

## All About Rice

The first rice may have been grown in East and South Asia as long as 15,000 years ago, when people began to settle in river deltas and domesticated wild rice. Today it is grown practically everywhere, except Antarctica! Rice is grown on flooded land and on dry land, in tropical rain forests of Africa and in arid deserts of the Middle East, on coastal plains and on the Himalayan mountains.

In the year 2003, the world produced about 589 million tonnes of paddy rice. Most of that (about 534 million tones) was grown in Asia. In 2002, it is estimated that rice fields covered almost 1.5 million square km of land. Again, most of those fields are in Asia – around 1.3 million square km.

### Questions 1 – 2

Choose the correct letter (a-c) for the following questions.

1. Where is rice grown?

- a. everywhere
- b. almost everywhere
- c. mainly on flood lands and coastal plains

2. In 2002, rice fields covered about .....

- a) 1.5 million square miles of land.
- b) 1.3 million square km of land in China.
- c) 1.5 million square km of land in the world.