

# Loktantra: An improved blast resistant rice variety for rainfed lowland areas



## What is Loktantra variety?

Loktantra is a rice variety released by National variety releasing committee in May 2006 after the establishment of Loktantra in April 2006 in Nepal. Its pedigree name is NR1487-2-1-2-2-1-1. It was developed by NRRP, Nepal from the six generations of selection from F2 bulk IR55072 (Mahsuri/IR4547-6-2-2). F2 seed was introduced from IRRI in 1986. It is intermediate tall, resistant to blast, high yielding and suitable for rainfed low land areas in terai, inner terai and foot hills below 500m altitude and for partially irrigated areas for mid hills in 500-800m altitude.

## Why to grow Loktantra?

- It matures in 125-130 days that is 2-3 week earlier than Masuli, popular rice variety in Nepal. Thus, it gives sufficient time for planting winter crops.
- The grain yield production ranges from 3.0-3.75 ton/ha. It is resistant to blast and moderately resistant to bacterial leaf blight. Masuli is susceptible to blast and disappearing from the farmer's field. It is intermediate tall (120 cms) and straw yield production is 10 t/ha which is at par with Masuli and significantly higher to Radha 4, the old popular rain fed low land rice variety. The higher straw yielding ability is a desirable trait especially for the farmers in inner terai and mid hills to use it as livestock feed.
- It has superior grain quality like medium size grain, no cooking problem, good taste and acceptable appearance of cooked rice compared to Radha 4. Milling recovery is 68%. Its preference for the cooking and eating quality is similar to Masuli.
- It gives satisfactory yield in medium fertility condition.



## How to cultivate Loktantra?

- Optimum seeding time starts from last week of May to 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.
- 40-45 kg seed is sufficient for one ha.
- 21-25 days old seedling suitable for transplanting. However, 35-45 days old seedlings can be transplanted without significant reduction in grain yield.
- 60-90 kg N, 30 Kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 30 Kg K<sub>2</sub>O/ha. The amount of nitrogenous fertilizer application depends on the level of soil fertility.
- 50% of nitrogenous fertilizer should be applied during transplanting and remaining should be top dressed in 2 splits (20-25 DAT and 35-40 DAT)
- Application of Butachlor @ 3 lit/ha within 7 days after transplanting is effective to control weeds.
- Integrated pest management strategy is effective to control disease and insect pests.
- Harvest the crop in 30-35 days after panicle emergence to reduce yield losses from lodging.

## For more information

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