ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING (AWD) WATER MANAGEMENT

"AWD is a water-saving technology that farmers can apply to reduce their irrigation water use in rice fields without any yield penalty. In AWD, irrigation water is applied a few days after the disappearance of the ponded water. Hence, the field is alternately flooded and non-flooded." (IRRI)

NOTICES
- Although the field is not flooded all the time, the soil moisture needs to be maintained throughout the growing cycle, from seeding to harvesting.
- How to know when the soil is wet enough: when there is water in the cannal or when the water lever drops from 0 to 10 cm below the surface of soil (using a field water tube to check the water level).

PRINCIPLES
- Keep the soil dry (until it develops hairline cracks) and irrigate the field intermittently during vegetative and reproductive phases.
- Continuously keep the water level at 3-5 cm above the soil surface during the following phases:
  - Panicle initiating to booting
  - Flowering and early ripening
  - When applying additional fertilisers, top the soil up with 3-5 cm of water, don’t drain all the water immediately after fertiliser application to avoid waste
- Drain all the water in the field from the late ripening to harvesting phase.