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

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
January to August 2023

DA-PhilRice currently implements 87 rice research for development (R4D) projects to continue its efforts in strengthening national rice R4DE capabilities in generating information, technologies, and other products. Through close collaboration with partners and the use of online and offline media platforms, these information, varieties, machines, and crop management options are promoted through trainings, field days, exhibits, and knowledge products and materials.

Highlights of accomplishments are as follows:

Strategic Agenda 1: Boosting local production and raising farmers' and fisherfolk's income
PAP 1.1: Conduct of regional rice R4D programs for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao

Integrated Crop Management

- Twenty-three sites of fall armyworm (FAW)-infested rice-growing areas in Gonzaga and Santa Ana, Cagayan were validated to determine population, assess damage, and identify risk or triggering factors to elucidate spread, damage, and yield losses in rice. No FAW was observed in all monitoring sites. However, FAW started damaging direct-seeded rice at seedling stage in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija and is now found in seedbeds in Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Hence, a FAW flyer (Pest Alert on FAW) was prepared and released last July 24 and also uploaded as handout in Pinoy RKB last July 25. A Tagalog version of the flyer was also prepared.

- The efficiency of the DA-PhilRice-developed mechanical weeder in suppressing major weeds and weedy rice in irrigated lowland rice was field-evaluated.

- A focus group discussion documented Sariaya, Quezon farmers' current weedy rice management practices, perceptions, and information sources. Weedy rice samples were collected in Sariaya and Lucena City, Quezon.

Extension Support, Education, and Training Services (ESETS)

- The 360 virtual tour (https://360tour.philrice.gov.ph) had 6,232 total visitors. From January to August 2023, 145 groups (1,732 males; 1,406 females) were accommodated. Visitor management was rated outstanding.

- *PalayAralan* online sessions (15) featured nutrient, water, insect pest, disease, and weed management practices. The DA-PhilRice Facebook livestream had 1,275 live viewers, 69,589 post views, 28,175 engagements, and reached 88,561 individual social media users. *PalayAralan* has been rated outstanding (4.63 out of 5) based on audience feedback.

- The March 2023 DS *Lakbay Palay* themed *RCEF, Ano na?* was participated by >1,200 farmers and LGU partners, mostly from Central Luzon, and ≈21,000 through our official Facebook page.

- Trainings conducted within January to August 2023 had Excellent rating. These were: (1) *Introduction to the PalayCheck System for Irrigated Lowland Rice* (36 participants with average 48% gain-in-knowledge); (2) 18 batches of *TOT on Pest and Nutrient Management* (496 participants with average 67.63% GIK); (3) 8 batches of *TOT on High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization* (241 participants with average 60.14% GIK); (4) 1 batch of combined course on *TOT*

o the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization and *TOT on Pest and Nutrient Management* (27 participants with average 73.56% GIK); (5) 1 batch of *Integrated Nutrient Management in Rice* (14 participants with average 38% GIK); (6) 3 batches of *RCEF Refresher Course* (66 rice specialists with average 65.50%, 72%, and 61.31% GIK); and (7) 14 batches of *RCEF short courses on Pest and Nutrient Management* (432 participants with 44.62% average GIK).

- Thirty-seven (37) batches of training were accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and provided Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points to participants upon completion of the course. Thirty-four (34) of these batches were completed within the period.

- A new training course was designed as a refresher for graduates of the RCEF Rice Specialists' Training Course (RSTC) based on the results of a training needs assessment (TNA). Two online tracer surveys for the 2019-2021 RCEF RSTC and 2014-2015 AgRiDOC graduates were conducted to gather data on their whereabouts and their feedback on the most significant change brought by the training program on their personal and professional growth.

- The DA-PhilRice Text Center registered 91,840 new users and sent out 24 text blasts on managing water field supply; rat and stemborer infestations alert and management; importance of regular monitoring; choosing right varieties; solar drying tips; using rice straw as organic fertilizer; benefit of proper land preparation; judicial application of insecticides; weed management; nutrient management; RCEF training programs eligible participants; BLB and BLS management; agroecosystem analysis (AESA) activity benefit; right amount of seeds for direct seeding; reduced labor cost using mechanical transplanter; process of seed germination; and produce vigorous seedlings in 400-sqm seedbed.

