



## Rice Yellow Mottle Virus

**[Source: DTE](#)**

**Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV)**, a highly contagious plant disease, is ravaging [rice crops](#) across **Africa**, leading to major **yield losses** and posing a serious threat to [food security](#).

### Rice Yellow Mottle Virus

- **Origin & Spread:** It originated in the **Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania** in the 1800s from **wild grasses**, spreading to the **Kilombero Valley** and **Morogoro (Tanzania)** before expanding across **Sub-Saharan Africa**.
  - Though **endemic to Africa**, it has also been reported in **Turkey**.
- **Causal Agent & Transmission:** The virus is a member of the **Sobemovirus** known for its **high genetic variability**, allowing it to evolve rapidly.
  - **Vectors** include **beetles (Chrysomelidae)**, **grasshoppers**, **cows**, **rats**, and **donkeys**.
  - It spreads through **insect vectors**, **mechanical means (sap or water contact)**, and **root injuries**, but is **not seed-borne**.
- **Symptoms:** Yellow-green streaks appear on **young leaves**, leading to **mottling** and **leaf twisting**. Plants show **stunted growth**, **poor panicle formation**, **sterility**, and may eventually **die**.
- **Impact on Rice Production:** Yield losses range from **10% to 100%**, with **early infection** causing **greater damage**.

**Read More:** [Cucumber Mosaic Virus and RNA Silencing](#)