The primed wheat on the right is greener than the non-primed crop on the left.

On-farm seed priming seems to be a robust, widely applicable technology and its effects are generally independent of the crop variety used. This is important, because priming can be used to add value to the benefits achieved by using improved, modern varieties or by adoption of other improved technologies such as fertiliser or better crop protection.

Wheat

Because rice is often followed by wheat in South Asia, crop establishment, particularly of wheat, often poses a problem. How do you turn a compacted rice field into a seedbed that will support good establishment and growth of wheat? Failure to do this properly can result in patchy stands of low-vigour seedlings. The rice-to-wheat transition must also be made as quickly as possible, because yields of wheat decline progressively when sown later than the middle of November.

Six series of trials of seed priming in wheat were implemented in India, Nepal and Pakistan during the period 1997 - 1999. The results are shown in Table 2. Percentage increases ranged from 5 to 36%, while extra grain varied from 150 to 500 kg/ha. Priming was effective over a wide range of production conditions.