



DA-PhilRice Executive Director John C. de Leon addressing the staff during the Strat Plan Workshop. (A) Flordeliza H. Bordey, Overall Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Team (B) Joselito A. Kalaw, Secretariat.

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## Visioning workshop supports new Strat Plan

**D**A-PhilRice revisited its vision, mission, and core values during its Strategic Planning Workshop held on May 25-26 to discuss the Institute's new task environment. Challenges and opportunities, and possible thematic areas in rice research for development and extension (R4D&E) were also identified and fleshed out.

A plenary discussion examined DA-PhilRice's status in implementing

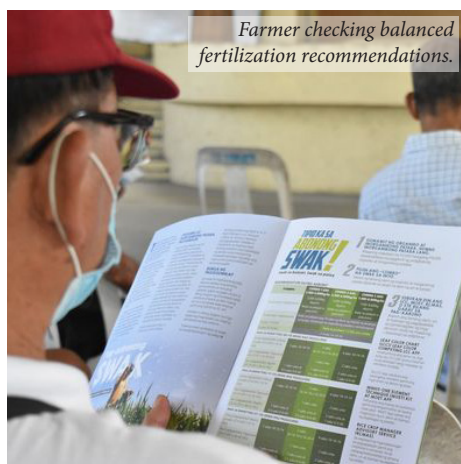
the Strategic Plan, and how the outputs are being translated in RiceBIS areas.

The session "What should DA-PhilRice and its partners do together in the next 5 years?" – provided information on the latest rice-related statistics and trends, particularly on production, yield, cost and returns, technology adoption, population, rice per capita consumption, and rice demand, as

well as supply utilization projections in 2022 to 2028.

With the Corporate Services Division backstopping the Strategic Planning Team and coordinating all related activities, the initial draft of Plan 2023-2028 will be available by July 2022. It will be subjected to regional (island-wide) and national stakeholders' consultations starting August 2022. The final plan should come out by December 2022.

## Branch Stations roll out *Abonong Swak*



Farmer checking balanced fertilization recommendations.

**F**armers in Bicol, Negros, and Laguna may now save Php2,000 to Php4,000 per hectare by adopting the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS) being promoted under the *Abonong Swak: Swak sa badyet, Swak sa palay* campaign of the DA-PhilRice in partnership with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI). RCEF Units of Bicol and Negros stations introduced combo fertilizer options to farmers in Southern Leyte, Masbate, Western Samar, Aklan, Capiz, and Bohol. Nutrient

management expert Wilfredo B. Collado explained the importance of BFS during a virtual Lakbay Palay campaign on Los Baños station's Facebook page.

The campaign also encourages farmers to use diagnostic tools such as Minus-One-Element Technique (MOET) kit, soil test kits, Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service (RCMAS), Leaf Color Chart (LCC), and ICT-based tools available online for more precise recommendations. (Eloueza Marie P. dela Cruz)

Remus Tancontian, operations manager of AgriDom, discussing the specifications and advantages of using agricultural drone in direct seeding.



## Agri drone for direct seeding demonstrated

**D**rone technology for direct seeding, is it possible? This is the main question that was answered by our drone researchers during the June 23 AgriKapihan at the FutureRice Farm, DA-PhilRice Central Experiment Station.

Seventy farmers, coop members, and agriculturists from LGU-Talavera and Science City of Muñoz, Central Luzon Hybrid and Inbred Rice Seeds Agriculture Cooperative (CLHIRSAC), Nagkakaisang Magsasaka Agricultural Primary Multi-Purpose Coop (NMAPMPC), and Bantug Primary Multi-Purpose Coop along with DA-PhilRice staff attended the event. It demonstrated the agricultural drone, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for direct seeding in rice.

Dr. Karen Eloisa T. Barroga, deputy executive director for development,

encouraged farmers to be more objective and open-minded in adapting modern technologies as these are being developed to ease farming processes and reduce costs.

On the other hand, AgriDom Operations Manager Remus Tancontian discussed the features and advantages of using the agricultural drone - can finish crop establishment for 30 minutes per hectare; even and consistent in seed spreading; and can attain the 40kg recommended seeding rate.

Compared to manual broadcasting, which incurs a total cost of PhP5,460/ha involving 3 bags of seeds (120kg) at PhP1,520 per bag, and labor cost of PhP900 for 3 laborers, drone seeding can lessen the cost by PhP3,090.

By utilizing drone seeding technology, total cost can be

reduced to PhP2,370/ha as the rent for a drone is only PhP850/ha.

Furthermore, DA-PhilRice ICT Specialist Nehemiah L. Caballong explained that during their 2022 Dry Season experiment, the drone seeded produced 6.85t/ha while manually-broadcasted yielded 6.38t/ha.

