



PBBM approves new PhilRice leaders

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



(L-R) Usec. Roger V. Navarro, Usec. Arnold I. Atienza, Sec. Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr., Dr. John C. de Leon, and Usec. Christopher V. Morales poses during the oath-taking ceremony of Dr. de Leon as reappointed Executive Director of PhilRice.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed in July 2024 the PhilRice Executive Director along with three new members to its Board of Trustees as part of a strategic initiative to boost rice production and improve the livelihoods of Filipino rice farmers. Agriculture Secretary Francis P. Tiu Laurel Jr. administered the oath

to Dr. John C. de Leon, marking the start of his second term as executive director on July 30. The appointments aim to enhance rice production and support farmers nationwide.

De Leon, a prominent figure in agricultural research, has made groundbreaking contributions to

the field of rice breeding over his 30-year career. With expertise in plant breeding, commercial seed product development, and research management, he has significantly advanced the agricultural sector both locally and globally.

Joining on the Board of Trustees are three newly appointed members: Dr. Adeliza A. Dorado from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Ramon T. Lim of the Private Sector Advisory Council for Agriculture, and Ariel B. Dolores of the Philippine Rice Seed Growers Federation of Agriculture Cooperative (PhilPalay). This expanded board, chaired by Sec. Tiu Laurel, is set to drive PhilRice's mission of improving rice farming communities across the country.

Newly appointed members of the DA-PhilRice Board of Trustees!



Member

Mr. Ariel B. Dolores
Representative, Farming/Seed Production Sector



Member

Dr. Adeliza A. Dorado
Representative, Science Community



Acting member

Mr. Ramon T. Lim
Representative, Agribusiness Sector

What's Inside

- 2** PalayCheck System's new version underway
- 3** Batangas farmers into Palayamanan
- 4** Bicol targets 6 Palayamanan sites
- 5** PhilRice Midsayap, Negros, Agusan celebrate anniversaries
- 6** DA-CBC, PhilRice join forces in NAST meeting
- 7** More Isabela farmers mechanize transplanting
- 8** Awards and recognitions



Excellence in service

To consistently meet and exceed the expectations of the Institute's guests and visiting learners, providing them with impactful, and enjoyable learning experiences, a Filipino Brand of Service Excellence (FBSE) training was held at PhilRice Central Experiment Station (CES) Social Hall, July 22-23. It was designed to equip PhilRice's frontline educators and dedicated workforce with essential skills aimed at enhancing service excellence for the Institute's valued clients and stakeholders. Over 70 participants, from the Central Experiment station and branch stations, benefitted from the training. This collaboration among PhilRice, Department of Tourism (DOT) Region III, and the Science City of Muñoz Tourism Office underscored their shared dedication to excellence, highlighting PhilRice's role as a leading center for agricultural research.

 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO


PalayCheck System's new version underway

KIARA MAE E. PANYO



To ensure relevant, timely, and science-based technological promotions, DA-PhilRice is set to release an updated version of the PalayCheck System for irrigated lowland rice by 2025. The revision is spearheaded by the Technology Management and Services Division (TMSD) through the conduct of extensive consultations and workshops with researchers, technical staff, and trainers from various fields across DA-PhilRice's CES and branch stations.

This initiative improves the overall effectiveness of the platform by incorporating insights from training and extension activities. Perspective of different fields of experts have been considered leading to the revision of KeyCheck statements and assessments, providing a clearer and more thorough procedure to achieve the Keychecks. Integration of the direct seeding technology has also been strengthened.

Upon finalizing, the material will be distributed to partner agencies involved in rice training for both trainers and farmers, ensuring widespread dissemination of the latest advancements in rice cultivation techniques. The last major revision was conducted in 2019. 



Growing brighter futures

To elevate basic education, PhilRice officially signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the School Division Office (SDO) of Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on July 30. Under this agreement, PhilRice will provide essential training for school heads and teachers, ensuring they are well-equipped as curriculum implementers. This initiative is expected to significantly improve the quality of education by integrating hands-on laboratory and actual field experiences into the learning process. The partnership underscores a shared commitment to nurturing the next generation of learners and educators, particularly in rural areas.

