

Rice paddies in Lomellina and in the world

An aerial photograph of terraced rice paddies in Lomellina, Italy. The paddies are arranged in a series of curved, terraced levels, with a dirt path winding through them. The surrounding landscape is lush green, with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a clear blue sky.

Class 3 A

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Lomellina

land of water

Lomellina is situated in the north-west of Italy.

It is famous for

- its rivers
- its castles
- the Via Francigena
- its rice paddies



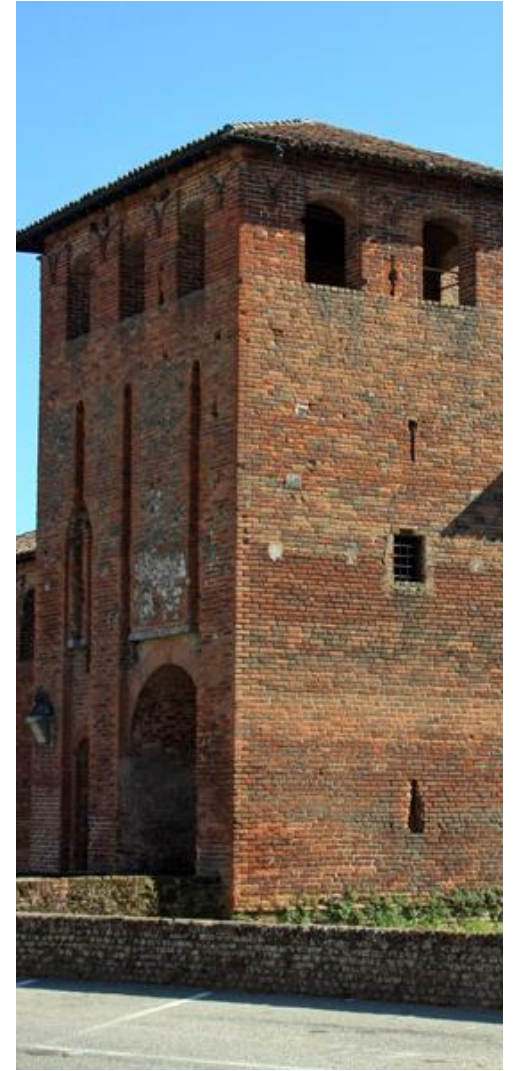
Lomellina

There are three rivers:
the Ticino (in the
east), the Po (in the
south) and the Sesia
(in the west).



