

Smart Weed Management Leads to Remarkable Grain Yield in Finger Millet

**Mr. Manoj Pradhan, Village: Lamungia, Block: Raikia,
Dist.: Kandhamal, State: Odisha, Age: 42 years**



**Crop: Finger millet, Intervention: Weed Management in Finger millet
Facilitating Institution: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kandhamal, OUAT**

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Manoj Pradhan, a tribal farmer from Lamungia village of Raikia block of Kandhamal district, had been cultivating finger millet during Kharif season in his 1.0 acres of land using local seeds and with no management practices for controlling weeds which causes huge loss for his crop. His family is solely dependent on agriculture for more than seven years. However, the income from his crop remained very low due to poor yield following heavy infestation of weeds.

PLAN & SUPPORT

Mr. Pradhan approached Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kandhamal during 2024-25 and participated in a capacity building programme on Integrated Weed Management (IWM) of millet crops well ahead of cultivation. In this, he advised to spray Bensulfuron methyl 0.6% + Pretilachlor 6% @ 10 kg/ha at 02 DAT % 2,4 -D ethyl ester 1350 ml/ha at 30 DAT. Being motivated by the training and with the technical support provided through a Frontline Demonstration (FLD), he adopted the recommended IWM practices in his ragi field. Regular monitoring, initial time of weed infestation, favourable climatic conditions taught during the capacity building programme helped him to manage the weeds in his field. To address the challenges of low productivity and income due to this weed attack, KVK, Kandhamal included Mr. Pradhan in its other outreach programmes, offering both technical support and field demonstrations thereby increasing his knowledge on different aspects of cultivation practices. Mr. Pradhan was selected as a beneficiary under the Front-Line Demonstration (FLD) programme on Weed Management of finger millet. He received training and continuous guidance from KVK scientists.



The details of IWM practices includes:

- ✓ Spraying of Bensulfuron methyl 0.6% + Pretilachlor 6% @ 10 kg/ha at 02 Days after transplanting
- ✓ Followed by spraying of 2,4 -D ethyl ester 1350 ml/ha at 30 Days after transplanting

Farmer's Earlier Practice includes:

- ✓ Hand weeding at 20-25 days after transplanting

OUTPUT & OUTCOME

Under the Front-Line Demonstration (FLD) on weed management in finger millet, Mr. Manoj Pradhan achieved considerable increase in yield and profitability compared to his previous method of farming and management of weeds.

Parameters	Recommended Practices	Farmer's Practice
Number of tillers/hills	9.6	6.4
Yield (q ha ⁻¹)	12.6	9.2
Cost of cultivation (Rs ha ⁻¹)	18300	21600
Gross return (Rs ha ⁻¹)	50400	36800
Net income (Rs ha ⁻¹)	32100	15200
B:C ratio	2.7	1.7

The yield increase in the demonstration plot was 36.9 % higher than the farmer's own practice. This substantial improvement clearly shows the positive impact in management of weeds. Mr. Pradhan's successful management of weeds in finger millet cultivation has not only increased his income but also enhanced his reputation in the farming community. His farming experience has encouraged other farmers in nearby villages to adopt his method of managing the weeds in finger

IMPACT

Mr. Manoj Pradhan is very happy with the income and productivity that he achieved through scientific management of weeds through the guidance from KVK. The success of the demonstration enhanced his livelihood status. His achievements have made him a source of inspiration among other fellow farmers in Tiangia, Raikala, Raikia and nearby villages. Witnessing the increased yield, higher income and sustainable approach, many farmers have shown keen interest in adopting this technology for management practices in the upcoming season. Today, Mr. Pradhan is regarded as a successful millet grower in his Gram Panchayat and serves as a model

farmer for other tribal farmers in his region seeking to improve their livelihoods through modern agricultural practices.

CONCLUSION

This success highlights on the management practices for aphids which significantly enhances crop yield and net profit. With timely support from KVK, Kandhamal, Mr. Nayak is able to harness a good return from his crop.