 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

Batangas farmers into Palayamanan

HANNAH ARIELLEBETH E. CABISADA
AND JENNICA FAITH C. MENDOZA



PhilRice Los Baños in collaboration with the municipal agricultural office of Lemery and DA-Lipa City, validates a Playamanan site in Noong Casto, Lemery, Batangas.

PhilRice Los Baños, in collaboration with the municipal agriculture office of Lemery and the DA-Lipa City, is establishing a Palayamanan site in Noong Casto, Lemery, Batangas.

Farmers in the area had been inappropriately planting NSIC Rc 216, a variety for irrigated lowlands, despite the high sulfur or salinity levels in their soils. The farmers rely on rainwater for irrigation, which has dragged down their yields to less than 3t/ha.

To address the peculiarity, the station has sent 50kg of seeds for rainfed and saline conditions to the Lemery LGU. The varieties sent include Sahod Ulan 18, 13, and Salinas 13 and 17.

Preliminary assessments indicate that farmers are more interested in integrating livestock into their rice farming systems rather than other crops. To further build relations and partnerships, a Palayamanan project presentation was conducted for farmers on July 19. 🍌

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS: EXPLORING THE STATS FOR EQUALITY

To promote inclusivity, DA-PhilRice integrates Gender and Development into its operations, upholding gender equality mandates. Here are updates and statistics from 2023 and mid-2024, showing a notable increase in women's participation.

Seed distribution



Delivered and distributed certified seeds to women and men farmer beneficiaries including those from vulnerable sectors in 42 target provinces (RCEF program)

Beneficiaries

1,667,934
2023



1,020,243
Jan-June 2024

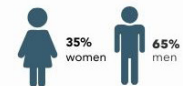


IEC materials distribution

324,901 knowledge products (KPs)



51 titles brochure, posters, primers, brochure, and calendar in 2023



164,684 KPs

15 titles brochure, posters, primers, brochure, and calendar to 110 farm schools from Jan-June 2024



Media engagements
Published/aired/placed media on rice S&T through strategic media

2023

69

43% featured women farmers, partners, stakeholders

Jan-June 2024

114

46.67% featured women farmers, partners, stakeholders

Capability building activities for clients

239

extension workers and farmers trainings in 2023



139

extension workers and farmers trainings in Jan-June 2024



Other capacity building activities

212

Established techno demo farms



53

Field demonstration



269

Farmer's Field Day



16

National Women's Month & Violence Against Women & Children's activities



26

PalayAralan



13

Established techno demo farms



6

Field demonstration



20

Farmer's Field Day



10

National Women's Month & Violence Against Women & Children's activities



26

PalayAralan



GAD related activities

2023



Jan-June 2024



Infographics by GLAIZA D. CARRERA

Source: GAD Accomplishment 2023 & Report January-June 2024

Bicol targets 6 Palayamanan sites

DENISE BIANCA Y. SADULLO

Following the presentation of guidelines, the “Scaling of Palayamanan Technologies” project is now in its initial phase, with PhilRice Bicol, in collaboration with the DA – Regional Field Office V (DA-RFO V), has begun validating potential sites, identifying suitable locations, and ensuring they meet the necessary criteria for successfully establishing six pilot sites across the Bicol Region. Palayamanan, as part of the Scaling of Rice Technologies under the National Rice Program, covers both wet and dry cropping seasons starting this year in rice-producing municipalities.

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PhilRice Bicol and DA-RFO V validate suitable sites in Camarines Sur for implementing, “Scaling of Palayamanan Technologies” project. As part of the National Rice Program, this initiative aims to enhance rice production in rainfed, upland, and certain irrigated lowland areas, starting this year.

Rainfed, upland, and certain irrigated lowland areas in Camarines Sur (Nabua, Bula, Bombon) and Sorsogon (Castilla, Sta. Magdalena) were validated for the potential adoption of Palayamanan technologies. A PhilRice 2021 wet season study had identified these locations to be incurring high costs and low rice yields.

