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**An Urgent Need in Asia: Effective Rice Paddy-related Legislation  
for Wetland and Biodiversity Conservation**

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Since time immemorial, rich biodiversity has been associated with rice paddies as man-made wetlands with unique ecosystem. Varied practices in rice production and the growth stages rice crops go through have made rice paddies a haven for plant and animal life. They provide shelter, food, nesting and breeding grounds as well as temporary refuge for various migratory species.

Records reveal Asia is the source of 1/3 of the world's rice supply which accounts for numerous scientific researches dealing with, among others, food web interactions, economics of insect pest control, agronomic practices which impact on the rice paddy ecosystem. In fact, rice cultivation is the pride of many Asian societies and plays an important role in their cultural heritage. Be that as it may, are the legislations applicable to rice paddies in Asia responsive to the urgent need for effective legal instruments for wetland and biodiversity conservation?