕರ ಕರತೇ ಜಲೇ ಇಲೇ. ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ-ಅಲೇ ಫೇರೇ ಸುಬಿಶಾ ಅಲೇ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಬೀಜ ಫೇರೇ ಗಾಢ ಉಪೇರ ಅಲೇ ಅ ಫಲನ ಧೇವ ಕೋನೇರಕಮ್ ಬೀಜ ರೋಪಣ ಕರಾ ಕರತೇ ಇಲೇ ನಾ ಬಾ ಬಾನಗಾಠ ನಡುನ ಕರತೇ ರೋಪಣ ಕರಾ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಡೇ. ಇಲೇ ಅಲೇದಿನ ಕರತೇ ಅಸತೇ ಇಲೇ. ಅಲೇ ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ ಪರಿಶೇಷಾಕರ ಅ ಸಾಸಾರನ ಡಾಲೇರ ಹತೇ ಇಲೇ. ಅಲೇ ಪೋಪಣ ಆಕ್ರಮಣ ಖುಬ ಕಮ್ ಇಲೇ. ನಡುನ ಆರೋಗಿಕ ರಾಹಿಸ ಡಾಚೀರ ಧರಾ ಕಮೀರ ಲಾಠೇರ ಖುಬ ಬೇನಿ ಡೇವಾಚೇ ಬಲೇ ದಾಚಿ ಕರತೇ ಡಾ. ಶಶಿಧರ.

## ರೈತರು ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಭತ್ತ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಸಲಹೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, 24 ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ : ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಎಚ್. ಕೋಡಿಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

- ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಎಚ್. ಕೋಡಿಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ
- ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು
- ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ



ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ಇ. ಶಶಿದರ್ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಕಸ, ಬಗ್ಗಡ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಂತರ ನೀರಿನ ಅಗತ್ಯ ವಿಲ್ಲದೇ ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂಶೋಧಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಇದು ಪ್ರತಿ ಯುನಿಟ್ ಭೂ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮ ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಇಳುವರಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು 50% ಕಡಿಮೆ ನೀರನ್ನು ಬಳಸುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಎರೋಬಿಕ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಧಾನಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ 70%ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಸಾರಜನಕದ ಒಳಹರಿವಿದೆ. ಈ ತಂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ದಿಂದ ಹೊಲಗಳಿಗೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

## KisanKraft conducts Aerobic Rice demonstration for 150 farmers

KisanKraft, an ISO 9001:2008 certified manufacturer, wholesale importer & distributor of high quality agricultural equipment conducted an Aerobic Rice demonstration for 150 farmers in Deshani Village. The demonstration was conducted by Dr. H. E. Shashidhar, Director of Research, KisanKraft (ex-Prof. at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore), in order to educate farmers on cultivation of Aerobic Rice. The advantages of Aerobic rice is that it uses 50% less water than that required for paddy cultivation, and reduces the amount of fertilizer, pesticides, labor costs and greenhouse gas emissions. As against 5,000 litres of water required to produce one kg of conventional rice, the aerobic rice requires between 2,000-2,500 litres. This crop could also be grown in low rainfall areas.

Aerobic rice is dry direct seeded in well aerated fields. Speaking at the demonstration, Dr. H. E. Shashidhar said, "The cultivation and production of rice is one of the utmost important part of India's economy. But issues such as drought and lack of awareness threaten to hurt the gains that are made through rice crop improvement. It is for this reason that we have developed a new strain of Aerobic rice which uses more than 50% less water while giving the same outputs."

-Hello Kolkata Bureau



**పద్యోబిక్ అక్కిగె**  
**తును నీరే సాకు**

ಅದೂ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅ  
ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದುದನ್ನು ಅವರಿ  
ಉಳುಮೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಭೂ  
ಸಾತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಮೇ  
ಎತ್ತುಗಳಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿ  
ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಸಾ  
ಗೊಬ್ಬರದ ಬಳಕೆಯ  
ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

पानी की ही जरूरत होती है। साथ ही उर्वरक, कीटनाशकों, श्रम लागत और ग्रीन हाउस गैस उत्सर्जन की मात्रा कम कर देता है। उन्होंने बताया कि सामान्य तौर पर जहाँ एक किलो चावल उत्पादन में 5 हजार लीटर की जरूरत पड़ती है वहीं इतनी ही मात्रा में एरोबिक चावल उत्पादन में दो से द्वाइ हजार लीटर पानी ही जरूरत होती है। कृषि कार्यक्रम में गांव के 250 से ज्यादा किसानों ने भाग लिया।

[illegible]

डेली न्यूज, नई दिल्ली। कृषि उपकरणों की विनिर्माता और थोक वितरक किसानक्राफ्ट लिमिटेड का उद्देश्य (शहर का नाम) की कृषि जल समस्याएं सुलझाना चाहती है। आईएसओ 9001:2015 प्रमाणित यह कंपनी इसके लिए अपनी नई एवं अनूठी कृषि मशीनरी तथा एरोबिक चावल तकनीक का इस्तेमाल करना चाहती है। एरोबिक चावल के बीजों की मदद से किसानक्राफ्ट का उद्देश्य सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में किसानों की मदद करना है, जो पानी की किल्लत से जूझ रहे हैं। किसानक्राफ्ट लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक रवींद्र के अग्रवाल ने कहा कि एरोबिक चावल के फायदे ये हैं कि इसमें धान की फसल के मुकाबले 50 प्रतिशत कम पानी का इस्तेमाल होता है और उर्वरक, कीटनाशक, श्रम की लागत तथा ग्रीनहाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन की मात्रा कम हो जाती है। एक किलोग्राम पारंपरिक चावल उगाने के लिए जहां 5000 लीटर पानी की जरूरत होती है, वहीं एरोबिक चावल को 2000 से 2500 लीटर पानी ही चाहिए। यह फसल कम वर्षा वाले इलाकों में भी उगाई जा सकती है।