The castles in Lomellina

- Vigevano
- Sartirana
- Scaldasole
- Lomello
- Olevano
- Cozzo

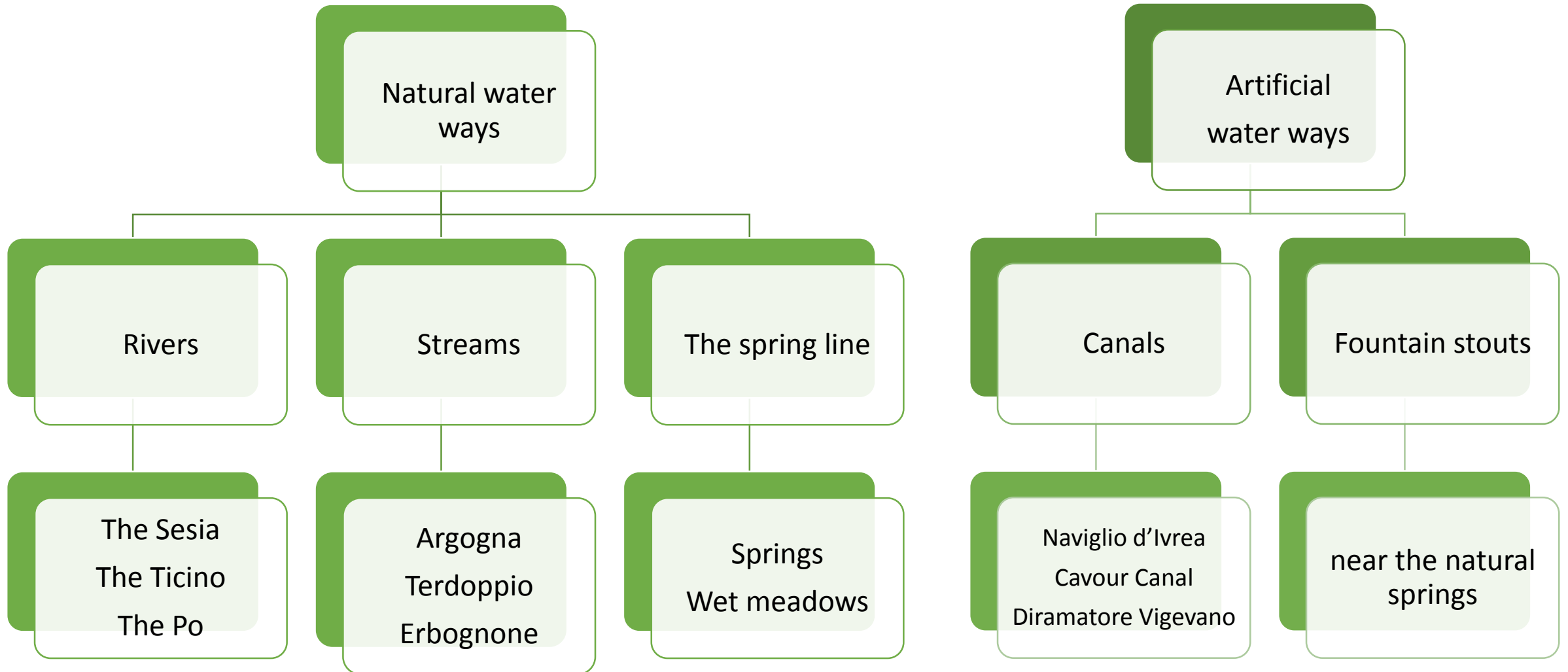


The Via Francigena

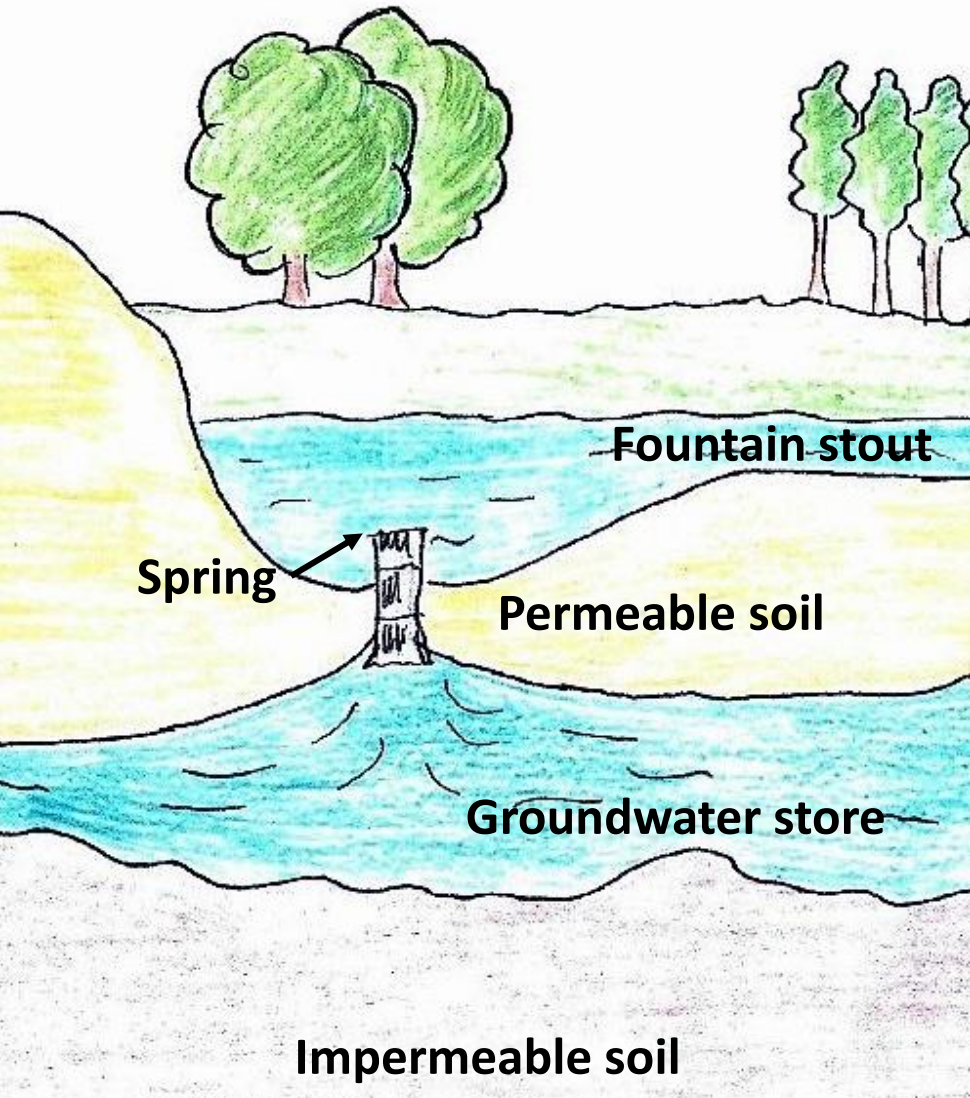
It is a very ancient route. The Medieval pilgrims walked along the route to go to Rome. They passed through Palestro, Robbio, Mortara, Tromello, Gropello towards Pavia and then Piacenza.



There are rivers, streams, canals and springs.

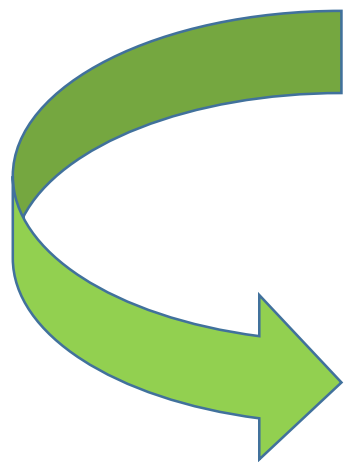


Springs and fountain stouts.



Along the 'spring line' the underground water meets permeable layers of soil (sand and clay) and comes to the surface forming natural springs and, consequently, fountain stouts which are artificial because they are built by man to distribute water.

