

# THE CO-EVOLUTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF RICE & THE DIVERSITY OF CULTIVATION METHODS

Diversity of rice seed is directly linked to a diversity of cultivation methods arisen from a diversity of ecological contexts. This co-evolution has created a trove of farmer knowledge as throughout time the farmer, the variety and ecology have created resilience through an open system giving us today's rice agrobiodiversity.

Farmers select best seed of open pollinated crops

Development of local varieties that are adapted to the local environment and climate and to the needs and preferences of the local communities

Farmers evolve these seeds through time, selecting for taste, nutrition, and ecological resilience through time



Local communities, adapt and develop biodiverse cultivation methods to ensure harvest

# THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF RICE

Farmers fall into debt, environment is degraded and hybrid rice fails its promise. New seed is needed to maintain profits under excuse of "climate smart"

Rice seeds that have been bred by farmers for centuries are captured by private companies and research institutes (IRRI, CGIAR...). Seeds are no longer accessible to farmers

These patented seeds are sold back to farmers, making them dependent not only on buying hybrid seeds, but also the agrochemicals that are necessary to grow them



These "new" "industrialized rice seeds are patented by private corporations

Genetic manipulation and hybridization takes place to 'improve' rice seeds response to chemicals. Rice is conserved ex situ and through digital sequencing of specific traits (climate resilience..)

# THE IMPORTANCE OF RICE DIVERSITY



Local rice seeds are adapted to the local climate and ecological conditions, with specific traits like drought resistance or flood resistance. This creates resilience in times of climate change and ensures food security.

Local rice seeds can be grown using traditional or agroecological practices, putting an end to farmers' dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides while protecting ecosystems.



Local rice seeds are part of the identity and traditional knowledge of indigenous communities. They have crucial cultural and religious significance.

Traditional rice seeds lead to healthy and nutritious food. Each variety has different culinary qualities associated with specific traditional meals, and some also have medicinal properties.



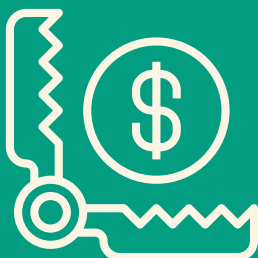
Local seeds are essential to food sovereignty and autonomous, local food communities, with no reliance to external chemical inputs

# THE DANGERS OF HYBRID RICE



Imported hybrid rice requires intensive farming practices, with chemical fertilizers and pesticides that pollute the environment and threaten the health of farmers and local communities.

Hybrid seeds lead to the erasure of biodiversity and local identity with the decline of agrobiodiversity and standardisation of limited rice varieties.



Hybrid rice seeds take power and control away from farmers and communities, trapping them in a vicious economic model, making them reliant on external inputs.

Hybrid rice replaces healthy and traditional foods, eliminating biodiversity, and self subsistence, while also leading to people eating rice of lower nutritional quality laced with chemicals.



Patented hybrid rice varieties lead to the concentration of private interests, allowing corporations and biased research institutes (CGIAR, IRRI...) to take over this staple crop to maximize profits.