

# Taiwan develops soft rice for the elderly

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Local farmers plant rice shoots in the fields of Hsinwu, northern Taoyuan county on August 18. Taiwanese researchers said Thursday they have developed a strain of rice that cooks particularly soft for elderly people to meet the needs of a rapidly greying society.

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The new strain was developed by the Miaoli District [Agricultural Research](#) And Extension Station in central Taiwan after a decade-long process and was expected to hit the market next year, they said.

"We've developed the rice with the elderly consumers in mind to make the [rice](#) taste very soft and a little sweet. It also gives a stable yield and can be stored for a long time," said researcher Chang Su-jeing.

People aged 65 and over account for 10.7 percent of Taiwan's 23 million population, the latest census showed, above the 7.0 percent level at which a society is defined as "ageing" by the [World Health Organization](#).

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