



Celebrating 36 years of service to Filipino rice farmers

DA-PhilRice celebrates its 36th year of serving Filipino rice farmers across the nation on Nov. 4-5.

"Through the years, DA-PhilRice worked and continues to strive to make rice production not only more efficient, but also dependable and sustainable in meeting the growing demands of millions of Filipino rice consumers," Dr. John C. de Leon, executive director, said.

He added that through the institute's research for development (R4D) efforts, it continues to implement programs to improve the competitiveness of the Filipino rice farmers and the Philippine rice industry and transform it to be more profitable, resilient, and sustainable.

The institute's works have been making an impact on the lives of rice farmers through research, development, and extension.

"DA-PhilRice has helped me greatly in increasing my rice production. Thank you so much to all the staff," Fer Centeno, farmer in Pangasinan, said.

"I and my fellow trainees are grateful that the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund program has reached us despite the remoteness of our barangay. We are also thankful for the free certified inbred seeds that RCEF has been giving us for four

cropping seasons now. Our farmer association also received a combine rice harvester from the program," said Leopoldo Lopango, a rice farmer in Masbate.

"Thank you, Rice Business Innovations System Community Program for helping us, farmers. We were able to sell our palay at a higher price because we learned group marketing," Lee Espiritu of Pangasinan said.

To better serve rice farmers, DA-PhilRice and other stakeholders in the rice industry maintain productive partnerships and continue to exchange ideas.



DA Secretary Dr. William D. Dar, Dame Dr. Mary Ann P. Sayoc, Atty. Maria Anthonette Velasco-Allones, and Mr. Randy Borromeo (Guest of Honors)

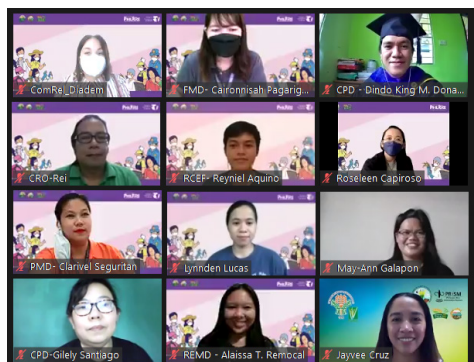
To be implemented through online and limited interpersonal activities, the celebration will feature the SRO seminar series on research management with Dame Dr. Mary Ann P. Sayoc as speaker. Outstanding staff will also be honored in the "Dangal ng PhilRice" to be led by lawyer Maria Anthonette Velasco-Allones. Thanksgiving and moral enrichment program with Mr. Randy Borromeo will also highlight the anniversary. (MO Tomas) 🌾

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R4D Conference tackles game-changing agenda



Staff trained on gender sensitivity



The training was conducted virtually, combining Zoom sessions with Google classroom modules, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing gender and development or GAD issues is at the center of DA-PhilRice's policy in maintaining gender equality

to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in rice, and the agriculture sector in general.

On Aug.16 to Sep. 3, the blended Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) was held by the institute to teach its staff and help them understand the sensitivity of issues on sex and gender, gender gap, division of labor, manifestations of gender bias, and other GAD-related concepts especially in the agriculture sector where it operates.

The first batch of trainees was composed of 83 participants from the Administrative, Research, and Development sectors - 58 women and 25 men staff.

Twenty-nine (29) of them graduated with distinction, while 12 received special GADtimpala awards.

A variety of module assessments, exercises, and games to make learning more interactive was utilized.

"I became more aware of the gender mainstreaming efforts in government institutions, the situation of women in the rice industry, and things I can personally do in my job like being deliberate in using gender-sensitive and inclusive language when writing," GST graduate Mervelyn O. Tomas of the Development Communication Division and an indigenous community member, said. (JA Diamsay)



"Game-changing Rice R4D Agenda in the New Normal"

Join the Celebration!