# Certifications



## National Biodiversity Authority

(An Autonomous and Statutory Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)

T. Rabikumar, IFS

Secretary

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TICEL Bio Park

5th Floor, CSIR Road,

Taramani, Chennai - 600 113

Tamil Nadu, India



NBA/Tech Appl/9/1717/17/18-19/ 186

16.04.2018

To  
M/s. KisanKraft Ltd,  
No.4, Sri Huchanna Tower, 7-A Cross, 1<sup>st</sup> Main,  
Maruthi Layout, Dasarahalli, Hebbal, HAF Post,  
Bangalore - 560 024.

Sir,

Sub: Approval for Access of Bioresource for commercial utilisation application under Section 3 read with Section 19(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rule 14 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004-reg.

Ref- Application in Form - I received by this office on 15.11.2017.

With reference to your application cited in reference on the subject cited above to facilitate "Access Rice variety ARB-6 (Anagha) - *Oryza sativa* 1kg Intend to use this variety for multiplication and sell it is market for commercial utilisation" using the biological resource namely Rice variety ARB-6 (Anagha) - *Oryza sativa*, has been approved by the National Biodiversity Authority subject to the condition laid down in the agreement.

In this regard, I am enclosing herewith one mutually signed stamp paper Agreement executed between National Biodiversity Authority and the applicant for the applicant's reference and compliance. It is also to inform you that breach of the terms of agreement and provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rule, 2004. made thereunder will invite imposition of penalties as per Section 55, 56 & 57 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication.

Yours faithfully,

(T. Rabikumar)  
Secretary, NBA

Encl: One copy of the mutually signed agreement.



# Certifications

## LICENSE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN



**M/s. KISANKRAFT LIMITED**

Sri Huchhanna Tower, Site #4, #748, 7th 'A' Cross, Maruthi Layout, Dasarahalli, Hebbal,  
Bengaluru 560024, Karnataka

AND



**NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

[AN ENTERPRISE OF DSIR, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Govt. of India]  
20-22, Zamroodpur Community Centre, Kailash Colony Extension  
New Delhi 110048

FOR THE LICENSING OF

**"ECO FRIENDLY DROUGHT TOLERANT AEROBIC RICE VARIETY-ARB6"**

DEVELOPED BY



**UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

GKVK Campus, Bengaluru 560065, Karnataka

**2018**



# KisanKraft Product Range



Electric Water Pump



Electric Motor



Engine



Water Pump



Maize/Corn Harvester



Intercultivator



Power Tiller



Reaper



Brush Cutter/Paddy Weeder



Battery Sprayer



Power Sprayer



Portable Power Sprayer



HTP Sprayer



Orchard Sprayer



Mist Dust Sprayer



Leaf Blower



Pressure Washer



Chaff Cutter



Milking Machine



Chainsaw



Pruner



Palm Harvester



Post Hole Digger



Seeder



Paddy Transplanter



Tea Leaf Harvester



Fogging Machine



Hedge Trimmer



Lawn Mower



Garden Tools

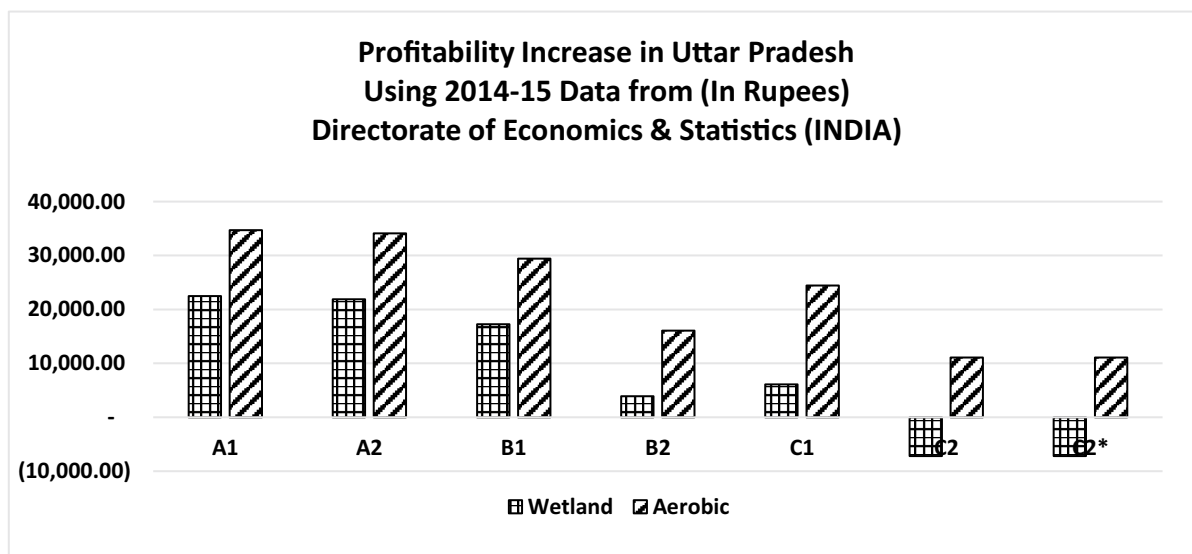
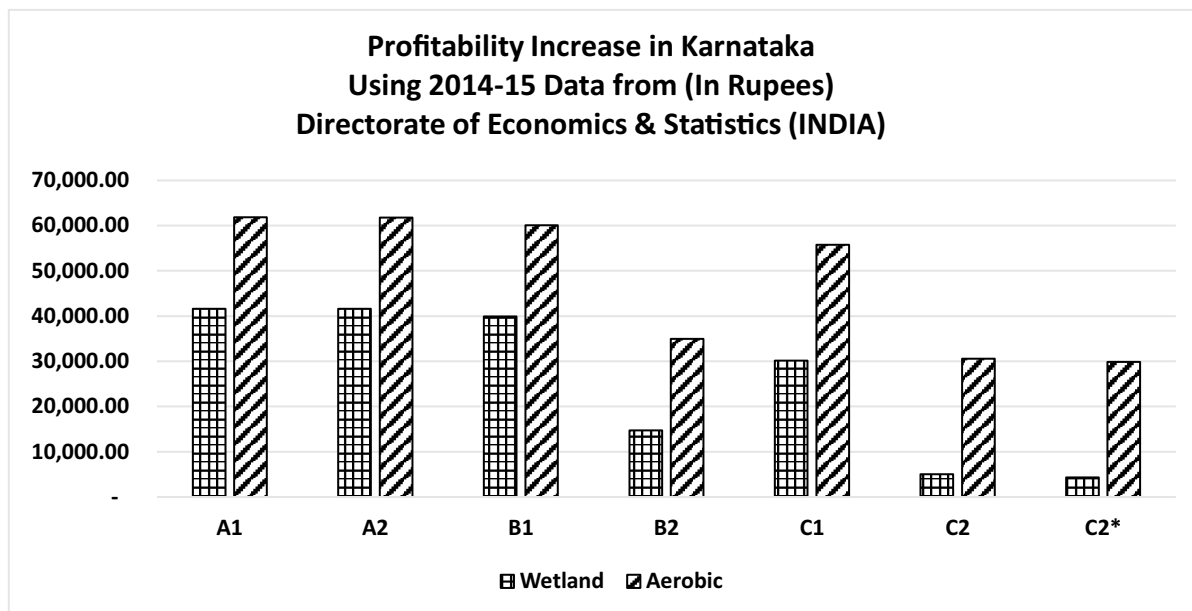
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### Profitability of Aerobic vs Wetland Rice:

