

New Basmati Varieties

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About:

- Three of the five varieties can resist two common diseases of paddy.
 - **Bacterial leaf blight (BLB) and blast (leaf and collar) diseases caused by the fungus Magnaporthe oryzae.**

New Varieties:

- New varieties are
 - **Pusa Basmati 1847,**
 - **Pusa Basmati 1885 and**
 - **Pusa Basmati 1886.**
- All these varieties have two genes to resist BLB and two genes to resist blast disease.
- The other two can save 35% of the water now required as the seeds can be directly sown, obviating the need for transplanting seedlings.
- These two seeds are resistant to herbicides too, helping the farmers control weeds more efficiently.
- In the next three years, all of the five seeds will have the combined qualities of disease and herbicide resistance.

Basmati rice:

- India is known for its Basmati rice, with the produce from seven States — Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand — earmarked for Geographical Indication.
- Basmati, known for its mouthfeel, aroma, length of the grain when cooked and taste, has a market abroad and brings about ₹30,000 crore in foreign exchange every year.
- While 75% of the export is to West Asian countries, European Union countries also import Indian Basmati.
- However, recently, the export to EU countries faced certain hurdles due to the increase in the pesticide residue levels in the rice from India.
- Pesticides and fungicides used against these diseases increased the residue levels permitted in developed countries.

Source : [The Hindu](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/new-basmati-varieties/>

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