Water is used in Lomellina for agricultural purposes



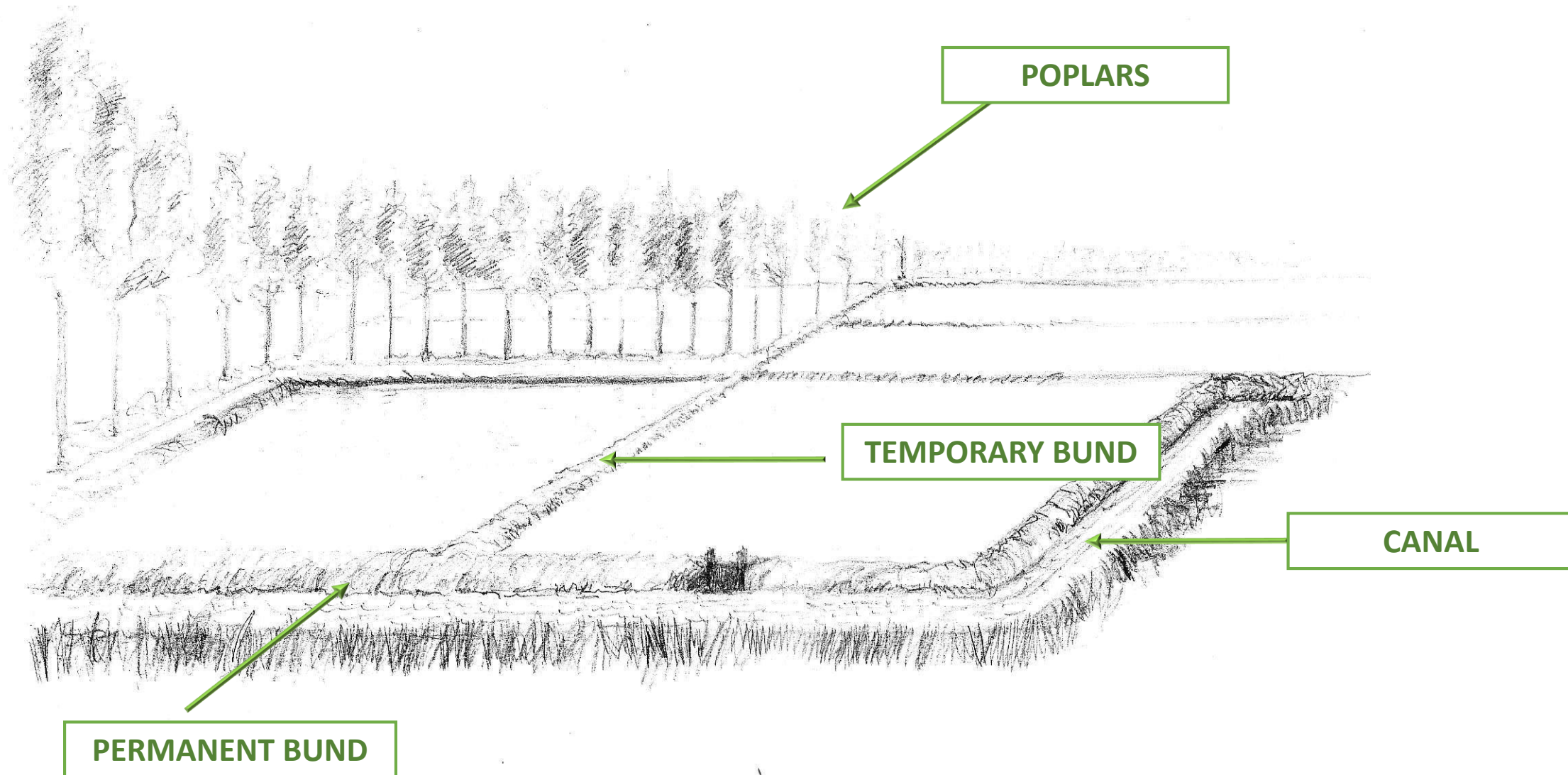
rice paddies



wet meadows



A rice paddy



This is a flooded rice paddy. It is in spring.



The rice
paddies look
like small lakes.

This is a rice paddy in summer.



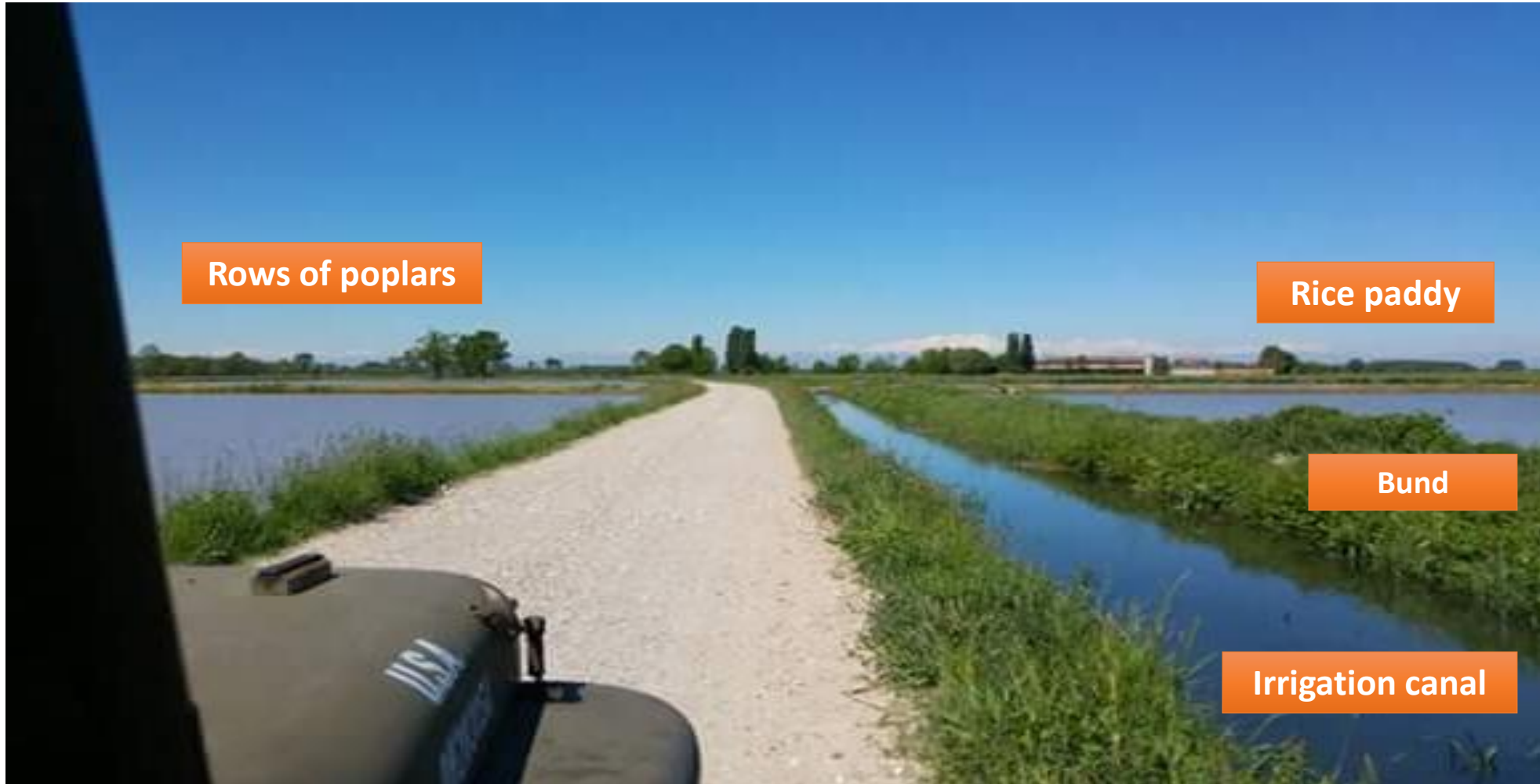
The rice plants
are growing,
they are green.

