World Vegetable Center

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Guidelines for seedlings tray preparation

Benefits

- Disease free seedling production.
- Higher germination percentage.
- Reduction in seed rate.
- Easy to transport/shifting the seedling trays in adverse climatic conditions.

Required Material

Cocopeat

Pro trays

Vermi-compost

Burned paddy husk

Methodology

Preparation of Coco peat: Place coco-peat blocks or bricks in water for 24 hours. Attempt to break them down a few times. After complete expansion, fluff up and powder the coco-peat. Then, drain excess water. If the coco-peat is not pre-washed by manufacturer, use more quantity of water to wash away greater quantities of salts in it. Before use, the powdered coco-peat must be moist, but flowable; and not wet or sticky

Preparing potting mixture: Mix homogeneously, coco peat, vermi-compost and burnt/charred (not ash) rice husk at the rate of 3:1:1 ratio, along with 100 g each of *PSB, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, Pseudomonas* and *Trichoderma* microbial bio-agent formulations can be added for better results.

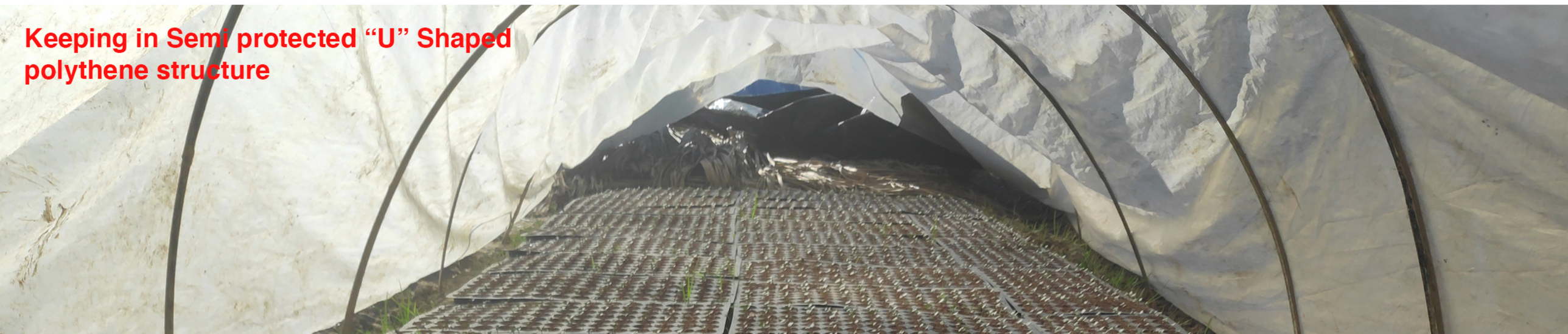
Seed sowing

Sowing: After filling up the mixture in the trays make 2-3 mm depth with small stick or pencil and place the seeds and cover up with the same mixture and lightly irrigate the trays and place the trays in zigzag manner and cover up the trays with black polythene for 3-4 days for uniform germination. Then place the seedling trays in open under semi protected “U” shaped semi protected tunnel.

Watering

Placing trays in zig zag manner

Covering with polythene



Keeping in Semi protected “U” Shaped polythene structure