

Rice farmer in Sri Lanka.

This farm located near Colombo cultivates rice organically. The farmer, who is over 80 years of age, is a retired Government officer. He has been using EM since 2000, and the SEEDS (EM Unit) learnt about his operations from an article in the newspapers. The farmer attributes his success to proper weed management and EM application.

The management strategy adopted is as follows:

The farmer mixes 30 parts of rice bran with 1 part of cattle manure and applies EM, molasses and water to bring the moisture content to 40%. The mixture is fermented under open conditions for a few days, and is mixed well daily. The mixture is applied to the field after fermentation at a rate of 10 Kg per sq meter, and transplants the fields.

The farmer also uses EM FPE for insect and disease management. The EM FPE is made with neem, pepper and herbs and the EM FPE is sprayed as a prophylactic measure prior to the incidence of pests or diseases, at a rate of 1 liter of EM FPE diluted in 4 liters of water applied at 1 liter per sq. meter. If insects do appear, he applies EM FPE at the same rate more frequently.

The extent cultivated by him is approximately one ha and he harvests 2 tons of rice per season.



The organic Rice field.



Healthy rice plants.



The healthy soil of the fields



The farmer shows his field to APNAN staff and the neighbor