

Is your airstrip ready for the rice season?



Recent rains combined with a favourable long term forecast indicate it is likely be a very wet rice sowing season coming up. Availability of close, accessible and well maintained airstrips is crucial to efficient and safe aerial sowing operations.

Now is the time to think about airstrip maintenance in your area particularly if we get some fine weather over coming weeks.

With airstrips being so wet at the moment, most aerial jobs are being done from the local airport which is fine for the farmers that are in close proximity - but the farmers that are further out it results in higher application costs.

The ideal airstrip would at least be 30 meters wide about 800 meters long with a good fly away zone (no trees or powerlines), very solid loading area at both ends and good access roads to airstrip.

What to do (and not to do):

- DO - Talk to your aerial operator about airstrip upgrades.
- DO - Work with your neighbours to help upgrade your airstrip.
- DO - When adding fill use good quality road base material.
- DO - Spend the time on the loading area so trucks can work there.
- DO - Use a roller and compact loading area and airstrip.
- DO - Mow airstrip if the grass is long.
- DON'T - Assume that the airstrip that you have used in the past will be right to go.
- DON'T - Use rock on the loading area as this will damage aircraft propellers.

Remember - a good all weather airstrip will save you time and money.