- Sixty-two (62) news and features and 67 radio segments on core activities and RCEF Seed and Extension Programs were uploaded on DA-PhilRice Online and broadcasted over 25 radio stations, respectively. The *Pinoy* Rice Knowledge Bank gained 78,757 unique visits and 96% customer satisfaction rating. The DA-PhilRice Facebook page uploaded 196 original posts, resulting in 5,043,300 reach. Four major DA-PhilRice publications were published: On the Front Lines (2017-2022 Strategic Plan Terminal Report) and magazines titled 'Be water-smart,' 'Keeping farming communities to heart,' and '*Serbisyong Maaasahan, RCEF 'Yan*!'

<u>*Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS) Community Program*</u>

- Partnerships with RestoPH, Nueva Ecija LGU, and Bayambang LGU were set in motion. The Zambales RiceBIS Community was linked to Kiwanis International, who, in turn, ordered five tons of brown rice on cash-based payment. The Mangatarem RiceBIS community was linked to MayaniPH with five tons of initial delivery. In addition, the RiceBIS community in Negros Occidental was linked to a new market, the CM & Sons Food Products Inc., also known as Merzci, which will buy rice from the community as raw materials for their iron-fortified rice and rice premix usually distributed in Regions 6, 7, and 8, and some parts of Mindanao.

- Partnership with DA-Bureau of Plant Industry was established for the training of program implementers on the process of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification of RiceBIS community farms. This is to ensure quality and safety of farmers' produce. In July, 1 batch of GAP and Product Standards training was conducted among 36 (23 female, 17 male) project implementers from eight DA-PhilRice stations. Another batch of GAP training was also held in August among 21 RiceBIS farmers (13 female, 18 male) in San Mateo, Isabela. PhilGAP application of 21 farms of PhilGAP training graduates from San Mateo, Isabela are also being facilitated.

- Two Site Working Group workshops were conducted at DA-PhilRice Central Experiment Station in Nueva Ecija and PhilRice Negros, participated by representatives of RiceBIS communities, and

partner organizations and agencies which commit to help in the provision of farm machineries and facilities, conduct of necessary trainings and technical support, and provision of financial support to selected farmer-cluster.

- Farmer clusters (62) were assessed for appropriate agroenterprise. We partnered with Go Negosyo for the conduct of workshop on business plan development to prepare and empower project implementers in assisting farmer-clusters for the establishment and development of identified agroenterprise.

PAP 1.2: Location-specific rice R4D projects in support of the National Rice Program and in line with the National Agriculture and Fisheries R4D Agenda

Germplasm Conservation, Variety Development, and Seed Production

- Germplasm collections (530) regenerated in 2023 DS were harvested. Fifteen seed requests covering 166 seed packets were processed and attended to.

- Breeding for rice adapted to complete submergence and flash floods identified 33 promising lines with 100% survival 21 days after de-submergence. These lines were completely submerged under low-quality water in field condition for 8 days. The lines will be evaluated for yield performance under non-stress and submergence stress conditions in 2024 DS.

- Quality seeds of 55 breeding lines with combined tolerance to salinity and submergence were produced. Lines will be shuttled to 3 different locations for onsite evaluation. The identified sites experience sea water intrusion and flooding during heavy rainfall.

- A total of 453 OUT OF 522 pre-NCT entries were completely evaluated for milling recovery, amylose content (AC), gelatinization temperature (GT), and physical attributes. Meanwhile, 224 of 249 rice germplasms were completely assessed for milling recovery while 100% were evaluated for AC, GT, and for physical attributes.

- Elite and donor rice lines (922) were evaluated against major insect pests (BPH, GLH) and diseases (blast, BLB, ShB), where many rice lines were resistant to blast and all entries were susceptible to tungro and ShB. Intermediate reactions of rice lines were observed for resistance to BLB, GLH, and BPH.

- A panel of 218 rice genotypes composed of varieties/accessions/breeding lines were established for use by breeders for the selection of parentals for hybridization under the centralized breeding operation. Genetic diversity of the panel was inferred through 1K-RiCA SNP panel and QTL profiles using trait-based markers. Based on cluster analysis and population structure, the panel was divided into five major sub-groups. In addition, frequency of key genes/QTLs in the panel using 74 well-validated genes and QTLs controlling a range of disease resistance, grain quality, and abiotic stress traits were at a very low to moderate frequency.

- To identify varieties that can also be recommended under limited water conditions, 20 irrigated rice varieties were evaluated for drought tolerance and field performance under irrigated and managed drought stress conditions.

- Promising lines with salinity tolerance applied for Plant Variety Protection were field-evaluated. Eight promising lines with drought tolerance were nominated to NCT rainfed-drought prone rice ecosystem.

