

# International Rice Genebank, IRRI, Philippines



## Genebank at a Glance

<b>Full name</b>	International Rice Genebank
<b>Country</b>	Philippines
<b>Year established</b>	1960
<b>Conservation methods and facilities</b>	Seed
<b>Number of staff</b>	49
<b>Total number of accessions</b>	132,627
<b>Number of accessions distributed annually</b>	13,584

## Recent Highlights

- The International Rice Genebank (IRG), maintained by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), applies and/or develops innovative tools and technologies to increase the efficiency of its operations, as well as to enhance its understanding of the collection and pre-breeding processes.
- IRG's activities include the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning to identify accessions based on seed images, development of single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) chips to identify taxonomic groupings, high-throughput genotyping to understand the diversity of the collection, optimization of novel methods to regenerate wild species, and the use of drones to collect data from the field.
- IRG works closely with National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) to introduce new and unique germplasm in addition to evaluating the collections in various South and Southeast Asian countries. By doing so, the team leverages genotype-environment interaction (GxE) and capitalizes on its potential benefits. This initiative aims to assess the adaptability and performance of these accessions under field conditions.
- IRG provided more than 5,000 Philippines accessions to local farmers in the South-Central region of Luzon, Philippines. These farmers heavily rely on the coconut industry as their primary source of livelihood but wanted to explore new crops for additional income.

