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New rice variety for late sowing developed

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The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), India's leading farm research body, has developed a variety of rice, which can be sown late, an official at the institute said on Tuesday.

Despite late sowing, this variety of rice will be ready for harvest at the usual time, with a normal yield, the official said.

The new variety of rice can be sown even in January and will be ready for harvest by March, the official said. "We believe average yield of the new variety will be 3.5 tonne a hectare under very late sowing conditions."

Normally, winter rice crop in India is sown from October to December and the harvest takes place in March-April.

Sowing of this variety of rice will augment the country's output. The farmers who could not complete sowing due to weather or financial constraints, will get another month to cover up.