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Weed Management in Rice-Garlic under Organic Production System

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ABSTRACT

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A field experiment on weed management in rice-garlic under organic production system was conducted during 2017-18 to 2019-20 at All India Coordinated Research Project on Integrated Farming System, Rewa (M.P.). The study reveals that maximum grain yield of rice and bulb yield of garlic was noted under incorporation of mustard oilcake @ 50 quintal per hectare with one hand weeding followed by two hand weeding at different stages under organic production system. The net profit Rs/- 2,36,900/ha was maximum under two hand weeding given in rice and garlic followed by Rs/- 1,72,516 /ha under incorporation of mustard oilcake @ 50 quintal per hectare with one hand weeding as weed control treatment in both the crops. Benefit cost ratio 2.24 was maximum under two hand weeding treatment followed by 2.08 under one hoeing + one hand weeding given in rice and garlic as weed control practices under organic production system.

Introduction

Rice is the important crop of rice-wheat crop zone of Madhya Pradesh which occupies an area of 1.93 million hectares with the average production of 2.78 million tonnes (Anonymous 2017). The average productivity of rice is 1.44 t/ha, which is low due to use of local varieties, erratic and uneven distribution of monsoon rain as well as frequently observed prolonged dry spells. In recent years, garlic crop is also becoming an important crop after rice in rabi which occupies 450 hectares of land in Rewa district. Organic farming is the production

system that avoids the use of synthetic / chemical fertilizer, pesticides, growth regulating hormones and raises the crop with the use of organic manures, biofertilizers, oilcakes, crop rotation with legumes, green manures and biological pest and weed control.

But feasibility of organic farming in commercial crop production is not good due to low production & productivity. Beside these weeds are most limiting factor in organic farming. None of the cultural practices has been found effective to reduce the weed problem in rice and garlic under organic production system and thus grain

yield of rice reduced upto 57 to 61% (Mukherjee et al 2008). Some cultural practices like intercropping of dhaincha in rice, close row spacing or high seed rate, stale seed bed, mulching with crop residues or tree leaves, hand weeding and hoeing are being found effective to reduce the weed problem under organic production system. On the other hand, practices that aimed at enhancing competitive availability of the crop can bring down the adverse effect of weed on rice and garlic crop. Seedling vigour, early growth rate, profuse tillering ability, stale seed bed, higher fertilizers dose, hoeing and mulching are the practices that provide competitive advantage to the crop.

Use of mustard oil cake at higher level has been found beneficial as it increases the growth character of rice which has ability to suppress the weed growth (Islam et al 2007). Intercropping suppress weeds better than sole cropping and thus provides an opportunity to utilize crop themselves as tools for weed management (Rao and Shetty 1976). Cultivation of rice and garlic at narrow or close row spacing has been found effective to reduce the weed growth and increase the yield as compared to wider spaced crop (Bhan 1968).

It has been reported by Bond and Grundy (2001) that organic farming is gaining momentum in India owing to the concern expressed on the safety of environment, soil, water and food chain. Cultivating high value crops organically and at the same time maintaining higher production level is a big challenge specially weed management with non chemical method in field crops like paddy and garlic under organic farming.

Materials and Methods

The present field investigation was taken on silty clay loam soil of All India Coordinated Research Project on Integrated Farming

System, Kuthuliya Farm of JNKVV College of Agriculture, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh during kharif and Rabi season of 2017-18 to 2019-20. Experimental field was neutral in reaction pH(7.1), low in organic carbon (4.2 gm/kg), low in available nitrogen (180.3 kg/ha) and phosphorus (16.9 kg/ha). Experimental field was higher in available potash (283.6 kg/ha).

