

India-IRRI

A catalyst for South-South collaboration

Rice in India

Rice is India's pre-eminent crop. Its rice harvesting area is the largest in the world, covering 44 million hectares. India is also one of the largest producers of white rice, accounting for 20% of global rice production. Rice production increased from 54 million tons in 1980 to 75 million tons in 1990, a 39% increase over the decade. In 2011-12, production reached a record high of 104.3 million tons.

Rice is the staple food of around 60% of India's total population and accounts for 40% of their food production. Rice-based production systems provide the main source of income and employment for more than 50 million households.

Rice statistics in India (2009)

- **44,100,000 hectares** Total harvested area of rough rice (paddy)
- **148,260,000 metric tons** Rough rice production
- **85,430,000 metric tons** Milled rice consumption
- **2,500,000 metric tons** Rice exports

IRRI's key achievements in India

- **Breeding of stress-tolerant rice.** These varieties are helping enhance and stabilize rice productivity under India's changing climate.
- **Building of institutional capacity.** From 1962 to 2017, a total of 1,668 Indian researchers participated in IRRI education and training programs.
- **Conservation and exchange of rice germplasm.** India has contributed over 18,000 rice varieties to the International Rice Genebank, including traditional and modern varieties and wild relatives.
- **Delivery of new varieties, management practices, and technologies.** IR8 sparked a partnership that has produced more than 400 improved rice varieties, streamlined rice production practices, and intensified information exchange with Indian scientists.
- **Improved roll-out of hybrid rice.** With IRRI's support, India now ranks second only to China in commercial production of hybrid rice.
- **Developing research advancements.** IRRI is helping India accelerate research on climate change impact and environmental sustainability, management of soil and water, and measuring methane gas emissions of rice production.

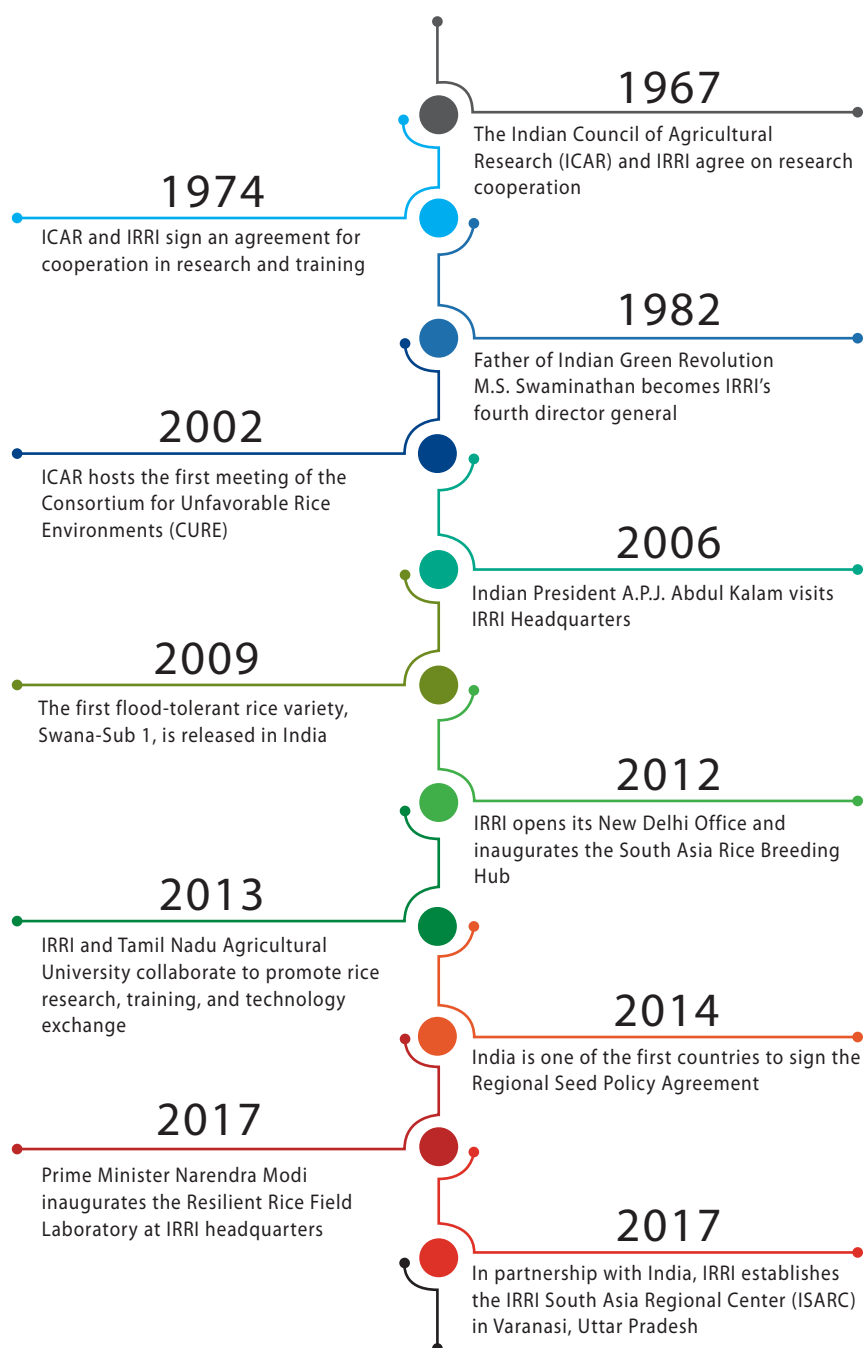


Current opportunities

- Identifying genes and breeding better rice varieties
- Improving grain quality and nutritional content
- Fine tuning rice farming and crop management systems
- Mapping and monitoring rice areas through geographic information systems
- Coping with climate change through climate-smart technologies
- Addressing and enhancing regional seed policies
- Establishing a state-of-the-art research and training center in ISARC



More than four decades of successful partnership between India and IRRI



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International Rice Research Institute

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.

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