- Nucleus seeds were produced: 800 panicles each for 4 nationally recommended rice varieties (NSIC Rc 222, Rc 402, Rc 216, and Rc 480), and 400 panicles each for the 13 regionally recommended and 20 other rice varieties. Breeder seeds of 4 nationally recommended, 20 regionally recommended, and other rice varieties (new release, for adverse environments, and special rices) were harvested, certification of which is in progress.

- F1 hybrid seeds of NSIC Rc 714H (Mestiso 132), the newly released DA-PhilRice-bred CMS-based hybrid for Central Luzon recommendation, was produced for technology demonstration trials.

Evaluation and Packaging Fertilizer Products for Balanced Nutrition of Irrigated Lowland Rice (Fertilizer Derby)

- For WS 2023, 89 participants registered in seven field evaluation sites. Nine (9) new products were evaluated in addition to the existing 21 products. All stations finished crop establishment at the end of June but Midsayap in North Cotabato established earlier in late May. The DA-PhilRice nutrient management protocol and farmers' practice in each station remained as protocols for comparison.

Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS) Community Program

- The RiceBIS Zaragoza (Nueva Ecija) farmers participated as *Kadiwa ng Pangulo* concessionaire during the DS 2023 *Lakbay Palay* of DA-PhilRice CES, selling RiceBIS products worth ₱14,395.50 in a day.

Strategic Agenda 2: Ensuring accessibility to affordable, safe, and nutritious food that benefit all Filipinos

PAP 1.1: Conduct of regional rice R4D programs for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao

Safe and nutritious rice and rice-based food products

- From a planting area of 47 ha in the 2023 DS, *Malusog* Rice has expanded to 227 ha in the 2023 wet cropping season in 10 regions of the Philippines. The increase in area was due to the commercial production of 2nd district Representative Mark Cojuangco wherein the produce will be used for his *Ayuda Mark*, a rice relief program benefiting 120,000 families. Meanwhile, the passport data amendment of Malusog 1 was approved during the NSIC meeting last Aug 7.
- Starting 2024 DS, *Malusog* Rice will be integrated in the DA's Masagana Clustered Inbred Farms as one of the rice varieties to be cultivated and commercialized initially in seven provinces with high incidence of malnutrition, especially vitamin A deficiency. These provinces include Quirino, Catanduanes, Antique, Samar, Lanao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, and Maguindanao/South Cotabato. The concerned PhilRice branch stations are to coordinate with the concerned DA-RFOs regarding the establishment of the *Malusog* Rice Clustered Farms. At present, the distribution of milled *Malusog* rice to 100 households per province (5kg/household) was administered in Quirino, Catanduanes, Antique, Samar, and Agusan.

PAP 1.2: Location-specific rice R4D projects in support of the National Rice Program and in line with the National Agriculture and Fisheries R4D Agenda

Safe and nutritious rice and rice-based food products

- In collaboration with the DA-Philippine Carabao Center-Central Luzon State University, buffalo milk-based yogurt products have been enriched with antioxidants and dietary fiber by co-fermentation of stabilized pigmented rice bran. Market readiness of the FRB yogurt prototype was tested with 400 consumers in Negros Occidental and Oriental.

- Three rice cultivars – NSIC Rc 222, one red, and one black rice – are being tested for their *in vivo* glycemic index (GI), in partnership with UP Diliman. Twelve rice varieties distributed by the RCEF

Program were screened for their *in vitro* Gi at PhilRice. These are done to provide consumers data and information on the GI of local rice that would guide them in managing and/or preventing weight gain and/or non-communicable diseases, particularly diabetes.

- A patent for salt bread (*pandesal*) was filed at the IPOPhil and patent disclosure for buffalo milk-based scoop-type yogurt supplemented co-fermented with stabilized rice bran was drafted. Agreements for prototype/market testing and technology transfer of fermented rice bran (FRB) and FRB-based products are underway.

- Protocol on the determination of GT of rice flour using rapid visco analyzer was validated using 50 rice lines (2022WS).

Technologies developed for coping with negative impacts of climate change

- *Palayamanan* Plus components like rice-other crop production, Sorjan cropping system, integrated rice-duck-vegetable production system, mushroom production, and vertical hydroponic garden are being maintained in DA-PhilRice CES.