He added that the agricultural drone is also used in fertilizer application and chemical spraying.

"This technology has potential in helping farmers reduce the cost in production and labor like the combine harvester, and I hope that this technology can be available soon," said Dr. Rudy S. Bernardo, farmer consultant from LGU-Talavera. (Eloueza Marie P. dela Cruz)





# COA lauds DA-PhilRice GAD

**T**he Commission on Audit (COA) commended DA-PhilRice for its 39% appropriation to Gender and Development (GAD) for fiscal year 2021, which was far over the 5% budget requirement as mandated by law.

In its audit observation report, COA saluted the Institute “for supporting the objective of GAD” and further recommended that the Executive Director through the GAD focal person continually adhere to the related laws, rules, and regulations concerning GAD planning, budgeting, and implementation.

Executive Director and GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) Chair, Dr. John C. de Leon, expressed his gratitude



*GAD Secretariat receives commendation: (from left) Precious Mae C. Gabato, Jungie A. Diamsay, Ma. Leilani M. Otic (Audit Team Leader), and Diadem B. Gonzales-Esmoro (GFPS TWG-Focal Person).*

to the entire GAD team for the job well done.

GAD mainstreaming in the institute meanwhile continued with some 38 project leaders and GFPS members from various offices and branches graduated on June 10 from the first asynchronous Gender Analysis Training. They are expected to use gender analysis tools in identifying

gender gaps and issues in their respective programs, projects, and activities, and in designing strategies in addressing them. An in-house training module tailored-fit to agriculture and rice farming was crafted for this training to effectively mainstream GAD and to help attain a more inclusive development in the rice sector. (Jungie A. Diamsay)

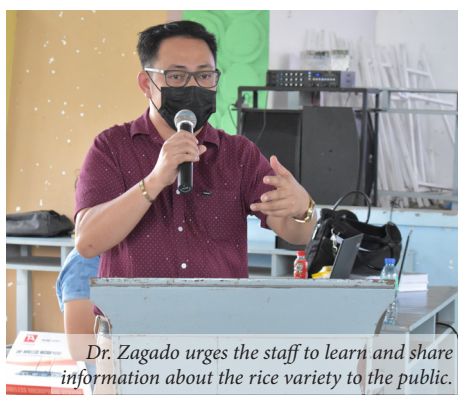


## News from the Branch Stations

### Go for “gold” for health and nutrition

**G**olden Rice is now safe for public consumption. DA-PhilRice and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) are now drawing up plans to “deploy” this rice variety in the regions.

DA-PhilRice Agusan will oversee seed production of Golden Rice and development of pilot-scale strategies in Regions 10 and Caraga. Dr. Ronan G. Zagado, Golden Rice Program leader, assured Agusan branch staff during a technical briefing on May 19, the rice is safe for consumption just like all other rice varieties.



Golden Rice is a product of biotechnology, a tool used to infuse beta-carotene into rice. Former DA-PhilRice Executive Director Eufemio T. Rasco said, “Biotechnology for agriculture, whether using conventional or modern tools, has a major role to play in making sure that there is enough food. It will be in the interest of our people to continue support

for science and research for development. After all, this is for the public good.” In developing Golden Rice in the 1980s, Professor Emeritus Ingo Potrykus at the Institute of Plant Sciences in Zurich, Switzerland and his research group applied gene technology in order to contribute to sustained food security and reduce malnutrition in developing countries, especially among pregnant women and children who suffer from Vitamin A deficiency (VAD).

Golden Rice in the Philippines is now registered as NSIC 2022 Rc 68 2GR2E (Malusog 1) with the National Seed Industry Council. Biosafety assessments done by regulatory bodies in five countries, including the Philippines, found Golden Rice safe to plant and eat. (Kristianne Marie C. David)





## Upcoming Events

### July

- 5** 22nd Regular Mancom Meeting
- 11-15** Research Sector Midyear Review
- 18-22** Development Sector Midyear Review
- 25-27** GASS Sector Midyear Review
- 25-29** Statistical Training/ Seminar for Researchers

### August

- 1 - 5** RCEF Midyear Review
- 9** 30th Research Management Team Meeting
- 16** 3rd Development Sector Meeting
- 17** 4thGASS Sector Meeting
- 29** National Heroes Day

### September

- 2** Nueva Ecija Day (local holiday)
- 6-7** 34th Research for Development Review
- 13** Management Review

## RCEF-RESP TOT participants learn production techniques

**A**gricultural extension workers, local government unit farmer leaders, and representatives from farm schools, partner agencies, and state universities and colleges in Region 1 acquired knowledge on rice production technologies after the intensive Training of Trainers (TOT) under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP) on April 18-29 and May 10-21.

