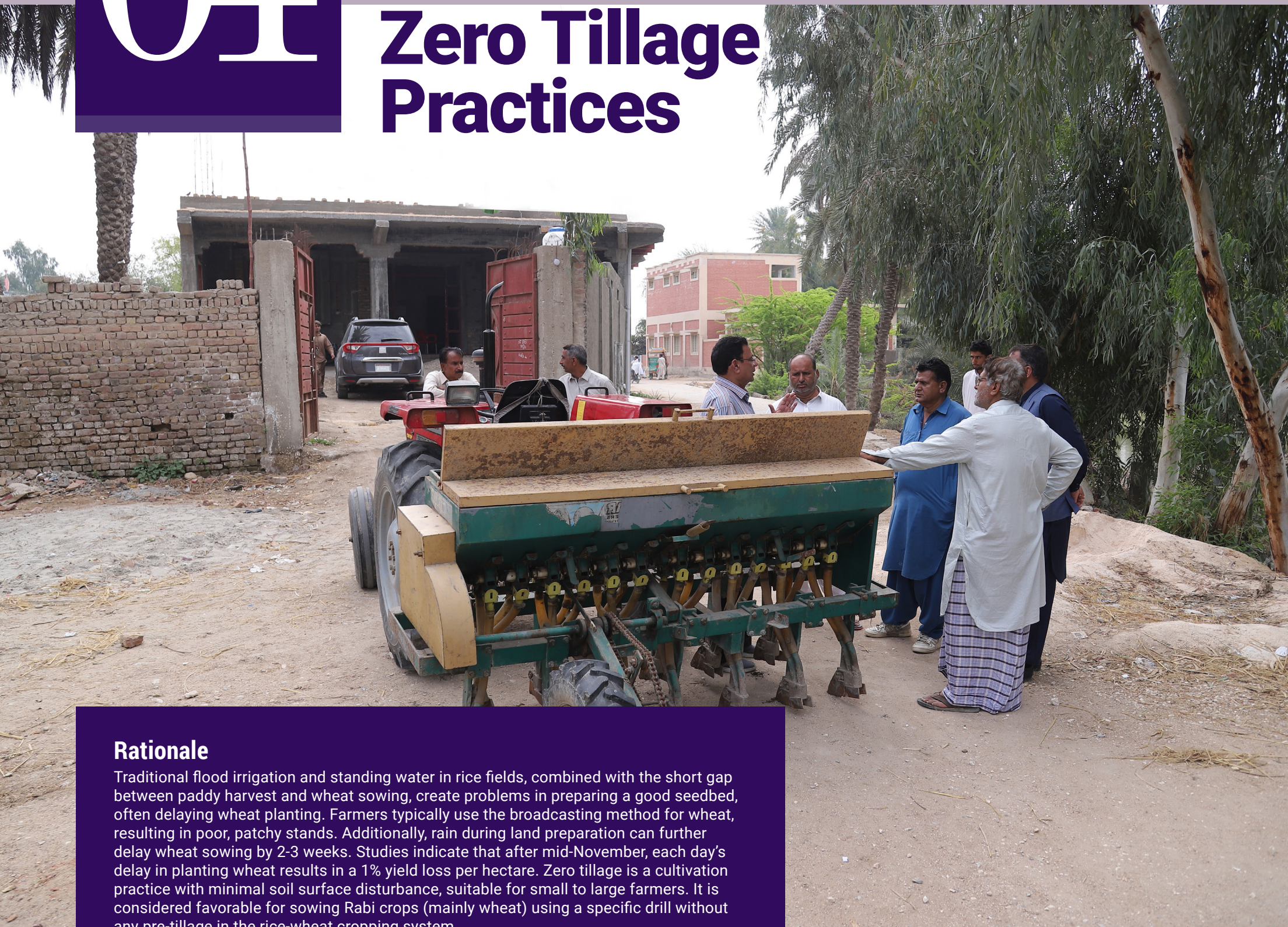


04

Zero Tillage Practices



Rationale

Traditional flood irrigation and standing water in rice fields, combined with the short gap between paddy harvest and wheat sowing, create problems in preparing a good seedbed, often delaying wheat planting. Farmers typically use the broadcasting method for wheat, resulting in poor, patchy stands. Additionally, rain during land preparation can further delay wheat sowing by 2-3 weeks. Studies indicate that after mid-November, each day's delay in planting wheat results in a 1% yield loss per hectare. Zero tillage is a cultivation practice with minimal soil surface disturbance, suitable for small to large farmers. It is considered favorable for sowing Rabi crops (mainly wheat) using a specific drill without any pre-tillage in the rice-wheat cropping system.