  The Sorjan Cropping System generated a total gross sale of ₱57,141.70 with an income of ₱60.15/m^2 from the different components of the system. The sale of vegetables planted in raised beds, side bunds, and trellis (mustard, upland kangkong, tomato, finger pepper, eggplant, okra, bush sitao, hot chili, cucumber, and papaya) contributed more than half of the gross sale of the system. The rice+duck+vegetable component generated a gross sale of ₱33,040.12.

  At present, the laboratory maintains pure culture and grain spawn of brown oyster, brown pearl, and white oyster mushrooms. We also included the culture of wood ear mushrooms. A total of 1,005 fruiting bags are currently under incubation for ramification while 411 bags are now at the growing house and currently fruiting. Fresh mushrooms are currently being sold at ₱160/kg and the total sale so far was ₱10,664.90 from the 66.03 kg harvest. We also conducted a 2-day training on rice-based mushroom production for 12 representatives from Brgy, Cayabu, Tanay, Rizal.

- The *Palayamanan* Plus model farm was also visited by 37 groups from private and government agencies, and schools/universities since January 2023.

Strategic Agenda 3: Developing strong, modernized, and climate-resilient value chains through the delivery of quality services

PAP 1.2: Location-specific rice R4D projects in support of the National Rice Program and in line with the National Agriculture and Fisheries R4D Agenda

Machines and Mechanization

- The improved prototype of *MakiSiG* (*Makina para sa pabago-bagong Klima at Sari-saring Gawain sa bukid*) showed that it can already travel and maneuver in wet fields. An attachment is currently being fabricated to make the machine able to bury the weeds and rice stubbles while also providing additional buoyancy when traveling in deep muddy fields.

- A pilot test unit of the riding-type boat tiller with reverse mechanism, leveler attachment, and bigger wheel axle of 1.5" diameter (for longer operation) was improved in preparation for actual field operation by a Cabanatuan City-based farmer organization.

- Field test results of a gear transmission power tiller with plastic drum seeder attachment showed acceptable performance. Other crop establishment attachments such as improved 4-row rice

transplanter and multi-purpose seeder attachment for dry field conditions are expected to be completed before the start of the 2023 wet season.

- Drying performance test of the combined conduction, convection, and far-infrared radiation (CCFIR) dryer installed at a farmers' cooperative in Butuan City was conducted using 1,288 kg paddy rice with initial moisture content (MC) of 21%. Total drying time was 4.7 h and final grain MC was 14.2%. Moisture content reduction rate was 2.3%/h and grain throughput was 437 kg/h. Rice husk fuel consumption was 135 kg/h. Two workers of the cooperative were trained in the operation of the dryer. The fabrication, assembly, and site installation of another pilot test unit of the CCFIR dryer at a farmers' cooperative in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro have been completed. A local manufacturer in San Jose was trained to fabricate the dryer. All the main components, such as rice husk gasifier, rotary drum dryer, gran cooler, and far infrared dryer, have been tested and found functional.

- The first prototype of the infrared heating system for stabilizing brown rice was tested for heat treatment of 81 1.5-kg NSIC Rc 160 brown rice samples. Results showed that the setting with highest grain throughput of 72.5 kg/h, maximum drying efficiency of 47.6%, and mean MC reduction rate of 2.1 percentage points per minute was found at an infrared heater temperature of 250°C; conveyor belt linear speed of 0.26 m/s; and distance between infrared heater and conveyor belt of 12.5 cm. A storage experiment was set up to evaluate the effects of infrared heat treatment on the physicochemical, sensory, and shelf-life characteristics of brown rice. Two BS Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering students who helped in the conduct of the experiments as part of their BS thesis successfully defended their thesis and graduated with a BSABE degree from CLSU in July 2023.

- The precision seeder prototype used pre-germinated seeds of inbred rice variety at 20 to 40 kg/ha seeding rate. It achieved an actual field capacity of 2.5 ha/day with notable field mobility and consistency of seeding quality without breakdown and malfunctioning parts.

- Field testing and demonstration of the multicrop, reduced-till planter (MCRTP) were conducted in Balincaguing, San Felipe, Zambales at 0.25-ha farmer's field. Results showed that the 4-wheel tractor-drawn MCRTP could dry direct-seed 3.5 ha in a day, with a seeding rate of 54 kg palay seeds per ha. A letter of agreement was signed between PhilRice and the Balincaguing Farmers Association for the pilot testing of the MCRTP until the end of 2024. Meanwhile, a farm machinery manufacturer based in Cauayan, Isabela (ACT Corp.) has formally signified its intention to be licensed by PhilRice to commercially manufacture the MCRTP.