The rice variety was Pusa Sugandha 5 while garlic variety was G-1. The row to row spacing was kept 20 cm in rice and garlic in all the treatments except T₄ where row to row spacing was kept 15 cm. In all the years rice crop was transplanted in second week of July and garlic crop was planted immediately after harvest of rice. The fertilizer dose in all the treatments were kept 120 kg nitrogen per hectare which was given 1/3 through FYM, 1/3 through vermicompost and 1/3 through neem cake. In T₆ treatment @50 quintal mustard oilcake per hectare was given in rice and garlic. The weed control treatments were T₁-Hand weeding 20 and 40 DAT in rice and 40 and 80 DAP in garlic, T₂-Conoweeder or hoeing at 20 DAT + one HW at 40 DAT in rice and 40 and 80 DAP in garlic, T₃-Intercropping with Dhaincha in rice and mustard in garlic (3:1), T₄-Stale seed bed + reduced spacing up to 25% + mulching with wheat straw + one hand weeding, T₅-Locally available weed mulch + 1 hand weeding, T₆-Incorporation of mustard oil cake @ 50 q/ha + 1 HW and T₇-ITK treatment on mulching with mango tree dry leaf @ 3t/ha practiced by farmers under organic production system. These treatments were arranged in Randomised Block Design and replicated thrice. All recommended package of practices were adopted for irrigated condition.

Results and Discussion

Effect on rice

Data pertaining to grain yield of rice under different weed management practices under

organic production system has been given in Table-1. After perusal of the pooled result for different years it is evident that grain yield of rice (53.23 q/h) was maximum in T₁ where two hand weeding was given at 25 & 50 DAT followed by T₆ in which mustard oilcake 50 quintal per hectare along with one hand weeding was given (53.02 q/ha). These

treatments gave 39% to 40.16% higher grain yield of rice as compared to existing farmers practices of mulching with mango leaves in T₇. Other weed control treatment in rice gave 10.73% to 27.29% higher grain yield of rice over farmers practices of mulching with mango leaves in T₇.

Table.1 Economic yield of Rice-Garlic cropping system under different weed control practices in organic production system

Treatment	Rice yield (q/ha)				Garlic yield (q/ha)			
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Mean	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Mean
T₁ Two hand weeding 25 and 50 DAT	44.09	59.63	56.26	53.32 (40.61)	53.36	109.80	107.04	90.06 (72.52)
T₂ Hoeing at 25 DAT + one HW at 50 DAT	41.47	48.52	54.81	48.27 (27.29)	47.47	73.90	95.41	72.26 (38.42)
T₃ Inter cropping with dzhaincha in rice and mustard in garlic in 3:1	37.7R 156.4G M	38.54R 112.5G M	49.75R 133.10G M	41.99R (10.73) 134G M	20.24G 12.82M	43.23G 15.20M	36.57G 13.05M	33.34G (-36.13) 13.69M
T₄ Stale seed bed + reduced spacing up to (25%) + mulching with wheat straw + one hand weeding	42.38	44.43	55.68	47.50 (25.26)	41.37	56.37	69.60	55.78 (6.85)
T₅ Locally available weed mulch + 1 hand pulling	47.06	47.35	47.12	47.18 (24.41)	41.91	61.60	41.47	48.32 (-7.42)
T₆ Incorporation of mustard oil cake 15 days before sowing @ 50q/ha +1HW	54.78	53.78	50.51	53.02 (39.82)	79.24	143.76	112.67	111.89 (114.3)
T₇ ITK treatment on weed control practiced by farmers as mulching with leaf of mango	35.84	34.20	43.73	37.92 (0.00)	43.58	59.30	53.65	52.20 (0.00)
SEM±	3.02	2.15	1.75	2.30	3.10	3.42	2.35	2.9
CD at 5%	9.28	6.60	5.18	7.02	8.81	10.52	6.95	8.76

Figures in parentheses are % increase (+) or % decrease (-) over T₇

Table.2 Average rice equivalent yield, gross return, net return and B:C ratio under different weed control practices in organic production system (3 years pooled)

