

A GLOBAL STAPLE

Rice is the primary staple for more than half the world's population, with Asia and Africa the largest consuming regions. Developing countries have long depended on its versatility and high caloric value.

The United States is the second largest exporter of rice. The United States now exports about half of all the rice it grows.

There are four major types of rice produced and traded worldwide:

Indica

Long-grain rice grown mostly in tropical and subtropical regions and accounts for more than 75 percent of global trade. Cooks dry, with separate grains.

Japonica

Medium or short-grain rice, typically grown in regions with cooler climates, accounts for more than 10 percent of global rice trade.

Aromatic

Primarily jasmine from Thailand and basmati from India and Pakistan, accounts for more than 10 percent of global trade and typically sells at a premium in world markets.

Glutinous

Grown mostly in Southeast Asia, used in desserts and ceremonial dishes, accounts for most of the remainder.