This is a rice paddy in autumn. It is harvest time.



The rice plants are mature, they are golden.

A trip in the countryside. What can you see?



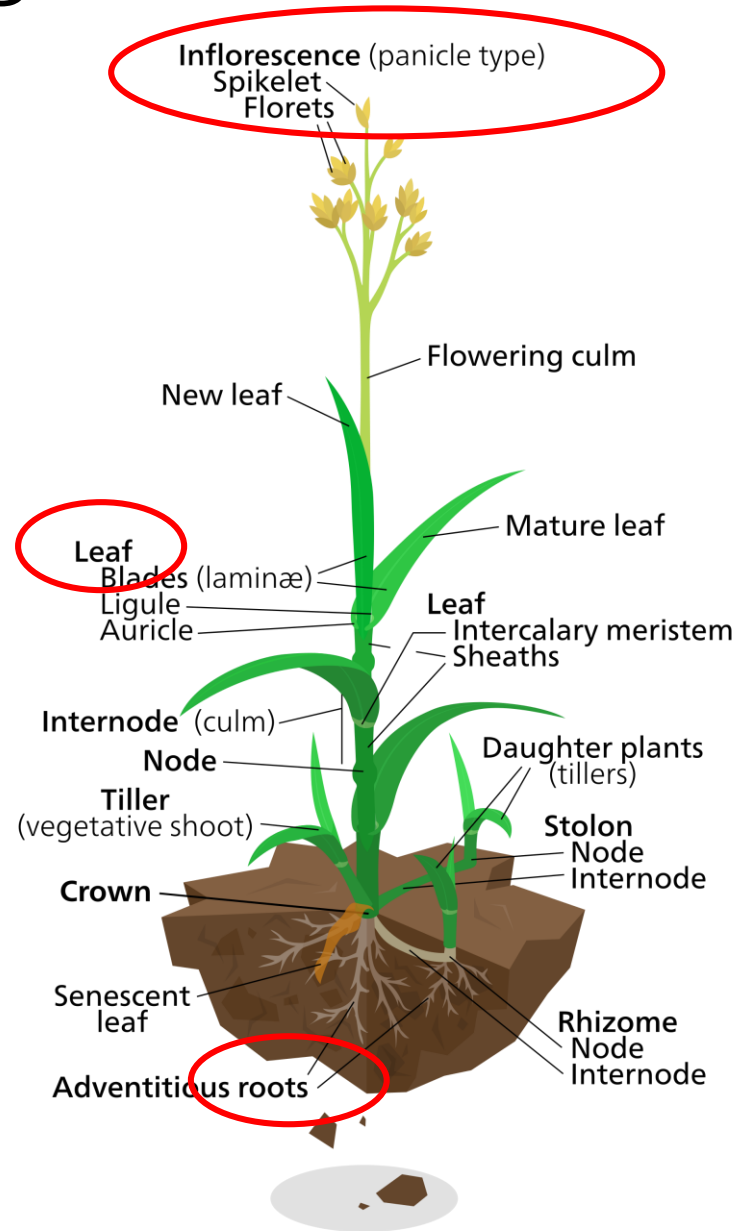


Rice

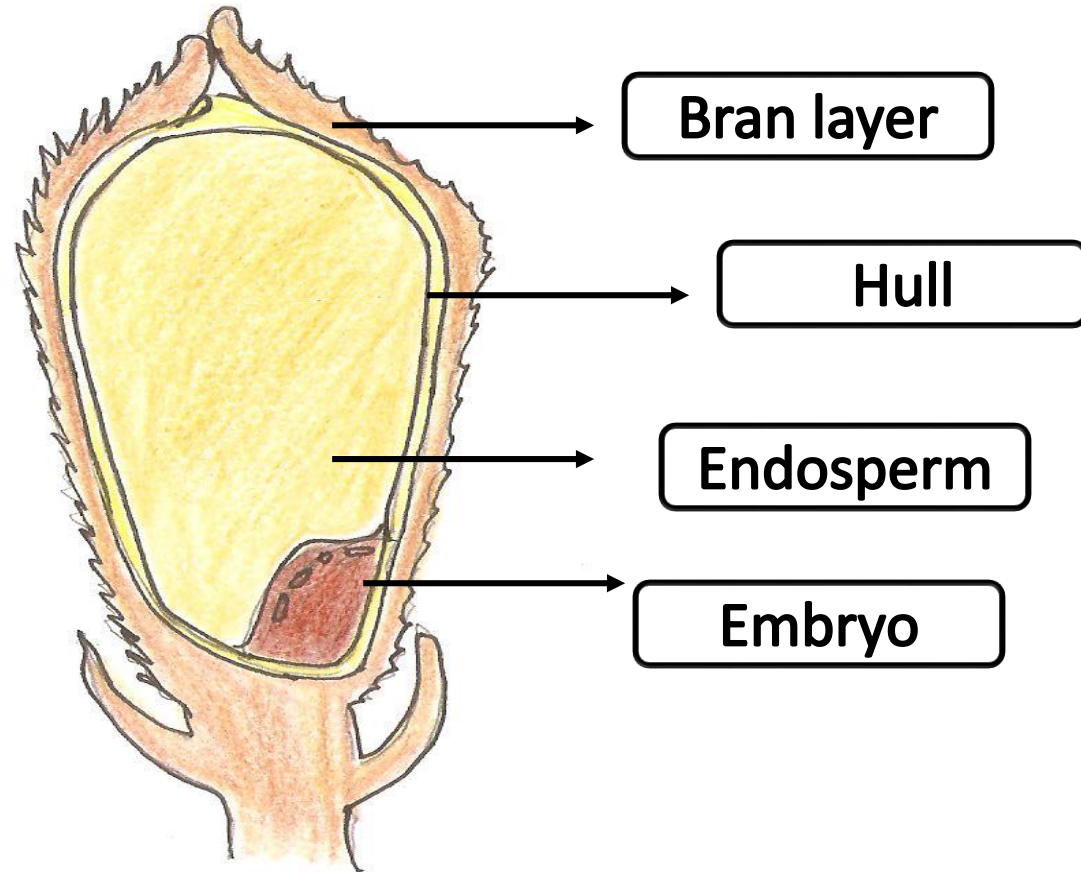
Rice farming spread in the world from...



