



Our Australian Rice Industry

Growing Rice to Feed the World



Our Australian Rice Facts

- Up to 40 million people eat Australian rice around the world each day.
- Australian rice is grown, processed and packaged in regional Australia, creating around 8,000 jobs.
- Rice is the main source of nutrition for more than half the world's population and Australia's contribution to world rice consumption stretches beyond 70 countries.
- Value-added rice products like the SunRice SunCreations return over \$10,000 per megalitre.
- Australia grows varieties of rice developed to suit our climate and are demanded by the higher priced international markets.
- Australian rice growers have improved their water use efficiency by 44% in the past 10 years.
- Australian rice growers surpassed overseas average production of 3.97 tonnes per hectare 60 years ago. In 2006, the average rice yield was 10t/ha and Australia is the only country to achieve this.
- Overseas rice growers can use up to 5 times more water to grow a kilo of rice compared to our Australian rice growers.
- Our Australian rice industry generates around \$800 million revenue pa, with around \$400 million from exports.
- Chemical usage on rice in Australia is the lowest in the developed world thanks to a unique rotation system utilising natural biological controls.
- Research and Development helps maintain the competitive advantage of the Australian rice industry. The industry has invested over \$18 million in research into the sustainability of irrigation, crop breeding and protection and product development. This investment has returned approximately \$292 million to industry and provided an \$80/ha per annum benefit to growers.
- The rice industry is the first Australian agricultural industry to initiate a regional biodiversity plan and a greenhouse reduction strategy.
- The rice industry is the only industry undertaking project to return water to the Murray River through the Living Murray process.