A potential site in Masbate will be validated. The intended farmer-participants are those who are registered with the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) prioritizing those who are

already clustered. Initial coordination with the local government units and farmers’ associations was conducted to assess their qualifications for the adoption of recommended Palayamanan technologies.




PalayAralan goes Mobile in Catanduanes

PhilRice Bicol has conducted a Mobile PalayAralan in Pandan and San Andres, Catanduanes. The half-day sessions in both municipalities, attended by 28 and 22 farmers, respectively, focused on nutrient, water, and pest management. These topics were selected based on the primary issues identified by the towns’ municipal agriculture offices. The mobile service aims to reach areas with limited access to agricultural knowledge, capacitating local farmers to effectively address their production challenges.

 DENISE BIANCA Y. SADULLO



Midyear review spotlights program milestones, blockbusters innovations

PhilRice conducted its midyear program review under the theme “From Milestone to Momentum: 2024 Midyear Review of R4DE Programs,” on Aug. 2. For the first time, all R4DE programs, regardless of their funding sources, engaged in a comprehensive joint review to improve coordination and maximize effectiveness. The activity evaluated the progress of key programs, including the Rice Seeds Systems, Smart Farm, RiceBIS 2.0, Malusog Rice, and the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Seeds and Extension Programs, and discussed the tentative list of blockbuster innovations to be implemented by the different R4DE divisions.  AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



PhilRice Midsayap, Negros, Agusan celebrate anniversaries

CHESHIRE FAYE R. PAGARIGAN, VANESSA A. TINGSON, GIRLIE ARAÑA A. CARREON, AND CRIS MAE T. NECESITO

PhilRice Midsayap, Negros, and Agusan renewed their commitment to excellence, an institutional value that has been at the center of their operations, during their 36th, 21st, and 34th anniversaries, respectively.

With the theme, "36 years of committed R4DE service for better rice community," PhilRice Midsayap loaded their celebration with a series of activities to highlight stakeholders' contributions to the station's initiatives and operations, July 12.

In 2023, the station delivered and distributed 2,013,512 bags of inbred certified seeds and benefitted 693,754 RCEF farmers in Regions 9, 12, and BARMM.

Moreover, the Rice Business Innovations Systems (RiceBIS) has increased rice farmers' annual income by Php192,893.00 in Libungan, North Cotabato and Php21,333.00 in Midsayap.

It has trained 51 RiceBIS farmers through the Philippine Good Agricultural Practices Program (PhilGAP), connected with five institutional buyers and wholesalers, and conducted two batches of market scanning.

PhilRice Negros separately celebrated its 21st anniversary on July 27 with the theme "Fostering Growth and Achievement: Nurturing a Culture of Service and Excellence." In 2023, it distributed over half a

million high-quality seeds to more than 260,000 RCEF farmers. Its RCEF Unit received the Excellence Award for the 2023 wet season.

The station's efforts in producing high-quality seeds resulted in a 98% seed efficiency rating across seasons in 2023.

Both stations have passed the ISO Certification 9001:2015.

Meanwhile, PhilRice Agusan also celebrated its 34th anniversary with the theme, "Rice to Meet You: 34 Years of Grains and Gains," emphasizing its unwavering dedication to advancing rice farming in Northeastern Mindanao.

The institute continues to play a vital role as a Nutrient Management Center, supporting Regions 10, 11, and 13 with innovative, location-specific technologies.

In 2023, PhilRice Agusan's BDU cultivated 56.61 ha of rice seeds, producing 185,940kg of high-quality seeds with up to 98.48% efficiency. This harvest supported CARAGA and neighboring Mindanao regions, reflecting the station's commitment and dedication.

As part of the RCEF Program, PhilRice Agusan covered 15 provinces and 176 cities/municipalities, delivering 502,740 bags of high-quality inbred rice seeds—98% of its total allocation—to benefit 102,313 rice farmers during the 2023 wet and dry seasons.

The anniversary festivities included Sportsfest 2024, where staff and partners competed in various sports, fostering teamwork and camaraderie.

This was followed by the Dangal ng PhilRice Agusan Awarding Ceremony, recognizing outstanding employees for their contributions to the institute's success.

