

# Good Practices in Rice Seedling Transplanting.



**AfricaRice**

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

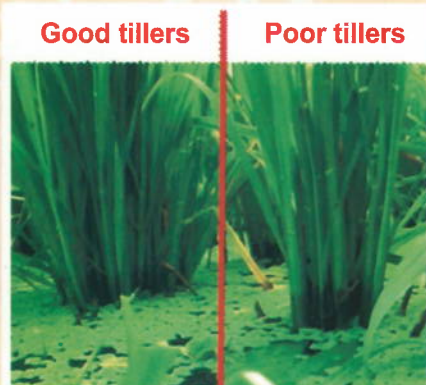
### 5 Facts you must know

- ▶ Yield of transplanted field is 2 to 3 times higher than broadcast field.
- ▶ It allows selection and use of best vigorous seedlings.
- ▶ Seedlings have growth advantage over weeds.
- ▶ Crop management like weeding, fertilizer applications are better and easier.



### Getting Started:

- ▶ Plant good quality seed into the nursery to obtain vigorous seedlings.
- ▶ High yield in rice is influenced by good and effective tillering.



### On the Nursery:

- ▶ Water the nursery bed before uprooting the seedlings to prevent damage to the seedlings.
- ▶ Once uprooted, transplant seedling as soon as possible.



### The field.

- ★ Carefully level your field and paddle your soil very well.
- ★ Allow a shallow level of water on the field a day before transplanting.



- ★ Transplant at the right time when seedlings are still young but vigorous enough (about 15-20 days after sowing) or when they have 4-5 leaves.
- ★ Older seedlings give fewer tillers and require longer time to recover before resuming growth.

### Transplanting Depth:

- ★ Note that depth of planting affects tillering.
- ★ Therefore, transplant at correct depth (Only the brown part of the seedlings goes into the soil while the green part of the seedling remain above the soil).
- ★ Appropriate transplanting depth makes the roots to re-establish quickly in the mud and tillering is faster.
- ★ Too deep transplanting causes death of roots of the seedlings due to lack of oxygen, thereafter, the seedlings then develop new roots from the first node where tillers are expected, causing delay in tillering.

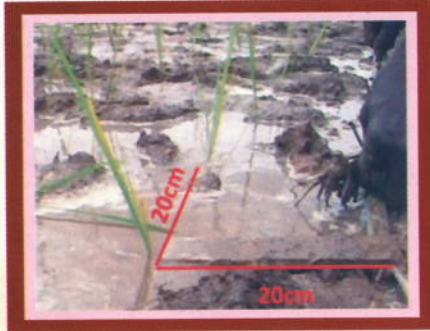


New root being formed at the first node

Dead root due to deep planting

### Plant Density:

- Rice produces tillers to capture maximum sunlight.
- It requires adequate space for optimum tillering.
- The more the seedling on each hill, the less the space available for rice plant, therefore plant 1-2 seedlings per hill at 20cm by 20cm.
- Use planting rope liner or marked stalks to achieve desired planting space.



Once good transplanting procedure is followed, optimum canopy will be formed and high yield is expected.



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