

# Rice Biodiversity Center for Africa, AfricaRice, Ivory Coast



## AfricaRice

### Genebank at a Glance

<b>Full name</b>	Rice Biodiversity Center for Africa
<b>Country</b>	Ivory Coast
<b>Year established</b>	1999
<b>Conservation methods and facilities</b>	Seed
<b>Number of staff</b>	11
<b>Total number of accessions</b>	22,797
<b>Number of accessions distributed annually</b>	3,760

### Recent Highlights

- The Rice Biodiversity Center for Africa houses an extensive collection of African rice, comprising 22,797 accessions. It has a capacity to store 60,000 accessions.
- The majority of the accessions (85%) originate from Africa, showcasing the genebank's commitment to preserving African crop diversity, including related wild species.
- The genebank has provided accessions that led to the development of over 200 high-yielding rice varieties resilient to stress and adaptable to climate change.
- Germplasm from the genebank served as donor parents for pioneering New Rice for Africa (NERICA) varieties during the 1990s and 2000s, as well as the Advanced Rice for Africa (ARICA) varieties in the 2010s. The success of NERICA varieties marked an important milestone, showing how crossing the two primary cultivated rice species could lead to significant impact.
- The genebank characterizes germplasm enhances use by means of molecular approaches. This includes genomic profiling for comprehensive genetic characterization and a strategic subsetting approach for focused phenotypic evaluation.
- The genebank is involved in pre-breeding, laying foundational groundwork to develop genetic material with improved traits to be taken up by breeding programmes.



[www.africarice.org](http://www.africarice.org)

