

## Farmers await RCEF extension

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



Central Experiment Station



Los Baños



Bicol



Agusan



Midsayap



Isabela



Negros



Batac

Over 1,200 farmers, agricultural officers, extension workers, and representatives from local government units and state universities and colleges heard the good news about the possible extension of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Program during the *Lakbay Palay* held at the DA-PhilRice Central Experiment Station, Sep. 18-19.

"The extension of RCEF is for the farmers and cooperatives. If RCEF is extended, the tariff revenue from imported rice will help the farmers for another six years, with a potential

funding increase of up to P30 billion annually to boost the rice industry's competitiveness," Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, said during the two-day *Lakbay Palay* with the theme "RCEF sa Bagong Pilipinas."

The branch and satellite stations across the country have separately conducted their respective *Lakbay Palay* activities with 500-600 guests per day: Isabela on Sep. 4-5; Midsayap, Sep. 5-6; Los Baños, Sep. 20; Agusan, Oct. 9; Bicol, Oct. 9-11; Batac, Oct. 17-18; and Negros, Oct. 22-23. 🍌



## GAPproved Rice launched

Consumers can now enjoy “GAPproved Rice”, a premium product from the farming communities under PhilRice that meets the highest standards of quality, safety, and health. It was introduced during the 2024 Wet Season *Lakbay Palay* at PhilRice CES.


Violeta S. Rayos, manager of Manggalang Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (MARBENCO) in Sariaya, Quezon—the first Coop in the country to achieve the Philippine Good Agricultural Practices (PhilGAP) certification—said that PhilRice had assisted the group toward getting certified through its Rice Business Innovations System Program. On Oct. 10, MARBENCO



signed a partnership agreement with Development Academy of the Philippines, and TAO Management Service Multi-Purpose Cooperatives as a market for PhilGAP-certified milled rice.  AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

## HR Team participates in LHR Symposium




The Human Resource Team –the OIC-DED for Administrative Services and Finance, the heads of the Administrative Support and Human Resource Divisions, and HR staffers from branch stations of PhilRice participated in the Civil Service Commission’s 2024 Leaders and HR (LHR) Symposium on Sep. 24-25 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City. The HR team was equipped with the latest trends and best practices in leadership, human resource management, and organizational development.  AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

## Research aligns with StratPlan




All branch directors, division and center heads, and research sector program and project leaders participated in the writeshop titled “Enhancing Protocols and Strategic Impact,” held on Sep. 9-13 at the CBC Plenary Hall, PhilRice CES. The writeshop ensured that research initiatives continue to align with the Institute’s 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and to address dynamic challenges of the agriculture sector.  AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

## PCAF, Sectoral Committees convene at PhilRice

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) held a joint meeting with the National Sectoral Committee and Central Luzon Agriculture and Fishery Council on rice and other food staples on Sep. 25-26, at the Social Hall of PhilRice CES. The meeting drafted policy resolutions and recommendations to address issues related to rice production and food security. The participants conducted a field and facility tour to assess the Institute’s R&D efforts, which were incorporated into the discussions.  KIARA MAE E. PANYO




## CES joins the NSM observance

In celebration of the 35th National Statistics Month (NSM) in October, the Data Analytics Center provided training to PhilRice CES staffers on Oct 3-4 at the Social Hall of PhilRice. The participants were provided with a comprehensive understanding of descriptive statistics, basic data visualization techniques, and interactive dashboards using MS Excel.  AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO




## Lakbay Palay WS 2024 working committees appreciated

PhilRice CES relished the success of the recent *Lakbay Palay* with a post-assessment meeting on Sep. 20, at the PhilRice Social Hall. The activity served as a moment of appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the organizing teams. Also, it allowed the teams to reflect on the best practices and lessons learned from the conduct of *Lakbay Palay*.  AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

## Competencies reviewed



The Management Committee together with senior branch station staffers joined the hands-on validation workshop on Oct. 1-2 at PhilRice Social Hall to discuss the proposed improvements to the Institute’s Competency Framework. The Institute’s core, organizational, leadership, and technical competencies were validated and job descriptions were updated.  AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



#BeautifulPhilRice (3rd Edition)  
**happy, funny side**  
of PhilRice  
Meron ba kayong kwento na maaaring i-share sa pamamagitan ng mga larawang nakuha sa DA-PhilRice? I-submit na natin yan!  
Kung ikaw ay staff ng DA-PhilRice CES o branch stations, pwede kang sumali sa kwentuhang ito.  
**Paano sumali?**



I-scan ang QR code para sa guidelines





## PNM refresher course adds more knowledge

The RCEF Training of Trainers on Pest and Nutrient Management (PNM) was participated by 31 agricultural extension workers, local farm technicians, and farm school operators from Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Pampanga, and Bataan, Sep. 25 to Oct. 3 at PhilRice CES. This training strengthened the skills of these professionals in integrated PNM using the modern PalayCheck System for irrigated lowland rice, significantly sharpening their ability to support local farmers.

