

That is what started the Green Revolution in rice cultivation and the pioneer agronomist and scientist who spearheaded in identifying the high yielding potential of IR8–288–3 was Dr. De Datta. He obtained excellent results at the IRRI farm where it produced the highest yield of 9.4tons/ha with the highest level of applied Nitrogen. Simultaneously, Dr. De Datta’s research trial in the farmer’s field in Calauan, Laguna where IR8 produced close to 9 tons/ha. In another farmer’s field in Bukidnon, Mindanao, IR8–288–3 yielded 7tons/ha without any fertilizer and 10.3tons/ha with a high dose of Nitrogen fertilizer. Drs. Peter Jennings and Hank Beachell were renowned for their contribution to make the cross and advancing and selecting the breeding line which Dr. DeDatta tested in multiple sites for yield potential. Beachell got the World Food Prize award. Dr Chandler, the Director of IRRI at the time, also got the same award for his leadership of IRRI. Dr. Mano D. Pathak of IRRI, Entomologist at IRRI conducted extensive research on insect pest resistance of the HYVs which benefited IRRI’s breeding program.

Contribution to Green Revolution

The term “Green Revolution”, as described in Wikipedia refers to “the transformation of agriculture that occurred from the 1940s through the 1960s, when farmers used the discoveries of science, planting higher-yielding rice varieties to great success. In 1968, Dr.De Datta, then an agronomist at the institute, published his findings about IR8, a variety of rice that yielded 5 tons of rice per hectare with almost no fertilizer and 9.4 tons per hectare with fertilizer. This was nearly 10 times the yield of traditional rice and came to be known as Miracle Rice (see note on the reference).

The introduction of IR8 and new management practices changed a hungry landscape to one of food self-sufficiency in