

Glimpses of Rice Technology

R. A. Raju



**GLIMPSES OF
RICE TECHNOLOGY**

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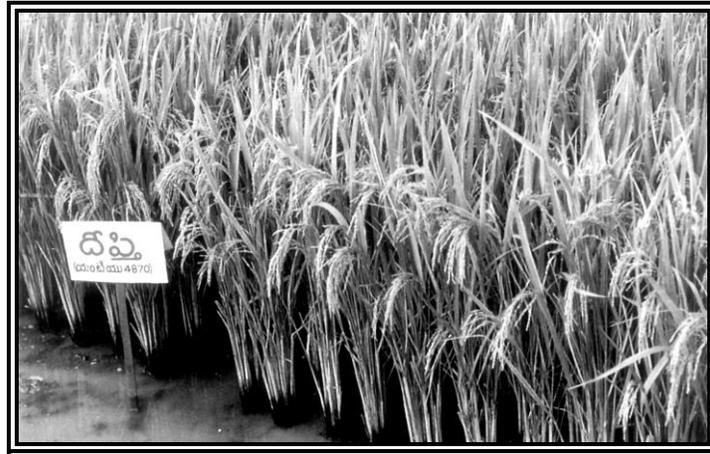
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DEDICATION

*To the millions of rice farmers
Who are least fortunate
Straining in soaking rains and hot sun
Sharing me their rich field experiences and
Introduce into the mysteries of crop science
treated me one among them with
great warmth and hospitality.*



Although it is difficult and may not be happy one has to accept the gifts of natural world and pay respect to the laws of mother nature. Because ignorance re is always seldom better than the Wisdom

Enricko Fermi

Prelude

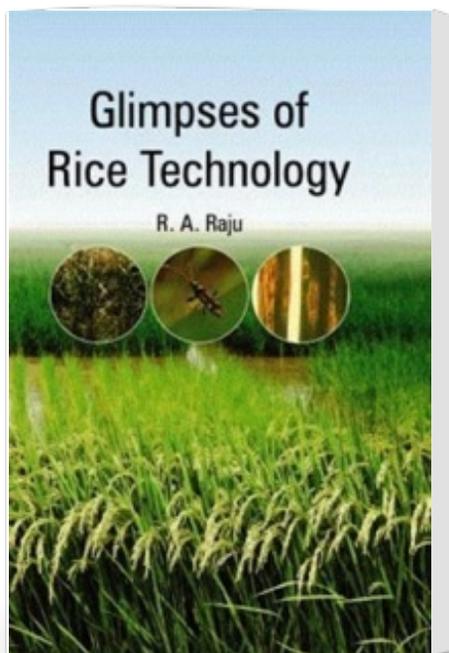
Rice is grown in 112 countries in the world, covering every continent, and is consumed by 2500 million people in developing countries. Selected from two species more than 4000 years ago, rice presents an extraordinary range of genetic diversity enabling it to tolerate and thrive in many hostile and unlikely habitats. Among cereals, rice is the major source of calories for about 40% of the world population. Every third person on earth eats rice every day in one form or other.

In 1988, about 146 million hectares of land were planted with a rice with a production of 483.5 million tonnes. More than 90 percent of rice is produced and consumed in Asia. World rice production rose from 347 million tonnes in 1974 to 506 million tonnes in 1990 an increase of 46 per cent. This increase has affected the lives of millions of farmers and has reduced the risk of famine in densely populated Asia.

Reliable estimates indicate that 560 million tonnes of paddy by the year 2000 and 760 million tonnes of paddy by the year 2020 just to keep up with population growth in Asia. The doubling of rice production that has occurred in the last 25 years has been achieved mainly by the interplay of high yielding varieties, irrigation facilities and increased use of fertilizers.

As we enter the 21st century, with a decade of rice research experience to build on, there is a need to increase the rice production for the stability of the rice-eating world. A great body of knowledge emanating from rice research has remained

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