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## Adoption and diffusion of modern rice varieties in Bangladesh and eastern India

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Rice is the most important food crop, particularly for India and Bangladesh, which rank second and fourth, respectively, among the rice-producing countries in the world. The Green Revolution, through the introduction of modern varieties (accompanied by fertilizer and irrigation), helped to substantially increase rice productivity starting in the late 1960s. However, the adoption of modern varieties has displaced a large number of traditional varieties and contributed to an erosion of biodiversity. Many traditional rice varieties have completely disappeared; yet, despite the allegedly inferior yield of traditional varieties, farmers still grow many of them. Heterogeneous agroecological conditions (soils, elevation, and climate), access to seed markets, farmers'/consumers' preference for special traits of certain varieties, etc., largely explain the diversity as well as concentration of rice varieties in different regions.

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