



Responsible rice consumption reiterated

AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

This year's National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM), which is being celebrated every November, was themed "Be RICEponsible".

NRAM gravitated anew on responsible rice consumption with activities aimed at reducing rice wastage and supporting farmers. The "Half-Cup,

Full-Heart" challenge urged Filipinos dining out not to buy more than they can finish.

Branch stations breath life to the theme through various activities: Midsayap hosted "Roots and Shoots," involving staff and students in rice transplanting and plant care chores; Agusan

promoted healthier rice alternatives during a two-day info drive among over 1,500 students; Los Baños ushered Grade 7 students into hands-on rice transplanting; while Batac, Bicol, Isabela, and Negros sponsored feeding programs, dance contests, quiz bee, and the distribution of PhilGAP-certified brown rice to students and farmers. 🍚



PhilRice turns 39

The Institute marked its 39th founding anniversary on Nov. 5, with the theme “Bida ang Sama-sama para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas”. The 3-day celebration at its headquarters began with a Thanksgiving Mass and Moral Enrichment program, followed by the SRO Seminar Series on Nov. 6 focusing on strengthening skills and promoting integrated solutions in rice farming. Sports events and an employees’ fair spiced up the commemoration. It culminated on Nov. 7 by honoring outstanding and long-serving employees and personnel during the Dangal ng PhilRice awarding ceremonies. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



New hires appreciate rice

Newly hired staff from CES underwent a rice appreciation course on Nov. 25-29 at Headquarters. Through interactive lectures and hands-on activities, the course had improved the 32 participants’ knowledge and appreciation of the *PalayCheck* System for irrigated lowland rice. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

RICE MATTERS



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

No to violence against women

In support of the 18-day (Nov. 25-Dec 18) campaign to end violence against women (VAW), PhilRice’s Gender and Development team led the observance of Orange Friday, and rolled out seminars, exhibits and film screenings, together with regional police orientations on VAW and the Safe Spaces Act. Through these efforts, the PhilRice family continues to strengthen its commitment to contribute in achieving a violence-free and equitable society. 🍌 GLAIZA D. CARRERA



R4DE advanced

The 36th Ugnay Palay National Rice R4DE Conference, themed "Advancing Rice R4DE para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas," was held on Dec. 3- 5 at the CBC Plenary Hall.

Along with approximately 1,000 online participants, over 600 individuals from the agriculture sector, including researchers, scientists, policymakers, farmers, students, and industry partners attended the conference in person. They engaged in sharing research findings, innovations, and practical solutions, all focused on advancing sustainability and progress within the rice agriculture sector. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

Environmental care strengthened



PhilRice's Integrated Management Systems and Services Office, in collaboration with the Association of PhilRice Employees, organized a tree planting activity on Nov. 22 at CES compound. The initiative engaged employees from various divisions to plant 50 dwarf coconut seedlings at a selected site of PhilRice. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

VISITING LEARNERS OF PHILRICE CES

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2024



1,389

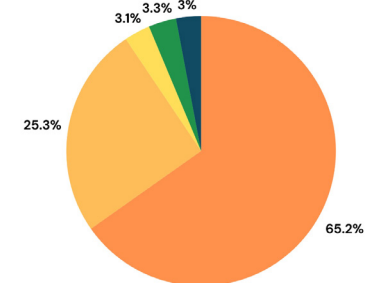
LEARNERS
from 32 groups

95%

SATISFACTION RATE



LEARNERS' PROFILE



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


Origin:
Region I
Region III
Region IV-A
Region IV-B
NCR
Region VII
Region XI
MIMAROPA



International Visitors


- International Rice Research Institute - Uzbekistan
- Vietnam Joint Committee on Agriculture
- United Kingdom
- Timor Leste & Crop Pest Management Division
- Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom

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



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INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS



