

# Bangladesh and IRRI



## Over five decades of partnership

In 2016, Bangladesh produced 35 million tons of milled rice, making it the fourth largest rice producer in the world. In this nation, rice is not only a staple but also an important economic, social, political, and cultural commodity. It accounts for about 70% of the dietary calorie, 56% of the total protein intake, 50% of the country's agricultural gross domestic product, and 50% of the rural employment.

Since 1965, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has been working with Bangladesh. The partnership's first initiative was a Ford Foundation program wherein 303 rice varieties were tested in Bangladesh. This marked IRRI's first international intervention on testing rice.

Today, IRRI remains dedicated to sustainably increasing the productivity and profitability of the rice value chain and helping the country remain self-sufficient in rice through groundbreaking rice science, capacity building and close collaboration.

## OUR KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

**Conserved rice genetic diversity.** 7,133 rice germplasms from Bangladesh are currently stored at the IRRI Genebank.

**Better rice varieties.** Bangladesh has released 108 improved rice varieties, which account for more than 80% of the total rice production. IRRI directly or indirectly contributed for the development of about 80% of these varieties.

**Conservation of natural resources.** Improved technology and management practices enhanced efficient use of resources. For example, water-efficient technologies reduced water consumption by 15% to 30% without compromising rice yield.

**Higher productivity.** Rice yield increased from 1.7 t/ha in 1971 to 4.4 t/ha now.

**Mechanized farming.** Modernized farm machinery services are introduced, combined with farmer education.

**Better resilience to climate change.** Flood, drought, salinity tolerant rice varieties and climate smart agricultural practices increased farmers' resilience to climate change.

**Improved rural livelihood.** The use of innovative rice science increased rice yield, minimized production risks, widened market access, boosted rice profitability and increased income of rural household.

**Stronger research capacity.** Since 1965, IRRI supported 229 Bangladeshi scholars, fellows, and interns and 893 on-the-job trainees.



## RESEARCH- FOR- DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

IRRI's research for development activities in Bangladesh focus on the following areas:

- 1 Development and dissemination of short-duration, high-yielding, stress-tolerant, better grain quality, and healthier rice varieties.
- 2 Development and dissemination of flood, drought, and salinity, tolerant rice varieties and climate smart agricultural practices for building resilience to climate change.
- 3 Sustainable intensification and diversification of the rice-based cropping systems.
- 4 Efficient use of production resources.
- 5 Use of information communication technologies in agriculture.
- 6 Improving nutrition through food-based interventions, such as healthier rice and diversified cropping system.
- 7 Socio-economic research on policy, market, adoption and impact, gender, youth, etc.
- 8 Increasing productivity and profitability of the rice value chain.
- 9 Capacity building in rice science.

### IRRI's work in Bangladesh is supported by:

Access Agriculture • Asian Development Bank • Bill & Melinda Gates • International Center for Tropical Agriculture • International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre • CGIAR System Organization • Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences • DKT International • German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development • HarvestPlus • Hybrid Rice Development Consortium Members • International Fund for Agricultural Development • International Initiative for Impact Evaluation • International Rice Research Institute Fund Limited • Kansas State University • United Nations Environment Programme • United States Agency for International Development • University of California – Berkeley Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



### Our partners in Bangladesh

MOA, BARC, BRRI, BINA, BARI, BADC, DAE, BMDA, BWDB, PKSF, agricultural universities, private companies, CG centers, Donors, national and international NGOs, CBOs, and farmers.

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### International Rice Research Institute

IRRI aims to improve livelihoods and nutrition, abolishing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition among those who depend on rice-based agri-food systems. In doing so, IRRI's work protects the health of rice farmers and consumers, and the environmental sustainability of rice farming in a world challenged by climate change. IRRI's work promotes the empowerment of women and supports opportunities for youth in an equitable agri-food system.