Treatment	Rice equivalent yield	Gross return Rs/ha	Net return Rs/ha	B:C Ratio
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
T₁ Two hand weeding 25 and 50 DAT	198.83 (56.19)	423787 (55.52)	236900 (98.19)	2.24 (28.73)
T₂ Cono weeder 25 DAT + one HW at 50DAP	166.93 (31.13)	268930 (-1.30)	187738 (31.96)	2.08 (19.54)
T₃ Inter cropping with Dhaincha in 3:1	125.76 (-1.20)	268246 (-1.55)	127584 (06.73)	1.90 (9.19)
T₄ Stale seed bed + reduced spacing up to (25%) + mulching with wheat straw + one hand weeding	142.74 (12.12)	305988 (11.55)	132104 (10.51)	1.75 (0.57)
T₅ Locally available weed mulch + 1 hand pulling	127.29 (-0.01)	271328 (-1.08)	108356 (-9.34)	2.67 (-4.02)
T₆ Incorporation of mustard oil cake 15 days before sowing @ 50q/ha +1HW	237.69 (86.74)	506902 (84.80)	172516 (44.32)	1.50 (-13.7)
T₇ ITK treatment on weed control practiced by farmers as mulching with leaf of mango	127.30 (0.00)	272492 (0.00)	119530 (0.00)	1.74 (0.00)
S.Em±	1.81	-	-	-
CD at 5%	5.26	-	-	-

Figures in parentheses are % increase or decrease over T

Table.3 Weed dry weight g/m² and Weed control efficiency at harvest in rice-garlic under different weed control practices in organic production system (3 years pooled)

Treatment	Weed dry weight g/m ²		Weed control efficiency %	
	Rice	Garlic	Rice	Garlic
T₁ Two hand weeding 25 and 50 DAP	49.54	65.36	54.13	62.04
T₂ Hoeing at 25 DAP + one HW at 50 DAP	61.75	90.55	42.06	44.12
T₃ Inter cropping with dhaincha in rice and mustard in garlic in 3:1	86.51	128.94	37.89	34.99
T₄ Stale seed bed + reduced spacing up to (25%) + mulching with wheat straw + one hand weeding	56.34	165.44	39.93	21.24
T₅ Locally available weed mulch + 1 hand pulling	64.01	195.55	34.93	11.32
T₆ Incorporation of mustard oil cake 15 days before sowing @ 50q/ha +1HW	34.46	103.50	66.24	58.47
T₇ ITK treatment on weed control practiced by farmers as mulching with leaf of mango	105.5	207.44	-	-
SEM±	-	-	-	-
CD at 5%	-	-	-	-

In treatment T₃ where 25% rows of rice were replaced by dhaicha which incorporated the 13.4 t/ha green manure increase the yield by 10.3 7% as compared to farmer practice of mulching with leaves in T₇. It may be due to effective weed control which reduces the weed biomass over T₇ considerably which favours the rice crop to grow luxuriously with superior yield attributes. Incorporation of oilcake @ 50 q/ha along with one hand weeding gave 39.82% higher yield over farmers practice in T₇. Beneficial effect of mustard oilcake @ 50 q/ha + one hand weeding supplied the extra nutrients by which crop grow luxuriously. Similar findings were also reported by Islam et al (2007) Prajapat *et al.*, (2019) and Aske *et al.*, (2018).

Effect on garlic

Garlic bulb yield from 2017-18 to 2019-20 along with average value have been given in Table-1. It is clear from the data that garlic yield (111.89 q/ha) was significantly maximum where mustard oil cake was applied @ 50 quintal per hectare along with one hand weeding. This treatment gave 114.34% higher bulb yield over farmers practice of weed control in T₇. The higher yield under incorporated of mustard oil cake @ 50 q/ha along with one hand weeding was due to supply of nutrients (in concentrate form) more than the quantity required for growth by which bulb size and number of cloves per bulb were increased considerably. Weed control efficiency 58.4 7% was also higher in T₆ where incorporation of mustard oil cake @ 50 q/ha was done in garlic. Two hand weedings were given at 40 and 80 DAP in T₁ gave the bulb yield 90.06 q/ha which was 72.52% higher than existing farmer practice of mulching as weed control (T₇). The bulb yield was reduced in T₃ (intercropping with mustard) but it also gave mustard yield 13.96 q/ha. It may be due to a toxic effect of mustard which reduce the bulb

yield of garlic. Similarly bulb yield of garlic was also reduced by 7.42% in T₅ where locally weed mulch along with one hand weeding was given as weed control treatment.