- Thanksgiving and Moral Enrichment
- SRO Seminar Series
- 33rd UGNAY PALAY: The National Rice R4D E-Conference
- Dangal ng PhilRice

November 3-5, 2021 • PhilRice CES, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

Don't forget to register at: <http://philricereg.vcp.live/>



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



RICE MATTERS is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute that delivers information about the Institute's activities to its partners, and internal and external clients.

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COVID Fund created



documents such as official receipts, travel orders, and trip tickets to avail of the financial assistance.

Executive director Dr. John C. de Leon said the institute's assistance to COVID-affected staff "will come through 80% reimbursed expenses for testing only (while) each of the branches has initially received P100,000 for the use of their workers. Reimbursements are retroactive to May 12, 2021 when the Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the Fund."

The fund is allowed under Section 72 of Republic Act 11518 (General Appropriations Act for the Fiscal Year 2021).

A 4-member COVID Fund Screening Committee is in-charge with determining the validity, legality, and limitations of the financial assistance that will be charged to the COVID Fund. 🍌

DA-PhilRice is providing financial assistance to all personnel who incur COVID-related expenses in the performance of their duties under the newly created COVID Fund.

Regular staff and other personnel are required to submit necessary

Farmers to get 1.5M bags RCEF seeds in 2022 DS



More than 600,000 farmer-beneficiaries are expected to receive free high-quality certified inbred seeds from the RCEF Seed Program this 2022 dry season (DS).

The seed delivery and distribution, which started on Sept.16, aims to deliver 1.5 million bags of seeds to 723 municipalities in 42 provinces until March 2022.

The farmers can also avail of technical briefings, Farmer Field Schools, seminars/field days, knowledge sharing, information, education and communication support materials, and other learning events under the RCEF Extension Program.

Meanwhile, extension workers will receive free trainings and short courses through the Rice Specialists Training and Training of Trainers. 🍌

In-house occupational and safety management system improved



Fire and electrical safety awareness is key in fire prevention and in performing maintenance and repairs of electrical equipment by qualified personnel. On Aug. 27, 30 workers from different divisions at our Central Experiment Station (CES) participated in the Basic Electrical Safety Awareness webinar to help improve the institute's Occupational Health and Safety Management System. The Integrated Management Standards and Services Office led the training with Markinello M. Sarical of the Health & Safety Solutions as the resource speaker.

On COVID-19 response, the institute capacitated 70 contact tracer attendees from all offices and divisions of CES, branch stations, and satellite offices on proper contact tracing knowledge and skills through the Contact Tracer Awareness Training held on Oct. 11. Catholic priest Arnold Abelardo, Nueva Ecija Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) spokesperson, facilitated the training. 🍌



High-yielding varieties, management technologies introduced to Laguna farmers



Twenty farmers were briefed about high-yielding rice varieties and pest and nutrient management technologies in a techno-orientation conducted by Los Baños station at the DA-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI)-assisted farm school in Pila, Laguna on Oct. 14.

Showcased at the Roqueza Integrated Farm school owned by Evita Roqueza, were public hybrid (M1), NSIC Rc 216, a popular inbred in the locality, and the newly released varieties Rc 508, Rc 510, and Rc 514.

Meanwhile, about 100 farmers in the Farmer Field School had undergone hands-on training on nutrient decision support tools such as Minus-One Element Technique and Leaf Color Chart.

These activities were conducted in collaboration with DA-ATI IV-A, DTI-TESDA Laguna, and the local government unit of Pila to create awareness and encourage farmers to adopt and plant the newly released high-yielding varieties introduced to them. 🌾

Manufacturing, commercialization agreements inked

DA-PhilRice is eyeing more modern, non-exclusive technology licensing agreements following the signing of two agreements allowing the Guimba, Nueva Ecija-based ACT Machineries and Metal Craft Corporation to manufacture and commercialize institute-developed farm machines.

These machines are the Multipurpose Seeder that distributes seeds uniformly and the Ride-on Buoyant Tiller capable of tilling soft, shallow, to relatively deep-mud fields.

