# RICE IN ASIA

Edited by
THE ASSOCIATION OF
JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL
SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES



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#### **PREFACE**

Composed of more than twenty different academic associations of specialists in various fields of the science of agriculture in Japan, the Association of Japanese Agricultural Scientific Societies represents Japanese agricultural scientists in the most comprehensive manner.

The Association of Japanese Agricultural Scientific Societies, in close collaboration with its member societies, has been sponsoring each year several inter-disciplinary symposia on subjects of scientific importance having to do with agriculture.

Especially important among the subjects of symposia are, of course, problems involved in the cultivation and processing of rice, not only because rice occupies the central position among crops cultivated in Japan, but also because more than half the population of the world relies on rice. In view of the recent population explosion taking place on the global scale, many people fear that the supply of food grains will fail to meet the demand in the years to come. Population is growing at an extremely rapid rate in developing countries of the tropical or quasitropical areas of the world, where rice is the main food grain and where the shortage of food is already being keenly felt. In these areas efforts for an increase in the production of rice are considered the most essential prerequisite for fundamental solutions of almost all the problems prevalent there.

For the past several years, the Association of Japanese Agricultural Scientific Societies has sponsored a series of symposia on the theme of "rice in the world," as a forum for Japanese agricultural scientists to report on and discuss the results of on-the-spot investigations and researches on rice conducted in various parts of the world.

This document is a collection of reports on rice in Asia presented at these symposia. It is being published in English in the hope that these reports will prove useful as reference materials for those engaged in activities aiming at increasing rice production in Asian countries.

The credit for the original planning and implementation of the series of symposia is largely due to Dr. Yusuke Sumiki, former president of the Association, and Dr. Yasuo Kondo, former vice president of the Associa-

tion. On this occasion I would like to express my sincere gratitude for their efforts on behalf of the Association.

August, 1974

YUICHI OCHI President The Association of Japanese Agricultural Scientific Societies

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#### Introduction

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Rice is the greatest food plant in the world. Most peoples in Asia and many other tropical and subtropical countries live on rice.

Almost all cultivated rice plants belong to Oryza sativa L. which originated in Asia. They are divided roughly into two subspecies, Indica and Japonica.

Indica is adapted to the tropical zone and Japonica has evolved for the temperate zone. Between these two typical subspecies, rice has differentiated into many kinds of ecotypes according to local conditions. Each ecotype has a different response to day length, temperature, soil fertility or water supply. Accordingly, different ecotypes of rice are cultivated corresponding to differences in paddy fields, growth seasons, and/or methods of cultivation.

In general, Indica rice is mainly grown in tropical and subtropical zones and Japonica rice is cultivated in mountainous regions and temperate zones. Recently, improved varieties which have been bred by selection and hybridization at the International Rice Research Institute and agricultural experimental stations in various countries are being introduced more widely. Improved varieties give high yields when field conditions are well-controlled and high-level culture techniques including fertilizer application and pest control are used. However, rice culture conditions in South-East Asia are not always well-controlled.

Rice culture in Asia is mainly done with the aid of natural precipitation in the monsoon season. Though irrigation facilities for rice culture exist in some temperate regions and a part of the tropical zone, most rice culture in South-East Asia is regulated by natural precipitation. Thus, rice growth in this area is unstable and the average yield of rice per unit area is generally low.

Recently, rice yields in some parts of south-east Asia have gradually increased due to the introduction of improved varieties and application of chemical fertilizers. On the other hand, however, in proportion to the application of chemical fertilizers, insects and diseases have gradually increased too. Uncontrolled application of pesticides may cause environmental hazards in these areas. Methods of pest control suitable for the ecological conditions in tropical rice culture should be applied on the basis of investigations of rice physiology and the local ecology of insects and diseases.

Rice is a staple food in Japan. Paddy fields are distributed over all Japan. However, because Japan is located at the northern limit for rice growth, rice culture frequently suffered due to low temperature and pests. Rice yield in the past was poor and unstable due to the weather conditions.

Since 1894, Japan imported rice for long time due to the increasing population after the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Therefore, research on rice production, such as land improvement, rice breeding, culture techniques, etc., have been carried out in this country. As a result, rice yield per unit area has gradually increased and stabilized.

Besides technical improvements in rice culture, the policy of land reform and the price-guarantee system for rice production have increased rice production considerably. Self-sufficiency in rice was attained in Japan by 1955. Since then, rice production has surpassed the indigenous demand due to the decreasing rice consumption per head.

Self-sufficiency in rice has played an important role in the economic reconstruction of Japan after World War II.

On the other hand, however, rice and paddy fields have become badly polluted, and the human environment in Japan has been degraded by the excess application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to rice. In the face of such environmental problems Japanese scientists have started to seek new techniques for rice culture which are harmless to the environment under high-yield conditions.

Recently, a number of Japanese experts on rice culture have visited many rice-growing countries in the world. Some of them, in the course of technical aid from the Japanese Government or FAO to the developing countries, have investigated rice and rice culture in south-east Asia, collaborating with local scientists.

The Association of Japanese Agricultural Scientific Societies (AJASS) has held symposia on "Rice in the World" and collected the results of these investigations. The symposia were expected to give some suggestions for the improvement of rice culture in Japan and to contribute to the advance of rice cultivation throughout the world.

Symposia were held 10 times during the 7 years from 1966 to 1972.

Subjects and topics presented by the speakers are listed at the end of this article.

The Symposia Committee for "Rice in the World" was organized in the AJASS for planning, arrangement and management of the symposia. Each member of the Committee was the chairman of a subcommittee in each participating society.

Members of the Committee are as follows:

Takane Matsuo (Vice President of the AJASS), Chairman

Masaki Horie (Japanese Society of Breeding)

Shin-ichi Takagi (Japanese Society of Applied Entomology and Zoology)

Yasuo Ohta (Crop Science Society of Japan)

Takeyuki Mizukami (Phytopathological Society of Japan)

Ryohachiro Nakamura (Japanese Society of Zootechnical Science)

Keizaburo Kawaguchi (Society of the Science of Soil and Manure, Japan)

Yukio Ozawa (Society of Agricultural Meteorology of Japan)

Kenzo Henmi (Agricultural Economic Society of Japan)

Saburo Tamura (Agricultural Chemical Society of Japan)

Toshio Yawata (Japanese Society of Irrigation, Drainage and Reclamation Engineering)

Isamu Yamanaka (Society of Agricultural Machinery, Japan)

This book contains papers presented in the symposia, selected from topics concerned with rice culture in Asia. Editing has been done by the Committee. The Committee is grateful to Prof. I. Yamanaka for collecting and arranging the manuscripts in this book.

### Symposia on "Rice in the World"

(held in 1966-1972)

- 1. The First Preparatory Symposium: "General Problems of Rice Culture in the World" (on 29 Nov. 1966)
  - 1) Rice Culture and Damage to Rice Caused by Insect Pests (by H. Ishikura)
  - 2) The Present Status and Problems of the Mechanization of the Rice Farming in South-East Asia (by S. Niizeki)
  - 3) Rice Production in South-East Asia and Some Nearby Countries (by N. Yamada)
  - 4) Studies on Methods of Fertilizer Application on Rice in South-East Asia (by S. Nishigaki)
  - 5) Water Utilization for Rice Culture in South-East Asia (by K. Takeda)