Aerobic Rice varieties have been bred to primarily address water shortage and drought field conditions. Increased profitability is an incidental and fortuitous benefit!



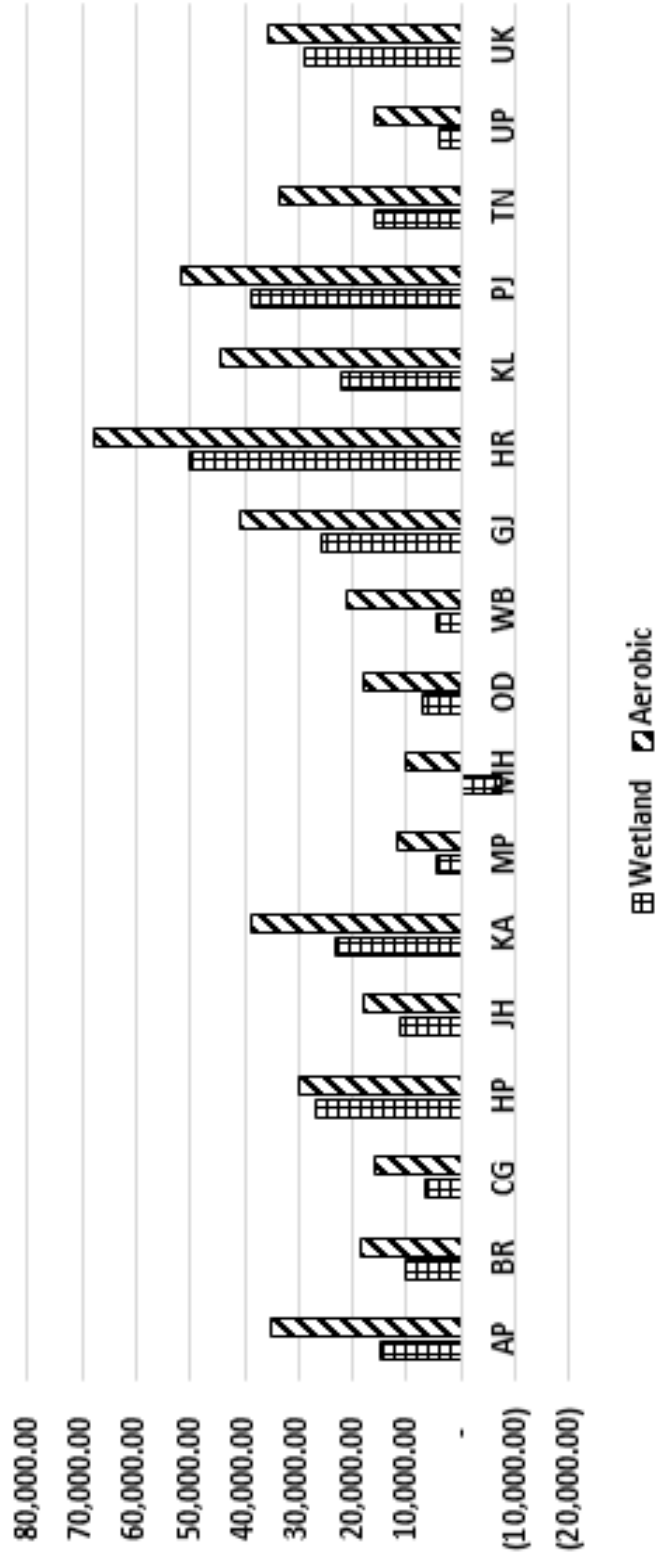
Reduction in cost of cultivation with Aerobic Rice				Seed Rate in Aerobic Rice	
Machine Labor	-50%	Fertilizer	-25%	Seed Rate	15 Kg/ha
Insecticide	-50%	Manual Labor	-55%		
Irrigation	-60%	Animal Labor	-40%		

