

# Fairtrade: a World of Difference

## Commodity Profile: Rice page 1 of 2

Rice, Agrocel, India



### INDIA: BASMATI RICE

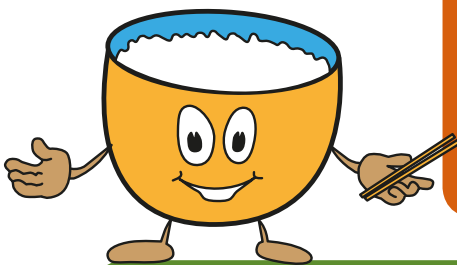
**1.** Basmati rice, known for its distinctive fragrance, has been grown at the foot of the Himalayan mountain range in India for thousands of years. The rivers Yamuna and Sutluj irrigate the basmati rice fields. The best quality basmati rice comes from the old Karnal district, known as the 'rice bowl of India'.

**2.** Farmers in Haryana sow their rice crop from seeds in paddy nurseries in June. The seedlings are transplanted into the rice fields in the first two weeks of July.

**3.** Harvesting is generally from mid-October to the first or second week of November. Harvest is a busy time for the farmers because they plant rotational crops and they need to sow wheat after they have ploughed the rice field.



Photos: Traidcraft/Shailan Parker



In October 2006, Agrocel used the Fairtrade premium to buy three rotovators which save the farmers a lot of time in preparing the land. When farmers use a tractor they have to go over the field many times to prepare it for the next crop - but the rotovator needs to be used only once.



India produces 70% of the world's basmati rice.

#### Word list:

Rotational Crops	Taking it in turn to plant different crops on the same land. This improves the soil and means farmers can grow more than one different type of crop.
Rotovators	A machine for digging the soil.

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## Commodity Profile: Rice page 2 of 2

Rice, Green Net, Thailand



### THAILAND: JASMINE RICE

**1.** Thailand is one of the world's biggest rice producers but only about 25% of the rice lands are irrigated, while the rest, including Green Net farmers' land, are rain-fed. Green Net Cooperative farmers in Thailand produce organic, fragrant, long grain, red, white and brown jasmine rice. They are small-scale rice farmers and rely on rainfall to irrigate the crop.

**2.** Jasmine rice seeds do not produce as much rice as other types of rice seed, but the plants are well suited to dry conditions and do not need much attention from the farmers. People will often pay a lot more for jasmine rice than for other types of rice.

**3.** The land is prepared by the farmers during April, and then in May and June "paddy nurseries" are started where rice plants begin to grow. Towards the end of July the plants are transported to the fields.



**4.** The harvest is in November and December. Most of the work is done by hand by the family but if possible farmers use two-wheeled tractors known as "iron buffalos".

**5.** Farmers transport their rice to one of the three rice mills owned by Green Net farmers' associations. The milling process removes the husk of the rice, meaning it is then ready to take to the packaging unit. Farmers often work at the mill for a while in return for some milled rice to take home.



#### Word list:

Paddy Nurseries

Small, well irrigated plots of land where the rice seeds are sown.