



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, Laguna, has 15 country offices and about 1,000 staff members representing more than 30 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 destructive effects of climate change. An estimated 50% of the Asian rice area is planted to IRRI-bred varieties or their progenies. The institute develops 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 and consumer preferences. IRRI assists national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES) in formulating and implementing country rice sector strategies.

Our goals

- Reduce poverty through improved and diversified rice-based systems.
- Ensure that rice production is stable and sustainable, does minimal harm to the environment, and can cope with climate change.
- Improve the nutrition and health of poor rice farmers and consumers.
- Provide equitable access to information and knowledge on rice and help develop the next generation of rice scientists.
- Provide scientists and producers with the genetic information and material they need to develop improved technologies and enhance rice production.

IRRI's goals align with the objectives of the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) that coordinates rice research among more than 900 partners from around the world.

Our research agenda and policies are determined by a board of trustees, guided by inputs from our partners, donors, end users such as farmers, and our staff.

The challenges

- **Food security.** The world needs 8–10 million tons more rice each year (or an additional 1.5% per year) to meet consumer needs and keep rice affordable.
- **Climate change.** Large areas of rice-growing land are exposed to sea-level rise. Higher temperatures and intense drought, flooding, and tropical storms are also predicted to affect rice.
- **Limited resources.** Diminishing resources such as water, land, nutrients, and labor limit rice production.
- **Poverty.** 1 out of 6, or more than 1 billion people, live in dire poverty. Many of them eat rice as their staple food.
- **Malnutrition.** Micronutrient deficiency is widespread among many rice eaters, affecting the health of millions, particularly women and children.

Our science

IRRI is a global leader in rice science. Since 1960, we have helped farmers boost production through improved rice varieties and other technologies—averting famine, lifting people out of poverty, and saving millions of hectares of natural ecosystems from being turned into farmland.

In the future, research will continue to contribute to a bountiful and secure global rice supply. Our science expertise includes

- conserving, understanding, sharing, and using rice genetic diversity;
- breeding and delivering new varieties;
- developing and sharing improved crop and environmental management practices;
- adding to the economic and nutritional value of rice;
- broadening our impact by supporting strategic policy and market development; and
- facilitating large-scale adoption of technologies.

*More than 3.5 billion people—
about half of humanity—rely on
rice for food or livelihood.*

Our people

IRRI's key asset is our workforce of about 1,000 staff members representing 30 nationalities.

Our science leaders are recruited internationally and are among the best in the world in their fields. They are supported by nationally recruited staff that bring their expertise, local knowledge, and skills to IRRI and help us connect with the local communities where we work.

IRRI staff members embody and uphold our values that include cultural diversity and gender consciousness. Women and citizens of developing countries that produce rice are particularly encouraged to work at the institute.

Recent achievements by IRRI and its partners

- **Shared flood-tolerant rice** with more than 5 million farmers across South and Southeast Asia.
- **Released drought-tolerant rice** in South Asia to boost production during dry periods.
- **Doubled salt tolerance** in rice by crossing wild rice with cultivated rice.
- **Released high-yielding rice varieties** in Africa.
- **Advanced healthier rice research** with the goal of improving the nutritional status of rice consumers.
- **Enabled women** in Asia and Africa to learn and share rice production technologies.
- **Found a key gene** for phosphorus uptake that can increase rice yield by 20%.
- **Used satellite mapping** to determine where rice crops are grown and to aid in disaster response.
- **Reduced use of pesticides** by Vietnamese rice farmers by 20%.
- **Sequenced the genome of 3,000 rice strains** and shared the data publicly online for free.
- **Started a scholarship program** to support young rice scientists.

Research delivery

IRRI engages farmers, extension workers, and end users in the conduct of research to help ensure that the solutions we generate are relevant, helpful, and practical.

We also work closely with our research and extension partners in the public and private sectors to share our research and adapt our technologies to local conditions and needs. This broadens our reach and multiplies our impact.

As free educational resources, IRRI's scientific publications, available online since 2007, have been accessed by about 3 million users and received more than 30 million page views.

*Overcoming poverty and hunger demands that **rice** be part of the solution.*

Capacity building

IRRI trains rice scientists and extension workers from all over the world to build knowledge, skills, and scientific capacity, particularly in developing countries.

International students and visiting scientists also come to do research at IRRI and work with our staff. Their contribution is critical to our success. In these ways, IRRI helps educate the next generation of rice scientists and builds effective research collaboration.

Alumni of IRRI's educational initiatives include some of the world's leading rice scientists as well as high-level NARES and agriculture ministry officials. From 1962 to 2015, about 135,000 students, researchers, farmers, and extension professionals, among others, received some form of training from IRRI and its partners. Within this total number, more than 2,000 scholars conducted research at the institute while pursuing their MS and PhD degrees.



IRRI's global partners



A global IRRI

IRRI's work benefits rice consumers and farmers worldwide, particularly those in Asia where 90% of rice is produced and consumed. Through the Global Rice Science Partnership or GRISP, we are extending our reach even further, into Africa and Latin America, where rice is emerging as a major food crop.

Our headquarters in the Philippines houses modern laboratories and greenhouses, a 200-hectare experimental farm, the Riceworld Museum, a library, a training center, and the International Rice Genebank.

We facilitate rice science networks with our partners and have offices located in major rice-growing countries. These link to national agricultural research and extension systems, helping IRRI's technologies reach stakeholders in the rice value chain worldwide.

Our funding

IRRI is a nonprofit organization funded worldwide by governments, philanthropy, the private sector, and through CGIAR. Donor investment is fundamental to achieving our goals. In 2014, IRRI operated on an annual budget of more than USD 99 million.

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