[33], [34], [35], [37]

A1	Value of hired: human labor, bullock labor, Machinery Charges, Value of owned: bullock labor, machinery labor, Value of seed, insecticides, pesticides, manure, fertilizer, Irrigation charges Depreciation on implements and farm buildings, Land revenue, cesses and other taxes, Interest on working capital and Miscellaneous expenses	B1	A1 + Interest on value owned fixed capital assets (excluding land)
		B2	B1 + rental value of owned land (net of land revenue) and rent paid for leased-in land
		C1	B1 + imputed value of family labor
		C2	B2 + imputed value of family labor
A2	A1 + Rent paid for leased in land	C2*	C2 adjusted to take into account valuation of human labor at market or statutory minimum wage rate, whichever is higher



**Profitability Increase Using "B2" Cost As Basis**  
**2014-15 Data from Directorate of Economics & Statistics (INDIA)**



Components		Components	
A1	Value of hired: human labor, bullock labor, Machinery Charges, Value of owned: bullock labor, machinery labor, Value of seed, insecticides, pesticides, manure, fertilizer, irrigation charges Depreciation on implements and farm buildings, Land revenue, cesses and other taxes, Interest on working capital and Miscellaneous expenses	B1	A1 + Interest on value owned fixed capital assets (excluding land)
A2	A1 + Rent paid for leased in land	B2	B1+ rental value of owned land (net of land revenue) and rent paid for lease-in land
		C1	B1+ imputed value of family labor
		C2	B2+ imputed value of family labor
		C2*	C2 adjusted to take into account valuation of human labor at market or statutory minimum wage rate, whichever is higher.



### Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **What is Aerobic Rice?**  
Aerobic Rice is a package, comprising of a method of cultivating rice and a suitable variety/hybrid that can adapt to this method of cultivation. Aerobic Rice is dry direct seeded, in well aerated, non-puddled soils. Not having to grow nursery and transplant, puddle or level fields, is significant part of this technology.
- 2) **How is Aerobic Rice different from Wetland rice?**  
Unlike wetland rice for Aerobic Rice the soil is maintained under non-saturated condition for full cropping season. In wetland rice, raising nursery, puddling, leveling, transplanting is required, and water is impounded during the crop growth period. Aerobic Rice can inhabit fields which are not levelled, with undulating or sloping terrain. Fields which are suitable for crops like pulses, millets and other coarse cereals e.g. Sorghum, Maize etc. are also recommended for Aerobic Rice.
- 3) **How is Aerobic Rice different from Upland rice cultivation?**  
Uplands usually cannot hold water, as there is seepage. Technically upland soils are also aerobic but upland varieties are not suitable for aerobic cultivation. Uplands are characterized as low input agriculture, as there is no back-up irrigation source when and if necessary, and is completely rainfed. Aerobic rice varieties are high productive and high input responsive, can be grown as rainfed crop and alternative irrigation source can also be used, when necessary.
- 4) **How is Aerobic Rice different from System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of cultivation?**  
SRI is high input, high productive rice growing habitat. Unlike Aerobic Rice, SRI method involves puddling, levelling, raising nursery and transplanting. SRI method is labor intensive while aerobic rice is not.
- 5) **Is crop rotation possible in Aerobic Rice fields?**  
Yes. Crop rotation is possible as the Aerobic Rice cultivation is done in arable soils, where pulses, maize, sorghum etc. were probably being grown earlier. These lands maybe slightly sloping, not perfect leveled fields. Hence, chances of stagnating of water are low if any.
- 6) **Are special varieties needed for aerobic cultivation?**  
Yes. Aerobic Rice varieties/hybrids are characterized by their ability to tolerate air pockets in the soil/root zone. Wetland rice, in contrast can be called anaerobic condition in the root zone, as it is saturated with water and automatically air is driven out.  
Of all the numerous varieties/hybrids available in the germplasm banks or with scientists/ farmers, those which can tolerate air pockets in the root zone/soil, for part of most of the growing season, can be adopted to aerobic method of cultivation.
- 7) **Are Aerobic Rice genotypes drought tolerant?**  
Ability to tolerate drought is a boon for Aerobic Rice. As they are expected to save water, they are designed to access water from deeper layers of soil and make best use of rain water when and if available. In Aerobic Rice cultivation, using rain water takes priority over irrigation water. Irrigation from surface flow or underground, is done only when necessary.
- 8) **Why isn't Aerobic Rice popular in India?**  
Where-ever & when-ever there is water available, farmers tend to adopt wetland rice cultivation. When the water problem intensifies, and farmers are unable to cultivate rice, they start looking for change in practice and alternative varieties. Aerobic Rice is designed to save water, labor and maximize yields with limited use of resources. Universities entrusted with development of technology do not have sufficient infrastructure for spreading awareness of this technology. There is neither an incentive to save water nor a penalty for excess water usage. However, large acreages are being cultivated using Aerobic Rice technology in China and Brazil.



