

# A Guide for Nursery Bed Preparation for Rice Production.



**AfricaRice**

**Small Holders Agricultural Productivity  
Enhancement And Commercialization (SAPEC) Project.**

# Six (6) Key Principles to Nursery Bed Preparation for Rice Production

## 1. Proper Timing:

- \* Seedlings should not have more than 4 leaves before transplanting (About 2 weeks after seeding)
- \* Prepare field before preparing seed bed

Young seedlings

Too old seedlings



Many tillers  
High yield



Few tillers  
low yield

## 2. Select Location:

- \* Near water source
- \* Not under shade
- \* Safe from thieves and animals
- \* Close to your field if possible
- \* With soil that is not too sandy & can retain moisture
- \* With soil rich in organic matter or apply mineral fertilizer



### 3. Use appropriate seed bed size:

- \* 1m x 10m is recommended
- \* Easy to manage
- \* Help to estimate number of nursery bed required for your entire rice field  
1 seed bed of 10m<sup>2</sup> will plant 500m<sup>2</sup> rice field
- \* Too much nursery bed causes damage to seedlings during transplanting



### 4. Use good quality seed:

- \* Healthy seed
- \* Well filled seed
- \* Sorted seed
- \* Seed from reputable source
- \* You can pre-germinate seed by putting the seed in jute bag, soak in water for few minutes and keep under shade until ready for sowing.



Use Good Seed



Don't use bad seed

## 5. Use appropriate seed density

- \* Plant maximum of 2kg seed on nursery bed of 1m x 10m
- \* Heavy density produces weak seedlings and takes longer time before they are strong enough for transplanting.
- \* Remember old seedlings do not tiller well.
- \* Weak seedlings break easily during transplanting
- \* Money is wasted
- \* Weak seedlings takes along time to establish



## 6. General Management Practices.

- \* Break clods and level very well:
- \* Add organic manure or mineral fertilizer
- \* Raise the edges of the seed bed by at least 10cm for good water management
- \* Plant at low density
- \* Cover seeds lightly with soil
- \* Built shelter over it or cover with straws
- \* Water regularly
- \* Remove shelter or straws about 3-5 days after seedling

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