Rice, *Oryza sativa*, L., is the staple food crop of Japan. The rice crop occupies about 53% of the total cultivated area, while wheat and barley together occupy only 30% of the crop land. The comparative acreage, production, and yield per acre of rice in Japan and in the United States for the 10-year period from 1936 to 1945 is given in Table 1.

There has been a gradual increase in the cultivated area, production, and yield per unit area of rice in Japan during the 60 years from 1883 to 1942. When a comparison is made of the 5-year periods that ended in 1887 and in 1942, the increase in area has been about 22%, that of production about 88%, and that of yield per unit area 54%. These increases are attributed to the use of large quantities of fertilizers and to the use of improved varieties. Yields have declined somewhat since 1942 because of inadequate supplies of commercial fertilizers.

GENERAL TYPES OF RICE

In general, rice in Japan proper is classified as paddy and upland, or as common (nonglutinous) and glutinous. Paddy rice varieties, which are grown on the lowlands under irrigation, may belong either to the common or to the glutinous group when classified on the basis

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