

## Seeking a splice for better rice

A research team led by Kazuki Saito and Fumio Matsuda of the RIKEN Plant Science Center in Yokohama has begun to unravel how genetic variations affect metabolite production in rice, a core dietary staple around the world<sup>1</sup> (Fig 1). Saito's group, which has acquired considerable expertise in characterizing the chemical contents of plants, partnered with agricultural specialists at Japan's National Institute of Agrobiological Science (NIAS) in Tsukuba.

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