

## USE OF COLOURED LIGHTS TO ATTRACT RICE INSECTS

The use of coloured lights to attract rice insect pests was studied in an experimental station in India. Petromax lamps in 5 colours yellow, blue, green, red and white were set 100 metres apart in rice fields from 18.00 hours to 20.00 hours on alternate days in October, November and December. The early planted (August to September) crop was in the reproductive phase, and the late samba (planted in September - October) crop in the vegetative phase. The lamps were in the centres of iron trays (76X46X10 CM) containing water mixed with kerosene. The insects attracted by light got trapped in the water.

The ordinary white light trap was the most effective. It attracted and caught the largest number of green leaf hoppers (5000), brown plant hoppers (1000), and moths of stem borers (170) and leaf folders (210) during the study period. The four other colours yellow-, blue, green and red were almost equal in attraction, catching from one third to two thirds the number of insects in the white light trap.

### EFFECT OF HERBICIDES ON AZOLLA.

A randomized complete block design with three replications- was used to determine the effect of some herbicides on Azolla (Azolla pinnata R Br.) in trans-planted rice. Azolla at a rate of 300 gr. fresh weight/M<sup>2</sup> was inoculated into plots immediately after transplanting.

From the results- it appears unlikely that herbicides can be used for weed control when rice is to be inoculated with Azolla. The weeds

will have to be controlled by other means, such as by the suppressive effect of azolla itself, by hand weeding or by using a rotary weeder at the time Azolla is incorporated into the soil.  
(courtesy IRRI Newsletter October 1981)

**EFFECT OF ASH ON THE COLD TOLERANCE  
OF RICE AT SEEDLING STAGE**

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In China, ash is applied as basal or top dressing to seed beds during the first cropping season before the onset of low-temperature to increase cold tolerance and decrease cold injury at the seedling stage. The potassium rich ash probably increases cold tolerance, and dark colour of the ash probably absorbs heat and raises water temperature. Two kinds of ash are used: from burnt store firewood and from burnt straws on grasses with some soil added. Potassium ( $K_2O$ ) content is 6-44%. As from burnt straw has more nitrogen.

The application of ash or potassium mixed with nitrogen in the seed bed increased plant height, promoted growth, and slowed leaf discoloration, and thus increased cold tolerance during the seedling stage. The treatment is effective both with cold water susceptible and tolerant varieties.

(Courtesy IRRI Newsletter, OCTOBER 1981).

**Paddy Production**

Year	MAHA			
	Extent Sown ('000 Hectares)	Net Extent Harvested ('000 Hectares)	Production ('000 Mt. tons)	Yield per hectare (kgs.)
1969	470	371	980	2,640
1970	482	384	1,033	2,691
1971	465	375	867	2,314
1972	480	356	893	2,478
1973	477	373	876	2,347
1974	534	447	1,098	2,459
1975	444	302	719	2,383
1976	464	363	882	2,431
1977	538	431	1,144	2,657
1978	575	471	1,286	2,732
1979	578	494	1,393	2,819
1980	574	496	1,453	2,919
1981	577	501	1,523	3,005

YALA			
Extent Sown ('000 Hectares)	Net Extent Harvested ('000 Hectares)	Production ('000 Mt. tons)	Yield per Hectare (kgs.)
213	199	394	2,486
277	227	583	2,556
262	215	529	2,456
247	187	429	2,295
248	198	436	2,205
292	234	504	2,151
252	207	435	2,105
260	178	370	2,077
290	234	533	2,267
301	253	605	2,402
261	203	524	2,574
271	232	680	2,936
277	233	688	2,950

Year	TOTAL			
	Extent Sown ('000 Hectares)	Net Extent Harvested ('000 Hectares)	Production ('000 Mt. tons)	Yield per Hectare (kgs.)
1969	692	530	1,374	2,594
1970	759	611	1,616	2,644
1971	727	590	1,393	2,366
1972	727	543	1,312	2,416
1973	725	571	1,312	2,298
1974	826	681	1,602	2,353
1975	696	509	1,154	2,270
1976	724	541	1,252	2,315
1977	828	666	1,677	2,521
1978	876	724	1,871	2,613
1979	819	697	1,917	2,750
1980	845	728	2,133	2,927
1981	874	734	2,211	3,013

Source: Department of Census & Statistics.

1. Yala 1981, figures are provisional.

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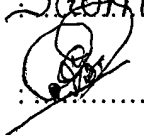
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