



The miracle rice IR-8, next to its parents Peta and DGWG (source: IRRI photo archive)

When Peta was crossed with DGWG, a new type of rice plant was born that was shorter than Peta but stronger and more upright than DGWG. It had the architecture that let the leaves absorb more sunlight and had profuse number of tillers that had panicles loaded with seeds that were heavy.

The agronomist who tested this new variety for the first time at IRRI was a young scientist called **Dr. Surajit K. De Datta**. He published his ground-breaking results in scientific journals as well as IRRI publications to record his findings which were nothing short of spectacular. Never had a variety of rice yielded 9.4 tons per hectare. The breeding line 1R8-288-3 was widely publicized as **Miracle Rice**, which was named as **IR8** by IRRI.