

RYMV infects Basmati?!

In the last issue of RICEMAPP FLASH (Sep., 2013), Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV) Disease was highlighted. Initially, it was thought to infect only BW196. Field observations however indicate that it infects Basmati 370 (core variety in MIS) and other promised varieties including Basmati 217, IR 2793 and ITA 310. If infection spreads as it is, rice yields in MIS will be greatly reduced. And RYMV will be a major obstacle towards achievement of NRD strategy of double rice production by 2018.

Effective ways to control RYMV are; 1) Uprooting and burning infected plants from rice fields, 2) Destroying crop residues in the field after harvest, and 3) Spraying insecticides to kill vector insects.

RiceMAPP is going to sensitize stakeholders and train rice farmers in MIS to minimize the damage of the disease.



Leaf of ITA310 at 10 days after inoculation (left). Another leaf of ITA310 at 17 days after inoculation (center). Infected Basmati370 in the field of BW196 (right).

SRI in MIS

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is a rice cultivation method developed in Madagascar, 1983. (SRI is summarized at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_of_Rice_Intensification)



The system was introduced in MIS by Prof. Bancy Mate, from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Since then, more than 3,500 farmers have adopted the method as on July 2013. SRI method save water, and farmers can obtain higher yield.

Left picture: Prof. Bancy exchanging information with RiceMAPP staff and a JICA officer in the field on 4th Sep. 2013.