- Field test run of rice stripper combine showed promising results with improved field mobility, maneuverability, and actual field capacity of 2.6 ha/day.

Smarter Crop Management including Digital Agriculture

- The Philippine Rice Information System (https://prism.philrice.gov.ph/) consistently provided nationwide monthly updates on rice production situation (rice area planted, rice harvested, & production estimates) to the DA-National Rice Program, DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs), and other partners. PRiSM duly responded to 130 data requests: rice area (63), yield estimation (22), damage assessment (18), and planting dates (27). To reach out to the public, the PRiSM Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PRiSMphilrice) serves as a consistent source of updates regarding national rice-related information, including details on rice areas at risk due to flood or drought, as well as updates on area planted, yield and production. As of date, it has 2,934 followers and has garnered 2,600 page likes.

PRISM-led capacity-building activities had 1,840 participants. These included trainings on field protocols (34), damage assessment (7), remote sensing (6), and ICT-related data management (10). PRISM participated in one institutional training and four national workshops held in Butuan City (May 31 to June 3), Legazpi City (June 6 to 8), Iloilo (June 12 & 13), and Davao City (June 20 to 22).

- From January to June 2023, 18 soil series in Mindanao were validated in the field, and uploaded to the PhilRice Soil Information System database. Taxonomic classification of 67 soil series including horizon designation from Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon, Davao, Ifugao, Laguna, and Quezon were conducted. The Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service generated >100K recommendations, responded to about 1K queries, sent >300K messages through SMS, and verified >70K farm lots.

- The RiceLytics had 96,126 page views from 20,803 unique users since January 1, 2023. Datasets from PSA and DA-FPA were updated to complement the story of the current status of the rice industry.

- The Rice Seed Information System (RSIS) has been released in August 2023. The use of its modules and apps is mandatory starting 2023 WS. This is to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in monitoring and evaluation of seed production performance and traceability. The RSIS was integrated with the Business Development's Seed Traceability System (SeedTrace) where the latter digitally documents the production planning to warehouse pelleting. These systems integrate with the seed application process and results of laboratory analysis.
- The Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service (RCMAS) (https://rcm.da.gov.ph) is a digital agriculture service that aims to increase productivity and profitability in rice farming through targeted integrated nutrient and crop management. As of August 31, 2023, about 3.2 million recommendations have been generated since its development in 2014, with 18,355 registered users having complete data.

  The dashboard has been updated and integrated with Google Analytics. Additionally, a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) tool has been added. It is worth noting that the MEL module has been added to aid implementers in project monitoring. Continuous research from DA-RFOs is being undertaken to ensure the relevance of RCMAS advisories. From January to August 2023, 54,773 farmers were added to the database with 75,961 hectares of verified farms. RCMAS has generated 179,100 recommendations, responded to 2,431 queries from the website's Contact Us page, and sent 698,008 SMS advisories.

Strategic Agenda 4: Institutionalizing policy reforms and strengthening institutions to enhance efficiency and accelerate the modernization of the sector

PAP 1.1: Conduct of regional rice R4D programs for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao

Socioeconomics and Policy Research and Advocacy

- Updated rice-related statistics, policy briefs, position papers, and policy memos on emerging issues were provided to DA and other research institutions. Some 100 statistical tables from the PSA and other local (FNRI, FPA, and NIA) and international agencies (FAO and World Bank) are being monitored, maintained, and updated regularly with the latest data available in rice production, area, and yield as well as imports and exports, prices, and supply and demand. Data from collected statistical tables were processed to make a condensed report on the current Philippine rice industry to orient trainers, farmers, and extension workers during training sessions and meetings. These statistics are made available through the *PalayStat* information system (https://palaystat.philrice.gov.ph/) and has been viewed 16,803 times and accessed by 3,166 unique users from January to August 31, 2023. On average, a session lasts 2 minutes and 7 seconds.

- The policy paper on *Adoption and Performance of Direct-seeded Rice (DSR) Technology in the Philippines* has been published in the Philippine Journal of Science. Policy/research papers submitted to journals for publication were: (a) *What happened to DA-PhilRice's laboy tiller?*; (b) *What are the aspirations of the Filipino rice farmers?;* (c) *Affordances in crop diversification: Three cases from the Philippines;* (d) *Identifying ways to strengthen Filipino family members;* and (e) *Exploring mental health issues amongst rice farmers in relation to climate change impacts*.

- Policy briefs (Rice Science for Decision-makers, RS4DM) were published/drafted: (a) *Enabling the shift from transplanted to direct-seeded rice system in the Philippines* (published and disseminated); and (b) *What does our balanced fertilization study say?* (drafted).

