



Farmers who received free seeds have increased their yield from 3.65t/ha in 2019 DS to 4.22t/ha in 2021 DS.

PH produces new record-high palay output

Rice farmers had produced almost 20 million metric tons (MMT) of palay in 2021, hitting an all time high-record, based on data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The 19.96MMT total production was driven by good harvests year-round. It is 3.45% higher than the 19.29MMT production in 2020.

"We would have easily breached 20MMT as Typhoon Odette damaged more than 130,000MT of palay. [This] shows, however, that we are on the right track in our continuing efforts to increase the production of our major staples, in partnership with millions of our farmers, local government units, private sector, and agri-fishery industry stakeholders," DA Sec. William D. Dar said.

DA implemented several measures to boost rice production last year through the Philippine

Integrated Rice Program, which include programs under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), the National Rice Program, and the Rice Resiliency Project (RRP). Farmers' profit from rice farming including the returns to own labor, and land capital also went up from PhP19,576/ha in 2019 DS to PhP26,637/ha in 2021 DS. With additional savings from RCEF seeds and RRP fertilizers, their income further increased to P31,681/ha.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic on face-to-face learning, DA-PhilRice's contribution to the RCEF - Rice Extension Services Program, to date, includes the capacitation of 261 rice specialists and 1061 trainers across the country. They are tapped to facilitate learning activities on high-quality inbred rice and seed production. Science-based information materials delivered through various platforms to reach millions of farmers and extension

What's Inside?

- Stations celebrate foundation days...page 2
- ManCom prepares for 2023-2028 strat plan workshop...page 2
- All branch stations now ISO-certified...page 3
- Lupao rice growers optimize farms in PAG-AHON II Project...page 3
- Highlights from the stations...pages 4 - 6
- RCEF Seeds update ...page 6
- Awards and Recognitions ...page 7
- Institute ramps up R4D projects...page 8
- Retirees and Designations ...page 8

intermediaries complement the learning activities.

"The country attained record harvest years in a row. Filipino farmers have always been persistent in overcoming agricultural challenges. We thank them for this harvest. The local government units and the policymakers were also instrumental in delivering this milestone—truly a whole-of-nation approach," Dr. John C. de Leon, DA-PhilRice executive director, said.



Stations celebrate foundation days

Batac and Isabela stations celebrated their 23rd and 30th anniversaries, respectively, early this year.

The Batac station was established on February 9, 1999. It serves as the center for dryland agriculture R&D focusing on the improvement of rice-based cropping systems in semi-arid areas and development of on-farm water conservation and storage techniques. The National Tobacco Administration played a major role in its creation.

Based in San Mateo, the Isabela station officially started its operations on January 21, 1992 with the aim of boosting rice production in Northeastern Luzon. With the need to promote hybrid rice, it became the hybrid rice center of DA-PhilRice in 1998. As such, its primary function is to develop, package, and promote hybrid rice and its related technologies.



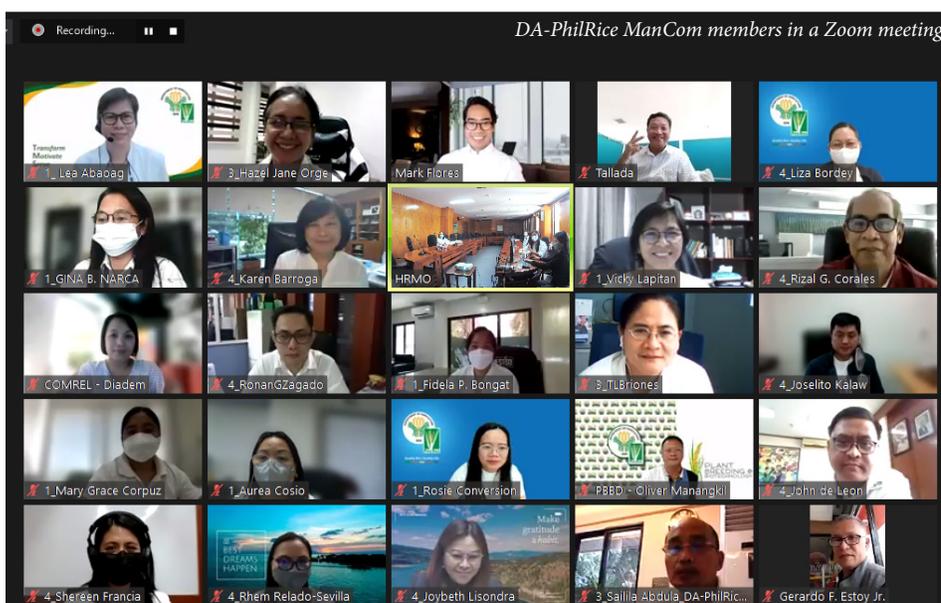
Batac (top photo) and Isabela stations continue to improve their ways of serving the farmers in their areas of coverage.

