



## Farmers rate *Lakbay Palay* as excellent



Farmers learn about recommended and newly released rice varieties and other technologies during the Lakbay Palay at DA-PhilRice CES.



a) DA-PhilRice Isabela



b) DA-PhilRice Batac



c) DA-PhilRice Negros

Rice farmers expressed appreciation for the conduct of the *Lakbay Palay* through excellent ratings forwarded to its organizers after the Sep. 14-15 event at DA-PhilRice CES, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Jerry Buan from Arayat, Pampanga said the activity served as an eye opener in improving their field practices.

"In a hectare, we use 8-10 sacks of seeds because we thought that if we plant more seeds, it will lead to better yield. Here, we learned that 1-2 sacks of certified seeds are enough," the chair of Sinag Tala Matapo Agriculture Cooperative said.

With the theme, "*Bukid Tipid Tips, Subukan!*" *Lakbay Palay* encouraged farmers to practice the alternate wetting and drying technology, use the combine harvester, and apply the right fertilizer to gain estimated savings of PhP7,000, PhP3,250, and PhP2,600, respectively.

Showcased technologies include recommended and newly released varieties—NSIC Rc 402, Rc 222, Rc 216, Rc 500, and Rc 600 series, agricultural drones, rice apps, various machines such as laser land leveler and automatic riding-type boat tiller.

*Palayamanan* that featured the Sorjan and rice-duck farming system and FutureRice Farm that displayed the rice paddy art of Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr and Vice-Pres. Sara Z. Duterte were also presented to around 600 participants from Central and Northern Luzon.

*Lakbay Palay* Wet Season were also conducted in branch stations—Midsayap on Sep. 7, Isabela on Sep. 15-16, Los Baños and Bicol on Oct. 11, Agusan on Oct. 21, Negros on Oct. 26, and Batac on Oct. 26. (Eloueza Marie dela Cruz)

a) Isabela farmers learning about cost-saving tips in rice production during WS *Lakbay Palay*.

b) Farmers and municipal agriculture staff from Region 1 touring the Batac's varietal demonstration area.

c) Rain or shine, knowledge continues as Negros farmers learn about the mechanical transplanter.

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## Zambales farmers use direct seeding machines for the first time

**Z**ambales rice farmers gave positive feedback on the use of direct seeding machines such as plastic drum seeder and ride-on precision seeder shown in a field day and forum held in Sta. Cruz, Zambales on Sep. 19 and Oct. 13.

According to farmer Juanito Medida, he likes the plastic drum seeder's precise depth and spacing.

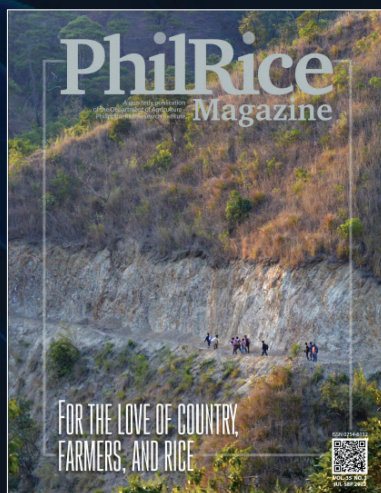
With the use of drum seeder, rice grains are seeded in straight rows allowing mechanical weeding in between rows. It also helps save

50-80% seeds over broadcast seeding. It only uses 40-60kg/ha of seeds while usual farmers' practice consumes 120kg/ha.

Bermy Miano, chairperson of the Guisguis Farmers Association, said that the precision seeder is helpful as it could reduce labor costs and seeding rate.

"I broadcast 80kg of seeds per hectare. But through the precision seeder, 20-40kg of seeds are already enough for a hectare. I also spent PhP12,000 for 20 farm hands in seeding. With the machine, we only need one operator," Miano said.