- Requested position papers, policy notes, and infographics were crafted and submitted to DA for policy and technical support: (a) proposed agricultural and credit governance reform, with collated status of/updates on DA rice-specific and other relevant programs; (b) potential project for public-private partnership with Cargill, in preparation for the DA's meeting with the US-ASEAN Business Council; (c) rice supply and utilization projection for 2023-2028 and sources of 2022 production growth/decline; (d) inputs on the prices of agricultural inputs for the State of the Nation Address (SONA); and (e) Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS)-related bills.

- Policy brokering was conducted in five provinces and three municipalities from May to June 2023. Policy recommendations contained in the issues of the RS4DM were presented to the Provincial Agriculturists of Aurora, Zambales, Pampanga, Iloilo, and Capiz, and to the Municipal Agriculturists of Talavera, Science City of Muñoz, and Bongabon, in Nueva Ecija for endorsement to the local executives to be adapted into a local ordinance. Two proposed ordinances have also been presented to the members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija in June, for their deliberation. Additionally, partnerships with Bulacan Agricultural State College and Central Luzon State University were established, specifically for policy brokering activity.

PAP 2.1: General Administration and Support Services / Support to Operations

Human Resources

- Twenty-four staffers were appointed to plantilla positions; 78 permanent employees were sent to various trainings conducted by different accredited institutes while two permanent staff availed of the Institute's study grant. DA-PhilRice has 12 DOST/CSC career scientists (9 Scientist I, 2 Scientist II, and 1 Scientist III), five of whom are women. A total of 131 personnel enjoy Magna Carta benefits.

- Twenty-five in-house trainings, workshops, and knowledge sharing and learning activities (11 face-to-face, 14 online) had 1,150 participants (436 males, 714 females).

Physical Resources

- In support of R4DE thrusts, 10 infrastructure and repair and maintenance projects were completed amounting to about ₱39.66 million. The most significant of which are the construction of seed warehouses (DA-PhilRice Midsayap-USM seed farm and DA-PhilRice Batac), and head house and screenhouse (DA-PhilRice CES).

Subsidy Utilization

- Obligation rate is at 66% as of August 2023. The Institute continues to implement austerity measures to save government funds in response to inflation.

Awards and Recognition

- DA-PhilRice received the Gold Award in the 2022 ITSO 2.0 Clustering Program for having provided to internal and external clients the required number of IP capacity-building activities, patent search services, and drafted and filed at least 6 invention patents in 2022.

- DA-PhilRice received the Licensing Executive Society (LES) International Innovation Award for Multi-purpose Seeder as the winner in the category of "Research Institution".

- Philippine Agricultural Journalists, Inc. awarded these Binhi Awards: (a) Hall of Fame Award for Best Agricultural Magazine; (b) Hall of Fame Award for Best Agr-Info and Media Campaign; (c) Best Agri-related Advocacy Campaign; and (d) Best Agri-related Social Media Page.

- The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) conferred to DA-PhilRice the GADtimpala Silver for Outstanding Gender-Responsive Agency and Bronze for Exemplary GAD Focal Point System (GADtimpala AlaGAD).
  DA-PhilRice garnered 6-Star Best Practice recognition from the International Best Practice Competition for its campaign on Diversity and Inclusivity in the Philippine Rice Sector: A PhilRice briGADe.

- DA-PhilRice was recognized as one of Asia's Best Employer Brand Awards 2023 during the 18th Employer Branding Awards.

- The Agronomy, Soils, and Plant Physiology Laboratory was recognized by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management as a Laboratory of Excellence for achieving 100% acceptable data on soil fertility parameters during the Philippine National Soil Laboratory Network (Phil NASOLAN) Proficiency Testing Scheme Cycle 2022. DA-PhilRice participated and provided inputs in the crafting of the five-year National Strategic Development Plan for DA Laboratories.

Partnerships

- We have continuing close collaborations with other rice industry players and stakeholders such as other government and non-government agencies, state universities and colleges, and other private academic institutions.

- A collaborative undertaking has recently been established with the Manila Water Foundation in the use of the PhilRice-developed continuous-type rich hull (CtRH) carbonizer to help solve the water hyacinth pollution problem in Laguna Lake. The CtRH carbonizer can successfully carbonize chopped and dried water hyacinth. Hence, the MWF plans to create livelihoods in the affected fishing communities through the production of charcoal briquettes from the carbonized water hyacinth.