Executive director Dr. John C. de Leon said the agreements are "gateway to bring these machines to farmers, the winners in this event." Meanwhile, Dr. Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang, deputy ED for research, challenged ACT to raise the commercialization level of its production. Likewise, Dr. Karen Eloisa T. Barroga, deputy ED for development, underscored the importance of our technologies being licensed to manufacturers for distribution to intended users.

De Leon and ACT representatives Marites M. Saldo and Sherman B. Valdez signed the agreements on Sept. 21. (JRA Buenaventura) 🌾

Agusan marks 31st anniversary



During the Agusan branch station's 31st anniversary on Aug 9, Director Dr. Caesar Joventino Tado stated that the station will focus on macro and micronutrient deficiencies and toxicities research to achieve 4t/ha in Caraga Region by 2022.

Tado also lauded the branch's entire workforce for supporting the RCEF team in the seed distribution, extension, and communication efforts this year. He thanked the pioneering staff for their continued service. 🌾

VISITORS

Hungarian diplomats to visit SC Muñoz

Delegates from Hungary headed by Ambassador Dr. Titanilla Toth will visit Science City of Muñoz on Oct. 29, and Nov. 11. They intend to donate vegetable planting materials to DA-PhilRice and explore collaborations on R&D with PCC and PHilMech.

Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz honored



DA-PhilRice honored Olympic gold medalist weightlifter-airwoman Hidilyn Diaz, a farmer's daughter and empowered woman, through the institute's rice paddy art. The

paddy art can be viewed at the 5-ha FutureRice Farm in Nueva Ecija. Diaz won the Philippines' first Olympic gold medal at the 2020 Summer Olympics in the women's 55kg category for

weightlifting, and set a new world record. Paddy art uses a technique called "anamorphosis" where an image only becomes visible when viewed in a special manner. 🍌

RiceBIS coops set multi-purpose upgrade



The Esperanza RiceBIS Producers Cooperative (ESRIPCO) in Agusan del Norte is targeting a multi-purpose upgrade within the next two years following its operation since RiceBIS Agusan organized it during its 2019 RiceBIS Phase 1. ESRIPCO currently provides high-quality seeds and farm inputs in the province.

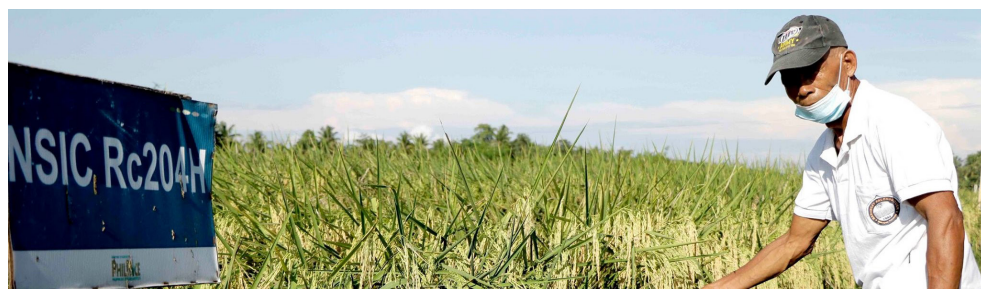
Meanwhile, 50 farmer-members of the Gumaga Farmers Association in Libungan, North Cotabato can now reduce their production cost including milling rice products after receiving farm machines from the RCEF Mechanization Program. The machines included 1 unit combine

harvester, 4-wheel-drive tractor, and rice transplanter, among others.

"The convergence of government extension services in Gumaga will boost the application of rice production technologies we teach rice farmers. The knowledge gained and machines acquired will help enhance their rice farming practices, productivity, and profitability," Midsayap branch RiceBIS Project Leader Pernelyn S. Torrena said.