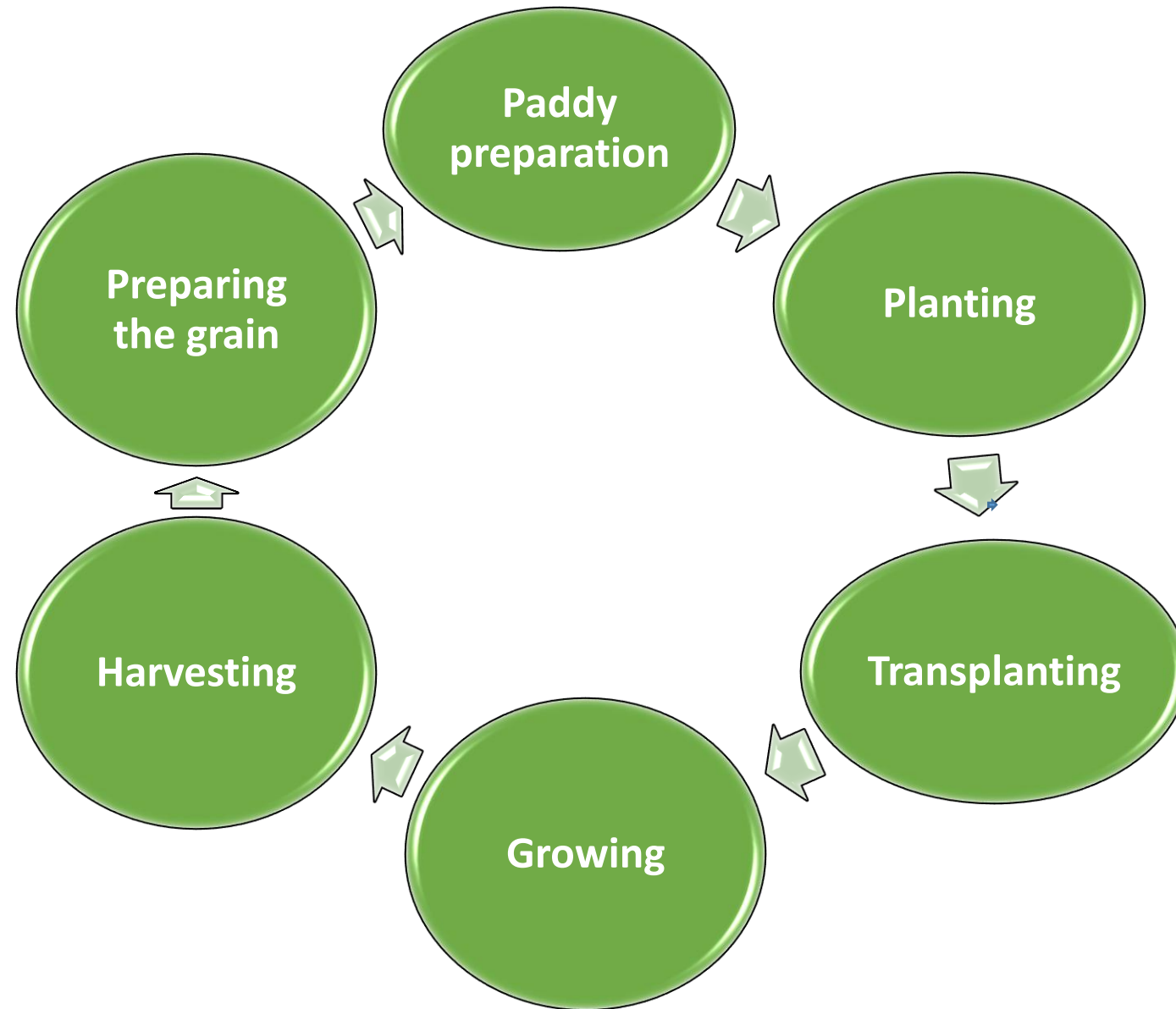
Rice is a cereal grain. It is cultivated in water.



A rice kernel before milling is brown.



The rice cycle



Paddy preparation

The paddy is leveled so that the water irrigation can work efficiently.



Photo by S. Scandaluzzi

Planting

Rice seeds are often put into seedbeds for germination, then they are transplanted. Seeds can also be spread directly, saving cost and time.



Transplanting

When the seeds are transplanted the paddies are drained of excess water to the level of the lowest leaves on the rice plant. Transplanting can be made mechanically or manually.



