Tweaking rice genome may reduce crop's impact on climate change

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

Rice is one of the world's. . . staple foods, but its prevalence comes with an environmental price tag. Rice paddies account for between 7 and 17 percent of the methane in the atmosphere. . . Though the gas represents a much smaller percentage of overall greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide, it is about 20 times more effective at trapping infrared radiation from the sun.

... [A] team of researchers based in China, Sweden and the United States has found a way to change the plant's biology so that rice paddies release less of the greenhouse gas. Its findings were published... in the journal <u>Nature</u>.

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.... In the researchers' genetically modified rice, the plant produces even more starch, storing it mostly in the stems and grains, rather than the roots, said Chuanxin Sun, the lead author of the study ...

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The addition of the gene . . . changed the amount of carbon released from the plant's roots. . . This carbon feeds a host of soil microbes . . . Among those microbes are some that are responsible for producing the methane associated with rice cultivation.

Read full, original post: Genetic Tweaks Reduce Pollution from Growing Rice