The training centered on the production of high-quality inbred rice seeds, farm mechanization, knowledge-sharing competencies, ICT-based tools and apps such as Minus-One-Element Technique (MOET), Leaf Color Chart (LCC), Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service (RCMAS), Integrated Pest Management, and micro-teaching sessions, to enable participants to develop action plans for implementation in their respective areas. (Franzel Monique D. Bonilla)

## Drone seeding tech helps promote new rice breeds

**B**icol station showcased six new high-yielding rice varieties – NSIC Rc 436, Rc 438, Rc 460, Rc 480, Rc 204H, and Rc 446H—using cost-reducing drone seeding technology during the 14th National Rice Technology Forum (NRTF) Grand Field Day 2022 Dry Season in San Ramon, Bula, Camarines Sur on April 18-22.

healthier rice such as brown rice, red rice, and black glutinous rice were also promoted.

DA-Regional Field Office 5 and DA-Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 5 along with the Rice Productivity Advocacy Inc. (Rice Board) and Bula LGU sponsored the event. (Rona T. Dollentas)

Rice production technologies, knowledge products, ICT-based tools, and





# Laguna farmers learn about new rice varieties



Field walk participants viewing newly released rice varieties showcased in Laguna.

**P**opular and newly released inbred and hybrid rice varieties recommended for Regions IV-A and IV-B were showcased during the technology demonstration on March 11 and 14 in Los Baños and Bay, Laguna.

Eighty-six farmers from the Pinag-isang Damdamin ng mga Magsasaka ng Mabacan River Irrigators Association (PIDaMaRIS), Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Maahas (SAMA-SAMA), and Samahan ng mga Magpapalay ng Bayog attended the Lakbay Palay or field walks along with municipal agriculture office staff.

A varietal techno-demo was held at the branch's Palayamanan Demo Farm (PDF) and at a farmer's field in Brgy. Masaya in Bay following the PalayCheck system. Results at the Los Baños PDF showed comparable yields of the hybrid varieties Mestiso 73 and Mestiso 13 at 5.30 t/ha, while inbred varieties yielded 4.06 to 5.10t/ha. At the Bay PDF, relatively lower yields were observed in Mestiso 73 at 3.73t/ha while inbreds ranged from 3.71 to 4.99t/ha. (Cherry Rose Piñon and Michelle C. Quimbo)

**D**A-PhilRice Midsayap on May 17 joined the One SOXAARR-DEC, a 17-member consortium aimed at unifying planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluating, and sharing R&D programs and resources of partner state universities and colleges in Region 12.

SOXAARRDEC stands for SOCCSK-SARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Research, Development and Extension Consortium, which covers Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and General Santos City.

The consortium will help the Midsayap branch develop a local rice vinegar as a primary product in keeping with the group's thrusts.

Branch Director Dr. Sailila E. Abdula, DA assistant secretary and

## Midsayap station joins consortium



Midsayap branch teams up with SUCs in Region 12.

chair of the Regional R&D Coordinating Council (RRDCC) underscored the importance of the project in strengthening ties among the consortium member-institutions during the council's recent meeting at the Sultan Kudarat State University in

Tacurong City. DA-PhilRice Midsayap is an active member under 3 clusters - research and development, technology transfer, and knowledge management. (Sylvia Therese C. Quiring)





# Negros Lakbay Palay held

Some 120 farmers and provincial agriculture staff joined the 2022 Dry Season Lakbay Palay at DA-PhilRice Negros, May 23. The event consisted of a field tour through seven stations and an open forum.

At station 1, the Animal and Organic Options Component of DiscoverRice Project bannered the use of rice remnants as vermicompost substrates and animal feeds, while other crops are essential as food alternatives. Station 2 showcased six special-purpose rice (Black Rice, Calatrava, Arabon, Dinorado, Red 64, Red 18), and eight inbred rice varieties.

The other stations presented the set-up on mungbean and onion production, hybrid rice and the ICT-based Binhing Palay App, MOET App, and eDamuhan App. Fertilizer recommendations were also given to interested farmers through the Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service

Farmers and provincial agriculture staff touring the fields at DA-PhilRice Negros.



(RCMAS). Various farm machines were likewise introduced during the event. Romel Solidum from the Organic Farming Development and Promotions Division of OPA-Negros Occidental suggested the use of organic materials in response to expensive chemical fertilizers. Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) representative

Pinky Subebe, meanwhile, explained the RCEF-Credit Program, while provincial government officials tackled other concerns. Most of the attendees said that the field day helped them identify rice varieties and hoped it would be conducted every season. (Chen L. Galvan, Vanessa A. Tingson, and Le Ann G. Dogeno)

## Cagayan farmers receive salt-tolerant rice varieties

DA-PhilRice Isabela, in collaboration with the Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), has fulfilled the second component of the project on selection and dissemination of elite salt-tolerant rice varieties to AFACI member-countries.