Growing

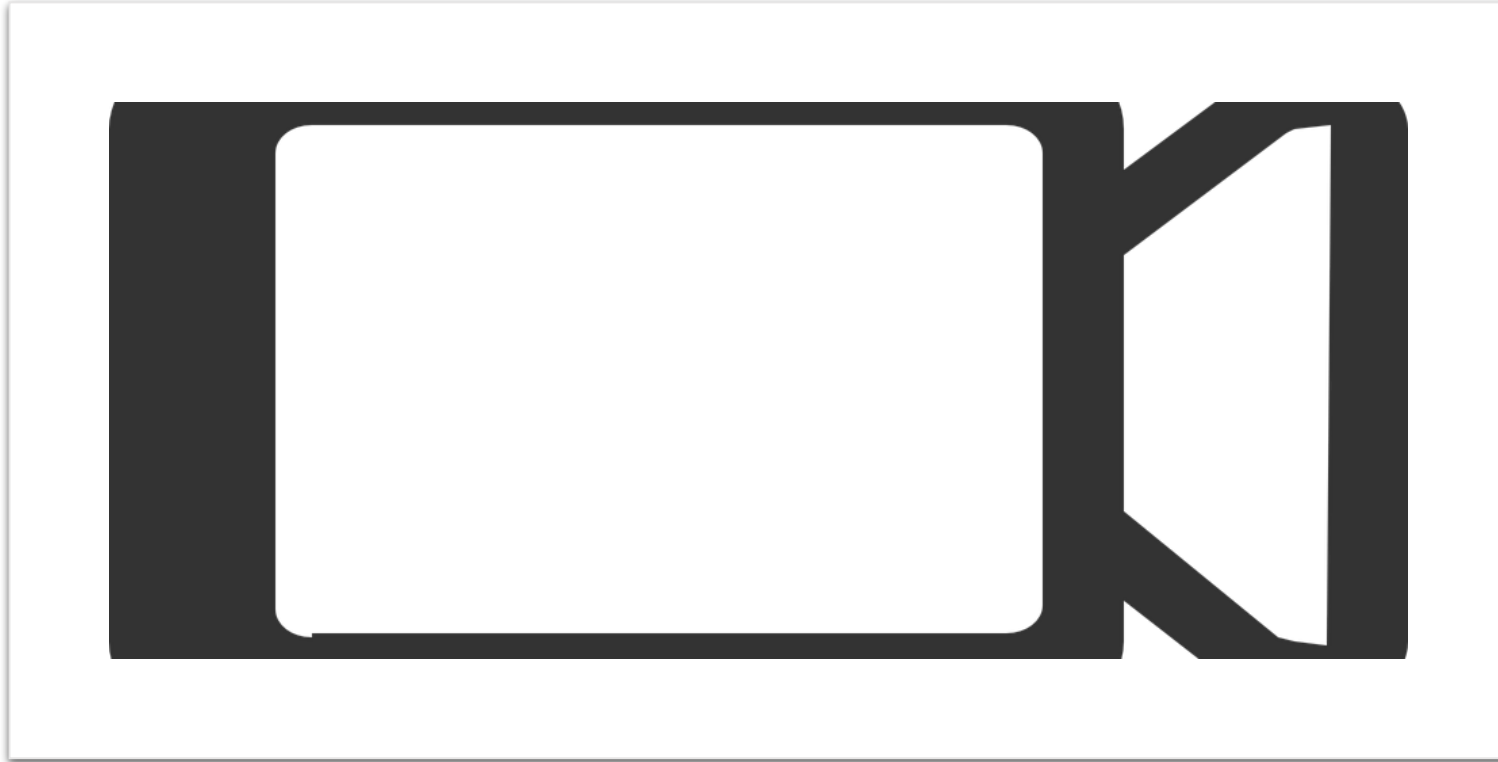
The fields are irrigated and fertilized until the plants are mature. The panicles and the spikelets begin to appear.



Harvesting

Irrigation is stopped about 10 days before. The rice plants are first cut, then the rice grains are separated from the rest of the plants, cleaned and stored. Harvesting can be made using machinery or by hand.

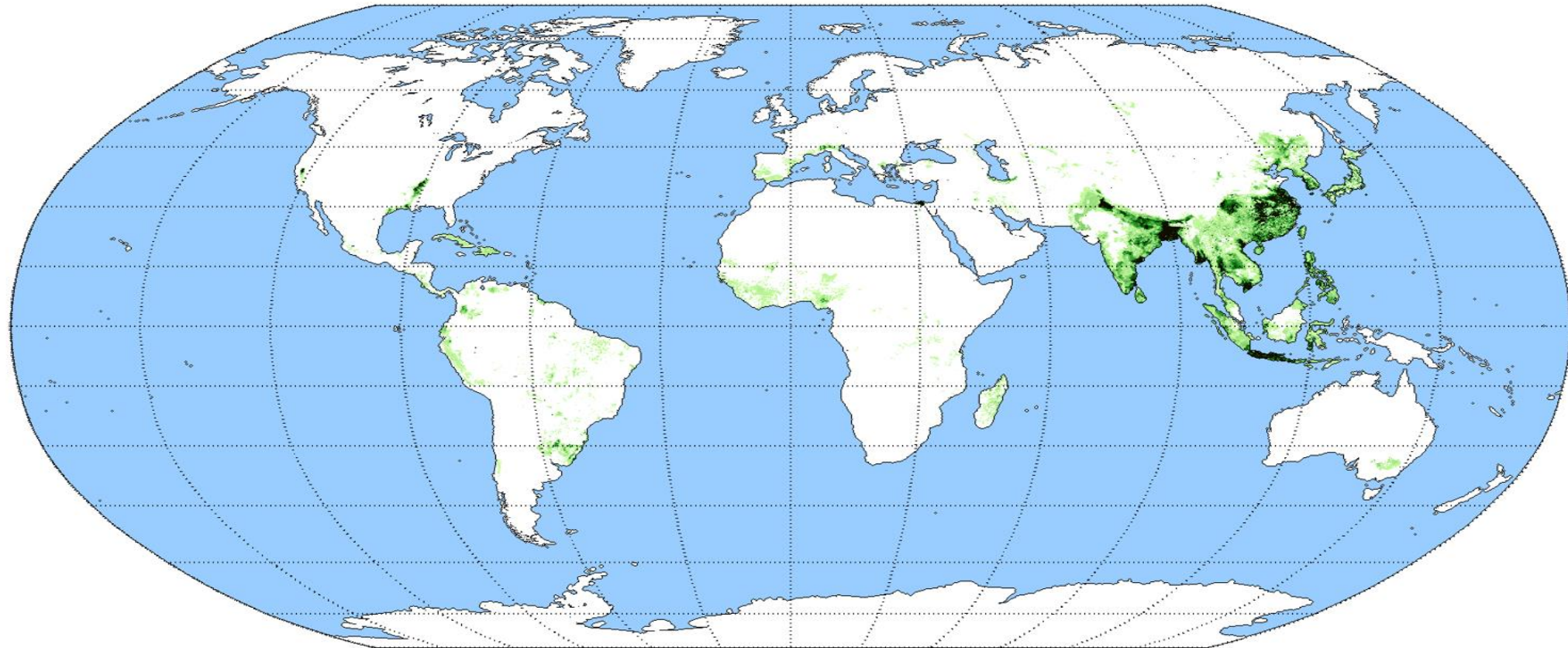




**Watch the video about a new
irrigation system.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfKWKfagfFs>

Rice is grown everywhere in the world



Average regional rice output (kg/ha)

