



BLOOMING
Inclusion and Diversity in STEAM

Reflection Questions

Modern Rice Breeding:

1. What inspired Dr. Sónia Negrão to pursue a career in STEAM?
 - a) A love for plant genetics sparked in high school
 - b) The opportunity to work in Portugal
 - c) A passion for biology and chemistry
 - d) An interest in physics and engineering
2. What are the key factors considered when breeding rice for improved agronomic performance?
 - a) Grain color and taste
 - b) Disease resistance, drought tolerance, and yield
 - c) Growth height and leaf size
 - d) Plant flowering time and color variation
3. What traits are typically targeted for improvement in modern rice breeding programs?
 - a) Height and color
 - b) Agronomic performance, disease resistance, and yield
 - c) Taste and texture
 - d) Water retention and soil adaptation
4. What breeding techniques are commonly used in rice research to improve crop performance?
 - a) Crossbreeding and selection of natural genetic variants
 - b) Genetic modification using CRISPR technology
 - c) Cloning and hybridization
 - d) Tissue culture and in vitro fertilization



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5. How is the success of improved rice cultivars usually measured in agricultural research?

- a) By measuring growth rate and leaf size
- b) By evaluating yield, resilience to environmental stress, and pest resistance
- c) By analyzing the DNA sequences of the plants
- d) By testing the taste and market demand of the rice

Answers

1. What inspired Dr. Sónia Negrão to pursue a career in STEAM?

Answer: a) A love for plant genetics sparked in high school

2. What are the key factors considered when breeding rice for improved agronomic performance?

Answer: b) Disease resistance, drought tolerance, and yield

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