9) **Are weeds a problem in Aerobic Rice cultivation?**

In Aerobic Rice, weeds are as much as a problem, as in any other aerobic crop. Both dicot and monocot weeds grow in Aerobic Rice fields. As a result, more weeding is required in Aerobic Rice than wetland rice. However, with efficient weed management techniques available, it is still cost efficient. Almost the entire rice crop can be grown with timely pre and post-emergent herbicide applications. Alternatively, timely field operations with simple bullock drawn or tractor drawn equipment can tackle weeds

10) **Is grain yield lower in Aerobic Rice?**

No. Grain yields do not depend on the quantity of water supplied to the crop. Yields depend on the 'health and wealth' of the soil combined with effective and efficient management of the crop. For a given field, yields of Aerobic Rice is similar as Wetland, but with considerably less water.

11) **Is quality of Aerobic Rice same as irrigated rice?**

Quality of Aerobic Rice is better than wetland rice. Grain quality depends on the ability to accumulate all the micro and macro nutrients required by the plant. Nutrient acquisition by the plant is enhanced under aerobic conditions as the microorganisms which colonize the root zone aid the plant to acquire more nutrients.

12) **Is cost of cultivation higher in Aerobic Rice than wetland rice?**

Cost of cultivation is significantly reduced in Aerobic Rice; therefore, the crop is more profitable.

13) **How many irrigations are required?**

Number of irrigations for Aerobic Rice depends on the rainfall in the area. If rains are adequate and timely, the entire crop can be raised without irrigation from alternate sources.

14) **Is it suitable for any location?**

No. It is not suitable for high rainfall areas where water can't be controlled. But even in these areas, it can be grown in Summer season when there is imminent shortage of water.

15) **What is the seed rate? Is it same as irrigated rice?**

It is 15 Kg/ha, 1 seed per hill. Whereas, for irrigated rice 62.50 Kg/ha seeds are recommended.

16) **Is mixed cropping possible?**

Yes, it is possible to grow with pigeon-pea.

17) **How much water can be saved?**

Up to 50% of water can be saved. Above 50% of water saving is possible depending on the rainfall of the area.

18) **Is fertilizer requirement same as that of wetland rice?**

Fertilizer requirement is significantly less, because run-off/leaching by excess water isn't there. Fertilizer use efficiency is higher, and loss of nutrient is significantly lesser compared to puddled rice.

19) **Is it suitable for all soils?**

No. It is not suitable to grow under black soil because of pH constraint.

20) **Can it be transplanted?**

It can be transplanted and grown as wetland rice also. If necessary transplanting in aerobic condition can also be done for gap filling.

21) **Are diseases/ pests more in Aerobic Rice cultivation?**

No. Disease and pest incidences are less in Aerobic Rice. All the pests that require water to perpetuate and proliferate are precluded. Diseases that require high humidity and temperature do not proliferate. Similarly, diseases that are transmitted through water are prevented.

22) **Is Aerobic Rice considered eco-friendly?**

Yes. Methane and nitrous oxide production is significantly reduced or preempted.



23) **Is mechanization possible?**

All aspects of rice cultivation right from land preparation, sowing, weeding, spraying, harvesting can be mechanized.

24) **Can we grow Aerobic Rice in wetlands?**

Yes, it is possible. However, the benefits of Aerobic Rice technology, such as improvement in grain quality and soil condition, isn't fully harnessed.

25) **Do micro-organisms differ in Aerobic Rice and wetland rice?**

Yes. Aerobic Rice root rhizosphere is colonized by aerobic microorganisms which benefit the crop immensely. The range of microflora is different from flooded rice fields.

26) **What is difference between 'health and wealth' of soil?**

Health of the soil refers to the physical (structural and depth) and chemical (pH, micro and macro nutrient contents) characteristics which have an immense influence on the crop. Wealth refers to the preponderance of beneficial microorganisms and insects that have a bearing on crop establishment, growth and grain productivity

27) **Is the soil condition different after harvest between Aerobic and Wetland condition?**

Yes, the soil condition is different after harvest in Aerobic condition. Under Aerobic condition several beneficial microorganisms are colonized well in rhizosphere, which doesn't happen under wetland conditions. These beneficial microorganisms help a plant assimilate a whole range of micronutrients which improves grain quality. This process helps in maintaining and improving 'health and wealth' of the soil for posterity.

28) **Is Aerobic Rice more profitable?**

Yes, it is. This is because cultivation with Aerobic Rice system saves labor, water and other inputs.

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## KK-Akshat A-1

Aerobic rice is a new system of growing high yielding rice without standing water, on non-puddled soils under less irrigation with unsaturated (aerobic) soil. It is just like any irrigated dryland crops such as wheat or maize. Aerobic rice's yield varies from 4.5 to 7 tons ha<sup>-1</sup>. Aerobic rice system provides effective use of rainfall on the farmer's field and offers efficient utilization of all available farm resources .

Aerobic Rice system development started during 1980s in China. International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines took it up in 2001. Many Aerobic rice varieties have been released in India by SAUs and ICAR institutes. Aerobic rice variety and cultivation system is required because of increasing water scarcity. In traditional wetland rice cultivation, fields are flooded from planting to harvest, using about 2½ times the water needed to grow wheat or maize.

KisanKraft's aerobic rice cultivar "KK-Akshat-A1" has medium slender grains, with low threshing losses and good cooking quality for home consumption. It is a medium duration variety, taking 115-120 days to harvest.

### Advantages of Aerobic rice:

- \* Direct seeded: nursery and transplantation not required
- \* Puddling or other wetland activities not required
- \* Standing water not required
- \* In *Kharif (wet) season*, normal rainfall (well distributed ~700mm) is enough to grow aerobic rice just like Maize
- \* Requires 15-17.50 Kg ha<sup>-1</sup> seeds compared to 62-65 Kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in wetland rice ecosystem
- \* Reduction in pesticide and fertilizer usage
- \* Saves more than 50% water compared with traditional wetland rice cultivation
- \* Reduces labor cost dramatically
- \* Reduces total cost of cultivation
- \* Tolerates drought -prone conditions for sufficiently longer duration
- \* Eco-friendly: Reduces the emission of green-house gases like Methane and Nitrous oxide.
- \* Intercropping or mixed cropping and crop rotation is possible, with any pulses.