The Philippine Rice Information System (PRISM), led by Dr. Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang, attended the 2024 regional awarding of the Future Enterprise Awards during the International Data Corporation Technology Symposium and Awards in Singapore on Nov. 11. PRISM was recognized as the Asia-Pacific Regional Winner for the Special Award for Sustainability. This recognition highlights PRISM's transformative potential to optimize agricultural tools and keep pace with rapid technological advancements, ensuring efficiency, reliability, and accessibility of information. 🍌 KIARA MAE E. PANYO

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND EXPERIENCE SHARING FOR RICE VALUE CHAINS Through South-South and Triangular Cooperation



Alice B. Mataia, from the Socioeconomics Division participated in a knowledge and experience-sharing workshop and study visit from Dec. 2-7, in South Korea. The event marked the conclusion of the "Capacity Development and Experience Sharing for Rice Value Chains through South-South Triangular Cooperation" project. She joined experts and stakeholders from across the globe to explore innovative practices in rice value chain development focusing on the enhancement of efficiency, sustainability, and economic growth within the rice sector. The workshop provided participants with valuable insights into successful rice value chain models in South Korea, emphasizing technology transfer, market access, and post-harvest management. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



Imeldalyn G. Pacada from the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Division represented the Philippines at the 3rd International Conference on Rice for the Future, held in Thailand from Nov. 11-16. She presented her paper titled "Progress in Breeding for Stem Borer Resistance in the Philippines". Her paper focused on the significant strides in developing rice varieties resistant to stem borers. The conference brought together leading experts in rice science to discuss innovations in rice production, pest management, and sustainable farming practices. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



Christopher C. Cabusora of the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Division represented PhilRice at the 25th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting in Japan. The Adverse Rice Breeding and Variety Development Team received the 2024 FNCA Best Research Team of the Year Award. The award recognized the team's exceptional work in developing rice varieties resilient to adverse environmental conditions that had contributed to enhance food security in the Philippines. The meeting brought together experts from Asia to share innovations in agricultural research and foster regional collaboration. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

KOPIA recognized for empowering farming communities



Dr. Kyu-Seong Lee of the Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture (KOPIA) Philippines Center was recognized by PhilRice for his outstanding leadership in enhancing the productivity and profitability of Filipino farmers. Dr. Lee's support, including funding, facilities, equipment, and capacity-building initiatives, has played a pivotal role in transforming farming communities, specifically the RiceBIS farmers in Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija.

🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO

PhilSA, PhilRice forge partnership



The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and PhilRice signed a Memorandum of Agreement on Dec. 16 to formalize their collaboration in addressing agricultural drought in the Philippines. The partnership aimed to use satellite data to create crop-specific drought maps. By integrating rice maps and field data from PhilRice, PhilSA would develop highly targeted drought maps, to enhance the accuracy and comprehensiveness of drought monitoring and forecasting, helping to improve agricultural decision-making across the country.

🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



PhilRice cares

As part of PhilRice's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the Institute conducted a relief operation on Dec. 19, benefiting 100 families affected by Typhoon Pepito in Barangay Diome, Maria Aurora, Aurora. The Institute distributed grocery packs and clothing donations collected from its employees. The activity aimed to provide immediate assistance and bring holiday cheer to families still recovering from the typhoon's impacts. Other divisions and offices also conducted their respective CSR activities in Nueva Ecija: Socioeconomic Division in Tahanan ng Damayang Kristiyano, San Jose City on Dec. 6; Genetic Resources Division and Data Analytics Center in Paraiso Children House of Refuge on Dec. 11 and 13; Financial Management Division in Brgy. San Felipe, Science City of Muñoz on Dec. 16; and Training Management Services Division and Office of the Executive Director for Development in Brgy. Doña Josefa, Palayan City on Dec. 18.

🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



PhilRice Board of Trustees convene in its 64th meeting

The PhilRice Board of Trustees led by DA Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. held its 64th meeting at the DA Central Office in Diliman, Quezon City, on Dec. 17. The meeting focused on charting a clear direction for the Institute, and emphasized its critical role in addressing challenges in rice production.