In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the local government of Zambales, DA-PhilRice implements the project, "Building capacity on promoting economically and environmentally efficient rice production through direct-seeded rice," which aims to strengthen the use of direct-seeding technologies. (Joshua Mendoza)



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**MOET is farmers' favorite.** Maguindanao farmers favored the Minus-One-Element Technique (MOET), a crop diagnostic tool that determines soil nutrient deficiency, during the Sep. 6 visit of DA-PhilRice Deputy Executive Director for Development Dr. Karen Eloisa T. Barroga in Sustainable Agricultural Farming Farm School at Brgy. Manungkaling, Mamasapano, Maguindanao. They reported that MOET is their guide in proper nutrient management, which lessens their costs in purchasing fertilizers.







**Golden Rice commended.** Bangladesh Parliament Member Tanvir Shakil Joy (2nd from R) lauded the good stand of Golden Rice NSIC 2022 Rc 682 GR2E (Malusog-1) during their visit on Sep. 30. Above, the Institute's top officials share copies of the PhilRice Story Book to Joy and Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik (2nd from L) of the Ministry of Environment.

## News from the Branch Stations

### Be agripreneurs, Agusan farmers told



Soon-to-be agripreneurs take the first step in increasing their income by enhancing their know-how on rice-based enterprises through DA-PhilRice knowledge products.

**R**ice-based agroenterprises particularly local milled rice are profitable due to their 10-20% return on investment.

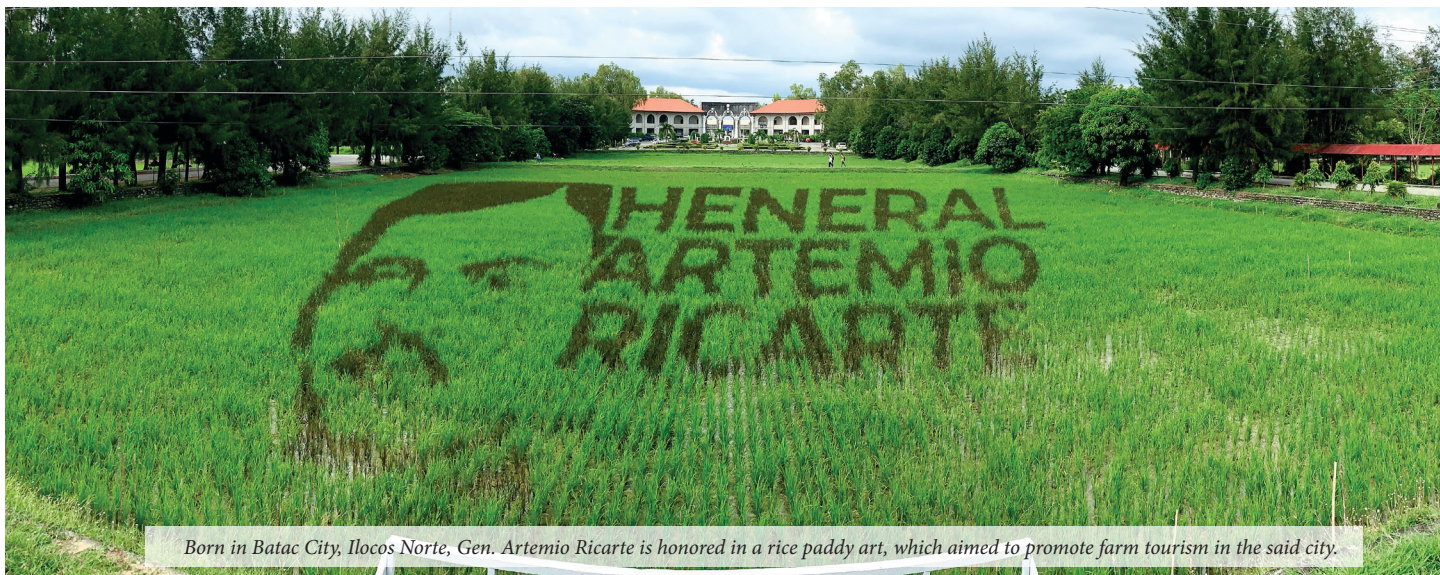
This was emphasized to Agusan farmers during the Agribusiness Support for Promotion and Investment in Regional Exposition (ASPIRE) Trade Fair 2022 themed "Strengthening Digital Marketing Towards Agribusiness Prosperity: Eat Local, Buy Local," in Butuan City on Sep. 2-4.