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

**Congratulations to the newly appointed members of the DA-PhilRice Board of Trustees!**

**Dr. Francisco Gil N. Garcia**  
Academic Community Representative

**Atty. Ericson T. Velasquez**  
NEDA Community Representative

Better Rice Communities.

SCAN ME!

Volume 37 No. 2 Apr-Jun 2024

**Shielding the heartland with Agri 4.0 technologies**



## Support services streamlined

The RCEF Support Service Processes Calibration Workshop was carried out on Oct. 7-9 at PhilRice CES, bringing together key stakeholders to optimize support service processes. This activity identified gaps and redundancies, benchmark best practices, and developed actionable recommendations for improvement, all aimed at creating a more streamlined framework in preparation for the implementation of the RCEF Phase II.

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS



Dr. Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang, acting DED for research, attended the Capacity Workshop on Soil Carbon Visualization, organized by the Asian Productivity Organization, on Sep. 30 to Oct. 5 in Tsukuba, Japan. The event addressed the urgent need for improved visualization techniques in soil carbon management, enhancing participants' understanding of agricultural soil carbon dynamics and equipping them with essential skills.

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



Dr. Jennifer T. Niones and Salvacion E. Santiago of the Crop Protection Division participated in a research visit to Japan on Sep. 2-7, organized by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences. This collaboration focused on the project "Evaluation of Rice Breeding Lines with Partial Resistance Genes for Blast Disease in the Philippines," that aimed at enhancing rice resilience against blast disease and improving agricultural sustainability in the country.

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

**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 provides updates about the Institute and its stations to its staffers, partners, and clients.

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### Isabela and Los Baños stations now ISO 9001:2015-certified

PhilRice Isabela and Los Banos passed the Quality Management System (QMS) surveillance audit on Sep. 25-26, and Sep. 26-27, respectively. The positive outcome of ISO certification signifies that the QMS of both stations are not only compliant with international standards but also capable of sustaining long-term improvements. Both stations continue to deliver certified quality products and services.

🍌 MICHELLE C. DOMINGO


NEGROS STATION

### Negros staffers donate blood




The station supported a bloodletting activity organized in Brgy. Cansilayan, Murcia on Sep. 5. Able-bodied staffers from both office and field operations volunteered to donate blood, contributing to the lifesaving initiative. PhilRice Negros also extended further assistance by donating milled rice, reinforcing its commitment to both health and food security in the community.

🍌 VANESSA A. TINGSON



### Let us know the news that matters to you!

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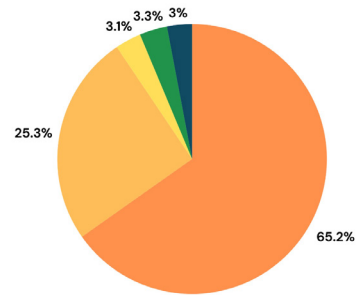
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### VISITING LEARNERS OF PHILRICE CES

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2024



### LEARNERS' PROFILE



- LGU/Farmers
- Students/Faculty
- Government Employees
- Walk-in
- Private Company

**Origin:**

- Region I
- Region II
- Region III
- NCR
- Cordillera
- Region IV-A
- Region V
- Region VI
- Region XII

### International Visitors

- Value Seeds Limited - Nigeria
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Binh Dien Fertilizer Joint Stock Company - Vietnam
- International Rice Research Institute - Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery, and Forestry - Timor Leste

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

BICOL STATION

### Public hybrid rice promoted



PhilRice Bicol took part in the Farmers' Field Day and Culmination Ceremony for DA Best Farms and Farmers – Season 3: A Provincial Hybrid Rice Cluster Farm cum Adaptive Balanced Fertilization Strategy Technology Derby on Sep. 16-18 in Calbayog City, Samar. Despite tropical storm Ferdie, the station successfully set up two RicExhibit booths in the techno-demo area and convention center showcasing public hybrid rice varieties, Mestiso 20, Mestiso 99, and Mestiso 73 to over 2,000 farmer-participants.

🍌 LOVEN BABES O. RAFALLO



AGUSAN STATION

### R4D workers take the scientific career path

The branch station's R4D personnel participated in the Scientific Career System (SCS) Orientation and Mentoring Program: "Be a Career Scientist!" held in Butuan City on Sep. 24-25. R4D workers in the Caraga Region were inspired to pursue fulfilling careers in science after learning about SCS, ethics in research, risks of predatory journals, and Magna Carta benefits of the Department of Science and Technology.

🍌 CRIS MAE T. NECESITO

### Improved data collection, mapping tackled



The station participated in a training organized by the DA-Caraga and the Philippine Rice Information System on Sep. 25-27, in Butuan City. The training focused on using the Quantum Geographic Information System to improve rice data collection and mapping to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of rice data systems in the region.