🍌 KIARA MAE E. PANYO



Flagship programs conduct annual reviews

PhilRice held its annual review sessions for the Institute's banner programs, specifically the RiceBIS 2.0, SMART Farm, and the Rice Seed System, to enhance rice farming in the Philippines.

The RiceBIS 2.0 program review was held from Dec. 11-13 to assess the program's progress and identified best practices to boost farm productivity and rural development. The SMART Farm program review on Nov. 12-14 focused on accelerating the use of digital farming technologies and refining strategies to align with the 2023-2028 strategic plan. Meanwhile, the Rice Seed System program review on Dec. 16 emphasized on improving seed quality and availability.

Collectively, the outcomes focused on boosting rice farming productivity, improving consumer access to affordable and nutritious rice, and ensuring a stable supply for a sustainable, prosperous rice farming communities. Discussions included implementing innovative farming technologies, enhancing the rice seed system, and linking farmers to markets, with a focus on climate-smart adaptations. 🍌 KIARA MAE E. PANYO AND AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



First BeRiceponsible leadership camp at RICEsPark

PhilRice CES held its first-ever BeRICEponsible Leadership Camp in collaboration with Kiwanis International on Nov. 15 at the newly inaugurated RICEsPark site at the FutureRice Farm. The activity ushered 30 high school student leaders from the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva to promote agricultural awareness, leadership, and advocacy for rice farming. The full-day camp aimed to empower the youth to become advocates for agricultural prosperity and food security. The RICEsPark was funded by the Kiwanis International Philippine Luzon district under the leadership of Gov. Glenda V. Hufano.

🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



Staffers save lives, give blood

In celebration of PhilRice's 39th anniversary, the Institute organized a blood donation drive in collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross Nueva Ecija Chapter on Nov. 8 at the CBC Multipurpose Hall. About 70 staffers of PhilRice including the PhilRice Executive Director, Dr. John C. de Leon, donated blood to support patients in Nueva Ecija and nearby areas, addressing the demand for safe and sufficient blood supplies. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



Community trained

The Integrated Management Standards and Services Office of PhilRice conducted a Basic First-Aid and Solid Waste Management Awareness Seminar on Nov. 28 at the PhilRice Social Hall. It was attended by 30 participants from Barangay Maligaya, including local officials, police, health workers, and educators. The seminar provided life-saving first-aid training and practical waste management strategies to promote safety and environmental responsibility. 🍌 AUBREY VISTA P. MANALO



MIDSAYAP STATION

Ready for technology scaling

PhilRice Midsayap staffers on Nov. 13 participated in an orientation titled "Strengthening the M&E Capacity for the Scaling of Rice Technologies," at the PCA Complex in Bago Oshiro, Tugbok District, Davao City. In coordination with the DA-National Rice Program, key stakeholders such as PhilRice and DA-Regional Field Offices, were equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to systematically monitor and evaluate the scaling of technologies. 🍌 CHESHIRE FAYE R. PAGARIGAN



Long Live, Midsayap!

Adding glamor to the 88th founding anniversary of Midsayap, North Cotabato, the PhilRice Midsayap participated in the Nov. 25 Sinugba sa Kadalanan spectacle held at the town proper. Together with other agencies, offices, and organizations, the staffers enjoyed free barbecue, boodle fights, and live band performances.

🍌 CHESHIRE FAYE R. PAGARIGAN



BATAC STATION

Major awards won

PhilRice Batac received two prestigious awards during the 36th Ilocos Agriculture, Aquatic Resources R&D Consortium Regional Symposium held in San Fernando City, La Union on Nov. 13-15. Awarded 2nd place, the poster entry, "Aprubado ken Maiyannatup: Dagiti Barayti ti Pagay Para iti Tiempo ti Tudo ken Kalgaw," highlighted rice varieties suited to local conditions. The paper titled "Enhancing the Competitiveness of Rice Farmers in Region 1: The Contributions of Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund RCEF Seed and Extension Programs," clinched third place. It documented strategies to boost productivity and empower Filipino rice farmers.

