**30th National Rice R4D Conference**

PhilRice CES, Sept. 5-6, 2017

**Rationale**

Executive Order 1061 mandates PhilRice to develop and implement a national rice R4D program to improve and sustain rice production in the country. Together with the Department of Agriculture and its regional field offices and attached agencies, local government units, private sector, and non-government and international organizations, PhilRice has succeeded in the implementation of rice R4D programs and projects on the ground with a positive outlook for wider coverage to reach more rice and rice-based farming communities nationwide.

PhilRice and the National Rice R&D Network have implemented projects consistent with the national rice R&D programs. Many of these projects were conducted in multiple locations, involving DA stations, SUCs, NGOs, LGUs, farmer groups, and national and international agencies.

To present and review the accomplishments of these projects, PhilRice conducts a conference annually. The national conference provides a venue to acquire and exchange knowledge and experiences on rice R4D to address current issues and emerging problems besetting rice R4D and the industry, through paper and poster presentations, and field tours.

The 2017 conference will feature the new rice R4D programs in line with the new strategic plan that will help improve the competitiveness of the Filipino rice farmer and the Philippine rice industry. Hence, the theme: “***Rice Science and Innovation for Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth***”.

Speakers will expound on rice science and technologies for increasing yields and profitability, systems, tools and models for climate change-resiliency and competitiveness, and technology promotion and delivery for accelerating adoption as well as sharing and learning from farmers’ experiences and coping mechanisms.

The conference consists of paper and poster presentations, focusing on integrated topics in five thematic areas:

1. rice germplasm and breeding for improving yields, grain quality and nutrition, resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses;
2. crop management options for increasing/sustaining yields and improving resource-use efficiency;
3. technologies, systems, tools, and socio-economic information for efficient rice and rice-based farming
4. technology promotion and delivery for accelerating adoption and achieving impacts on farm productivity and sustainability; and

**Objectives:**

1. To recognize and appreciate the accomplishments in rice R4D, and provide an opportunity for interaction among rice R4D workers;
2. To identify appropriate and efficient strategies, and areas of collaboration with the different sectors in the rice industry in developing and promoting rice and rice-based technologies; and
3. To gather feedback and advice from rice industry stakeholders on the relevant rice R4D thrusts and initiatives to achieve rice security particularly on competitiveness, sustainability, and resiliency in rice and rice-based farming.

**Overview of Activities**

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| **Time** | **Day 1: 5 September (Wednesday)** | **Day 2: 6 September (Thursday)** |
| 7:00 - 8:00 | * Registration * Opening program * Opening/viewing of posters/exhibits * Tour at Rice Science museum * Launching of knowledge products |  |
| 8:00 - 9:00 | Field Visit (7-9AM) |
| 9:00 - 10:00 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 3 Concurrent Sessions  (10:00-12:00)  *(6 presentations/session=18)* |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Plenary Session 1  *(3 papers)* |
| 12:00 - 1:00 | Lunch Break | Lunch Break |
| 1:00 -2:00PM | Plenary Session 2  *(4 papers)* | Plenary Session 3  *(3 papers)*  Plenary Session 4 (Farmers’ Best Practices and Experiences)  *(3 presentations)* |
| 2:00 -3:00 |
| 3:00 - 3:20 | Coffee Break |
| 3:20-4:30 | 3 Concurrent Sessions *(5 presentations/session=15)* |
| 4:30-5:00 | Closing Program (4:00-5:00) |
| 5:00-10:00 PM | Fellowship and Dinner (Science City of Muñoz Pag-asa Gym) |  |