

# Nepal and IRRI



## Opportunities for collaboration

- Increasing productivity and profitability of rice-based production systems through climate-smart varieties, technologies and best management practices
- Enhancing the production, processing, branding and distribution of fine, super fine, long and extra-long slender, aromatic and more nutritious rice
- Making the seed system more dynamic and responsive to farmers' needs and strengthening marketing channels and infrastructure to ensure markets are profitable, competitive and attractive for farmers.
- Training the next generation of scientists, extension workers and academia on advanced rice science and innovations, research and extension methods and tools



## Rice in Nepal

Rice is Nepal's most important agricultural commodity and staple food crop. An exporter of rice before 1980, Nepal now imports huge quantities of milled rice every year, draining fiscal resources and adversely impacting development efforts. The situation may aggravate in the coming decades in the face of population growth, scarcity of land, labor and water, and ill effects of climate change.

The Agricultural Development Strategy (2015-2035) of Nepal outlines the crucial role of rice in ensuring food security, improving income and rural livelihoods and ultimately, reducing poverty in the country. The Nepal government also partners with IRRI to develop programs that will increase the country's rice production, improve seed systems and farm management, and strengthen the workforce for robust rice research and development.

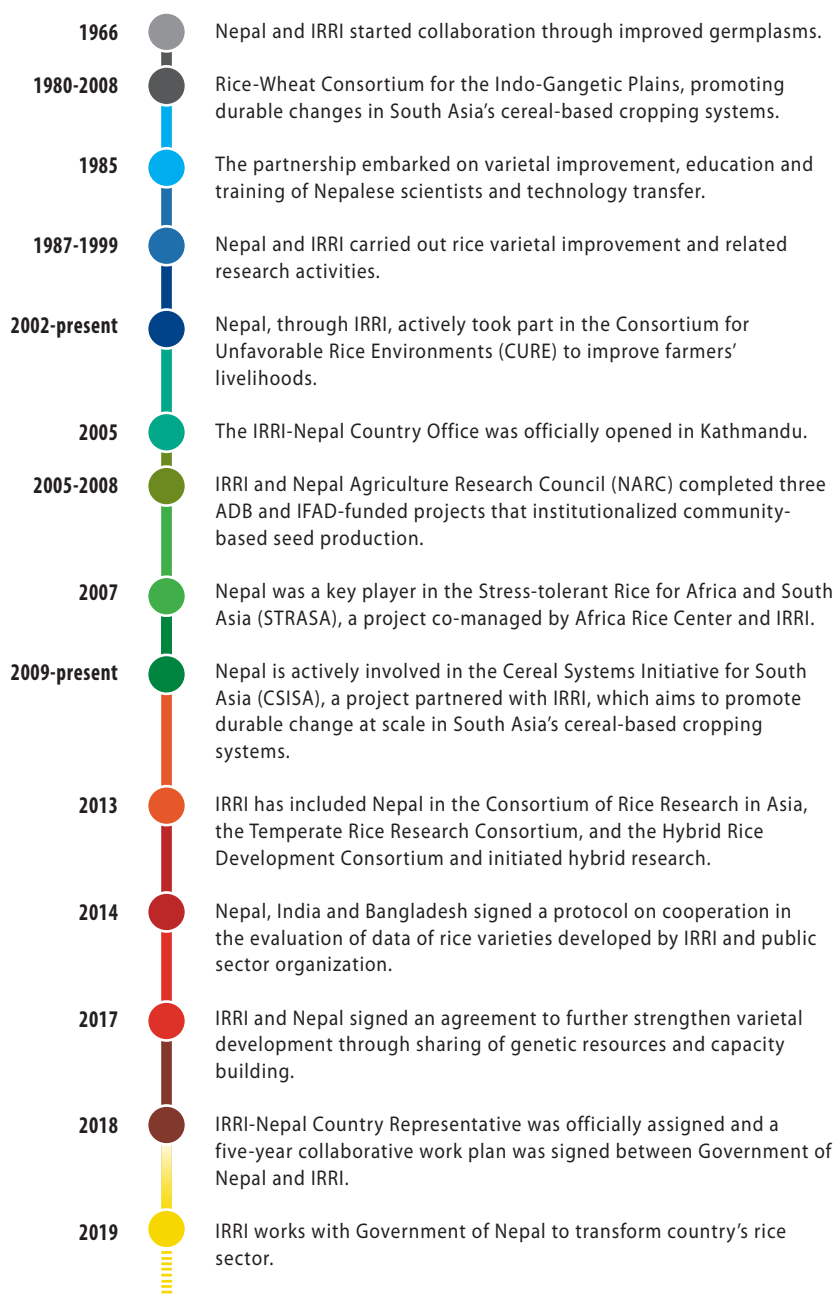
IRRI and Nepal's productive collaboration and mutual support spans over 50 years now. Since 1966, IRRI has provided improved germplasms to Nepal contributing nearly 70% of 94 high yielding inbred rice varieties developed and released for irrigated and rainfed environments in Nepal until 2018. The partnership has also advanced Nepal in conserving resources since the IRRI



## Current initiatives

- **Breeding better rice varieties.** Under several projects, IRRI has helped Nepal develop and disseminate rice varieties that are high yielding; stress tolerant; appropriate for aerobic and alternate wetting and drying (AWD) condition; and are climate-smart.
- **Improved farming systems.** IRRI is helping Nepal accelerate its rice genetic gains through improved mechanization, post-harvest technologies, and decision support tools.
- **Market-driven product development.** IRRI is using cutting edge breeding approaches to develop modern rice varieties that are responsive to the needs and demands of the farmers and the consumers.
- **Capacity building at different levels.** IRRI aspires to provide Nepal with training and expertise on advanced rice research methods and tools partnering with enhanced collaborative research programs.
- **Strengthening agri-food system.** Through initiatives lead to the production and dissemination of seeds of high-yielding, flood and drought-tolerant varieties, dynamic local seed systems and improved capacity of local partners. This inspires better strategies for designing and targeting technology and policy interventions.

Gene bank safely maintains 3,000 rice accessions from Nepal. IRRI has also trained over 330 Nepalese scholars on various disciplines of rice science and technologies, leading to strengthening of the country's scientific caliber.



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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.