



As part of our vision to be a positive force for change, we've produced a series of factsheets to help our customers better understand sustainability issues, and what we're doing about them.

Overview

Rice is the fourth most cultivated crop globally and a vital food source for over half the world's population. As the fourth most consumed food, rice plays a critical role in global nutrition. However, its production is responsible for around 12% of global methane emissions, largely due to traditional, resource-intensive farming methods.

With rising demand for environmentally responsible products, the impact of rice farming (particularly its methane output) is under increasing scrutiny. Consumers and the food industry alike are seeking more sustainable alternatives. This shift presents an opportunity for companies like Bidfood to reinforce their Corporate Social Responsibility through more sustainable rice sourcing. Over the past decade, sustainably sourced rice has become more accessible, supported by NGOs and industry initiatives, making it a viable option for responsible procurement.

What's the problem?

Traditional rice farming methods are the main driver of high methane emissions. Techniques like flood irrigation and crop burning release large amounts of methane. Flood irrigation is especially resource-intensive, consuming vast amounts of water and putting pressure on already scarce water supplies. It also contributes to pesticide runoff, which harms local ecosystems and biodiversity.

Beyond environmental concerns, rice farmers face economic challenges. Many receive only a small share of the final product's value due to limited market access and weak bargaining power, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

Jargon buster

There's growing consumer pressure for companies to embrace their corporate social responsibilities (CSR) in reducing their carbon footprint and negative impact on the environment, and by providing SRP-approved and organic rice options, we're presenting customers with more sustainable alternatives.

All Tilda Rice products (14514, 45072, 82432, 79381, 22637, 83940, 45917, 12055, 31298, 81745, 27939, 46854, 46855, 32163), and Riso Gallo products in our range (23586, 23587, 23590) are sourced with SRP assurance.

Ibis Rice is soon entering our product range with a mission to make conservation profitable for local communities while protecting vital ecosystems. Its three core sustainability commitments are premium pricing where farmers receive up to 70% above market price, providing support and training to farmers on soil fertility, cover crops, provision of organic seeds, organic farming practices, and conservation commitments as Cambodian farmers in return commit to zero deforestation, zero poaching (including protection of the endangered Giant Ibis), and no use of harmful chemicals or pesticides.



Our targets and plans

Bidfood supports the UN-approved Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), an initiative focused on improving the sustainability of rice farming and reducing its environmental impact. The SRP promotes best practices that lower emissions and increases yields for both subsistence and commercial farmers. Learn more at sustainablerice.org or contact us for further information.

Packaging improvements are also a key focus. We're working to reduce unnecessary packaging and increase the use of renewable or recyclable materials. Currently, two of our own-brand products use Raw Kraft (an eco-friendly, recyclable option), while four still use plastic, which we aim to replace.

We're committed to highlighting sustainable choices. We aim to clearly identify rice products in our range that are SRP-Verified, helping customers support sustainable farming and reduce rice's carbon footprint. We also spotlight our organic rice options, which avoid harmful pesticides and fertilizers, protecting local biodiversity.

What can you do?

Explore switching to more sustainable alternative products as mentioned above and share the current issues and impacts of rice production on sustainability and the environment.

Explore where your rice is sourced and enquire as to whether it is SRP approved. Make sure to recycle all plastic rice packaging where possible. You can check out our Plastic Reduction Factsheet for further details on how you can manage your packaging.

You can find out more on the Sustainable Rice Platform <https://sustainablerice.org/>

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