The celebration continued with the Tropical Party Night, an evening showcasing the talents of PhilRice Agusan staffers. 🍌

DA-CBC, PhilRice join forces in NAST meeting

BENSON Z. MUNAR



The DA-Crop Biotechnology Center (DA-CBC) and DA-PhilRice participated in the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL), July 10-11.

The event gravitated on the theme, "Beyond Farm Productivity: Transforming the Philippine Food System to Address Equity, Consumer Health, and Environmental Issues." It showcased a range of Research for Development thrusts, emerging and ongoing projects from different government agencies and state universities and colleges (SUCs).

It presented insightful talks and discussions from renowned experts in their field, complemented with poster

sessions and exhibits that highlighted the latest scientific and technological advancements.

DA-PhilRice's Development Communication Division Head, Dr. Hazel V. Antonio-Beltran, discussed how consumer decision-making can be influenced by data and positive values. NAST member and Academician Roel R. Suralta, moderated one of the event's discussions.

As a DOST-attached agency, NAST PHL plays a pivotal role in bridging the gap between science and society. DA-CBC's participation in the ASM afforded attendees valuable insights into its R&D initiatives and groundbreaking biotechnology advancements. 🍌



Innovations introduced

PhilRice Batac has launched an initiative to promote its blockbuster innovation focused on use of machines for crop establishment, addressing the low utilization rates of existing mechanical transplanters and seed-sowing machines, in Ilocos Norte. The initiative aims to educate farmers on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of farm machines, which can significantly reduce labor and time while ensuring optimal crop yields. Farmers of the Magumbayan Multi-purpose Cooperative and rice-farming communities in Casili, Laoag City participated in a technical briefing and hands-on demonstrations on the operation of the said machines, July 9. The activity is expected to bridge the gap between technologies and their practical application.

🍌 FRANZEL MONIQUE D. BONILLA

LEARNERS OF PhilRice CES June-July 2024



1185

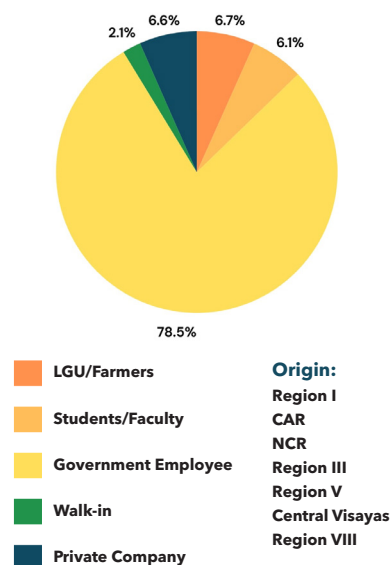
VISITING LEARNERS
from 28 groups

95%

SATISFACTION RATE



LEARNERS' PROFILE



International Visitors



Newgreen, Japan
University of Virginia, USA
Ministry of Nepal

Infographics by KIARA MAE E. PANYO
& KATRINA JANELLE T. ALARCON

More Isabela farmers mechanize transplanting

MICHELLE C. DOMINGO AND YOBHEL LOUISSE P. BELTRAN

The RCEF Seed Program's PalaySikatan 2.0 project has boosted mechanized rice planting this wet season, showcasing riding-type and walk-behind transplanters. Michael Johnson P. Mabalo of the San Quintin Integrated Farmers Association (SQIFA) noted that initial resistance from older farmers decrease after seeing the demonstrations, leading to increased adoption.

Similarly, Elmer B. Vidad of the Bangar Irrigators Farmers Association (BIFA) reported successful member adoption following the demonstrations. SQIFA farmer-adopters rose from 12 (13%) to 36 (39%), while BIFA's numbers grew from 4 (4%) to 31 (35%). The associations have mechanically transplanted a total of 69ha which were committed to the PalaySikatan program.

The project's 25 demonstration sites across the country emphasize the benefits of high-quality inbred rice seeds, technology, and farm mechanization, with each site featuring a 50ha rice cluster. PalaySikatan 2.0 aims to drive broader adoption of innovative rice farming technologies. 🍌

MOET recommendations to be adopted

SHANNEL M. CABANSAG

The Sangguniang Bayan of Santa, Ilocos Sur approved a resolution for the adoption of the Minus-One-Element Technique (MOET)-generated fertilizer recommendations on June 26, which was passed by the Committee on Agriculture.

