



RICE

## Rice in Ceylon



"Living Manure." For months before the rice is planted, water buffaloes are allowed to wallow all day in the flooded fields

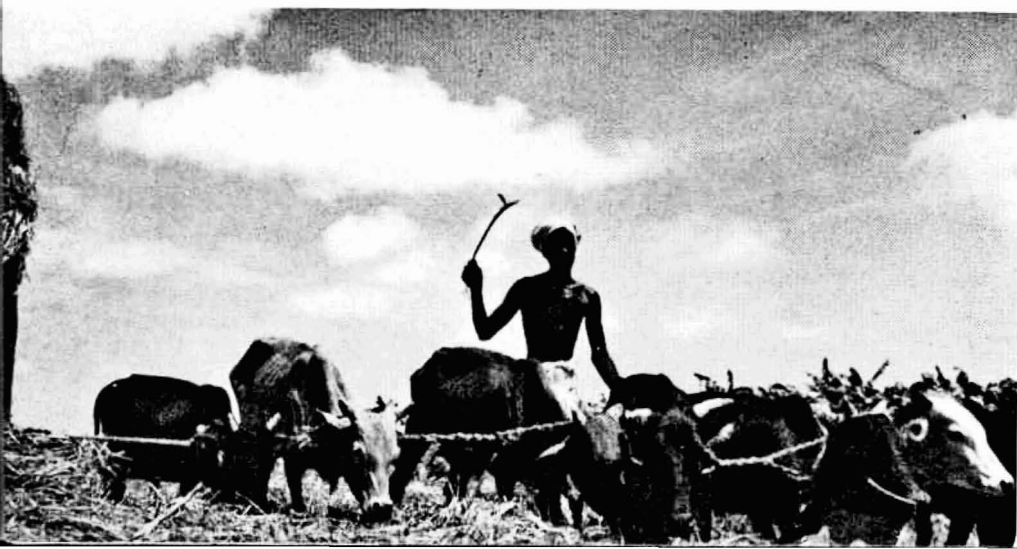
Curry and rice for the children of laborers. The law in Ceylon provides that the plantation owner must give one free meal a day to the children of his workers



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Over 90% of the world's rice crop is produced and consumed in Asia. The daily life of the rural populations of nations as far apart as Japanese and Malaysians, Koreans and Filipinos, Chinese and Indians, Thailanders and Singhalese revolves around the growing and consuming of rice

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For 2,000 years this has been the method in Ceylon of threshing rice. By stamping on the ears the oxen separate the grains from the straw

## RICE, ASIA'S STAFF OF LIFE



J a v a

Like ballet dancers the golden sheaves of rice stand in the sun

C h i n a

This Chinese farmer is laboriously pumping water to irrigate his precious rice-fields with the same primitive treadmill used by his ancestors for thousands of years



Rice in China



Rice being carried from native craft into the storehouses of the big city



The pattern of this mill which turns rice grains into rice flour has not been changed in China for 3,000 years. Walking around it in endless revolutions the man turns the heavy millstone

His daily bowl of rice





## Rice-planting ceremony in Japan

Rice-shoots in the place of honor at the entrance of a Buddhist temple, while three high priests, whose shoes can be seen on the pavement, are praying for a good harvest

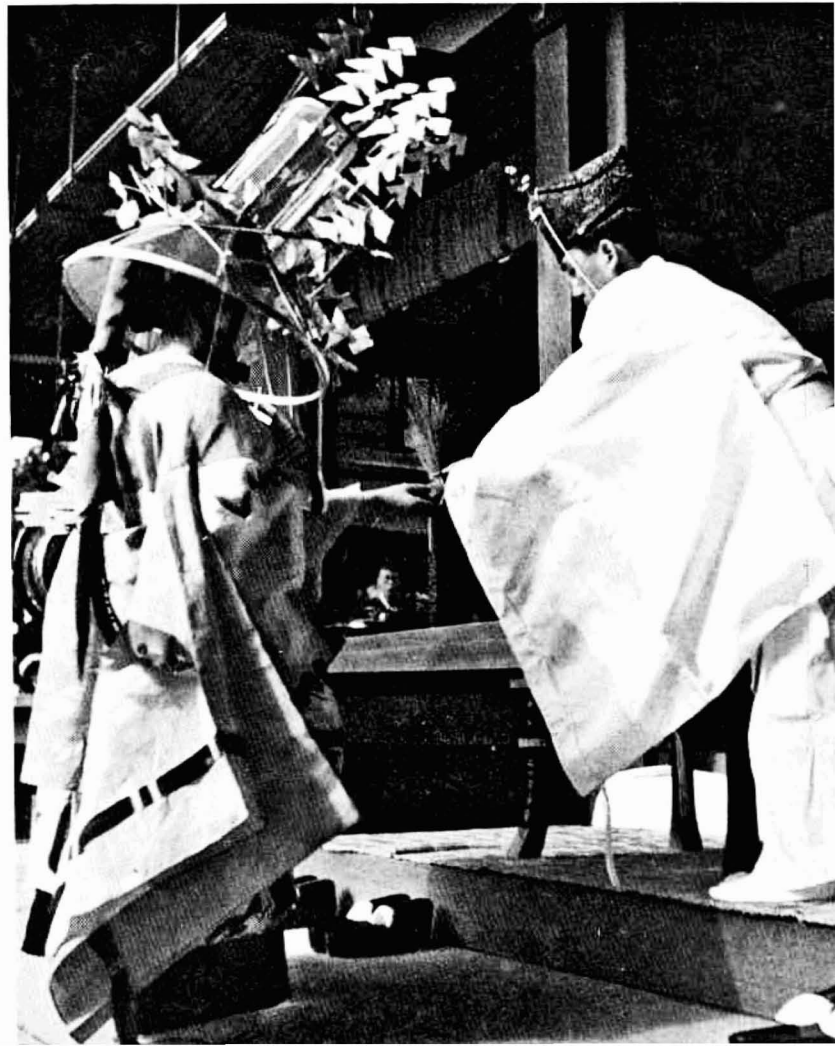
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It is known that rice was the main staple of India and China as early as 3000 B.C. It was first mentioned in writing in a Sanskrit text dating from the year 1000 B.C. and is called *vr̥hi*, from which the Greek *oryza* and the Arabic *arouz* were derived. Europe first became acquainted with rice through the Indian campaign of Alexander the Great

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The shoots are ceremoniously handed by the priests to elaborately dressed geisha girls

Rice  
in  
Japan

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So essential is rice in the lives of the people that it holds a position of veneration and its cultivation is surrounded by religious ceremonies

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The geisha girls do a solemn dance before passing on the shoots of rice to the farmers



The shoots being planted by farmers in festive costume