🍌 CRIS MAE T. NECESITO



BATAC STATION


# Batac hosts 2024 Review



The station was the host of the 2024 Commodity Research Review on Oct. 4. Research papers from PhilRice Batac and Mariano Marcos State University on rice, corn, and other cereals were reviewed to help shape future research agenda and policies that prioritize food security and economic resilience.  VIDA GRACE G. TAGUDA



## Batac joins tree planting

Staff members and personnel from PhilRice Batac participated in the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) "Tree Growing for a Cause: Malasakit sa Kalikasan, Malasakit sa Lingkod Bayan," a nationwide activity on Sep. 15- 21 in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte. This is in celebration of CSC's 124th anniversary aimed to plant at least 10,000 trees while raising funds for the CSC's Pamanang Lingkod Bayani Program, which supports the families of fallen civil servants.  RITA R. ESPIRITU



LOS BAÑOS STATION

# LB joins Bañamos Festival Parade

PhilRice Los Baños, together with different government agencies, local government units, and students, participated in a fun and watery *Bañamos* Festival Civic Parade on Sep. 21. Bañamos, a Spanish term representing the various hot springs in Los Baños, Laguna, is an annual festival every 3rd week of September.

 JOHN HERNAN M. TRINIDAD



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

## GAD mainstreaming ensured

As part of its commitment for an effective Gender and Development (GAD), PhilRice held a workshop at NIA Pantabangan Lake Resort Hotel, Nueva Ecija, Oct. 15-17. The workshop aimed to refine gender perspectives in planning and budgeting, ensuring resources that promote gender equality and meet the needs of both men and women. It also equipped GAD Focal Point System members with the skills to design and implement gender-responsive programs, fostering a more gender-sensitive culture in compliance with the Magna Carta of Women.  GLAIZA D. CARRERA

## Awards and recognitions



### Gantimpala Agad Award



Piliin mo ang Pilipinas Production Team (CES)



Jhun Mark C. Bragais  
Bicol

### Pasasalamat Award



Jay-Bee B. Valdez  
Isabela



Irene B. Laureano  
CES



Mark Dominic M. Pae  
Isabela



Dimple R. Simbulan  
Urduja Security Services



## NOVEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 4 NRAM National Launching                   | 7 Dangal ng PhilRice |
| 5 Thanksgiving and Moral Enrichment Program | 29 Tower Lighting    |
| 6 SRO Seminar Series                        |                      |





## FRESH APPOINTMENTS



**Mary Ann U. Baradi**  
Director I, PhilRice Batac



**Ommal H. Abdulkadil**  
Director I, PhilRice Negros



**Joy Bartolome A. Duldulao**  
Director I, PhilRice Isabela



**Rizzla S. Ona**  
Executive Assistant III, ODEDR



**Novelyn M. Eugenio**  
Farm Superintendent I, Batac



**Gerome A. Corpuz**  
Science Research Specialist I, RCFSO

## PAGCOR Photography Contest 2024 Drone Category Winner: "Rice in Bar Graph"

## JTI Sinaglarawan 2024 Photo Contest Finalist: "Bamboo and Beyond: A River of Enterprise"



**Carlo G. Dacumos**  
Creative Arts Specialist II, DevCom

## Philippine Association of Nutrition, Inc. Service Award



**Dr. Marissa V. Romero**  
Chief SRS, RCFSO

## 2024 National Research Symposium



### Best R&D Paper (Bronze Award)

**Jayvee C. Kitma, Daisyree Agustin, Elyza Manao, and Roel Suralta**, *Revolutionizing Agricultural Practices: Nanotechnology's Impact on the Growth, Yield and Soil Health in Irrigated Lowland Rice*

### 4 Citation Awardees:

**Dr. Jaime A. Manalo**, *Understanding family farming in the Philippine Context;*

**Dr. Henry M. Corpuz**, *Buffalo Milk-Based Yogurt Co-fermented with Stabilized Rice Bran: Development and Market Potential Evaluation;*

**Dr. Nonawin L. Agustin**, *Weg1 mutated gene promotes a highly branched root system and maintains shoot dry matter production under water stress conditions applied with varying nitrogen levels;*

**Dr. Arlen A. Dela Cruz**, *Developing and utilizing donor lines with combined bacterial blight and tungro resistance to enhance elite rice breeding lines at PhilRice*

## Distinguished Alumni Awardees



**Dr. Ronan G. Zagado**  
2024 CDCAA Communication for Food Security and Development, University of the Philippines Los Baños



**Dr. Jaime A. Manalo IV**  
Pursuit of Excellence Category Canaman Central School Alumni Association, Inc.



**Dr. Nenita V. Desamero**  
2024 College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños

## 12th PAPTCCB Scientific Conference



### Best Paper Award

**Christopher C. Cabusora, Gelyn D. Valida, Rj D. Baluran, Martha V. Chico, Raña Mae A. Sumabat, Henry T. Ticman, Josielyn C. Bagarra, Jonathan M. Niones, Marie Antonette R. Orbase, Hannah Filicia B. Mataia, and Nenita V. Desamero**

*From Lab to Field: The Journey of a New Climate-Resilient Rice Variety Developed through in Vitro Mutation of the Rice Cultivar FR13A*

### 2024 PAPTCCB Honorary Fellow

**Dr. Nenita V. Desamero**  
Chief SRS, PBBD