

# SCIENTIA AGRICOLA

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**Cover image** - The image shows the spikelets' degradation phenomenon of indica hybrid rice in the production field. The number of survived spikelets per unit of area is primarily defined by the number of differentiated spikelets and secondly by the number of degenerated spikelets. Nitrogen fertilization applied at the panicle initiation stage can promote the differentiation of spikelets and decrease their degradation, increasing rice production. **Credit:** Wei Zhou.