

Technical Bulletin #54:

## Use of Drum Seeder

Follow the following steps for successful usage of the drum seeder to sow pre-germinated seeds:

1. Puddle the land and level thoroughly (*Picture on the left*)
2. Drain out excess water before sowing, but do not let the soil surface become dry (*Picture on the right*)



3. Pre-germinate the rice seeds. Do not let shoots become too long. Growth for 24 hours is usually sufficient



Shoots too long can be easily damaged



No shoots will have poor germination rate



Pre-germinated rice seed shoots just coming out

4. Air dry the sprouted seeds in the shade for about 10-15 minutes before sowing to facilitate separation of seeds



5. Sow the seeds with drum seeder
  - a. Do not fill drums more than 2/3 full
  - b. Walk at a steady pace (uniformity is essential)



Plot very well leveled and water was drained



Poor leveling and too much water, seeds will drift and accumulate in some points

6. Do not irrigate for 2-3 days to allow roots to anchor. Take care during rainy season as rainfall immediately after seeding may wash away the newly sown seeds



7. Increase the depth of water gradually as the seedlings grow but do not completely submerge seedlings





8. Floodwater can rise as the seedlings grow to give better weed control



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