🍌 CYNTHIAMAY O. LAPAT



BICOL STATION

R&D work presented

PhilRice Bicol joined the 12th Philippine Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology conference held in Legazpi City on Oct. 15-17. The staffers presented papers and posters on 3 studies: (1) Evaluation of yield and yield components of Malusog Rice Introgressed Lines; (2) Yield Evaluation of Rice Breeding Lines Developed through Seed Mutation and Anther Culture under Drought Stress Conditions; and (3) Inflorescence-derived NSIC Rc 470: A Stable and High-yielding Rice Variety for Saline-Affected Rice Areas in Bicol and Eastern Visayas Regions. The presentations blended well with the conference's theme "Upscaling Biotechnology and Tissue Culture Researches and Technologies to Sustain Community Development". 🍌 AZRYL MAY M. JIMENEZ



ISABELA STATION

RiceUp project supported

The Cagayan State University- Solana-Lara Campus on Nov. 18 sealed a partnership with PhilRice Isabela through a memorandum of understanding for the "RiceUp: Unleashing the Potential of Cagayan's Rice Bowl" project. The joint project aims to sharpen the technical expertise of students and local communities on rice-related matters.

🍌 MISHELLE C. DOMINGO



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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#BeautifulPhilRice 3.0

happy, funny side of PhilRice

Finalists' photos

As part of the 39th PhilRice anniversary activities, the #BeautifulPhilRice 3.0 photo contest featured this year's theme, "Funny, Happy Side of PhilRice". Open to all CES and branch station participants, the contest ran from Sep-Nov. and winners were awarded during the Institute year-end party on Dec. 20. Aimed to capture the laughter and uplifting moments of staff, laborers, and farmers, reflecting the spirit of PhilRice, the contest highlighted unique experiences and heartfelt connections found in every corner of our fields and facilities. 🍌 KIARA MAE E. PANYO



by Aeron John Garcia



by Yobhel Louise Beltran



by Aeron John Garcia



by Louie Gerard Orcullo



by Minard Pagaduan



by Remelyn Ramos-Delos Santos



by Jesse Odtojan



by Louie Gerard Orcullo



by Minard Pagaduan



by Aeron John Garcia

Awards and recognitions



Dangal Ng PhilRice Awards for Excellence

(Nov. 7)

EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE

Diadem B. Gonzales-Esmero
Ronan G. Zagado

EXCELLENT PRODUCT/PROCESS

PhilRice Training Program for RCEF-RESP
Rice Seed Monitoring System
(RSMS of RCEF)

EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICE

Magiting T. Garcia
Sailila E. Abdula

Awards for Excellent Performance of Service Contractors

RESEARCH

Nonawin L. Agustin
Teresa Joi P. De Leon
Tyrone C. Juganan

DEVELOPMENT

Cynthiamay O. Lapat
Dianne A. Gabriel

GASS

Bernie S. Dela Cruz
Joyce D. Legaspi
Rayvin Fredric P. Esteban

RDA SUPPORT SERVICES

Bernando S. Peralta
Gerry M. Vejel
Joe Mar G. Espiritu
John Kavin M. Cruz
Junji L. Alvarez
Oliver C. Soco

40 YEARS

Jose A. Orcino

35 YEARS

Angelita B. Obana
Belinda M. Gonzalvo
Fe G. Alonzo
Lea dR. Abaoag
Maria Cielo J. Tibayan
Reynaldo E. Irang
Teodora L. Briones
Wilfredo B. Collado

30 YEARS

Evelyn H. Bandonill
Grace S. Villaroman
Gracia B. Amar
Fidela P. Bongat
Luis Alejandro I. Tamani

25 YEARS

Flordeliza H. Bordey
Jennifer T. Niones
Jonathan M. Niones
Leonardo V. Marquez
Virginia P. Salvador

