



For thousands of years rice production has been a fundamental part of Cambodian life. From early domestication dating back to the prehistoric period up to the complex irrigation systems of the Khmer Empire, the production of this staple crop has shaped Cambodia's agricultural

For over 5,000 years, farmers worked in harmony with nature, a balance only disrupted in the 1960s with the introduction of artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides. While these innovations boosted yields, they also harmed the country's delicate ecosystems and rich biodiversity.

On the northern plains of Cambodia where dry tropical forests meet wetlands, rice farming has always been part of the natural landscape. The traditional Jasmine rice production works with the annual floods of the forest. By farming organically, local farmers who supply DO IT ORGANIC follow the methods of their ancestors, respecting the natural forest, preserving water quality, and fostering a balanced ecosystem. In this system, the rice fields not only support farmers but also serve as a haven for wildlife and provide a fertile environment.



WORKING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

PRINCIPLE OF ECOLOGY

Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.*

*Source: IFOAM



Hermesweg 7 3771 ND Barneveld The Netherlands Tel. +31 85 487 0487 info@organic.nl www.doitorganic.com



HOW ORGANIC FARMING HELPS CAMBODIA'S CRITICAL ENDANGERED NATIONAL BIRD

The northern plains of Cambodia, with their unique and diverse natural environment, provide a habitat for a wide range of mammals, amphibians, insects, and birds, including the critically endangered giant ibis, Cambodia's national bird. Organic farming plays a key role in supporting ongoing conservation efforts for this and other wildlife by:

- Reducing chemical pesticide and fertilizer pollution in wetlands and rivers, preserving natural landscapes like wetlands and water bodies essential for the giant ibis's diet, nesting, and foraging.
- Collaborating with local communities on wildlife conservation projects, helping both farmers and villagers benefit from eco-tourism and conservation incentives.
- Minimizing habitat fragmentation in forested areas vital for the ibis's nesting and feeding, enabling coexistence between agriculture and conservation.





THREE REASONS THE GIANT IBIS IS SUCH A LEGEND

- The giant ibis is a critically endangered bird native to Cambodia, and a symbol of the country's rich biodiversity and the need for conservation. The bird is engraved in folk songs and traditional Khmer story tales, often reflecting themes of love and the lives of Cambodian farmers.
- 1 It is the largest species of ibis, standing around 1 meter (3.3 feet) tall with a wingspan that can reach over 1.5 meters (4.9 feet). The bird has a dark grey-brown colour and a distinctive bare head and upper neck. Its beak is long and curved, perfect for foraging in muddy wetlands.
- 3 Despite its critically endangered status, the giant ibis is benefitting from local conservation programs especially in areas like the Northern Plains, where local communities and international conservation groups have worked together to protect its habitat. This beautiful intelligent bird is one of 50 endangered species in the Northern Plains of Cambodia so conservation efforts are benefitting more than just the ibis. Good examples are the tallest flying bird the Sarus Crane and the white-rumped vulture.



Discover more about our organic rice from Cambodia