Aerobic rice varieties are a boon to farmers in the water-scarce agricultural scenarios.

**Land Selection:** Aerobic rice, can be grown in soils with better drainage e.g. red soils, clay soils with sand content and to certain extent, it can be grown in black soils. Aerobic rice cannot be grown in areas with higher rainfall, salinity, soils with poor drainage and in areas where temperatures drops below 15 °C. Some examples of land types suitable for aerobic cultivation are given below:

Favorable uplands, where the land is flat, and where rainfall (sometimes with life-saving irrigation) is enough to frequently bring the soil water content close to 100% field capacity.

Upper slopes or terraces in undulating, rainfed lowlands, where soils maybe coarse-textured and well-drained, so that ponding of water occurs only briefly or not at all during the growing season.

Short irrigated lowlands, where farmers do not have access to enough water to keep rice fields flooded for a substantial period.

**Land Preparation:** Before onset of monsoon, land should be deeply (20-30cm) dry ploughed using MB plough or disc plough. Next, 5 tons ha<sup>-1</sup> of farm yard manure should be incorporated into the soil. After that, use cultivators and rotavator, to get a fine tilth, like dryland crops like Maize, Sorghum, Wheat, Ragi and Pulses, etc.

**Seasons:** Aerobic rice can be grown in *Kharif* and *Summer* seasons. It is not suggested to grow Aerobic rice during *Rabi*, since the temperature maybe less than 15 °C.



**Seed Rate:** Direct sowing using a seed-drill requires about 15-17.50 Kg of seed  $\text{ha}^{-1}$ . Seed-drill is recommended because it controls both spacing and seed-rate.

**Sowing:** Direct dry-sowing maybe done by seed drill or manually on a plough furrow. Sowing should not be done on wet soils. Recommended spacing is 25 cm between rows and 10cm between plants. Initially 2 seeds can be sown for every hill.

Please sow a handful of seeds in 1-2 corners of the field, to be used for gap filling, if needed.

**Nutrient Management:** Fertilizer application should ideally be done based on soil testing. In many cases, NPK @ 100:50:50  $\text{Kg ha}^{-1}$  is recommended with N in 4 splits, as per **any of the combination** given below:

	Growth Stages (Dosage $\text{Kg ha}^{-1}$ )				
	Incorporated during Sowing (using seed-cum-fertilizer drill machine)	(~15DAS)	Tillering (~30 DAS)	Panicle Initiation (~50 DAS)	Flowering (~70 -75 DAS)
1	SSP: 313 MOP: 83	Urea: 44	Urea: 66	Urea: 66	Urea: 44
2	DAP: 109 MOP: 83	Urea: 35	Urea: 53	Urea: 53	Urea: 35
3	Rock Phosphate: 250 MOP: 83	Urea: 44	Urea: 66	Urea: 66	Urea: 44
4	10:26:26: 192	Urea: 35	Urea: 53	Urea: 53	Urea: 35
5	20:20:0: 250 MOP: 83		Urea: 38	Urea: 38	Urea: 32
6	17:17:17: 294		Urea: 38	Urea: 38	Urea: 32
<b>Note-1:</b> If zinc and iron deficiency are noted, <b>basal application (at sowing time)</b> of $\text{ZnSO}_4$ at 25 $\text{Kg ha}^{-1}$ and $\text{FeSO}_4$ at 50 $\text{Kg ha}^{-1}$ is desirable.					
<b>Note-2:</b> Need based foliar application of 0.5% $\text{ZnSO}_4$ and 1% $\text{FeSO}_4$ may be taken up <b>at Tillering and Panicle initiation stages</b> .					

**Thinning & Gap filling:** Thinning out of excess seedlings to achieve appropriate spacing is done at 21 days after sowing (DAS). Gap filling is also done at this time to maintain plant population.

**Irrigation:** It is very **important** that after direct dry-sowing, depending on the soil moisture, immediate irrigation should be given to saturate the soil. Soil must be kept moist until seedling emergence (10-15 days).

Then, after soil dries and starts to hairline cracking, field should be irrigated again to bring soil moisture back to 100% field capacity. This maybe done weekly depending on rainfall and soil moisture level.

Irrigation maybe skipped in the event of rainfall. Sprinkler/drip irrigation should be adapted instead of surface or flood irrigation to save water.

There is no need of flooding or water stagnation at any stage of crop growth.

★ **Note:** Aerobic rice is not suitable for farmers without any life-saving irrigation source. ★

**Weed Management:** It is very **important** to note that Aerobic conditions show an increased weed growth than traditional wetland cultivation. However, weeds can be easily removed with following measures:

2-3 DAS, an application of pre-emergence herbicide, like Pendimethalin @ 3 liters  $\text{ha}^{-1}$ , helps in controlling weeds for 2-3 weeks.



Post emergence application of Bispyripac Sodium (e.g. NOMINEE GOLD 10% SC) at **2-3 leaf stage of weeds** (usually 5-10 DAS) with the dosage of 200 ml. ha<sup>-1</sup> and thereafter, can be combined with inter-cultural practices.

15-20 DAS, since row spacing is 25-cm, mechanical weeding is easy using cono / rotary weeder / Blade Harrow. Mechanical weeding also has added benefit of loosening the soil. Manual weeding may also be done, as needed.

Lastly, 45 DAS mechanical/manual weeding and Inter-cultural operations should be done.

