

## Paper 40

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## Rice Growers address

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### Abstract

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### Keywords

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## Expectations from rice industry in Europe

The idea of quality has always been present in the mind of the European rice farmers that work hard for the continuous improvement of their productive structures as the technical management of their farms . (e.g.) In Southern Spain, farmers have worked on the establishment of modern farms with an appropriate size, individual watering infrastructure, adopting technical innovations as laser levelling, seeding by plane, using new varieties, increasing added value to the product by association in co-operatives ....

Rice farmers take care of the environment. Because many of the European rice regions are next to Protected Natural Areas, farmers use integrated production systems that respect environment by using less inputs (water, fertilizers, pesticides, energy, etc..).

Others activities affecting quality carried out by the rice farmers are the participation in Concerted Projects on Research and Development : in Italy with the Ente Nazionale Risi , in France with the CIRAD, in Greece with the Thessaloniki Cereal Institute, in Spain with INIA, to mention some examples.

In spite of that, there are still general researching problems affecting the Rice Sector that must be solved by the co-operative between Public Institution and Farmers Associations. A bigger co-ordination must be established among the groups of European rice researchers and Farmers Associations in setting research .

Among the most urgent problems to be solved, following issues can be mentioned :

- progressive lack of protection of the European Rice Sector as a consequence of the excessive permeability of imports from third countries ;
- obtaining new high production varieties adapted to the different European rice regions, with an easy commercialisation, including aromatic ones ;
- improving watering efficiency ;
- fostering the research on rice diseases, specially on *Pyricularia oryzae* ; and
- carrying out rigorous economic studies in order to improve the commercialisation of our rice inside and outside of the Community structures.

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