**Rice** is the [seed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed) of the [grass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poaceae) [species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species) *[Oryza sativa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oryza_sativa" \o "Oryza sativa)* (Asian rice) or less commonly *[Oryza glaberrima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oryza_glaberrima" \o "Oryza glaberrima)* (African rice). The name [wild rice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wild_rice) is usually used for species of the genera *[Zizania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zizania_(genus)" \o "Zizania (genus))* and *[Porteresia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porteresia" \o "Porteresia)*, both wild and domesticated, although the term may also be used for primitive or uncultivated varieties of *[Oryza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oryza" \o "Oryza)*.

As a [cereal grain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cereal), domesticated rice is the most widely consumed [staple food](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staple_food) for over half of the world's [human population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population),[[Liu 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rice#cite_note-feed-over-half-world-1) especially in [Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia) and [Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa). It is the agricultural [commodity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commodity) with the third-highest worldwide production, after [sugarcane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugarcane) and [maize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maize).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rice#cite_note-faostat16-2) Since sizable portions of sugarcane and maize crops are used for purposes other than human consumption, rice is the most important food crop with regard to human nutrition and caloric intake, providing more than one-fifth of the [calories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_energy) consumed worldwide by humans.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rice#cite_note-3) There are many varieties of rice and culinary preferences tend to vary regionally.