20 YEARS

Chona Mae S. Narvadez
Gina D. Balleras
Jerry C. Serapion
Rhemilyn Z. Relado-Sevilla

15 YEARS

Alvin D. Palanog
Hazel V. Antonio
Jaime A. Manalo IV
Michelle C. Quimbo

SERVICE CONTRACTORS SERVICE AWARD

20 YEARS

Armando P. Beglilio
Donna V. Estrella
Edward B. Quimbo
Emil D. Fernandez
Eliseo M. Naduma, Jr.
Mark Dennis D. Blancas
Pacencio V. Salas, Jr.
Roger T. Corpuz
Rolando L. Dayday
Rizalino D. Vigilia

25 YEARS

Donald L. Laging
Pablo D. Codilla

10 YEARS

Arlen A. Dela Cruz
Christopher C. Cabusora
Clarivel O. Seguritan
Dindo King M. Donayre
Imelda D. Olvida
Imeldalyn G. Pacada
Irmira R. De Gracia
Jean Rochielle F. Mirandilla
Joanne D. Caguiat
Jasper G. Tallada
Mildred L. Penera
Reynante L. Ordonio
Wilhelmina V. Barroga
Xavier Greg I. Caguiat

PhilRice Scholars

Mary Grace M. Nidoy

Academic Achievement Award
(3rd Highest GWA in the MS Graduating
Class of 2024)

MS in Development Communication
University of the Philippines Los Baños
August 3, 2024

Jasmin J. Reyes

Master in Development Management
Development Academy of the Philippines
April 11, 2024

Self-initiated Scholars

Myline A. Dilla

PhD in Public Administration
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology
July 23, 2024

Rachelle Marie S. Martin

MS in Engineering Management
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology
January 30, 2024

Jesusa M. Rivera

MS in Agriculture
Tarlac Agricultural University
May 31, 2024

2024 Regional CSC-HAP

Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award
(Regional Winner)

(Sep. 27)



Malusog Rice



Oryza Gems

From the Scientific Career System and Philippine Association of Career Scientist

Institutional Award

(Nov 12)



During the 5th General Assembly of the Philippines National Soil Laboratory Network

Certificate of Recognition

(Nov. 7)



PhilRice Agronomy Soils and Plant Physiology Laboratory

From the Bureau of Plant Industry

PhilGAP Certificate

(Nov 12)



CES Palayamanan Team

Awards and recognitions



During the 51st Philippine Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Best Poster Award-Agriculture and Fisheries

(Nov. 27-28)



1st Place

**Nonawin Lucob-Agustin, Aradel Mae B. Tanaid, Yoshiaki Inukai,
Jonathan M. Niones, Roel R. Suralta**

*Gene Expression Analyses of Root Plasticity Genes under Soil Moisture
Conditions for Epigenetic Regulation*



3rd Place

**Aradel Mae B. Tanaid, Rebecca I. Santos, Amabel H. Achuela,
Yoshiaki Inukai, Mana Kano-Nakata, Jonathan M. Niones,
Roel R. Suralta, Nonawin Lucob-Agustin**

*Mutation of Weg1 Gene Contributed to Root Development, Shoot Growth and
Yield Under Water-limited conditions*

Dr. Elvira O. Tan Award

Outstanding Published Paper in Agriculture

(Nov. 8)



**Christopher C. Cabusora, Nenita V. Desamero, Martha V. Chico, Henry T.
Ticman, Josielyn C. Bagarra, Gelyn D. Valida, RJ D. Baluran, Rana Mae .
Sumabat, Marie Antoinette R. Orbase**

*New Multiple Abiotic Stress-Tolerant Rice Variety Developed from
Combining Tissue Culture and Gamma Irradiation*

From the 2nd Central Luzon Kadugo Recognition Philippine Red Cross

Certificate of Appreciation

(Nov. 13)



Gantimpala Agad Award



Training Management Team, CES

Pasasalamat Award



Field and Utility Workers, Negros