Two different types of rice paddies

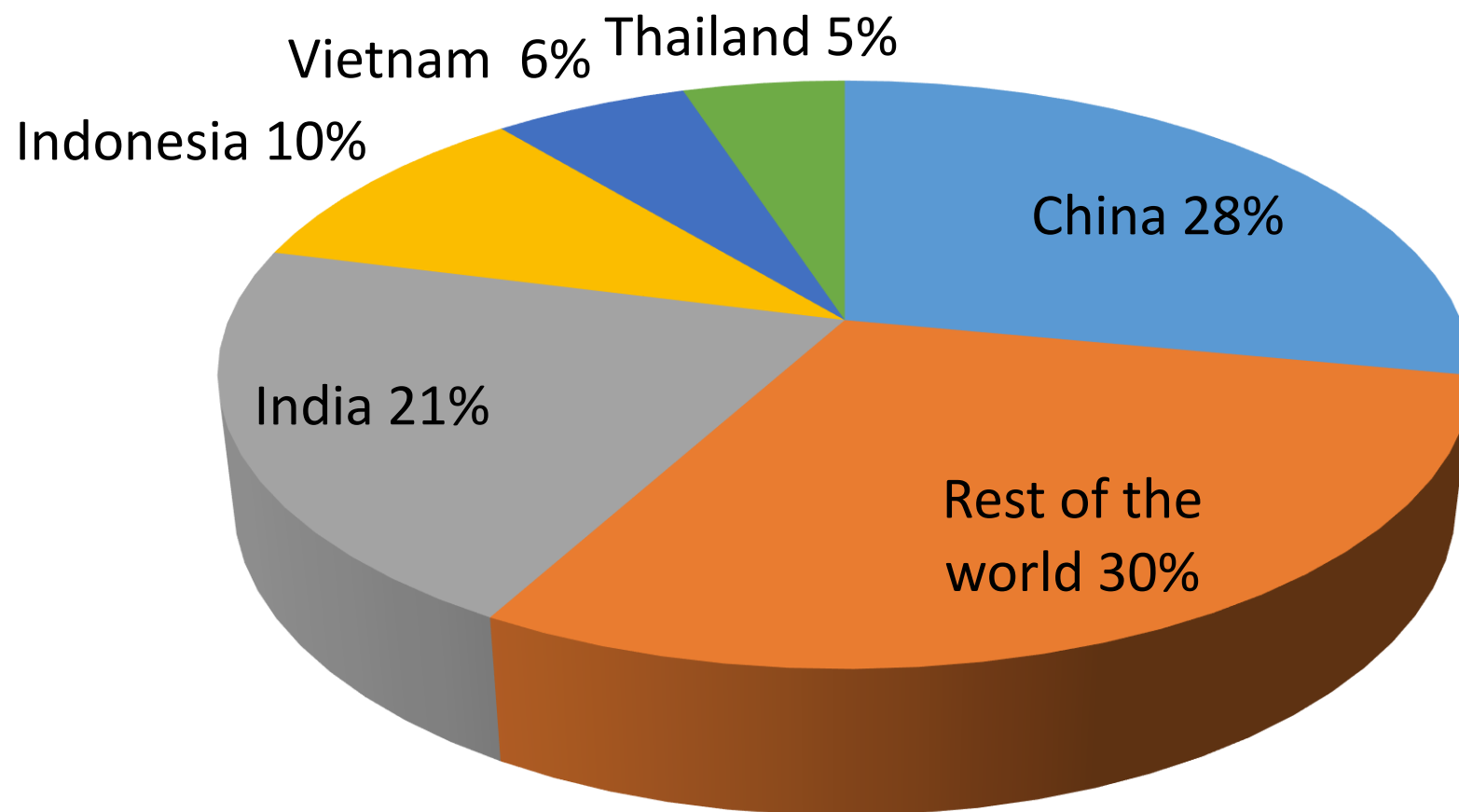
A rice paddy in Lomellina



A terraced rice paddy in Asia



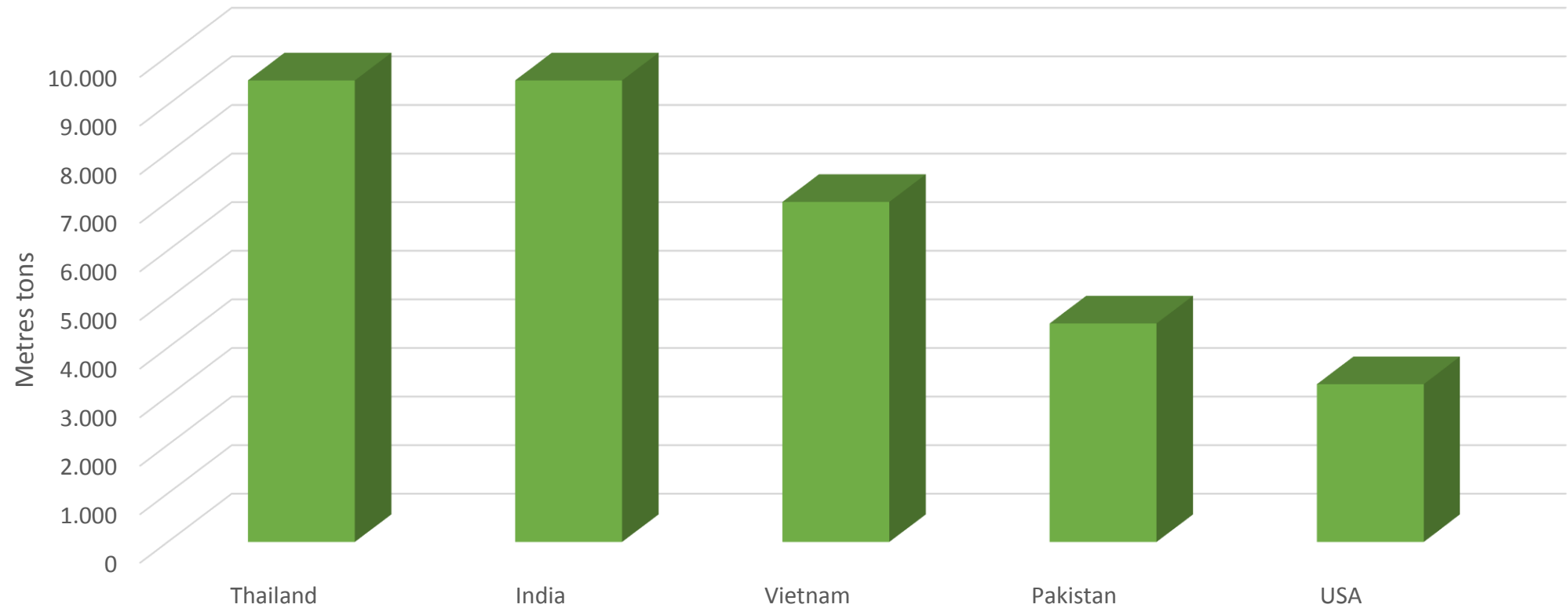
Rice producer countries

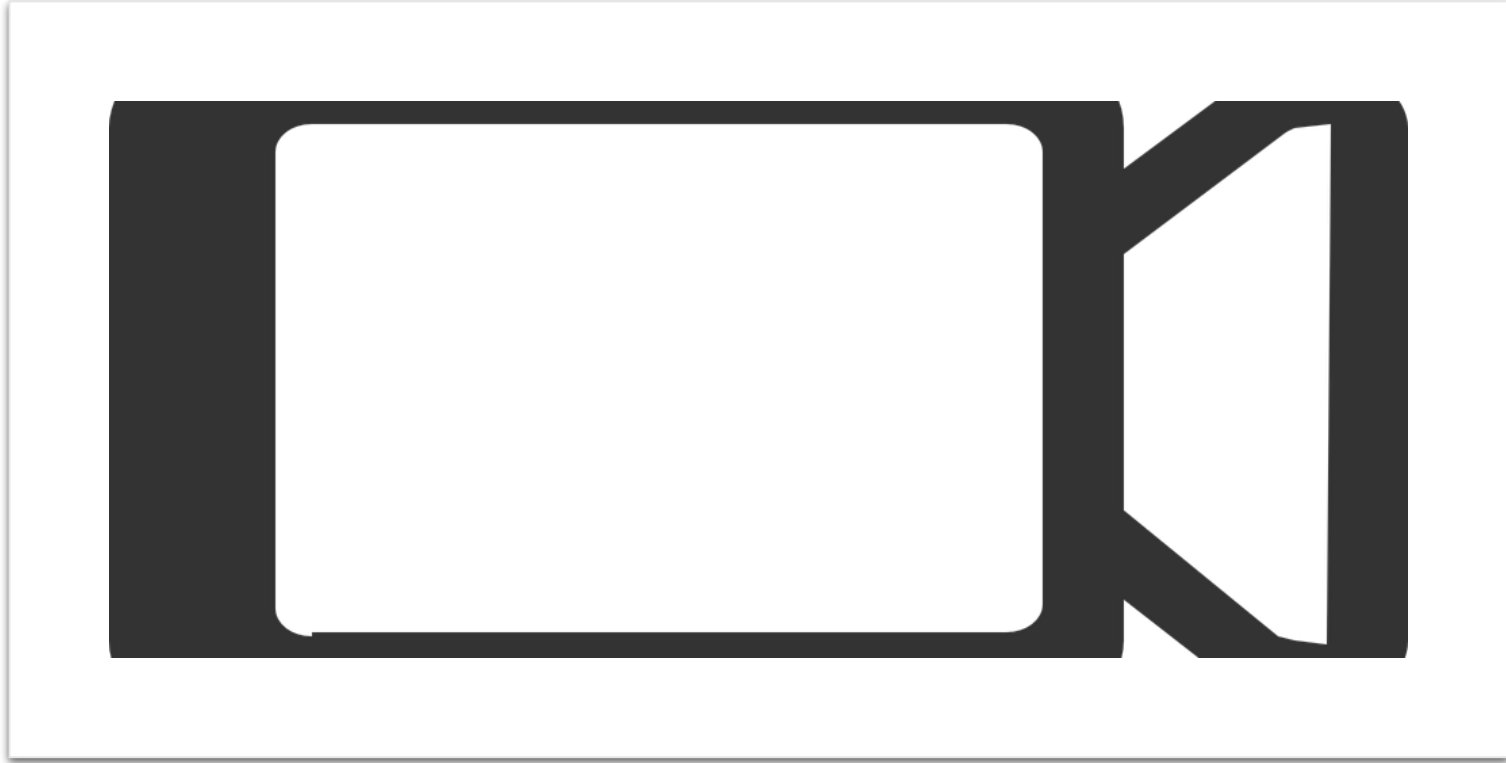


Source: FAOSTAT (2012)

Major rice exporters

Source: The Statistics Portal (2015)





Watch the video about rice terraces.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s28wEIL56Zs>

Sitography

- <https://environmentaleducationuk.wordpress.com>
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