According to Hon. Eugene B. Borje, the resolution will guide the local government unit of Santa, especially the municipal agriculture office in identifying initiatives and activities to promote the MOET-generated fertilizer recommendations to their rice farmers.

"The recommendations will help the farmers attain high yield while reducing their production cost by applying appropriate fertilizers required based on the soil texture and nutrient deficiency in their farms," he added.

The location-specific fertilizer recommendations were generated from MOET results of soil samples collected from rice fields of farmers by the RCEF Seed Program, which identifies nutrient deficiencies in the soil. This project promotes balanced fertilization also known as the right EAT (element, amount, and timing) method. 🍌



Retirement

Ricardo F. Orge earned his BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1982 from Visayas State College of Agriculture, his MS from UP Los Baños in 1991, and his PhD in Energy Engineering from UP Diliman in 2010. He began his research career in 1984 at the Cotton Research and Development Institute and joined PhilRice in 1992. Over his 40-year government career, he received several awards, including the Maramba Award, Regional Outstanding Public Officials and Employees (2016), Engineering Excellence from Manila Water Foundation Inc. (2017), and the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award (2019). Recently, he was honored with the Outstanding Viscan Award from Visayas State University. He retired as Scientist III at PhilRice. 🍌

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



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Awards and recognitions



Pasasalamat Awardees

Sonny B. Pangilinan, CES
Dennis G. Cargamento, CES

New Appointments

Juvy Jane E. Aungon
Senior Science Research Specialist
TMSD

Jahzeel D. Bautista
Administrative Officer IV
Administrative Support Division

Rizalyn D. Campanil
Administrative Officer III
PhilRice Negros



JULY

- 8** PhilRice Midsayap midyear review
- 11-12** PhilRice Bicol Quality Management System (QMS) surveillance audit
- 12** PhilRice Midsayap 36th anniversary
- 18-19** PhilRice CES General Administrative Support Service midyear review
- 15-16** PhilRice Bicol RCEF midyear assessment
- 17-18** PhilRice CES Malusog Rice midyear review
- 15-19** PhilRice Isabela QMS audit
- 22-23** PhilRice CES Filipino Brand of Service Excellence refresher course
- 24-26** PhilRice Negros 21st anniversary

AUGUST

- 2** PhilRice CES Institutional Program midyear review 2024
- 8** PhilRice Agusan 34th anniversary
- 5-9** PhilRice Batac QMS audit
- 13** Rice paddy art planting
- 13** Rice sPark launching
- 14-16** PhilRice CES RCEF midyear review
- 19-20** PhilRice Midsayap QMS audit

Career Executive Service 2023 Presidential Gawad CES (sole recipient)



Dr. Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang
Chief Science Research Specialist

Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development

2024 William D. Dar Research Management Award



Dr. Victoria C. Lapitan
Branch Director, PhilRice Bicol

Crop Science Society of the Philippines (CSSP) 2024 CSSP Achievement Award for Extension PhilRice Bicol

University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Development Communication

Academic Achievement Award

3rd Highest GWA in the MS Graduating
Class of 2024

Mary Grace Manipon Nidoy

Polytechnic University of the Philippines Government Industry Academe Summit

Plaque of Recognition

PhilRice Los Baños

11th Philippine Association of Agriculturists National Congress and 2024 Philippine Agriculturists' Summit

Best Poster Award



(L-R) Danny Loyd G. Escaner, Jasmin J. Reyes,
Gerardo F. Estoy Jr., Caryl S. Agting, Florencio Jr.
D. Taer, and Henry A. Jimenez.

Government Together: Developing Production
Support System for Rice Farmers under the RCEF

Sportsfest Update

Games



Mr. and Ms. Sportsfest



Touch the body



Patintero



Tumbang preso



Chess



Teams:

Yellow Red Green
Violet Blue



Infographics by
KIARA MAE E. PANYO
& KATRINA JANELLE T. ALARCON



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