Sonny Jay Acosta, agroenterprise development facilitator of RiceBIS Agusan Project, said that "there is money in farming, and we need enabling support from a network of institutions like the government and private entities."

The Department of Agriculture's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division spearheaded the trade fair in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry and Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (Kristianne Marie David)



# MMSU, DA-PhilRice Batac reinvigorate farm tourism



Born in Batac City, Ilocos Norte, Gen. Artemio Ricarte is honored in a rice paddy art, which aimed to promote farm tourism in the said city.

**T**he Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) and DA-PhilRice Batac are intensifying the promotion of modern rice production technologies and youth engagement in agriculture through farm tourism.

MMSU Pres. Shirley Agrupis explained that the collaborative project is a "contribution to reinvigorating the agriculture sector by showcasing innovative rice production technologies."

Farm tourism through rice paddy art established at MMSU featured Gen. Artemio Ricarte, a native of Batac City and the "Father of the Philippine Army" during the Philippine Revolution.

IR 1552, a traditional purple rice variety from Korea, and PSB Rc 82, a high-yielding inbred variety, were used in the rice paddy art in designing Gen. Ricarte using the anamorphosis principle, which gives viewers distorted 3D visual looks, but

appear normal when viewed from a particular angle.

PalayCheck system, Bio-N organic fertilizer, and the Carrageenan Plant Growth Regulator were among technologies promoted to Ilocano farmers. (Franzel Monique Bonilla)



## Samar advocates for Golden Rice

**L**ocal executives of Calbiga and Basey in Samar expressed support to the Golden Rice Program being implemented in their municipalities during its Ceremonial Tasting and Stakeholders' Field Day, Oct. 4-6.

"The program is beneficial; let's treasure it," said Mayor Red Nacario of Calbiga.

Meanwhile, Basey Mayor Luz Ponferrada is hopeful that the program will help address malnutrition in the country.

For this year's wet season, Golden Rice was established in 2.5ha for seed production in Basey and Catarman and in 2.5ha for grain production in Calbiga.

The betacarotene-enriched Golden Rice, which can provide 30-50% of the Estimated Average Requirement (EAR) of vitamin A for young children and pregnant and lactating women, was approved for commercial propagation in the Philippines in July 2021.

Golden Rice is registered with the National Seed Industry Council as NSIC 2022 Rc 682 GR2E or Malusog-1. (Azryl Mae Jimenez)





**Bukid Tipid Tips**  
**SUBUKAN**  
LAMANG ANG MAY ALAM  
Kwentong may Kabuluhan

**SCAN ME!**







Dr. László Mathe (L) and Mr. Gábor Lehocz conduct a brief training on the use of machines to improve rice processing.

## Hungarian-made equipment speed up rice processing

Subsequent to the donation of three agricultural equipment by the Hungarian government through its embassy in Manila, the Midsayap branch station is now beefing up its capabilities in rice processing.

Equipment include one unit of chopper for chopping rice straw to

suitable cutting length, a grader for classifying rice and extracting broken rice that is important in rice mills, and a rotary hay rake for collecting cut hay or rice straw.

Dr. László Mathe, head of External Relations and Coordination Center of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE)

and Gábor Lehocz, Hungarian Embassy Deputy Head of Mission trained staff on using the machines designed and developed by small companies in their country. They also toured the station's seed production area.

László hopes to receive feedback on the performance of the equipment to enhance their suitability while Lehocz recalled how cooperation with DA-PhilRice began and looks ahead to a fruitful partnership.

Meanwhile, Midsayap Mayor Rolando Saccalan expressed gratitude for the donated equipment and their interest in trying them for local works.

