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## RICE!

by

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- \* Rice is earth's most important crop. It feeds half of mankind.
- \* It is increasing at 2% per year.
- \* 90% of the world's rice is grown and eaten in Asia.
- \* It will double by the year 2000.
- \* Rice is either the primary or secondary staple food of nine tenths of the low-income people in the most densely populated regions of the world.
- \* *In the poor nations, population is increasing at the rate of 2.5% per year.*
- \* *A third of mankind — 1.3 billion people — depends on rice for more than half of its food.*
- \* This population will double in about 25 years.
- \* For another 400 million people, rice is a major secondary staple, providing from 25 to 50% of their total food.
- \* Population increases are among the highest in most rice-consuming countries.
- \* In some countries, rice supplies more than half of the total protein consumed.
- \* *Consequently, demands for rice are expected to increase by 30% in the next 10 years.*
- \* *To many, rice truly means life.*
- \* The world food situation remains serious. In 1972, bad weather slashed rice and wheat production by 10% in some countries.
- \* The average annual income of those who depend primarily on rice is only \$80.
- \* Most of the poor, over-populated countries, where two-thirds of mankind lives, were already importing food at that time.
- \* The pressure of population continues to mount in poor nations. The earth's population today is 3.8 billion.
- \* The precarious balance between supply and demand for rice is illustrated by the effect of adverse weather conditions in 1972 on the adequacy of the supply of rice and, especially, on its price.

\* When rice became limited, prices doubled and even tripled within a few months in some countries, and this most severely affected those least able to pay the soaring prices.

\* For example, in the Philippines, before the price increase, people were already spending 37% of their meager incomes on rice. After the price increase, they had to spend 74% to purchase the same amount of rice.

\* This table shows the effect of different rice prices on the proportion of income spent on rice by four income classes in the Philippines in 1973.

Average Annual per capita income (in dollars)	Annual per capita rice consumption (kg.)	Percent of income spent on rice at \$0.133/kg	Percent of income spent on rice at \$0.266/kg
35	95	37	74
85	100	16	32
150	103	9	18
500	105	3	6

\* Thus, abundant rice production is critical not only to the rice farmers struggling to make a living on their small farms, but also to the landless laborers and to the low-income workers in villages and cities.

\* The Philippines is the site of the leading international institute for the study and improvement of rice — the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

\* The Institute's major activity is a comprehensive research program on the rice plant and its management.

\* IRRI was established in 1960 by the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, in cooperation with the Philippine government.

\* At present, the Institute has an annual budget of about US\$3,000,000 contributed by the two foundations, by agencies of the governments of the U.S.A., United Kingdom, Japan and Canada, and by the World Bank.

\* IRRI is located 40 miles southeast of Manila, adjacent to the College of Agriculture of UP at Los Baños, Laguna. It began its research program in 1962.

\* The Institute maintains a Library and Documentation Center to collect and provide access to the world's literature on rice.

\* One annual publication is an index of about 2,500 documents concerning rice, sent to rice researchers and to libraries throughout the world. Most of the documents are found in the IRRI Library.

\* Besides undertaking research, the IRRI

*operates an information service*

*conducts regional rice research projects in cooperation with scientists in other countries*

*offers a resident training program where scientists and extension workers from rice-growing countries of the world may carry out studies of the rice plant and learn techniques of rice production*

*conducts international seminars and workshops to allow participants to pool their experience*

*summarizes present knowledge about rice production*

*identifies important unresolved problems*

\* The Institute's research facilities, which constitute the whole modern complex, include:

*a single-storey, air-conditioned building housing the Institute's laboratories and staff officers*

*a plant experimentation center containing special laboratories*

*a number of greenhouses, photo-period chambers, and a bird-and-rodent-proof screenhouse*

*an 80-hectare experimental farm with an underground irrigation system and surface drainage ditches which allow plots to be flooded or drained at any time of the year*

*a service building housing the facilities related to the operation of the experimental fields, the maintenance offices and the motorpool*

*an administrative building containing the executive offices, the Library and Documentation Center, a 200-seat auditorium, a seminar room, and the offices of several departments*

*a women's dormitory for 36 secretaries, scholars, and researchers*

*a men's dormitory for 56 scholars and researchers.*

*a 100-seat cafeteria*

\* The newest addition to the complex is the *phytotron* — a plant growth facility in which the environment can be controlled and manipulated.

\* Constructed by the Australian government at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, the building is scheduled to go into operation this year.

\* Through this building, scientists will be able to simulate many of the climatic conditions under which rice grows in different regions, and can measure how the rice plant responds to these conditions.

\* IRRI's senior scientific staff is made up of 25 persons from eight different countries, plus 20 scientists assigned to international projects.

\* The Institute employs a total of 600 persons, 95% of whom are Filipinos.

\* Dr. Robert F. Chandler, Jr., former director of IRRI, says:

*"Our trouble is not with rice.*

*It is with people!"*

*We know what to do,  
to make the rice grow.*

*Our difficulty is — how  
to get people to do it!*

*The problem is not agriculture.  
The problem is communications!"*

\* This may be one of the reasons why the University of the Philippines at Los Baños has launched a new course called: *Agricultural Communications*.

\* It is unique.

\* In 1970, the Philippines, producing 5.3 million tons of rice, only ranked 11th among the leading rice-producing countries.

\* The paddy rice production in different countries, in 1970:

	(million tons)
Mainland China	97.5
India	63.7
Pakistan	20.0
Indonesia	17.5
Japan	15.9
Thailand	13.3
Burma	8.1
Brazil	6.3
South Vietnam	5.7
South Korea	5.6
Philippines	5.3
United States	3.8

\* The center of rice research, for the world, is right here in the Philippines. From all over Asia, scholars come to us, to learn about rice production.

\* We teach them, and they go home, to produce more rice than we do.

# FOOD!

\* A Declaration on Food and Population, signed by some 500 intellectuals and scientific leaders from 85 countries, was presented to United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

\* Representing the signers at the presentation were a group of Nobel prize winners, food scientists, writers and scholars.

\* *The group, which constituted itself as a Committee on Food and Population, urged the Secretary-General to use the full influence of his office to assure that U.N. member governments take the necessary steps to create a system of world food security, including action to avoid outbreaks of famine.*

\* The presentation group, which drew up the Declaration, included:

**Doctor Norman E. Borlaug**

*Nobel prize winner*

*Father of the Green Revolution*

**Doctor Gunnar Myrdal**

*of Sweden*

**Doctor B.R. Sen**

*of India*

*former Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization*

\* The Declaration was read by Lord Snow, the British author, who writes under the name of C.P. Snow.

\* The appeal was made in the course of the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which considered issues of raw material and development.

\* One of the group's major aims is to mobilize the greatest possible public support for the World Food Conference, to be held in Rome in November.

\* *The Conference, the first of its kind ever held, will attempt to hammer out political agreements to assure at least minimally adequate world food production and distribution with realistic provisions for adequate carry-over stocks.*

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