ManCom prepares for 2023-2028 strat plan workshop

Series of activities were conducted in preparation for the crafting of the new DA-PhilRice strategic plan to be spearheaded by the institute's management committee or ManCom.

The workshop titled, "Click Refresh; A Conversation for Leaders of DA-PhilRice," was held on Dec. 6 - 7, which was facilitated by Mark G. Flores, a human resource and organizational development practitioner. CoSpark PhilRice: A Strategic Planning webinar was also conducted on Dec. 7.

Voltaire T. Gonzales, a teacher of Leadership and Management at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business - Center for Continuing Education, briefed the participants on strategic planning, the proper mindset and attitude, and the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle. (Jungie A. Diamsay)



More than a thousand farmers, composed of 600 vegetable farmers, 240 rice-based farmers, and at least 500 households from Lupao, Nueva Ecija were introduced to vegetable production systems under the PAG-AHON Phase II Project.

Also known as the “Sa Palay at Gulay, may Ani, Hanapbuhay, Oportunidad, at Nutrisyon,” which ran from June to Dec. 31, 2021, the municipality-wide vegetable production initiative included crop diversification, the establishment of community food hubs, and rice-vegetable technology demonstrations or “Gulayan sa Palayan.”

The first two components of the project benefited 30 new rice and vegetable farmers with the training on vegetable production and financial literacy while 50 home gardeners were trained on vegetable gardening and nutrition. Farm input support such as seedlings, fertilizers, and farm tools were provided.

The project yielded 22 tons of vegetables with a PHP7,055 net income average per farmer. Dizon Farms bought the bulk of the produced (10.7 tons) vegetables

Lupao rice growers optimize farms in PAG-AHON II Project



Anastacio Mendoza shows off his vegetable farm in Brgy. San Isidro, Lupao.

while the rest were sold at the local market, online, and community, and/or consumed by households.

Meanwhile, component 3 established six new demo sites in six rice-growing barangays, with each site having 5,000m² for rice production and 2,500m² for vegetables. Among the inputs provided were certified rice seeds, hybrid vegetable seeds,

fertilizers, and pest management options.

With the support of DA-Regional Field Office III, 50 additional farmers were provided with vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and farm tools. Two key farmers from Phase I and six farmers from Phase II were also supported for GAP certification. (Precious Mae C. Gabato)

All branch stations now ISO-certified

DA-PhilRice Batac, Isabela, Los Baños, and Negros were awarded ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) certification by SOCOTEC Certification Philippines in 2021. This makes all stations ISO-Certified. Agusan, Midsayap, and Bicol were certified earlier.

The Central Experiment Station (CES) was declared compliant with ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental), and ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety) after the second audit on Nov. 17-19. The certification covered Rice Research and Development, Business

Development (Seed Production, Marketing and Distribution, and other Products), Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Program Management Office (RCEF-PMO), General Administrative Support Services, and Executive Management of the institute.

An ISO Management Standard is a set of internationally recognized guidelines covering key areas in business management such as resources, operational planning and control, performance management, business risks, and communication. (PMCGabato)



Attestation

This is to attest that

Philippine Rice Research Institute
Has been assessed by SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc., and has successfully completed the 2nd surveillance audit including Extension to Scope conducted last 17-19 November 2021.

In accordance with the requirements of

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018
(Quality, Environmental & Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems)

And has now been recommended for continued certification.

The scope of certification is

Rice Research and Development, Business Development (Seed Production, Marketing and Distribution and other Products), Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Program Management Office (RCEF-PMO), General Administrative Support Services and Executive Management

Gilmore A. Rivera
Gilmore A. Rivera, Operations Director
SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc.

