



# Organic Farming

Sushma Gupta



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Phone No.: 9968628081, 9555149955 & 9013387535  
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akhandpublishing@yahoo.com  
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## Utilizing Rice Stubble: The Organic Way

*Dr. Manjula Uppal*

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### **Abstract:**

Rice stubble, a residue of rice produce can be and should be exploited in usefully right manner to create compost, bio-fuels i.e. ethanol, and fodder for live stock through the already worked out technologies rather than burning it in agrarian land to curb down the increasing level of pollutants for the survival of mankind in a disease free environment.

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Rice straw is the vegetative part of rice plant (*Oryza sativa*), cut at grain harvest or after and is a major forage in rice-producing areas. It may be burned or left in the field before the next ploughing, ploughed down as a soil improver or used as a feed for livestock. When rice straw is burned or ploughed under, it may cause air pollution or generate leachates and ploughing under may also propagate fungi. Gainfully utilizing this residue can ease the disposal problem and furthermore, the potential environmental benefits of diverting rice straw from open-field burning will be to significantly reduce criteria air pollutants like VOC, SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM 10, and all silica emissions which can be health hazards [1]. Feeding it to livestock reduces its environmental impact and makes the best use of rice as both an energy source and protein provider. Cattle dung can be burned or composted to benefit from rice energy and to enrich soil. Rice straw could be treated in order to improve its nutritive value. These treatments are designed to enhance feed intake and/or digestibility [2]. Improved digestibility may be achieved through mechanical, chemical, heat or pressure