Indian Institute of Rice Research has been playing a key role in developing technologies to enhance rice productivity, resource and input use efficiency and profitability of rice cultivation without adversely affecting the environment. IIRR developed 52 high yielding rice varieties, novel and improved agro-technologies and problem solving knowledge products till now for the benefit of rice farmers. Moreover, two of the former Directors (Dr. S.V.S. Sastry and Dr. E.A. Siddique) of this institute were honoured with “Padmasri” awards for their contributions on rice crop and the first high yielding variety “Jaya” completed 50 years and still occupies considerable rice area in terms of cultivation across the states in India.

IIRR organized Seed and Farmers day on 3rd Nov, 2018. About 500 farmers across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka states participated in the one day mega event. Technologies developed by IIRR including 52 high yielding rice varieties, rice germplasm, mechanised transplanting, INM and IPM technologies, various crop establishment methods along with water saving techniques were displayed and explained to the farmers. Other ICAR institutes located at Hyderabad, Prof. Jaishankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) and 4 private agro-input agencies participated in this event. Dr. Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU inaugurated the exhibition.

Dr. S.R. Voleti, Director (A) in his welcoming address highlighted the role of IIRR in serving the interests of rice farmers across the country and importance of first high yielding variety Jaya. He outlined various programmes and activities being carried out at the Institute to address the challenging problems of the rice farming community and new initiatives taken for meeting food and nutrition security of India.

The Chief Guest Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU addressed the concerns of the farmers and various Government policies for uplifting of farm income. He appreciated the efforts of IIRR Scientists for developing and popularizing rice varieties, various training activities, use of digital technologies etc. and also stressed on the importance of water in rice production, alternate methods for “more crop per drop” and introducing GIS, Remote sensing and drones in disseminating the models in his inaugural address. The Guests of Honour Dr. K.
Krishnaiah, Former Director, DRR emphasised the need for popularisation of the technologies developed by the IIRR for the benefit of the farming community especially Telangana. DR. S.V.S Sastry, former Director, Special guest addressed the gathering through his video message on the importance of AICRIP system on rice research and need for coordinated efforts to enhance the rice productivity and profitability. On this occasion, a mobile on Rice IPM (which covers the diagnosis and management of pests, diseases and weeds of Rice), a bulletin on advanced technologies to improve rice production and a note on activities of IIRR were released and distributed to farmers. Eleven progressive farmers excelled in various fields of rice cultivation (direct seeding, water saving, promotion of new varieties, pests and disease reduction, digital technologies etc.,) were felicitated for their outstanding contribution in the field of rice production. The meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Mahender Kumar.