

Application of new technologies for rice research has attracted a major attention over the last couple of years. Several interesting initiatives have been launched in Asia and at other places. We provide here a select list of web sites giving details about some of such initiatives.

<http://www.knowledgebank.irri.org>

Rice Knowledge Bank is one of the world's first digital extension services for those who provide information and support for farmers (and their NGOs). It is also the first comprehensive, digital rice-production library containing an ever-increasing wealth of information on training and rice production. Taking the very latest and best ideas from the private sector's work in this area, the Rice Knowledge Bank is providing government extension officers, NGOs, and all others interested with access to rice knowledge and training information.

<http://www.brribd.org>

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) is a major component of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of Bangladesh, dealing with research and development in relation to rice production. Research for the development of new rice varieties and production technologies for the diverse ecosystems existing in Bangladesh are conducted at the BRRI main station at Gazipur and at *nine regional stations*. BRRI conducts research on all aspects of rice, demonstrate improved technologies to the farmers, train up extension personnel regarding modern rice technology, and to publish booklets and leaflets for rapid transfer of technologies.

<http://www.philrice.gov.ph/>

The Philippines Rice Research Institute (Phil Rice) undertakes, coordinates, and funds a national R&D programme for rice and rice-based farming systems. It also coordinates the national network of rice

R&D stations in the different agro-ecological regions of the country and provides timely information for policy formulation that will stimulate rice production, marketing and consumption.

<http://ricecuttackindia.tripod.com/>

India established a Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), in 1946 at Cuttack, with 60 hectares of farm provided by the Government of Orissa which was later transferred to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1966. The Mandate of the CRRI is to improve income and quality of life of rice farmers of India, particularly the resource poor rice farmers of rain fed ecosystem of eastern India.

<http://irdc.ia.ac.cn/cistc/english/add/Detail.asp?class=14&id=21018&column=768>

China National Rice Research Institute (CNRRI) is an integrated research institute of multi-disciplines with rice as its major research subject. It was established in Hang Zhou, Zhejiang Province as approved by the Chinese State Council in June 1981, and the inauguration was held in 1989. CNRRI is the largest agricultural research institute invested by the state since the founding of the People's Republic of China. At present, it is under dual leadership of the Chinese Academy of Agriculture Science and the Zhejiang People's Government. CNRRI focuses on basic and applicable basic research with priority on solving significant scientific and technical problems in rice production. It is engaged in rice research at population, individual, tissue, cell, and molecular levels.

<http://www.drrindia.org/>

The Directorate of Rice Research (DRR), formerly All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project (AICRIP), was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1965 with its national headquarters at Hyderabad. DRR in its 37th year of useful existence has contributed significantly in overall rice production front which has ensured food security for the country.

<http://www.rice.ac.lk/>

Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI) in Sri Lanka plays a major role in the country's rice sector by releasing new high yielding rice varieties and introducing improved rice production and protection technologies to help farmers realize the yield potentials of the varieties

that they grow. The research and development programmes at RRDI focuses on increasing farm productivity, reducing cost of production and improving grain quality of rice. Efforts were made to develop techniques that will help increase rice plant's nutrient use efficiency. A need base fertilizer application method is being tested. This would help maximize effectiveness of fertilizers applied and reduce cost of production. Other agronomic practices to reduce production costs are being tested.

<http://www.irri.org/ARBN/>

The Asian Rice Biotechnology Network (ARBN) was established at IRRI in 1993 to help national agricultural research systems (NARS) institutes in Asia to apply biotechnology tools to improve rice production. ARBN, through its training and collaborative research activities, provides a unique mechanism for NARS institutes to access relevant knowledge and biotechnology tools to solve their rice production problems.

<http://www.asiariceusa.org/>

The Asia Rice Foundation USA (ARFUSA) organized in 1999 by a group of people with roots in Asia supports work toward a world that can feed itself, treasures the rich heritage of its rice cultures and values its rice growing land as a precious commodity to be shared with future generations. ARFUSA makes study and travel grants to help young people learn about rice in Asia by going to Asia to study aspects of rice production, marketing, consumption, policy or to create art or interpret culture related to rice in Asia.

<http://www.medrice.unito.it/>

MED-RICE (Inter-regional Co-operative Research Network on Rice in the Mediterranean Climate Areas) was created in 1990 by FAO with support from the Regional Office for Europe (REU), Regional Office for the Near-East (RNE) and the Crop and Grassland Service (AGPC), with collaboration from INRA and National Agricultural Research Centers (NARS). This network is part of the inter-regional and regional networks on rice and field projects, and it is supported by the International Rice Commission (IRC) and the Rice Development Programme (RDP) of FAO. The objective of MED-RICE is to promote scientific exchanges among rice scientists in the Mediterranean area and in the other world regions with a Mediterranean climate.