

Innovation With Impact:

China Shares its Innovative Capacity, “Green Super Rice,” to Help Feed the World



China, a world leader in rice research, is lending its expertise to agricultural researchers in Africa and Asia to help increase productivity and, ultimately, food security.

Problem: To meet growing demand, many poor countries spend precious resources importing rice. African countries account for about one-third of global rice imports.

- Three billion people globally depend on rice as a daily staple and 80 percent of the world’s rice farmers grow rice as their staple food.
- Africa’s rice yields are less than one-third of what could be produced with access to better seeds and farming practices. But most poor countries have limited knowledge to develop improved crops, and global agribusiness has focused on improving crops for wealthier regions.
- There’s a need for rice varieties that can withstand drought, flooding, and disease, and increase yields in Africa and Asia.

Innovation: Based on its own experience and world-class technical expertise, China is supporting the development of new rice varieties to address the specific growing conditions and preferences in Africa and Asia.

China’s Green Super Rice (GSR) program is driving the development and distribution of new rice varieties for poor countries, by sharing its advanced breeding knowledge to help poor countries.

- As part of GSR, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences is partnering with nationally-based researchers and seed suppliers in eight African countries and four countries in South Asia.
- China also plans to sequence 10,000 varieties of rice to discover important traits needed for drought and heat tolerance, and disease resistance. It is perhaps the only country in the world able to carry out this work in a cost-effective way.

Impact: In just two years, this innovative partnership is opening new opportunities for farmers and researchers in poor countries.

- Twenty new GSR varieties able to withstand drought, salty soils, submergence, and disease are ready for national testing in countries across Africa and Asia.
- GSR has trained more than 480 technicians and researchers in cutting-edge rice breeding technologies; and has set up seed production sites in Indonesia in collaboration with Sanyan Seed, a state-owned company that produces 40 percent of the country's rice seed.

More Information: www.thegsr.org