

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Genetic improvement
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Keyword 1	: Hybrid rice
Keyword 2	: Breeding for future markets/novel products
Keyword 3	: Genetic gain
Title of Entry	: Farmers' experiences of past 25-years with hybrid rice: Lessons from selected south and southeast Asian countries
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**Abstract** : Consumer demand for rice consumption continues to rise, driven by increasing population growth and income levels of low-income class people. Thus, Asia's food economy cannot be sustained without increasing rice yield growth to meet food needs by 2050, as arable land is shrinking due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. Therefore boosting rice production and making it available to consumers at affordable prices is always at the top of the political agenda for national governments for economic growth, social security, and political stability In Asia. The demonstrated significant contribution of hybrid rice to China's food security in the 1970s and 80s motivated the rest of Asian countries especially in the tropics to explore the potential of hybrid rice to sustain yield growth thereby food security. The rigorous efforts of hybrid rice R&D over the past three decades has resulted in the development and release of 535 rice hybrids in South and Southeast Asia , by both the public and private sector. It was projected that hybrid rice would contribute to yield growth in tropical Asia, keeping in view the Chinese success. This paper provides a comprehensive insights into farmers' experiences with hybrid rice cultivation and seed production based on series of farm-level impact studies carried out by author in India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam between 1993 and 2015. Results compiled from various studies indicate that the adoption rate of hybrid rice so far is considerably slower than the projected rate in many countries outside China. Only 2 to 5% of rice area is planted to hybrid rice in the selected south and southeast Asian countries. This paper assesses the pace and pattern of hybrid rice adoption and its impact, and key challenges to large scale adoption of hybrid rice. Considering the hybrid rice in the context of traditional bell shaped adoption trajectories, it discuss why several hybrid varieties do not pass the inflation point to move on to a higher adoption trajectory.

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