



RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Cono weeder: An economic hand tool for women labour in paddy field

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SUMMARY : Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is one of the most leading food crops in the world within the worldwide-cultivated cereals, and is second only to wheat in terms of annual food consumption. Rice is major crop of Konkan region of Maharashtra. Weeds are the major problem in rice crop. Weeding operation in rice field is very tedious and drudgeries and time consuming operation as it done manually. Hence, to reduce the drudgery and force requirement, it is necessary to develop women friendly cono weeder as per the feedback received from women workers with ergonomic consideration. The actual field capacity for cono weeder (DBSKKV) and cono weeder 1 (Double handled), cono weeder 2 (Single handled) were found to be 0.0094 ha/h, 0.0110 ha/h and 0.0133 ha/h. The field efficiency for cono weeder (DBSKKV) and cono weeder 1 (Double handled), cono weeder 2 (Single handled) were found to be 56.98 per cent, 64.77 per cent and 79.35 per cent, respectively. The weeding efficiency of cono weeder (DBSKKV) and cono weeder 1 (Double handled), cono weeder 2 (Single handled) were found to be 74.01 per cent, 79.82 per cent and 84.58 per cent, respectively. The cost of cono weeder (DBSKKV) and developed cono weeder 1 (Double handled), cono weeder 2 (Single handled) were Rs. 1150/-, Rs.800/- and Rs.785/-, respectively. The operating cost of cono weeder (DBSKKV) and developed cono weeder 1 (Double handled) and cono weeder 2 (Single handled) were Rs. 24.74/-h, Rs. 24.06/-h, Rs. 24.04/-h, respectively.

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