Highlights from the Stations

Local weather forecasting for Ilocos region

10-day Weather Outlook for Farm Operations (Pangasinan)

Forecast Date: December 27, 2021 – January 5, 2022
Valid Until: January 5, 2022
Source: PAGASA
Processed and prepared by: PhilRice Batac - JM Maloom, CJRP Cotin and JA Calapit

Ref. No	Date	Day	Santo Tomas	Sison	Sual	Tayug	Umingan	Urbiztondo	Urdaneta City	Villasis
1	December 27, 2021	Monday	No Rain 23° 26' 30"	No Rain 21° 23' 26"	No Rain 23° 27' 31"	No Rain 24° 26' 28"	No Rain 23° 24' 26"	No Rain 24° 26' 31"	No Rain 23° 26' 30"	No Rain 23° 26' 30"
2	December 28, 2021	Tuesday	No Rain 22° 26' 31"	No Rain 21° 23' 27"	No Rain 24° 26' 30"	No Rain 24° 26' 29"	No Rain 22° 24' 28"	No Rain 23° 26' 32"	No Rain 22° 26' 31"	No Rain 22° 26' 31"
3	December 29, 2021	Wednesday	No Rain 21° 26' 32"	No Rain 20° 23' 27"	No Rain 24° 26' 31"	No Rain 24° 26' 30"	No Rain 22° 25' 29"	No Rain 23° 26' 33"	No Rain 22° 26' 32"	No Rain 21° 26' 32"
4	December 30, 2021	Thursday	No Rain 20° 25' 32"	No Rain 21° 23' 27"	No Rain 24° 26' 31"	No Rain 24° 26' 30"	No Rain 21° 24' 29"	No Rain 21° 26' 33"	No Rain 21° 26' 32"	No Rain 20° 25' 32"
5	December 31, 2021	Friday	No Rain 19° 25' 32"	No Rain 20° 23' 26"	No Rain 23° 26' 30"	No Rain 24° 26' 29"	No Rain 21° 24' 28"	No Rain 21° 25' 32"	No Rain 20° 25' 31"	No Rain 19° 25' 32"
6	January 1, 2022	Saturday	No Rain 19° 25' 31"	No Rain 19° 22' 26"	No Rain 23° 26' 30"	No Rain 23° 26' 29"	No Rain 21° 24' 28"	No Rain 21° 25' 32"	No Rain 20° 25' 31"	No Rain 19° 25' 31"
7	January 2, 2022	Sunday	No Rain 21° 26' 32"	Light Rains 20° 23' 26"	No Rain 24° 27' 30"	No Rain 23° 27' 31"	No Rain 21° 25' 29"	Light Rains 23° 26' 33"	No Rain 21° 26' 32"	No Rain 21° 26' 32"
8	January 3, 2022	Monday	No Rain 20° 25' 31"	No Rain 20° 22' 26"	No Rain 24° 26' 30"	No Rain 24° 26' 29"	No Rain 21° 24' 28"	No Rain 21° 25' 32"	No Rain 21° 25' 31"	No Rain 20° 25' 31"
9	January 4, 2022	Tuesday	No Rain 20° 25' 32"	Light Rains 19° 22' 26"	Light Rains 23° 26' 30"	No Rain 23° 26' 30"	No Rain 21° 24' 29"	Light Rains 21° 26' 32"	No Rain 20° 32"	No Rain 20° 25' 32"
10	January 5, 2022	Wednesday	No Rain 20° 25' 31"	No Rain 19° 22' 25"	No Rain 23° 26' 29"	No Rain 23° 26' 30"	No Rain 20° 24' 29"	No Rain 21° 25' 31"	No Rain 20° 25' 31"	No Rain 20° 25' 31"

LEGEND: Light Rains - less than 60mm rains day; Moderate Rains - 60 - 180mm rains day; Heavy Rains - greater than 180mm rains day

Batac station launched in May 2021 a localized weather forecasting system in the weather-sensitive Ilocos region to help increase the farming resiliency of local farmers. A 10-day weather forecast mapped per municipality/city within Region 1 is downloaded from the PAGASA website. For easier access, the weather advisory is disseminated through the DA-PhilRice Batac Facebook page, farmers' Facebook groups, and text blasts with the help of the Municipal or City Agriculture Office.

One of the text blast beneficiaries, Richard Linda Sr., was grateful for this initiative. Linda stated that the recommended crop management from the local weather updates resulted in good crop stand. Moreover, the branch station trained farmers, extension workers, local farmer-technicians, farm school owners, and workers on proper nutrient and pest and disease management. ● ● ●

DA-PhilRice Bicol station increased its net income by 42% (Php990,851.59) during the first semester of 2021 from seeds, products and services, and hostel.

