

Prevention of False Smut on Rice

Recognize the problem

False smut causes yellowish to orange small balls to develop on the grains which later turn black. The incidence of false smut is increasing more and more among rice growers, especially among small seed productive farmers. This is due to changing weather conditions and continuous rice cropping.

Background

False smut is a soil, seed and air borne fungal disease. It causes reduced rice quality and means farmers get a low market price. The pathogen that causes false smut can survive in soil from harvesting time to flowering time of next crop. But we can control this problem easily with prevention methods. But we can control this problem easily with prevention methods.

Management

- Deep plough to at least six inches and practise sun drying the field during the summer
- Use certified disease-free seeds
- Spray a fungicide 5-7 days before flowering stage only once (carbendazim, hexaconazol)
- Remove alternative hosts, including grassy weeds, especially Common barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*) and Jungle rice (*Echinochloa colona*)

Mature false smut on rice panicle.
(Photo by IRRI (CC BY-NC-SA))



Spore balls on a rice panicle.
(Photo by IRRI (CC BY-NC-SA))



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > **Ustilaginoidea virens**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Myanmar [Burma]



Authors: Latt Latt Khaing
Regional Plant Protection Office, Department of Agriculture
email: latlat.mya@gmail.com

Edited by Plantwise.