Dr. Torrena added that farm mechanization is one of the crop management practices under the PalayCheck System. The Midsayap RiceBIS team continues to guide and strengthen Gumaga farmers in their agroenterprise activities and in opportunities in accessing government projects. (WJM Lorenzo and STC Quiring) 🍌

Forum, techno-demo, training focus on hybrid



On Sep.1, the Regional Rice Technology Forum and Hybrid Rice Techno-Demo Harvest Festival highlighted the vigor of 14 hybrids under the agro-climatic conditions in Region 12's Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

The 14 hybrid rice varieties featured during the event at the Midsayap station were PHB 79, Bigante, Habilis, SL-8H, SL-12H, SL-19H, Hyvar, US88, TH 82, Batari, Longping 534 and 2096, Mestizo 20, and Kimbee.

Farmers from Buenavista, Quezon also showcased the public hybrid Mestizo 20 during the Farmer's Field Day last Oct. 15. The hybrid rice were produced by the farmers during the seed production trial last DS2020.

Unlike inbred rice varieties, hybrids have longer and thicker root system, bigger and heavier panicles, faster growth rate, and higher vigor that allow them to produce higher yields.

During another event, 36 accredited rice seed growers from Cagayan

also learned how to sample R-line (male palay) and A-line (female palay) to understand the state of panicle development and flowering stage of both mature parental lines. These lines are parents of F1 hybrid seeds like Mestizo 1.

Meanwhile, the Season-Long Training on F1 Hybrid Rice Commercialization officially started in Barangay Bacsay, Luna, Apayao with 30 inbred and hybrid rice farmers in attendance on September 21.

The training focuses on producing commercial Mestizo 1 and Mestizo 20 varieties with emphasis on land preparation, pest infestation, water and nutrient management, and harvesting.

Isabela station leads the training in cooperation with municipal and city agriculture offices, and local government officials in implementing Rice Development Initiatives for Cagayan Valley and CAR Environments. 🌾

DA-PHILRICE UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

3-5	36th Founding Anniversary
4-5	Ugnay Palay: The 33rd National Rice R4D Conference
9	DA- PhilRice Los Baños Anniversary
15-19	Certification and Surveillance Audits
19- Dec 10	18-Day Campaign to End VAWC
22-27	DA Management Committee Meeting
(TBA)	Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework Assessment

DECEMBER

1	DA-PhilRice Tower Lighting
1-10	DA-PhilRice Annual Review Writeshop
7	18th Management Committee Meeting
13	General Administrative Support Services Annual Review
17	Institute Year-end Party

DA-CBC brings PH in agri biotech forefront



DA Secretary William D. Dar (6th from left) leads the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new P277 million DA-Crop Biotech Center (DA-CBC) funded by the US government.

Secretary Dar said that the Center is the country's first line of defense against hunger by producing superior crops to feed the growing population reeling under the Covid-19 pandemic.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte said CBC will bring the Philippines in the forefront of agricultural biotechnology. US Embassy Agricultural Counselor Ryan Bedford said the Center will be the hub for Philippine R&D on critical areas in agricultural biotechnology. The DA-CBC inauguration on September 30 also marked the commercialization of Golden Rice under the DA-PhilRice and International Rice Research Institute's Healthier Rice Project. 🌾

RICE MATTERS

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SEPT-OCT 2021

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DA- PhilRice
Executive Director



Eduardo Jimmy Quilang
OIC, Office of the
Deputy Executive
Director for Research



Karen Eloisa Barroga
Deputy Executive
Director for
Development

CONGRATULATIONS



DA-PhilRice Midsayap

Outstanding Accounting Offices for CY 2019-2020
Awarded by the Commission on Audit through the Association
of Government Accountants of the Philippines, Inc.



Rayuray Farmers Agriculture Cooperative

Most Outstanding Cooperative
(Batac, Ilocos Norte)

IN MEMORIAM



Thank you, Adel, for
your dedicated service.