Station officer-in-charge Ommal Abdulkadil also thanked the Government of Hungary for its generosity to the Midsayap branch station, and the LGU for their support.

He also encouraged staff to advance the station's R&D.  
(Sylvia Therese Quiring)



## More public hybrids up for production

Isabela farmers will soon produce Mestiso 73 and Mestiso 99, following the showcasing of Mestizo 1 and Mestizo 20 during the Provincial Rice Technology Forum (PRTF) Field Day in Sotero Nueva, Roxas, Isabela on Sep. 21.

"There will be more hybrid rice varieties to choose from. Aside from M1 and M20 featured here in PRTF, Mestiso 73 and 99 will soon be produced here in our province," OIC-Director Joy Bartolome Duldulao announced during the program.

Duldulao explained that the M73 and M99 varieties will undergo varietal trials to assess their yield performance before suitable areas for seed production will be identified.

Public hybrid seeds can be bought at PhP212/kg, cheaper than other

hybrids. M1, M20, M73, and M99 can yield from 6.6t/ha to a maximum of 11.7t/ha.

In terms of resistance to pests and diseases, M1 is intermediate to green leafhopper, blast, bacterial leaf blight, and tungro, while M20 is moderately resistant to leafhopper, brown planthopper, and yellow stem borer and intermediate to blast.

More than 800 farmers from different municipalities in Isabela attended the forum, a strategy to promote public hybrids to seed growers and farmers.

Roxas Mayor Jonathan Jose Calderon, PCL Federation President Antonio Hui, DA-RFO 02 Chief of Field Operations Division Engr. Monico Castro, Isabela Provincial Agriculturist Dr. Marites Frogoso, Dir. Imelda Guillermo of Agricultural



Training Institute-Regional Training Center 02 (ATI-RTC); and representatives from Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization and Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. graced the event.  
(Diana Lim)



# Fruitful learnings from RCEF result in higher yield



Roel Pagana harvests 5t/ha of palay after adopting the recommended seeding rate of 40kg/ha and production technologies such as the Minus-One-Element Technique (MOET).

**R**oel Pagana from Tayabas City, Quezon increased his yield by 1t/ha by using certified inbred seeds and following recommendations from the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

A farmer for three decades, Pagana planted new varieties such NSIC Rc 402 and new, pure seeds, which he received from RCEF Seed Program. Before the program, he used to rice seeds from previous harvest.

From the usual harvest of barely achieving 4t/ha, his harvest went up to 5t/ha this season.

"I was enlightened that planting two to three seedlings per hill is more beneficial, making 40kg of seeds enough for one hectare. My 1.5ha now produces no less than 12 tillers per hill," he said.

He now also practices the Minus-one Element Technique (MOET) to identify soil nutrient requirements, which he learned from the RCEF Rice Extension Services Program.

Overjoyed with his achievements, he expressed his gratitude to RCEF for equipping him with additional knowledge beneficial for rice production.  
(Christine Reyes)



## DA-BAR commends RiceBIS Negros



**T**he Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) cited the progress achieved by Negros farmers during the 2nd Site Working Group (SWG) meeting of the Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS) Negros Community in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Sep. 22.

RiceBIS created a "pilot-test development model for community transformation that is participatory, market-driven, and supported by a scientific production base

to improve the competitiveness of rice-based farming communities."

This is accomplished by establishing rice hubs that serve as farmers' support system in carrying out rice-based enterprises.

Anileen Pajarillo, RiceBIS Negros Community project leader, stressed the need for continuous training and close monitoring to sustain the project.

"It is fulfilling to see the growth of farmers in managing their organization," she added.

Since 2017, the community has established a cooperative with brown rice and rice enterprise, machine rental business, office, and warehouse building.

DA-BAR funds the RiceBIS Negros Community since 2021.  
(Vanessa Tingson)



**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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Rice artist Hermisanto (R) presents his rice painting "Computerice," an artpiece made of parts of computer, rice, and acrylic on canvas, to Science City of Muñoz Mayor Baby Armi Alvarez (C) and CLSU-College of Business Administration and Accountancy Dean Matilde Melicent Recto.

