drought-stressed rainfed conditions of the Northeast.

RD13 is adapted to the southeast coastal areas. Compared with the popular southern variety Nahng Payah 132 it matures 7 days later, has 17% higher yield, and superior blast resistance. Its grains are shorter than those of Nahng Payah 132 but longer than Pak Sian 39. Its cooking quality is similar to that of both varieties. A cross of Nahng Payah 132 and Pak Sian 39 made in 1964 at Bangkhen Rice Experiment Station was grown as a bulk hybrid in early generations. Hybrid seeds were sent to Kuan Gut Rice Experiment Station where BKN6402-352 became the final selection.

RD15 is likely to be accepted most in parts of the Northeast. Compared with the popular Khao Dawk Mali 105 variety, it is 10 cm shorter, matures 10 days earlier, and has better drought tolerance under drought-stressed rainfed conditions of the Northeast. Its grain, cooking quality, and disease and insect resistance are similar to those of Khao Dawk Mali 105. It is nonglutinous and long-grained. It resulted from the irradiation of Khao Dawk Mali 105 and was selected as KDML65G_1U-45 in the Northeast.

Two other varieties, RD6 and RD11, were released in 1977.

RD6 is likely to be most widely accepted in rainfed areas of the Northeast. It is similar to Khao Dawk Mali 105 and RD6 in its long, glutinous scented grain, good cooking quality, maturity, and plant type. However, it has better blast and brown spot resistance, yields more, and is 10 cm shorter. It is photoperiod sensitive and is suited to the monsoon period only. Glutinous, it was a mutant of Khao Dawk Mali 105 produced through gamma rays.

RD11 performs best where farmers have good control of irrigation water and desire a variety that matures slightly later than RD1. It is a nonphotoperiod sensitive semidwarf variety that matures 130–140 days after seeding. It has long, slender, nonchalky high amylose grain. It is slightly taller, has longer grain, and yields slightly more than RD1.

Prasad: a new rice variety

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Prasad, a new 120-day rice variety was approved by the Uttar Pradesh variety release committee in May 1978. It has long slender grain; resistance to bacterial blight, blast, and brown spot diseases; and high yield potential.

Prasad is from the IRRI cross IR1561(IR579-48/IR747B_2-6-3) and was selected at Pantnagar under pedigree UPRI71-12. Prasad has shown its superiority when transplanted, including in hilly valleys up to an elevation of 1,200 m. Since 1971 it has consistently outyielded Ratna, IR24, and Saket 4, varieties of similar growth duration. Prasad responds well to nitrogen fertilizer, even at moderate levels, and to management.

In late-sown trials, its performance was better than that of the varieties of the same maturity group. It has good plant type, good seedling vigor, synchronous flowering, and easy threshability. In 114 demonstrations conducted on farmers' fields from 1974 to 1977, its yields averaged 5.7 t/ha, a 10% increase over those of Ratna or Saket 4. Besides its high yield and good cooking quality, Prasad has resistance to bacterial blight.

PR106 – a new rice variety for the Punjab

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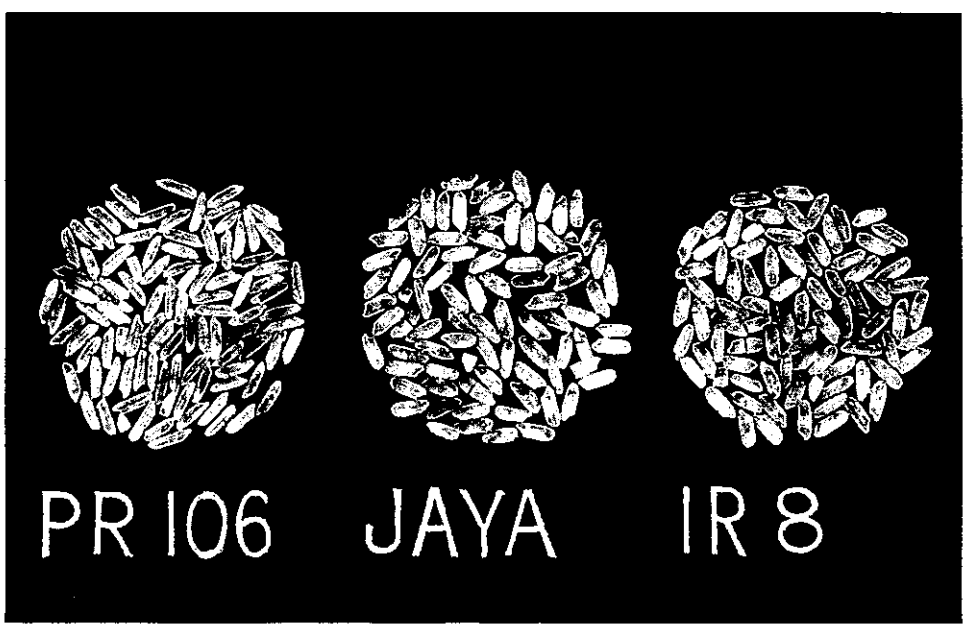
IR8 and Jaya have yield potentials of up to 10 t/ha in northern India, but PR106 has been identified as superior to Jaya in productivity and grain quality.

PR106 is the progeny of a single plant selected from IR665-79-2, a breeding line received from IRRI in 1969. IR665-79-2 is from the cross IR8//Peta*5/Belle Patna. PR106 was compared with Jaya in 10 variety trials at 3 research stations of the Punjab Agricultural University from 1971 to 1974 and in 18 adaptive trials on farmers' fields in 1975. In 10 research station trials, PR106 produced an



Milled rice showing chalkiness in Jaya and IR8, and its absence in PR 106. Punjab, India.