RICE PROFILE IN BANGLADESH

13.6% of Bangladesh's GDP comes from agriculture
75% of cropped area is rice
53.8 million tons (4th-highest in the world) is the current paddy production
3.5 times increase in production in last 50 years
85% of cultivated area is under high-yielding rice varieties
186 million population by 2030 will depend on rice

KEY RESEARCH AREAS

Breeding for both improved inbred and hybrid rice varieties (short duration, high-yielding, optimal grain quality)

Healthier rice varieties enriched with Vitamin-A, Iron and Zinc

Climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience with stress-tolerant varieties and climate smart agriculture

Sustainable intensification and diversification of rice-based cropping systems for better nutritional outcomes

Resource use efficiency and adoption of environmentally sustainable technologies

Socioeconomic solutions in regard to rice value chain, market, gender, youth, and policy

Capacity Building on rice-based agri-food systems

Promoting mechanisation and ICT in agriculture

IRRI'S CONTRIBUTION

80% of released rice varieties in Bangladesh have IRRI genetic materials

110,000+ scholars and short-term trainees trained by IRRI in 55 years

7,000+ Bangladeshi rice accessions conserved in IRRI Genebank

15-30% reduction in water consumption using IRRI’s water-efficient technologies

4.6 t/ha yield in 2019 compared to 1.7 t/ha rice yield since 1971

Mechanised farming uptake by farmers on the rise
TIMELINE

1965
IRRI starts work in Bangladesh; 303 rice varieties tested

1967
First widely-distributed, semi-dwarf HYV rice IR8 introduced

1975-2019
National paddy production increased by 3.5 times

2017
Severe floods damaged 10% of rice yield and price rose by 25%

2017-18
Over 54m tons of paddy produced (4th-largest rice producer in world)

2018
IRRI and Government of Bangladesh co-develop the 5-year Work Plan

5-YEAR WORK PLAN

IRRI’s 5-year work plan (developed in 2018 with government and partners) had the following priorities:

Superior, climate-smart, hybrid and healthier rice varieties

Improving productivity and resilience of coastal agriculture

Sustainable intensification and diversification of rice based production systems

Mechanisation and post-harvest technologies

ICT in agriculture

Rice value chain, gender, youth and policies

Capacity development

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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.