



GERMANY AND IRRI PARTNERSHIP

Since 1966

The German government has supported IRRI research since 1974 and, as of May 2015, had funded 61 projects for a total amount of about USD 59 million. But the Germany-IRRI relationship started much earlier, in 1966, when the first German national came to IRRI as a research fellow.

Key achievements of recent supported work

Of 61 supported projects, 57 have been completed and resulted in:

- Improved conservation of rice genetic resources at the International Rice Genebank through new accessions and through research to (A) improve seed longevity in storage, (B) streamline the seed management process, and (C) enhance data management.
- Better rice varieties, e.g., stress-tolerant and disease-resistant varieties and hybrids, and knowledge exchange to support breeding.
- Reduced postharvest losses through the development of solar dryers and similar technologies.
- Improved understanding of climate change and its effects on rice production that, in turn, guided the development of technologies and practices that reduce water use and GHG emissions and help make rice heat-tolerant.
- Development of future rice production systems that maximize the use of inputs, need less labor, are sustainable, and protect the environment.

The German government also supported, through other institutions, 5 of these completed IRRI projects on climate change and its effects on land use, disease resistance, gas exchange, and biomass distribution; as well as on improving the nutrient content and abiotic stress tolerance of rice.

IRRI is hosting 4 experts from the Centre for Migration and Development who are involved in various research initiatives on climate change, environment engineering, mechanization systems, and the rice value chain.

Current work supported by Germany

Four supported projects include research on tolerance of rice to anaerobic conditions, various types of rice production systems and their risks and safeguards, mitigating the effects of climate change, and reducing crop losses.

Through German funding, a seed drying and sorting facility is being built at IRRI headquarters that will increase the processing and storage capacity of the International Rice Genebank by 40%, or room for an additional 48,000 accessions on top of the current 120,000. Construction for the Genetic Resource Facility (image below) started in early 2015.



International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world's premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers; and protecting the rice-growing environment for future generations. IRRI is an independent, nonprofit, research and educational institute, founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations with support from the Philippine government. The institute, headquartered in Los Baños, Philippines, has offices in 17 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa, and about 1,400 staff members representing 36 nationalities.

Working with in-country partners, IRRI develops advanced rice varieties that yield more grain and better withstand pests and disease as well as flooding, drought, and other harmful effects of climate change. More than half of the rice area in Asia is planted to IRRI-bred varieties or their progenies. The institute develops new and improved methods and technologies that enable farmers to manage their farms profitably and sustainably, and recommends rice varieties and agricultural practices suitable to particular farm conditions as well as consumer preferences. IRRI assists national agricultural research and extension systems in formulating and implementing country rice sector strategies.

Contact

Corinta Guerta
Director for External Relations
International Rice Research Institute
c.guerta@irri.org