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### **Collection of wild rice germplasm in Sri Lanka**

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*Oryza* is a very important genus belongs to the family Poaceae. According to the literature this genus contains twenty wild rice species and two cultivated rice species. Previous scientists have confirmed that five wild rice species (*O. invar*, *O. rufipogon*, *O. eichingeri*, *O. rhizomatis* and *O. granulata*) can be found in Sri Lanka. These genetic resources are very valuable assets for the Island. Due to many different reasons these valuable wild rice populations are continuously being destroyed. Therefore collection and conservation of these valuable resources are very important for future needs. Objective of this study is collection of wild rice species within Sri Lanka to fulfill this gap.

This study was carried out at Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI), Batalagoda, Ibbagamuwa, Sri Lanka.

Twenty six collection missions were organized through out the Island except north and east to collect wild rice accessions which are belonged to five species. During the collection missions 28 *O.nivara* accessions, 13 *O. rufipogon* accessions, 09 *O. eichingeri* accessions, 08 *O. rhizomatis* accessions, 03 *O. granulata* accessions and 01 weedy rice accession were collected.

These results indicate that *O.nivara*, can be easily found in the dry and intermediate zones of the Island. *O. rufipogon* can be observed in the coastal belt in the wet zone. *O. eichingeri* and *O. rhizomatis* spread in the special areas of dry and intermediate zones and *O. granulata* found in the intermediate zone. Seeds of collected accessions were conserved at cooling cabinet at RRDI, Batalagoda, Ibbagamuwa.

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