



APEC and IRRI



Delegates of the 6th Meeting of the APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation on a tour of IRRI's research facilities and experimental farms on 12 August 2015.

Rice is crucial to the economic health and food security of many member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Timely and reliable access to the crop is an important aspect of inclusive development, especially for the people who depend on it as an everyday staple.

Two of the world's biggest exporters of rice—Thailand and Vietnam—and two of the world's largest importers—Indonesia and the Philippines—are APEC members, as is Singapore, which, though not a rice producer, relies heavily on trade for the high-quality rice its population requires.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has been working with the governments of these countries, as well as of several others across the globe where rice is produced and consumed.

Stronger rice sectors for countries

IRRI provides scientific research foundations and technical assistance, as well as policy support, to several APEC member countries toward the development of their respective rice sectors. Working with the agriculture ministries and other relevant agencies of these countries, IRRI's experts have helped draft rice sector strategies guided by the development priorities of each country, global trends, and more than 50 years of the institute's own research and experience in the field across various rice-growing regions.

In the Philippines, IRRI helps implement the Rice Component of the Food Staples Sufficiency Program of the government, which has provided close to USD 10.7 million (1973-2014) in support of the institute's work.

The impact of IRRI's work is achieved in terms of securing the rice supply, keeping farmers and consumers healthy, improving the livelihoods of rice farmers, and making these farmers more resilient to climate change and challenges such as decreasing land, water for irrigation, and farm labor.

IRRI works with partners to bring the latest advances in rice science to those who need them through various collaborative research projects and programs in the APEC region and other geographical areas. These efforts collectively comprise what we call the "Second Green Revolution." Learn more at www.irri.org.

The governments of China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as some non-APEC member countries, are in various stages of drafting similar rice sector strategies with IRRI.

Funding support from APEC member economies

Many APEC member economies have been long-term supporters of IRRI's research agenda through cooperation and funding.

The United States of America has donated close to USD 230 million through USAID (1967-2014) and more than USD 1.3 million (1998-2009) through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S.-based Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has given IRRI more than USD 97 million (2007-14) in support of the institute's work, most notably on the development and dissemination of stress-tolerant rice varieties to help the poorest rice farmers in South Asia and Africa.

Other major donors are the governments of Japan (USD 215.35 million from 1971 to 2014), Australia

(USD 69.3 million from 1973 to 2014), Canada (USD 47.45 million from 1975 to 2014), and South Korea (USD 14.5 million from 1979 to 2014).

Singapore hosts the IRRI Fund Office, which opened in 2010, and has been the venue of several events and activities that promote awareness of rice and its associated value chain, from production to consumption. The Singapore-based Lee Foundation supports a PhD scholarship program implemented by IRRI through a USD 3 million grant.

Mexico and Peru have also supported IRRI's work through grants of USD 402,851 (1980-2006) and 160,000 (1998-99), respectively.

Joint activities

The Philippines is currently hosting the 2015 APEC annual meetings and IRRI has been an active participant in events related to food security and agriculture.

In August 2015, delegates from the *6th Meeting of the APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology,*

and Innovation, hosted by the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines, came to IRRI to tour its research facilities, experimental farms, and the International Rice Genebank.

IRRI has engaged APEC and its member economies on the science-based development of their rice sectors for many years, most recently during the 2015 *High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology* in June.

Conversations on food security, agricultural development, and regional cooperation find enhancement in interactions with complementary regional bodies. The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry came to IRRI on 12 September 2015 to learn more about the institute's work in the region and in their respective countries, and to signify strengthening of partnerships.

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 more than 1,000 staff.

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.

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