## Admiring the art of rice through the works of Hermisanto

**H**onoring rice in the form of art became possible through the *Butil, Buhay, Sining, at Kulay: A Rice Art Exhibit* that was launched on Oct. 27 at the DA-Crop Biotechnology Center within DA-PhilRice CES.

The heart and soul of the artworks is 71-year-old rice artist Herminigildo "Hermisanto" Santos, one of the pioneers of rice art in Asia.

The one-man exhibit opened in celebration of the 37th Anniversary of DA-PhilRice, Museum and Galleries Month, and National Rice Awareness Month. It featured 35 of his artworks, including Hermisanto's installation

art '*Pagpupugay sa mga Magsasaka*,' which honors Filipino farmers for their hard work.

Manong Hermi—as he likes to be called—is known for his incorporation of indigenous elements in his artworks and the use of rice grains as his medium.

He started his material exploration in 2007 and decided to go with rice as part of his art-making as he believes that rice is the real essence of the Filipino spirit.

"Choosing rice as a medium enables me to connect and relate to my audience as it is embedded in our

culture and the Filipino identity; and because rice is more than food, it is a way of living," he expounded.

Hermisanto expressed his gratitude to DA-PhilRice for giving him the opportunity to showcase his artworks. He declared interest in a joint exhibition with artists of the Rice Science Museum as he commended the rice artworks and rice-themed renditions displayed around the Institute.

(Katrina Janelle Alarcon)

### DATES TO REMEMBER



### DECEMBER

**NOV 25-DEC 12** - 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women

**2** - CES Tower lighting

**7** - 34th *Ugnay Palay* R4D Conference

**13-15** - Annual R&D Workshop

**16** - DA-PhilRice Institute Christmas Party

**16** - Year-end Station Assessment of DA-PhilRice Negros

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# Awards and Recognitions



## University of the Philippines Los Baños Alumni Association, Inc. (UPLBAA)

2022 College of Agriculture and Food  
Science (CAFS) Distinguished Alumnus



**Dr. John de Leon**  
Executive Director

Outstanding UPLB Alumna



**Dr. Riza Abilgos-Ramos**  
Supervising Science Research Specialist  
Scientist I

## International Data Corporation Future Enterprise Awards for Philippines

2022 Best in Future Connectedness



**RCEF Information Technology Team**  
For the development of RCEF Seed  
Monitoring System for the  
RCEF Seed Program

## Presidential Lingkod Bayan Semi-Finalist (Civil Service Commission)



**2022 Search for Outstanding  
Government Workers**  
RiceBIS Community Program

## Spring Nature Journal



**Top 3 Most Productive  
Institutions in terms  
of rice research in Indonesia  
and the Philippines**  
DA-PhilRice

## Hallbars Sustainability Research Institute

2022 Best Free  
Food Publications



**PhilRice Magazine**

Quality Rice. Quality Life.



## SEP-OCT

### Gantimpala Agad Awardees

Korea Program on  
International Agriculture  
(KOPIA) Team (CES)

Low Glycemic Index Rice Team  
(Batac)

Batac Procurement  
Management Unit

Maria Romina Padolina (CES)

Rosana Sabella Ganotisi  
(Batac)

Sheila Marie Pascual (Batac)

Rizaldy Pedron (Los Baños)

### Pasasalamat Awardees

Valerie Merilana (Batac)

Jose De Guzman Jr (CES)

Ranniel Lauriaga (CES)

### Appointment

Malvin Duldulao (CES) -  
Science Research Specialist I

### Promotions

Ailon Oliver Capistrano (CES) -  
Supervising Science Research  
Specialist

Erla Diaz (CES) - Internal  
Auditor IV

Lex Taguda (Batac) - Senior  
Science Research Specialist

Peter Lyod Sabes (Midsayap) -  
Supervising Science Research  
Specialist