Bicol station increases net income by 42%

The station also received two commendations from Commission on Audit during the 2021 Exit Conference for complying with the cost requirement of Gender and Development (GAD) activities in the GAD Plan and Budget and ensuring insurable properties with the General Insurance Fund of Government Service Insurance System.

Based on the station's 2021 dry season data, the RiceBIS community showed an average yield increase of 10.97%, 48.75%, and 86.41% in the Phase I, Phase II, and Expansion baselines, respectively.

In addition, the branch's R&D initiatives have reached over 9,000 people through its Facebook Page and PhilRice Text Center. ● ● ●



Participants of Lakbay Palay sa Binhing Palay Farms at Alde Farm School, Babatngon, Leyte take notes on high-quality seeds of rainfed rice varieties.

▶ Highlights from the Stations

Hybrid rice commercialized



Farmers in Bacsay, Luna, Apayao are now linked to the rice seed market and are making F1 seeds available for commercialization under the Community-Organized Hybrid Rice Farming and Marketing (COHRFarM) component.

This development succeeded the Isabela branch's season-long training on F1 Hybrid Rice Commercialization, in which 36 farmer-participants registered a 50.72% gain in knowledge.

Ten off-station rice technology demonstrations established in Cagayan Valley and CAR during the dry and wet seasons showcased newly released inbred and hybrid varieties, mechanized transplanting, and Rice Crop Manager-based nutrient management. Across sites, NSIC Rc 480 produced the highest yield. ● ● ●

Pipeline varieties identified; fertilizer recommendations generated

Los Baños station has generated fertilizer recommendations for inbred and hybrid varieties specific to soil and climatic conditions. It has also identified two pipeline varieties of thermosensitive genetic male sterile (TGMS) rice lines. It made full use of digital technologies through online and face-to-face learning activities for target rice stakeholders. It sustained its activities in CALABARZON under the Rice Technology and Innovations Promotions in Regions IV-A and

B (RiceTIP) and Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS) Community program.

The RiceBIS project in Quezon also assisted farmer- organizations in marketing their milled and pigmented rice by promoting their produce on social media. These helped them gain regular clients from NCR, Laguna, and Quezon who tap third-party delivery services in Los Baños. ● ● ●



Midsayap branch boosts rice production

Midsayap branch strengthened its partnership with the National Irrigation Administration XII for the documentation of the upscaling of alternate wetting and drying

adoption in Mlang, Cotabato, and Panggas practice in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat. It also produced knowledge products to promote rice technologies in its area of responsibility. ● ● ●

Highlights from the Stations



Farmers from Brgy. Nataban, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental graduate from FFS under the RCEF-Extension Program.

Continuing support for farmers

Negros station helped a RiceBIS Community receive farm implements and machines from the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization. Aside from holding focused group discussions, it trained 417 farmers in San Carlos and Canlaon cities under Farmers' Field School from which they obtained 40.37% gain in knowledge. In addition, it partnered with the provincial government office and local government unit in undertaking a study on nutrient management.



Agusan farmers now engaged in agro enterprise development

Kitcharao and Magallanes in Agusan del Norte are starting to progress as farm communities operating nine agro enterprises on milled rice lending, internal savings lending, and bulk purchasing inputs.

The community improvement, which spurred from the structured business-



centric model of RiceBIS Agusan, is managed by the trained 400 farmers who follow the business model bank concept pilot-tested by the Esperanza RiceBIS Producers Cooperative (ESRIPCO) in Agusan del Sur.

ESRIPCO had supplied high-quality seeds and farm inputs which grossed over PHP11.6M during the 2021 dry season.



RCEF SEEDS UPDATE

As of January 31, 2022



No. of cities/
municipalities
reached

956
2021 Dry Season

739
2021 Wet Season

706
2022 Dry Season

Seeds distributed

1,653,654
2021 Dry Season

1,764,841
2021 Wet Season

1,419,334
2022 Dry Season



No. of farmer-beneficiaries

661,567
2021 Dry Season

713,052
2021 Wet Season

547,339
2022 Dry Season



Estimated area
planted (ha)

780,267
2021 Dry Season

813,909
2021 Wet Season

656,824.75
2022 Dry Season

Awards and Recognitions

2021 Achievement Award
National Research Council of the
Philippines- Division of Agriculture
and Forestry

Roel R. Suralta

Director and Scientist III
DA-Crop Biotechnology Center



**Asian Institute of Digital Transformation
Master Class Graduates**



Flordeliza H. Bordey
Deputy Executive Director
for Special Concerns on the
Implementation of RCEF