ADELAIDA GIRAY

Supervising
Administrative Officer

FEBRUARY 2, 1966-
OCTOBER 26, 2021

GANTIMPALA AGAD AWARDEES

AUGUST



Susan Brena
Genetic Resources
Division, CES

OCTOBER

Diadem Gonzales-Esmero
Glenn Ilar
Lorelie Vee Domingo
Jungie Diamsay
Precious Mae Gabato

Gender and Development
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Renante Braga
Ronelo Cuento

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SEPTEMBER



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Zara Lyn Tamang



Paulo Balintong



Denise Sadullo



Kristine Paliza

Business Development Initiative Team, Bicol



Ian Stallone Palima
Bicol



Ferdinand Aguilar
Bicol



Rouella Melegrito



Hiyasmin Mandac



Fidel Ramos



Christian Paul De Leon

Isabela



NOVEMBER is National Rice Awareness Month



Be RICEpossibly healthy. The public is encouraged to consume healthier rice produced by Filipino farmers in the month-long celebration of the National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM) this November.

The celebration, which kicks off on Nov. 8, highlights the importance of pigmented and brown rice with the theme "Be RICEpossibly healthy." Golden Rice is also being introduced.

Food scientist Dr. Marissa V. Romero of DA-PhilRice stressed that the health benefits of rice depend on its type.

"White or milled or polished rice is a good source of carbohydrates that provide the energy needed in our daily functions. It also contains 6-10% protein. Unfortunately, this kind of rice has a relatively high glycemic index (GI), which indicates a faster conversion of carbohydrates to sugars, particularly glucose," she explained.

Romero recommends the consumption of brown or unpolished rice as it has more fiber, minerals, and vitamins, particularly B vitamins. Brown rice also has a lower GI than white rice.

"This type of rice is rich in nutrients because its bran is kept intact. Thus, its consumption could help prevent obesity and the onset of lifestyle diseases, as shown by some clinical studies," she said.

Meanwhile, pigmented rice such as black or red rice contain phytochemicals in the bran.

"These phytochemicals have high antioxidant activity that strengthens our bodies against chronic lifestyle diseases. They scavenge free radicals, which usually destroy body cells and cause health complications such as poor eyesight, diabetes, atherosclerosis (blood flow restriction due to fat buildup), and cancer," she added.

Romero also mentioned Golden Rice, a type of rice with beta-carotene, which can be converted into vitamin A as needed by the body. Studies show that a cup of cooked Golden Rice can provide 30-50% estimated average requirement of vitamin A for pre-school children and two cups for school children and adults.

Consumers are also urged to patronize rice produced by Filipino farmers as based on a comparative study, the country's rice is generally less exposed to pesticides than imported rice.

Activities will include healthy rice exhibits, media engagement, and social media activities like posting of rice trivias, promotion of healthy rice, patronage of local rice, and not wasting the staple food.

In addition, the public is reminded to avoid wastage to help achieve rice security. The 2018 Household Food Consumption Survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute showed that a household wastes 72% or 66.8g of cereal products and cereals including rice in a plate.

NRAM is observed every November pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 524, s.2004. (CLB Gado-Gonzales)

R4D Conference tackles game-changing agenda



DA-PhilRice will convene the rice sector to discuss the new challenges and opportunities in rice research for

development in the 33rd Ugnay Palay: National Rice R4D e-conference, Nov. 4-5.

Dr. John C. de Leon, executive director, said that the conference focused on the agriculture sector adapting strategies that emphasize food security amidst the pandemic.

"The pandemic is pushing us to think and act more. This is the time when availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutritious food need not be compromised while dealing with the farm productivity constraints. The Mandanas-Garcia ruling and

the province-led agriculture and fishery extension system may provide opportunities for us to improve the agriculture sector," he said.

Researchers, scientists, academics, students, farmers, and other stakeholders will help identify ways that can assist the local government units in implementing the new programs.

One DA Reform Agenda, national agricultural programs, and the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Programs will also be highlighted in the plenary sessions. (CLB Gado-Gonzales)



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