population lives in South and South East Asia where rice is grown extensively.
In the 1960s, there were hundreds of varieties that farmers grew under irrigated and rain fed conditions, in tropical and sub tropical climates but they had one problem in common. It was the low average yield of 1400 kg/ha.(1.4 t/ha)
There are many reasons for this. The varieties tended to grow tall and lodged in high winds during typhoons or heavy rains, thus reducing the grain yield. These were traditional rice varieties that had few panicles that form the seeds, low number of tillers per plant and did not respond well to fertilizer.
So the scientists at the **International Rice Research Institute** (IRRI) started to look at ways to produce a variety that would be high yielding and would not lodge.
The world needed more food because the rice growers could not meet the demand of the consumers, so in the '60s, IRRI was set up in the Philippines as the primary research center where a select group of scientists from all over the world began the process that would eventually lead to the development of a new type of rice plant that would be called High Yielding Variety or HYV.
The plant breeder at IRRI started to cross many varieties collected from different regions of Asia and narrowed the field down to a tall variety from Indonesia called Peta and a semi-dwarf variety from China called Dee Geo Woo Gen (DGWG).