**Crop Management:** While incidence of pests and diseases in this variety is lesser than wetland rice, major pests, diseases and its control measures are as follows.

Pest	Symptoms	Insecticide	Dosage (ha <sup>-1</sup> )
Stemborer ( <i>Scirpophaga incertulas</i> )	Caterpillars enter the stem and feed on the growing shoot. The incidence is mild in the season June to September, but it is intensified from October to February. As a result, the central shoot dries up and produces the symptom of <b>dead heart</b> . The tillers may get affected at different stages. When they are affected at the time of flowering the ear heads become chaffy and are known as <b>white ear</b> .  The insect may start attacking the plants in first 15 days.	Carbofuran 3% G	25 Kg
		Cartap 4% G	25 Kg
		Fipronil 0.3% G	10 Kg
		Quinalphos 25% EC	1600 ml
		Chlorpyriphos 20% EC	2000 ml
Thrips ( <i>Stenchaetothrips biformis</i> )	1. Leaf shows discoloration and rolling 2. Yellow (or) silvery streaks on the leaves of young seedlings 3. Terminal rolling and drying of leaves from tip to base 4. Leaf tips wither off when severely infested 5. Unfilled grains at panicle stage	Chlorpyriphos 20% EC	1250 ml
		Quinolphos 25% EC	1250 ml
Leaf folder ( <i>Cnaphalocrocis medinalis</i> )	The larvae feed by scraping the green mesophyll resulting in linear pale white stripe damage. Starting with the late second instar, when larvae regularly roll up leaves they become solitary. The general vigor and photosynthetic ability of an infested plant is greatly reduced. 1. Leaves fold longitudinally or transversely with silk and scrapped patches in such places. 2. In cases of severe infestation, the leaf margins and tips are dried up entirely and the crop gives a whitish appearance	Chlorpyriphos 20% EC	1500 ml
		Cartap 50% WP	600 g
		Acephate 50% WP	700 g



<b>Brown Plant Hopper</b> ( <i>Nilaparvata lugens</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hopper burn or yellowing, browning and drying of plant.</li><li>2. Circular patches of drying and lodging of matured plant</li><li>3. Nymphs and adults congregate at the base of the plant above the water level.</li><li>4. Affected plant dries up and gives a scorched appearance called “hopper burn”.</li></ol>	<b>Cultural methods:</b> Avoid excess use of nitrogen Intermittent draining of water Provide rogue spacing of 30 cm	
		Phosalone 35% EC	1500 ml
		Carbaryl 10% D	25 kg
		Carbofuran 3% G	17.5 kg
		Chlorpyriphos 20% EC	1250 ml
<b>Gundhi bug</b> ( <i>Leptocoris oratorius</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Affects mainly during grain filling, milky stage. Bugs suck milk (sap) from the grain.</li><li>2. Mall or shriveled grains,</li><li>3. Deformed or spotty grains,</li><li>4. Empty grains, and</li><li>5. Erect panicles.</li></ol>	Melathion 50% EC	1250-1500ml
		Melathion 5% Dust	20-25kg

<b>BIOLOGICAL CONTROL:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Egg parasitoids <i>Trichogramma japonicum</i> against yellow stem borer and <i>T. chilonis</i> Ishii against leaf folder are effective and economical. The natural egg parasitism of yellow stem borer due to <i>Tetrastichus</i> and <i>Telenomus</i> is very high so they need to be conserved.</li><li>2. <b>Release:</b> five to six times of the egg parasitoid @ 1,00,000 adult parasites/ha starting from 15 days after planting per crop season.</li><li>3. The larval and pupal parasitism of leaf folder under natural conditions is also high and effective. In case of leaf and planthoppers, the action of predators such as spiders, <i>Pardosa</i>, <i>Tetragnatha</i>, <i>Argiope</i>, <i>Araenus</i>, <i>Oxyopes</i> and mirid bug, <i>Cyrtorhinus lividipennis</i>, Reuter is more common and dominant.</li></ol>
Other general predators like dragon flies, damsel flies, ground beetles, staphylinids and ear wigs also keep the pest populations at lower levels.

Disease	Symptoms	<b>Cultural methods:</b>	
<b>Blast</b> ( <i>Pyricularia grisea</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disease can infect paddy at all growth stages and all aerial parts of plant (Leaf, neck and node).</li> <li>2. Infections are more severe among the three leaves and neck.</li> <li>3. Small specks originate on leaves - subsequently enlarge into spindle shaped spots (0.5 to 1.5cm length, 0.3 to 0.5cm width) with ash center.</li> <li>4. Several spots with big irregular patches</li> </ol> <p><b>Leaf Blast:</b> Severe cases of infection - entire crop has a blasted or burnt appearance- hence the name "BLAST". In some severe cases - lodging of crop (after ear emergence) occurs.</p> <p><b>Neck Blast:</b> Neck region of panicle develops a black color and shrivels completely / partially grain set inhibited, panicle breaks at the neck and hangs</p> <p><b>Nodal Blast:</b> Nodes become black and break up</p>	✓ Remove collateral weed hosts from bunds and channels ✓ Avoid excess nitrogen ✓ Apply N in 4 split doses as recommended	
		<b>Fungicide</b>	<b>Dosage (ha<sup>-1</sup>)</b>
		Carbendazim 50% WP	500 g
		Tricyclozole 75% WP	500 g
		Metominostrobin 20% SC	500 ml
		Azoxystrobin 25% SC	500 ml



