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Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
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Title of Entry	: INNOVATIVE NURSERY RAISING METHOD FOR MACHINE PLANTING IN RICE
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	: INNOVATIVE NURSERY RAISING METHOD FOR MACHINE PLANTING IN RICE P. Raghu Rami Reddy, R. Uma Reddy and B. Swamy Regional Agricultural Research Station, Warangal - 506 007 Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University Rice requires 40-45 man days to raise and transplant one hectare. Urbanization and migration of agricultural labour coupled with cultivation of the crop in similar ecosystems with same duration of varieties is aggravating the labour problem. To address this, transplanting machines were introduced more than 5 years ago in rice growing areas. Though the performance of

machine transplanted rice is satisfactory, the automatic nursery raising technique proved to be very cumbersome, labour consuming by way of collecting, grinding soil, raising and transporting nursery. The nursery growth was also very poor especially during dry season. To address this problem, an innovative technique was designed at Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Warangal. In this method, nursery raising would be done in the field itself where planting has to be taken up. Farmer's choice variety is to be soaked for 12 hours, incubated for 24 hours. One day before spreading of seeds, the selected nursery field is puddled, levelled perfectly and allowed to settle. Polythene sheet of 60 microns, 2 m width should be spread on the puddled field without any folds. Depending on the length of nursery area, the polythene sheet can be cut. Wooden frame having 4 blocks each with size equivalent to machine tray is kept on polythene sheet and puddled soil is manually filled into the frame up to 1.5 cm thickness. Then, two aluminum rails were kept adjacent to the frame and manual seeding machine is drawn on the rails for uniform distribution of the sprouted seed. For raising nursery and transplanting one hectare of rice, 200 mat blocks and 6 man days are sufficient. RARS team designed the frame, railing system and developed the complete protocol for raising nursery on polythene sheet. Being a simple technology, farmers are keen to adopt the same. Added to this, government of Telangana is encouraging machine planting by way of subsidising at least 10 transplanters per each mandal.

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