On June 3, a technical briefing and seed distribution of salt-tolerant rice varieties was conducted in Buguey and Sta. Teresita in Cagayan. A total of 125 bags certified seeds of NSIC Rc 534, 604, and 330 were distributed to 87 farmer-beneficiaries from saline areas of the two municipalities. These varieties were selected for their adaptability to



Dr. Dela Cruz briefs farmers before seed distribution begins.

salt-affected areas. NSIC Rc 604 or Salinas 34, which is the latest variety, has a maturity of 104 DAS and has a maximum yield of 5.1t/ha. Dr. Andres L. Dela Cruz, project lead, emphasized that the varieties

provided are for fields that are intruded by saltwater. The project is intended for them to increase their yields and avoid severe losses due to salinity.

Salinity limits yield because high salt concentration stunts crop growth. The average yield in such areas if affected during the tillering to flowering stages is only 1.5-2.5t/ha; no yield when the salt level is too high. Thus, adoption of salt-tolerant rice is crucial to maintain sustainability of rice production in coastal areas. Avelio U. Pascua from Buguey lavishly thanked the project implementers. (Kimberly D. Sahilan)

# Awards and Recognitions



## 71st PSABE Annual National Convention, 18th International Agricultural Engineering Conference (April 25-27)

### 1st Place Best Paper (Machine and Power Category)



**Alexis T. Belonio**



**John Jeric A. Batanes**



**Jasper G. Tallada**



**Manuel Jose C. Regalado**

### Overall 2nd Best Technical Poster



**Manuel Jose C. Regalado**



**Katherine C. Villota**



**Arnold S. Juliano**



**Elmer G. Bautista**



**Myrwillience C. Mariano**



**Alaissa T. Remocal**



**Kristine S. Pascual**

## Civil Service Commission - Honors Award Program

### Regional Winner



**Jose A. Orcino**  
Sales and Promotion Supervisor II  
Central Experiment Station  
Dangal ng Bayan Award

### Regional Winner



**RiceBIS Community Program**  
Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award

### Representatives for RiceBIS



**Aurora M. Corales**  
Chief SRS and Scientist I  
Central Experiment Station



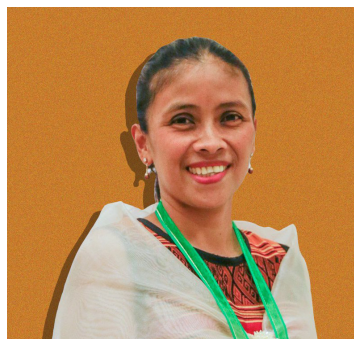
**Ommal H. Abdulkadil**  
Chief SRS  
Midsayap



**Ofelia C. Malonzo**  
Supervising SRS  
Isabela



**Joel V. Pascual**  
Supervising SRS  
Central Experiment Station



## Civil Service Commission Scientific Career System

### Newly Conferred Scientist I

**Riza G. Abilgos-Ramos**  
Supervising Science Research Specialist  
Rice Chemistry and Food Science Division

## Paragala Award

### Outstanding Institutional Award for Science Journalism, Holy Angel University in Angeles City

DA-PhilRice (represented by the  
Development Communication Division)



**Sharen T. Rivas**  
SRS I  
Agusan



# Awards and Recognitions

## Gantimpala Agad & Pasasalamat Awardees



**Finance Unit**  
Batac



**Community Relations Office**



**Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Program Management Office (RCEF-PMO) Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services**



(L-R) Jayson C. Berto, Minard F. Pagaduan, Anna Marie Bautista-Berto (DevCom)

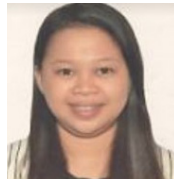
## Pasasalamat Awardees



**Christine M. Reyes**



**Jovelyn M. Montesines**



**Farhana S. Mawaig**



**Cherrie Mae A. Yape**



**Arizza A. Molar**



**Monica C. Cabero**  
RCEF-PMO, CES

Los Baños

Financial Management Division, CES

## Gantimpala Awardee



**Marvin D. Manalang**  
Technology Management and Services Division



(Photo by Aeron John C. Garcia)

## Blood for life

In celebration of the National Kidney Month, more than 100 personnel of DA-PhilRice registered to help patients of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) during the 2022 Blood Donation Drive, which was led by the Community Relations Office, on June 17 at the Crop Biotech Center Multipurpose Hall. Most of them were first-time blood donors.



**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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