Effect on rice equivalent yield

Rice equivalent yield of rice-garlic cropping system under different weed management practices has been presented in Table-2. It is clear from the result that rice equivalent yield 237.69 q/ha was maximum due to application of @ 50 quintal mustard oil cake per hectare along with one hand weeding given (T₆) followed by 198.83 q/ha under two hand weeding given in rice and garlic at different intervals. These treatments gave 56.19% to 86.74 % higher grain yield of rice as compared to farmers practice. It is because of the fact that two hand weeding in T₁ effectively reduce the weed biomass as compared to farmers practice which also gave higher weed control efficiency i.e. 62 to 63% and also favours the rice and garlic crop to grow vigorously with superior yield attributes. Superiority of two hand weeding in rice and garlic was also reported by Ramamoorthy *et al.*, (2009), Prajapati *et al.*, (2019) and Aske *et al.*, (2018). Rice equivalent yield of rice-garlic cropping system was 86.71% higher under incorporation of mustard oil cake applied @ 50 q/ha along with one hand weeding over farmers practice of mulching (T₇). Intercropping of dhaicha in rice and mustard in garlic exerted teletoxic effect in intercropping by which rice equivalent yield was reduced by 2% as compared to farmers practice of mulching (T₇). It may be due to excess supply of nutrient in concentrated form through mustard oil cake which favours the growth of rice and garlic over farmers practice. Beneficial effect of mustard oil cake on growth and yield of rice and garlic was also reported by Islam *et al.*, (2007), Prajapat *et al.*, (2019) and Anonymous (2020).

Effect on gross, net profit and benefit cost ratio

The gross return and net return per hectare of rice-garlic under organic production system have been presented in Table-2. It is evident from the table that gross return 5,06,902 Rs/ha was maximum under incorporation of mustard oilcake @ 50 q/ha with one hand weeding which was 84.80% higher than farmers practice of mulching (T₇) followed by 4,23,787 Rs/ha under two hand weeding given in rice and garlic at different stages of growth which also gave 55.52% higher gross return than farmers practice. It may be due to lesser weed competition and higher nutrient availability. These treatments resulted to superior growth and yield of rice-garlic which gave higher return. Similar result was also reported by Anonymous (2020).

Net profit under different weed control management practices in rice-garlic under organic production system is given in Table-2 reveals that net profit Rs/- 2,36,900 per hectare was maximum under two hand weeding followed by Rs/- 1,72,516 per hectare in incorporation of mustard oil cake @ 50 q/ha with one hand weeding given in rice& garlic.

These treatment gave 44.32% to 98.19 % higher net return over farmers practice of mulching (T₇) and lower net profit (T₆) in which mustard oil cake was given @ 50 quintal per hectare along with one hand weeding in rice and garlic was due to higher cost of oil cake which gave lower net profit.

The benefit cost ratio 2.24 was maximum under two hand weeding given in rice and garlic as weed control treatment followed by 2.08 under one hoeing plus one hand weeding given in (T₂). All other treatments gave benefit cost ratio less than 2.

Effect on weeds

The major dominating weeds in rice crop were *Jussia subffrustica*, *Monochoria vaginalis*, *Echinochloa colonum* and *Frimbristylis dicotoma*. The garlic crop was infested with *Medicago hypspida*, *Heliotropium indicum*, *Vicia sativa*, *Anagallis arvensis* and *Phalaris minor*.

Weed dry matter and weed control efficiency

Dry weight and weed control efficiency of different weed control practices under organic production system have been given in Table-3. It is clear from the result that weed dry weight 105.5 gram per square meter was maximum in farmers practice of mulching (T₇) while weed dry weight 34.46 gram per square metre was lowest under incorporation of mustard oil cake @ 50 quintal per hectare plus one hand weeding preceded by 49.59 gram per square metre under two hand weeding in rice. The weed dry matter in garlic crop was minimum 65.36 gram per square metre under two hand weeding while it was maximum 207.4 gram per square metre in garlic under farmers practice of mulching (T₇). Weed control efficiency was maximum under two hand weeding i.e. 63% in rice and 62% in garlic followed by incorporation of mustard oil cake @ 50 quintal per hectare in rice and garlic which gave weed control efficiency 66.24% in rice and 58.47% in garlic. Similar findings were also reported by Prajapat *et al.*, (2019) and Aske *et al.*, (2018).

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