RICE is one of the most important food crops in China. The total rice-growing area is estimated at about 347,182,000 shih mou (1 acre = 6.0702 shih mou), from which about 675,250,005 tan (1 tan = 133 pounds) of milled rice (1 tan of rough rice is assumed to yield about 0.65 tan of milled rice) are produced every year. In rice acreage China ranks second and in yield, first, among world producers.

China is located in both the temperate and subtropical zones. The country also has rich soil and other suitable conditions for the growth of the crop. The amount of rainfall is reported to range from 39 to 71 inches. The summer temperature varies between 15°C and 22°C. Moreover, the rice-growing areas of China may roughly be classified into seven regions: namely, two rice crops, sequence area; two rice crops, spaced area; one rice crop, early sown area; one rice crop, midseason area; one rice crop, late sown area; Island area; and North area. The best rice-growing lands are in 12 provinces: Kwangtung, Szechuan, Hunan, Kiangs, Kiangsu, Chekiang, Hupei, Anhui, Kwangsi, Fukien, Kweichow, and Yunan (10, 36, 38, 57).

About 130 improved varieties have been obtained in China by using the following five methods of rice breeding: (a) introduction, (b) pure line selection, (c) inspecting selection of native varieties, (d) hybridization, and (e) artificially induced mutation. If the improved varieties, bred by means of the method of inspecting selection of native varieties alone, were used, the production of rough rice may increase 3.48% to 25.41%. If those resulting from the method of pure line selection were used, the quantity of rice would increase 2.81 to 23.52% over common rice varieties grown by farmers (36). A new hybrid variety, Yatsen No. 1, has been obtained which is resistant to cold and to high soil acidity, while having an increased yield of 12.6% (58), while another, K110, is resistant to Piriculare oryzae (66).

Most of the results on rice cytology and genetics as well as breeding work by Chinese investigators are published in Chinese; only a few of them are in English. A part of the results of new investigations are presented here as well as results formerly summarized in mimeographed reports in Chinese. Effort has been made to review the rice literature from other

countries related to this paper (2, 3, 4, 20, 21, 23, 42, 47, 48, 56, 66).

Origin of Cultivated Rice in China

Wild rice has been found growing in China. In 1926 it was found primarily in the plain between Sheklung Loh-Fou Mountain and Hoshikawa (14) and Masamune (40, 41) described the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Ting (58) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island. Hoshikawa also found wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; later, in 1942, Chen (12) discovered wild rice, Oryza sativa L. var. Formosana Masam. et Szu; and his co-worker Suzuki found the same species on the same island.

Based on cultural methods, rice in China is generally classified into lowland and upland types. South China lowland rice are also classified into three kinds: "Hsien Tao" (early, medium, and late nonglutinous rice), "Keng Tao" (early medium, and late glutinous rice), and "No Tao" (early, medium, and late nonglutinous rice). The most commonly cultivated varieties of cultivated rice may have originated in China. From the wild rice found in the southern and southwestern regions of China, the nonglutinous varieties of cultivated rice may have arisen. The early nonglutinous cultivated rice was introduced from Anam, according to Chow (11). From all the evidence of wild rice in China, the various kinds seem to be related to the cultivated rice.

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