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*)

Scientific name(s) > *Ustilaginoidea virens*

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.

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

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