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Site selection and Seedbed Preparation

Factsheets for Rice Production, East Africa

Site selection and seed bed preparation

- Select flat, even land for ease of banding to contain water for irrigated rice.
- The slightly selected sloping land aids in waterflow for purpose of gravity irrigation through fullows.
- The fields should be connected to the water distribution canal.
- Prepare land by ploughing using oxen, tractor or any suitable mechanical implement like hydro tillers.
- Harrow the land using spring tined harrow or oxen plough. Harrowing may be done twice to ensure a fine seed bed for rainfed rice. Flood the fields to saturation point and remove weeds from the seed bed.
- Let the fields remain under flood water for at least 7 days to allow ground softening and decaying of dry matter.
- The rotavate the field to a fine tilth using tractor mounted rotavator, ox or hydro tiller
- After rotavation undertake puddling and then levelling to ensure uniform flooding.
- Drain the excess water to allow transplanting or direct seeding



Fig 1. Site selection
(Wasilwa, LA KALRO)



Fig 2. Leveling
(Wasilwa, LA KALRO)



Fig 3. Plough land
(Wasilwa, LA KALRO)



Fig 4. Flooding seed bed
(Wasilwa, LA KALRO)

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