Nuclear science and technology can contribute directly to food security, and helping countries improve agricultural production is an IAEA priority. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the IAEA has helped Member States generate more than 3200 new food crop varieties using nuclear techniques. These stronger, sturdier, more productive crops have been planted in farm fields across Bangladesh, Cambodia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Thailand and other countries, resulting in increased yield, higher resilience to environmental and pest hazards, and greater food security.

In Bangladesh, for example, the IAEA has helped scientists to develop some 59 new mutant rice varieties which are tolerant to drought and salinity. Many of these rice varieties mature faster and produce higher yields, allowing farmers to harvest multiple times a year. In economic terms, this means more income for farmers and more food for all.

To read more about the IAEA technical cooperation programme, visit www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation.