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# Center for Smart Agriculture

## Organic Farming



**Module 5: Organic management of field**

**Session2: Living fence and the benefits**



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**A Living Fence** is a fence made of living trees and shrubs. Made from thorny or non-thorny plants, it can also be called a green fence, or hedge.

It is a permanent hedge tight enough and tough enough to serve almost any of the functions of a manufactured fence. It also provides “edge habitat” that supports ecological diversity.



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As more species (insects, spiders, toads, snakes, birds and mammals) find food and refuge in this habitat, natural balances emerge, yielding, for example, a reduction of rodents and crop-damaging insect populations.





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## Why living fencing?

- Solar-powered wire fencing is effective when local villagers maintain them.
- Erection of walls in forest areas, building, and repairing them is a costly affair.
- farmers can earn by growing lemongrass, a good source of oil
- The bio fences serve multiple purposes such as providing fodder, fertilizer, and windbreakers, besides conserving biodiversity and absorbing climate-inducing gases like carbon dioxide.



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There are many ways of using a barrier to prevent harmful pests from coming onto the land. Everyone knows that stone and mud, bricks, barbed wire, bamboo, or even cut branches can be used to make a fence but the most productive form of barrier is the living fence, because as well as being a barrier, it can also produce many other benefits for the home.





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## The Benefits of the Live Fencing

- Crops are protected against harmful pests
- The living fence can act as a windbreak
  - As well as protecting the land, various products such as fodder, firewood, medicines, timber, nectar, etc. can be taken from the living fence.
  - Beneficial animals such as predator insects can also find a place to live in the living fence.
  - The living fence saves money.



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- It prevents soil erosion.
- It can prevent terraces from collapsing.
- It can be used where materials for fencing are not found, e.g. plentiful rocks, barbed wire, large branches or trees, etc.

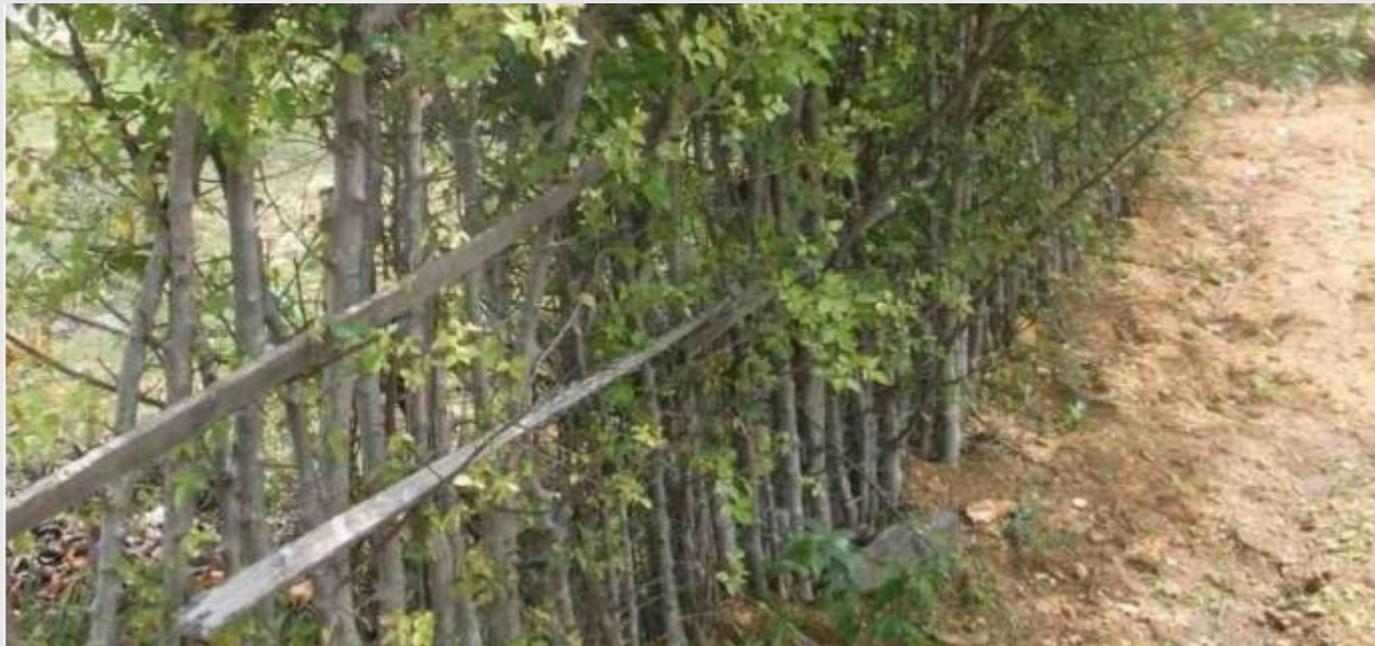
### **Commonly used living fencing plants:**

Cactus, Bougainvillea, Clerodendrum inermis, Carissa carandas (Karonda), Jatropha curcas, Duranta erecta , Hamelia patens etc.



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## **Disadvantages of Living fencing**

- Takes a long time to establish
- Not very strong
- Risk of grazing in initial stages
- Requires more maintenance



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**THANK YOU**