

# Mithila: Blast resistant rice variety for irrigated subtropical region



## What is Mithila?

Mithila is semi dwarf blast resistant rice variety released in Nepal in 2006. The original name is BPI3-2(Fortuna//Milfor6\* 2/Azucena), originated from Phil Rice, Philippines. Its performance was evaluated in various on station and on farm trials from 1992 to 2005. It is suitable to grow as main season irrigated rice for terai, inner terai and foot hills.

## What are specific traits of Mithila

- It matures in 135-140 days that is almost a week earlier to the popular vars. Sabitri and Masuli. It gives sufficient time for planting winter crops like vegetables, legumes and wheat.
- It is resistant to blast and moderately resistant to bacterial blight. It is also resistant to insects brown plant hopper and stem borer.
- It has slender grain shape and kernel size is slightly bigger than Masuli but the husk color is similar to Masuli. Its thousand grain wt. is 18.5 gm.
- The milling recovery is 70 - 72% and the cooked rice is dry and fluffy.
- The eating quality is preferred by the farmers.
- The grain yield production ranges from 3.5 to 5.0 t /ha.
- Its plant height is similar to Sabitri (105-110 cms) and tillering ability is similar to both Sabitri and Masuli (250-275).
- Because of longer grain length milling in hauler mills can increase the bran rice percentage. So it is suggested to mill the paddy grain in seller mills.



## How to cultivate Mithila?

- 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 is suitable for transplanting.
- 100 Kg. N, 30 Kg. P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ana 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 40-45 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.

## For more information

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