

# 2025 International Rice Industry Sustainability Report

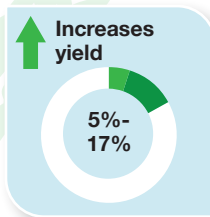
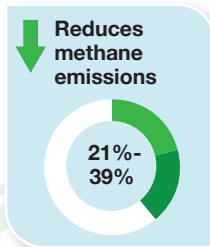
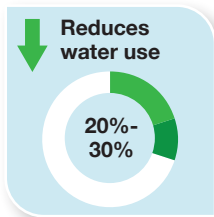
A July 2025 International Rice Industry Sustainability Report comparing sustainability and conservation agriculture practices across seven countries revealed that U.S. producers scored higher than the other top rice producing countries based on their use of:

- conservation tillage
- rice straw incorporation/retention
- use of certified seeds
- land leveling
- nutrient management plans
- direct seeding
- dry seeding
- use of sulfate-containing fertilizer
- use of urease inhibitors
- crop rotation
- rice-crawfish rotation
- winter flooding



## Sustainable U.S. Rice Production Practices

- **Conservation tillage** increases soil organic carbon, reduces methane emissions by 21%-39%, reduces erosion, increases phosphorus and potassium levels in the soil, reduces water use by 20%-30%, and increases yield by 5%-17% when compared to full till.



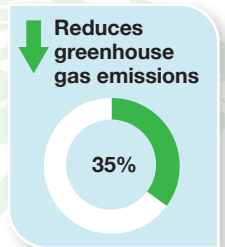
- U.S. rice has the highest percentage of production in **precision levelled fields** (77%) which leads to higher flooding efficiency, a reduction in water use, and improves overall irrigation efficiency by 21%. In addition, methane production is reduced, yields are increased, seeding rates are lowered and expenses are reduced.



- The U.S. has the highest percentage of **certified seed** use in rice production. This increases yield, net income, productivity and greatly decreases the potential for the introduction of weed seed into rice production fields.



- **Rice straw incorporation and retention**, a practice that increases soil organic carbon, improves soil health, increases water use efficiency, increases yield for the next crop when compared to straw removal and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 35%.



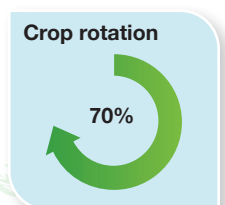
- Rice produced in the U.S. has the highest ratio of **actual yield** to potential yield of countries researched.



- Over 40% of U.S. rice production acres are reflooded during the winter following harvest **enhancing biodiversity** and creating habitat for migratory waterfowl, other waterbirds, as well as amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.



- Nearly 70% of U.S. rice production practices **crop rotation** which improves soil fertility, reduces pest pressure and pest control costs, and increases species biodiversity.



- **Other sustainable practices** widely used in U.S. rice production include computer-aided irrigation designs, multiple inlet irrigation, alternate wetting and drying, furrow irrigation, tail water recovery systems, and rice-crawfish rotation.



The full report can be found on our website ([usarice.com/sustainability](https://usarice.com/sustainability)).