



Germany and IRRI

The German government has been supporting the work of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) since 1974. The German contribution, now amounting to more than USD 62 million, comes from various public and private institutions. Majority of this amount, however, comes from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, or BMZ).

Through the German-IRRI collaboration, 94 projects were implemented on climate change and its effects on land use, disease resistance, gas exchange, biomass distribution, and improving the nutrient content and abiotic stress tolerance of rice.

Several German scientists have helped shape IRRI's research strategy and contributed to its excellent scientific legacy. The first German researcher came to IRRI for training in 1966. Since then, more than 75 scholars and 24 others from Germany have been at IRRI for research or training. Prof. h.c. Friedrich Berschauer, a German national,

Key achievements of recently supported work

Of 94 supported projects, 82 have been completed and resulted in:

- Improved conservation of rice genetic resources at the International Rice Genebank through new accessions as well as through research to improve seed longevity in storage, streamline the seed management process, and enhance data management.
- Developed better rice varieties, e.g., stress-tolerant and disease-resistant varieties and hybrids, and knowledge exchange to support breeding.
- Reduced postharvest losses through the development of the Solar Bubble Dryer and similar technologies.
- Improved understanding of climate change and its effects on rice production that, in turn, guided the development of technologies and practices that reduce water use and GHG emissions and help make rice heat-tolerant.
- Development of future rice production systems that maximize the use of inputs, need less labor, are sustainable, and protect the environment.

currently serves in the institute's Board of Trustees.

IRRI has also been hosting experts from the Centre for International Migration and Development who are involved in various research initiatives on climate change, environment engineering, mechanization systems, and the rice value chain. ■

Current work supported by Germany

Thirteen supported projects include, among others, research on tolerance of rice to anaerobic

conditions, the risks and safeguards of various types of rice production systems, mitigating the effects of climate change, reducing crop losses, and using rice straw in an environmentally sustainable way for added income for farmers.

Through German funding, a seed drying and sorting facility was built at IRRI headquarters (back of this page) that will increase the processing and storage capacity of the International Rice Genebank by 40%. Construction started in early 2015 and was completed in time for the opening of the facility in April 2016.



A seed processing facility for IRRI's next phase

The Genetic Resources Seed Processing Laboratory (GRSPL) opened on 13 April 2016, with H.E. Thomas Ossowski, ambassador of Germany to the Philippines, cutting the ribbon with Matthew Morell, director general of IRRI.

The new facility, built with support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), provides a modern infrastructure as well as process upgrades critical to the seed processing function of IRRI's T.T. Chang Genetic Resources Center, which handles conservation of global rice diversity through the International Rice Genebank and provides germplasm for rice research and breeding programs at IRRI and across the globe.

The genebank collection continues to grow in size and usage, with more than 181,000 samples shipped to 65 countries over the last five years. The GRSPL will make it possible to address the growing volume of accessions and requests for seeds without compromising seed quality, handling standards, and end-user needs.

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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