

## Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

ORGANISM (ORGA)

BCH-ORGA-SCBD-10454-5

LAST UPDATED: 21 FEB 2014

### Organism information

Scientific name

Oryza sativa

Taxonomic Classification

Kingdom Plantae  
Phylum Magnoliophyta  
Class Liliopsida  
Order Cyperales  
Family Poaceae  
Genus Oryza  
Species Oryza sativa

Common name(s)

Rice

EN

ORYSA

EN

Type of organism

Crops

Domestication

Domesticated

### Characteristics related to biosafety

Centre(s) of genetic diversity

The wild progenitors of *Oryza sativa* are the Asian common wild rices, which show a wide range of variation from perennial to annual types.

Domestication of Asian rice, *O. sativa*, is considered to have occurred in 15,000 to 10,000 BC. Annual forms might have gradually developed in northeastern and eastern India, northern Southeast Asia and southern China. They spread and diversified to form two ecological groups, Indica and Japonica. Other studies indicate that the two groups were derived independently from the domestication of two divergent wild rices in Southeast Asia and China, respectively.

EN

The wild progenitors of African cultivated rice, *O. glaberrima*, are grasses endemic to West Africa. *O. glaberrima* is considered to have been domesticated in the Niger River delta.

#### Geographical distribution

Rice is now cultivated as far north as the banks of the Amur River (53° N) on the border between Russia and China, and as far south as central Argentina (40° S). It is grown in cool climates in the mountains of Nepal and India, and under irrigation in the hot deserts of Pakistan, Iran and Egypt. It is an upland crop in parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. At the other environmental extreme are floating rices, which thrive in seasonally deeply flooded areas such as river deltas - the Mekong in Vietnam, the Chao Phraya in Thailand, the Irrawady in Myanmar, and the Ganges-Brahmaputra in Bangladesh and eastern India, for example. Rice can also be grown in areas with saline, alkali or acid-sulphate soils. Clearly, it is well adapted to diverse growing conditions.

EN

#### Common use(s)

Feed  
Food

### Additional Information

Rice is grown worldwide and is a staple food for about a half of the world's population. It is a nutritious grain crop which contains carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, minerals, etc. Rice straw is an important animal feed in many countries.

EN

#### Other relevant website addresses and/or attached documents

? [OECD Consensus Document on the Biology of \*Oryza sativa\* \(Rice\).pdf](#) ( *English* )

[BCH-ORGA-SCBD-10454-5](#)

## Further Information

Questions about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

413 rue Saint-Jacques, suite 800  
Montreal, Québec, H2Y 1N9  
Canada

Fax: +1 514 288-6588

Email: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)