OBITUARY

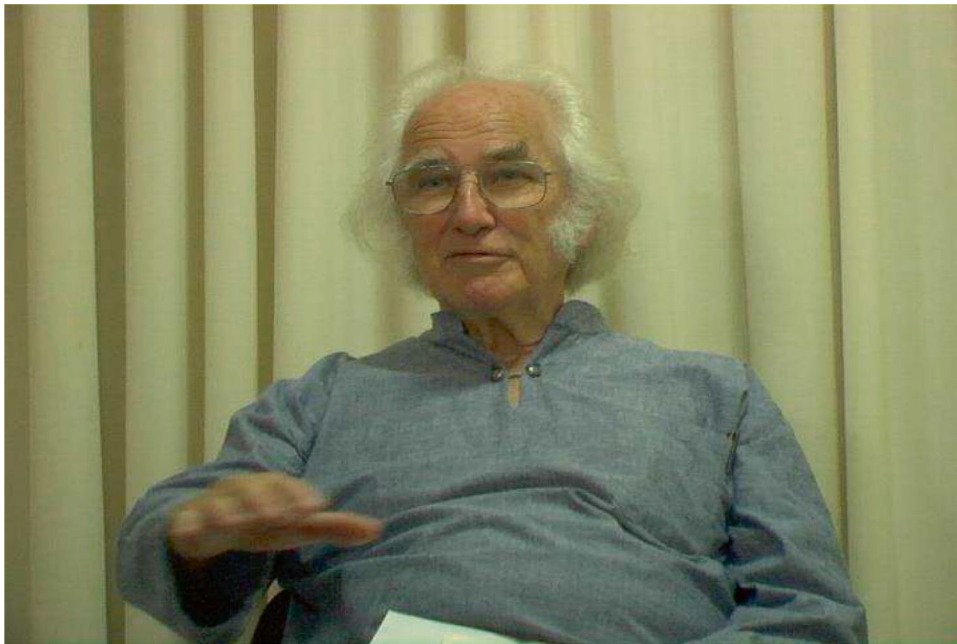# Obituary: Klaus Lampe, 1932–2024

Paul P. S. Teng[1]

Photo credit: International Rice Research Institute, https://www.irri.org/news-and-events/news/klaus-lampe-irri%E2%80%99s-fifth-director-general-passes-away-germany

Dr. Klaus Lampe, the fifth Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) sadly passed away on 6 February 2024. Klaus was a "Change Leader" in every sense, and during his tenure at IRRI dramatically changed its structure, culture and research approach. He exerted a strong positive influence on a whole generation of younger scientists who learnt much about what it means to persevere in one's beliefs in spite of criticism. Many went on to become leaders in the broader agricultural science community. Under him, IRRI embarked on a journey to re-invent itself to stay relevant and move ahead of the curve in rice science. Indeed, IRRI saw a renascence in rice science under his leadership, and some of the innovative approaches he supported, such as the "Man on the Moon" projects remain as striking examples of the importance to challenge convention and think futuristically. His support of the Matrix management system at IRRI dramatically changed how research was to be conducted, moving away from a discipline base to a strong problem-based program approach. All these left an indelible mark on the many who journeyed with him at IRRI. Additionally, Klaus reached out to non-traditional stakeholders such as civil society whom he felt were important to IRRI's mission. The World has lost a great man but his legacy will continue to have impact.

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