Abner T. Montecalvo
Deputy Executive Director for
Administrative Services and
Finance



**Diadem B.
Gonzales-Esmero**
Head, Development
Communication

Gantimpala Agad Award

Marissa V. Romero

Chief SRS
Rice Chemistry and Food Science
Division, PhilRice CES



Pasasalamat Award



Oliver C. Soco
RCFSD



Nympha F. Abon
Admin



Jonathan C. Mudlong
RCEF



**Remelyn R. Delos
Santos**
RCEF



**Dalmacio V.
Carandang**
Los Baños



Celina M. Torres
Los Baños

Presidential Lingkod Bayan Awardee



Flordeliza H. Bordey

The 6th DA-PhilRice staff to receive the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, the highest recognition from the Civil Service Commission.

Gantimpala and Pasasalamat Award



RCEF Bicol Strengthening Farmers' Organizations Team



Philippine Rice Research Institute
Central Experiment Station
Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, 3119 Nueva Ecija



EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Diadem B. Gonzales-Esmero

Managing Editor/Graphics
Precious Mae C. Gabato

Technical Editor/Layout
Andrei B. Lanuza

Circulation
Iralyn S. Garcia

Writers
Precious Mae C. Gabato
Jungie A. Diamsay
Paul John P. Villamor

Consulting Editors
Juanito F. Goloyugo
Constante T. Briones
Charisma Love B. Gado-Gonzales

Editorial Advisers
John C. de Leon
Karen Eloisa T. Barroga

CONTACT US @

DA-PhilRice, Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz,
3119 Nueva Ecija
Email: prri.mail@philrice.gov.ph

Institute ramps up R4D projects

DA-PhilRice pursued 66 research for development (R4D) projects in 2021 by sustaining essential operations despite the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Executive Director John C. de Leon asserted strong linkages and close coordination with partners, the use of online communication platforms, and alternative measures and work arrangements helped the institute achieve most of its goals.

Eight new DA-PhilRice-bred inbred varieties were approved for commercial release: 3 for irrigated lowland (NSIC Rc 622, Rc 624, and Rc 626); and 5 special-purpose pigmented non-glutinous (NSIC Rc 638 SR, 640 SR, 642 SR, 644 SR, and 646 SR).

One new IRRI-bred inbred rice variety was also approved for commercial release (NSIC Rc 648 SR) with DA-PhilRice as co-breeder.

Highlighted accomplishments also include the establishment of 23 Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS)



DA-PhilRice staff participated in the WokTok PalayCheck Assessment held from April to December 2021.

communities in 16 provinces, training of 1,393 farmers in rice production and processing, setting-up of 34 rice techno-demo farms showcasing inbred and public hybrid varieties, and release of an updated MOET App in Google's Play Store. Three yoghurt drinks using fermented rice bran were developed, while far-infrared radiation paddy dryers were installed in Agusan del Norte and Occidental Mindoro.

Ecological and non-chemical methods of managing pests and diseases are being developed, while aeroponics and hydroponics vertical farming were also studied.

DA-PhilRice likewise hiked its knowledge-sharing and learning and information dissemination activities with 115 new

knowledge product titles developed in various formats. The PhilRice Text Center also recorded more than 50,000 new rice stakeholder-registrants.

The Institute also upgraded its search engine optimization plan, developed the PinoyRKB app and automated knowledge product inventory system, formed Rice Patrollers - farmers, agricultural technicians, and youth who share farm experiences on social media, and implemented the instant Facebook messaging system (chatbot).

Dr. Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang, deputy ED for research, stated that the accomplishments can be presented in a more unified report prepared through a writeshop. (Paul John P. Villamor)



Retirees



Evelyn F. Javier
ASPPD



Nenita V. Desamero
PBBD



Nida Q. Abrogena
DA-PhilRice Batac



Maria Christina V. Newingham
GRD



Aurea C. Cosio
IAU

Designations (as of January 2022)



Jaime A. Manalo IV
SocioEconomics
Division Head



Diadem B. Gonzales-Esmero
Development Communication
Division Head



Jennifer T. Niones
Crop Protection
Division Head



Ronan G. Zagado
Project Lead
Golden Rice



Laarnie L. Mandia
Community Relations
Office Head

Hazel V. Antonio
DCD, Asst. Head

Leonardo V. Marquez
CPD, Asst. Head

Allleen C. Litonjua
SED, Asst. Head

