### Causal agent: Sobemovirus

![Electron micrograph showing structure of Rice mottle virus](image)

### Geographical distribution
- The disease was first reported in Western Kenya in 1966 and has subsequently been reported in all rice growing regions in East Africa.

### Crop damage and associated losses
- Crop loss ranging 10-100% have been reported depending on plant age and level of disease resistance in the host plant. The highest yield losses occur when plants are infected early in the growing seasons.
- The disease symptoms are observed 1 to 2 weeks after infection.
- The disease initially starts as small yellow-green lesions on the leaves which later form yellow streaks or mottling giving the plant a yellow orange appearance. The infected plants are stunted and often have spirally twisted leaves.
- When plants are infected early in the growing season they may die or fail produce to produce grains.

### Management Strategies
- **Use of tolerant varieties** such as Basmati 370 and 217, ITA 310.
- **Proper weed management** to ensure that there are no alternate hosts of the virus. (Refer to weed management factsheet).
- **Disinfect hand tools** used in rice cultivation using bleach (sodium hypochlorite).
- Ensure that the vector (beetles) are controlled using appropriate methods (Refer to pest management factsheet).
- Ensure proper agronomic practices are maintained (Refer to agronomy factsheet).