<b>Brown spot</b> ( <i>Bipolaris oryzae</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infected seedlings have small, circular, yellow brown or brown lesions that may girdle the coleoptile and distort primary and secondary leaves.</li> <li>2. Starting at tillering stage, lesions can be observed on the leaves. They are initially small, circular, and dark brown to purple-brown.</li> </ol> <p>Fully developed lesions are circular to oval with a light brown to gray center, surrounded by a reddish- brown margin caused by the toxin produced by the fungi.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving soil fertility is the first step in managing brown spot               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Apply required fertilizers</li> <li>b. For soils that are low in silicon, apply calcium silicate slag before planting.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Use fungicides (e.g., iprodione, propiconazole, azoxystrobin, trifloxystrobin, and carbendazim) 2 gram/ Kg seed as seed treatments.</li> <li>3. Treat seeds with hot water (53–54°C) for 10–12 minutes before planting, to control primary infection at the seedling stage. To increase effectiveness of treatment, pre-soak seeds in cold water for eight hours.</li> </ol>	
		<b>Fungicide</b>	<b>Dosage (ha<sup>-1</sup>)</b>
		Carbendazim + Mancozeb	125 g
		Carbendazim	1 Kg
<b>Rice Root-Knot Nematode</b> ( <i>Meloidogyne graminicola</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Newly emerged leaves appear distorted and crinkled along the margins</li> <li>2. Stunting in patches and Chlorosis</li> <li>3. Heavily infected plants flower and mature early</li> <li>4. Reduction in no. of tillers, panicle length and grain weight</li> </ol> <p>If above symptoms are seen, then uproot some plants to check RRKN infestation characteristic where infected root tips become swollen like gall and hooked.</p>	<b>Cultural methods:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Soil solarization (summer ploughing), bare fallow period has been reported to decrease nematodes.</li> <li>2. Rotation crop like marigold (<i>Tagetes sp.</i>) is also effective in lowering root knot nematode populations because of its nematicidal properties.</li> <li>3. Growing of green manuring crops such as Sunhemp/Diancha/Cowpea or planting cover crops such as sesame can also eliminate root knot nematodes.</li> <li>4. Soil incorporation of 250 Kg ha<sup>-1</sup> Neem cake is found effective for the root knot nematode in rice.</li> </ol>	
		<b>Chemical Control:</b> Carbofuron 3% G (33 Kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	

**Harvesting:** KK-Akshat-A1 matures in 115-120 days. Harvesting can be done when grains turn golden yellow color. It can be done manually or by using mechanically by reapers, combined harvesters, etc.

**Grain Yield:** Yield depends many factors e.g. soil fertility, soil health, water availability and weather pattern etc. Grain yield ranges from 4.5 to 7 ton ha<sup>-1</sup>. (under well-endowed and well managed conditions).

**Success of any crop depends on seeds, soil-health, weather and crop management practices.**

For more information please email [info@kisankraft.com](mailto:info@kisankraft.com) (or give a missed call at 7676065555).



# KisanKraft Limited

KisanKraft was founded in August 2005 by Ravindra & Sarika Agrawal. KisanKraft is a **BIS:ISI** certified manufacturer, designer, importer and distributor of affordable farm equipment suited to the needs of small and marginal farmers. It is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company. Most of the products have been tested and approved by **FMTTI** and **SAU** as per Government of India's stipulations. KisanKraft's products and services have been designed specifically for Indian conditions. KisanKraft manufactures Inter-cultivators, **BIS:ISI** certified Engines, Water-Pumps etc. at its state of the art factory in Bengaluru. The company also has many patents to its accreditation.

KisanKraft has a superior ratio of service-technicians to sales executives in the range of 1:2 in the industry. The company provides free training to dealers' mechanics to enable quick service to the farmers in case of any technical issue. Annual training camps are held to update the dealer's mechanics. KisanKraft conducts extensive field demonstrations to educate farmers, dealers and allied customers.



**Ravindra Agrawal**  
(Managing Director)

## Key Highlights

Incorporation: 2005

Employees: 350+

Offices: Head Office: Bengaluru  
15 Regional Offices

Warehouses: Central warehouse in Bengaluru  
12 Regional Warehouses

Factory: Manufacturing facility in Bengaluru  
for BIS:ISI Products

Service: 15 Regional Service Centers

Certifications: **ISO 9001:2015** certified  
Most products have been tested by FMTTI / SAU  
Many products have received **BIS:ISI** approval  
Patents for Innovations  
Trademarks in India & China

Memberships: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)  
High Tech Agriculture Equipment Supplier Association of Karnataka  
Association of Agriculture Machinery Manufacturers (AMMA)  
Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry  
Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers



BIS:ISI Approved



9001:2015



Affordable



Pan India  
Distribution



Spares  
Available



Subsidy  
Available



# Aerobic Rice Testimonials



## Mr. Nagaraj & Mrs. Padma

Most farmers in our area did not sow rice in 2017 Kharif due to erratic rainfall and lack of water in canals. I sowed aerobic rice variety during Kharif 2017 and crop is excellent using only rain water. Initially I was doubtful of the crop as I thought spacing was too much (30x10) cm. Then the crop grown well and looks great now. I have irrigated only two times (including for sowing). Many farmers of my village and neighboring area have visited my field and they want to adopt this method. This can be grown like Ragi, saves water and easier to grow than irrigated rice. I can grow it in summer season also. I am very happy about this rice.

## Mr. Nanjundappa & Mrs. Indhira

I was wondering why my daughter is making me grow paddy in such a rocky (but well drained) soil. I was sure she was making a mistake, but I wanted to give her a benefit of doubt. Amazingly, she proved to be right! The crop grew so well It surprised me, my wife, my son and my father. We are impressed at what my daughter has given us. Farmers in our area could not grow rice because of rocky soil and lack of irrigation, but now we can!



*KisanKraft*<sup>®</sup>

Krushaka Mantram-Krusha Yantram