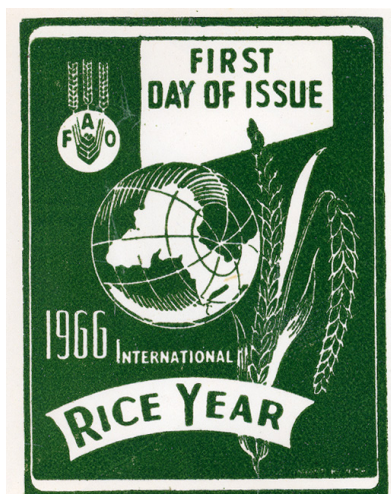


FAO AND IRRI

Since 1966

IRRI's early collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dates back to events tied to the International Rice Year in 1966. In February 1983, IRRI and FAO jointly sponsored an important international workshop on the *Judicious and Efficient Use of Insecticides on Rice*. The two organizations worked together to put on the very successful International Year of Rice in 2004. As of 2014, FAO has engaged IRRI scientists to serve as consultants in 18 projects, for a total amount of USD 387,938. ■



INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF RICE
2004

Key achievements emanating from recent FAO consultancies

- A regional rice strategy for sustainable food security in Asia and the Pacific, which presents options for climate change adaptation or mitigation and risk management, and empowerment of women farmers, among others.
- Improved understanding of how irrigation system managers in the Philippines deal with the impact of drought on water supplies.
- A policy paper and a workshop on adaptation and mitigation of rice-based systems to climate change.
- A course that aims to train the next generation of rice breeders in the use of modern tools to improve the precision of their pre-breeding and breeding programs.
- Improved capacity for researchers of the Academy of Agricultural Science in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- Evaluation of the rice eco-agri food system complex and improved understanding of pest management among farmers through participatory research and status and trends of invertebrates in rice-production systems.
- Development of a prototype application to implement protocols and transactions required for the management of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and an information system in support of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA).
- An analysis of the World Food Summit target to cut global undernourishment by 2015.
- An examination of the rapid rice yield growth in the Philippines from 1997 to 2007 and the role of crop management practices, technology adoption, and input use of farmers.
- A workshop that involved developing new strategies for pesticide regulation and control of planthoppers in China, Vietnam, Thailand, and additional Southeast Asian countries.
- A report that provides high-quality, easy-to-understand poverty maps of Bangladesh.
- An assessment of the impact of IRRI-released modern rice varieties on poverty reduction and food security in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines during the 1990-2010 period.



Current work supported by FAO

IRRI is working with FAO to enhance the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). This involves several activities, one of which is coordination on global strategic issues related to germplasm exchange, information management, and other related standards.

Dr. Ruairaidh Sackville Hamilton, an expert in genetic conservation and head of the International Rice Genebank at IRRI, was requested by FAO to lead PGRFA, as a consultant, and also spearhead the development of a global information system on plant genetic resources.

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 15 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa, and about 1,000 staff members.

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 destructive 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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