



Roundtable discussion to evaluate GAD mainstreaming efforts at PhilRice CES



Basic GAD Orientation and Gender Sensitivity Training at PhilRice Agusan



GAD Talks seminar at PhilRice Bicol



Discussions on vital role of women at PhilRice Batac

GAD efforts mainstreamed

GD Carrera and AV Manalo

The Institute celebrated 2025 National Women's Month in March with a series of Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives in its headquarters and branch stations. The month-long celebration themed "*Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor, Aangat ang Bukas sa Bagong Pilipinas*" aimed to promote Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), in line with the Magna Carta of Women.

The series of events strengthened GAD integration in agriculture and

development programs by capacitating women and vulnerable sectors through GAD orientation and gender sensitization with farmers, financial literacy sessions, machinery operation training, webinars, livelihood support, and series of GAD coaching with the program leaders to ensure gender-responsiveness of program/project implementation. These efforts built confidence among empowered women farmers, enhanced workplace gender sensitivity, and fostered stronger

partnerships among local stakeholders. Branch stations also hosted unique and fun activities, such as "GAD Talks", Zumba sessions, wellness services, contests, and appreciation ceremonies for women staffers.

A key highlight of the celebration was the roundtable discussion at PhilRice CES on Mar. 19, where staffers and partners evaluated ongoing GAD mainstreaming efforts and proposed policy improvements to support the transition toward a more inclusive GESI. 🍌



Field tour at PhilRice CES



Farmers' bazaar at PhilRice Negros



Field demonstration in Castilla, Sorsogon

DA chief stresses seeds' importance

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. underscored the critical role of seeds as the foundation of food security and key to farmers' success to more than 700 farmers, extension workers, partners, and high school students during the *Lakbay Palay*. Funded by the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Program, the *Lakbay Palay* was themed "*Binhi ang Susi*" emphasizing the vital role of quality seeds in rice production, conducted at its headquarters on Mar. 27.

Manager of Eastern Sto. Domingo Agriculture Cooperative Raflornito L. Blas and President of Casongsong Farmers Association Virginia Dela Cruz Rihad shared that PhilRice guided them on the use of high-quality seeds and that the RCEF Seeds and Extension Programs have transformed their community's farming practices. Farmers from La Union, Pangasinan, Isabela, Zambales, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija participated in the event.

Meanwhile, nearly a thousand farmers, students, and agri-professionals gathered at PhilRice Negros on Apr. 2-3 for their 2025 Dry Season *Lakbay Palay*. PhilRice Bicol did the same in Borongan City, Eastern Samar on Mar. 21, and in Castilla, Sorsogon on Mar. 24 to draw attention to climate-resilient rice varieties from the *Binhi Palay* farms. 🍌 CM Nicolas

RCEF SGCAs convened



The Luzon-wide RCEF-contracted SGCAs General Assembly provides a platform for peer-to-peer exchanges on best practices in seed production, post-harvest processing, storage, and seed delivery.

PhilRice CES hosted the first General Assembly of 39 Seed Grower Cooperatives and Associations (SGCAs), contracted by the Rice

Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Program from Luzon on Apr. 7-8 at CBC Plenary Hall, that gathered 300 officials and members to discuss the performance and accomplishments of the RCEF Seed Program in 2019-2024. The assembly also ironed out issues and concerns during the 6-year implementation, informed participants on the expansion of seed targets and plans for Phase 2, introduced new projects, and outlined their roles. It aimed to foster teamwork among stakeholders for improved seed support outcomes.

To recognize their outstanding efforts and contributions during the past season, the Isabela Seed Growers Multi-Purpose Cooperative received the Best Seed Growers' Cooperative award. 🍌 YL Beltran



Food technologists discuss possible collaborations with Biotech Japan Corporation-Philippines to commercialize nutritious rice-based ready-to-eat products.

Rice-based food products to be commercialized

Food technologists and researchers from the Rice Chemistry and Food Science Division met with officials of Biotech Japan Corporation - Philippines on Apr. 8 at its Tarlac City Technopark. The engagement potentially brings healthier options to more Filipino food lovers through mainstream grocery shelves.

🍌 HM Corpuz



The provision of two AigamoRobo units for testing starting this wet season to 2026 dry season is indicated in the MOA with NEWGREEN.

Introducing: smart farming methods

PhilRice and Japanese agri-tech company officials signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the field-testing of the AigamoRobo on Apr. 10 at PhilRice CES. The AigamoRobo is a solar-powered robot designed to combat weed growth in rice fields. The MOA is to introduce smart farming technologies in the country, aiming to boost sustainability and efficiency in rice production, which sparked excitement among researchers and stakeholders for its potential impact. 🍌 AG Castro

Palay prices monitored

The National Food Authority (NFA) and PhilRice signed a Memorandum of Agreement on Mar. 11 at PhilRice CES. This partnership seeks to enhance market transparency and support evidence-based pricing under NFA's PRICERS Program, making accurate data available to farmers and promoting a more stable and resilient rice industry.

🍌 AV Manalo



The field walk aims to strengthen collaboration and learning among researchers.

Field walk births new approaches

Researchers and support personnel from the Agronomy, Soils, and Plant Physiology Division gathered for their annual field walk on Mar. 7 at PhilRice CES. The activity fosters insightful exchanges and inspires more integrative approaches to rice science innovations.

🍌 AG Castro




(L-R) Assistant Administrator for Finance and Administration of NFA Veralew DG. De Vera, Acting Deputy Administrator John Robert R. Hermano, NFA Administrator Larry Del Rosario Lacson, PhilRice Executive Director John C. de Leon, and PhilRice DED for Research Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang sign the MOA that aims to strengthen real-time palay price monitoring through Bantay Palay App.



The kids aging from 7 to 13 years old create rice mosaic art, experience farm machine operation, and try the Minus-One-Element Technique during the Camp.

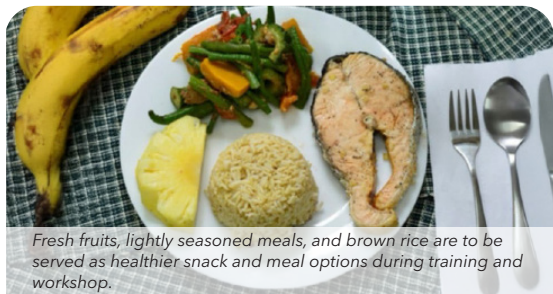
Shaping future agri leaders

To promote rice appreciation, 20 kids of PhilRice staffers participated in the BeRiceponsible Summer Leadership Camp held on Apr. 30 at RicesPark. The camp also aimed

to promote the appreciation for rice, farmers' work, and the value of leadership in agriculture through hands-on and interactive learning activities. The activity was supported by the Kiwanis International Philippine Luzon District, led by Immediate Past Governor Glenda V. Hufano.  AV Manalo



PhilRice's collaboration with DAR, NFA, and farmer cooperatives aims to integrate production support, agrarian services, and market access.



Fresh fruits, lightly seasoned meals, and brown rice are to be served as healthier snack and meal options during training and workshop.

Healthier lifestyle promoted

To mark the PhilRice 40th anniversary, the Institute promotes healthier and more mindful food choices through its Healthy@40 campaign. Aligned with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call for prioritizing health and nutrition in government plans, the new guidelines aim to reduce the risks of diet-related diseases such as hypertension and diabetes while promoting healthier eating habits among government workers. The campaign promotes the consumption of fruits and vegetables, fiber-rich foods, meals and drinks with reduced sodium and sugar.

 CM Nicolas

Access to support services eased

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), National Food Authority (NFA), and PhilRice formalized their alliance through a roundtable discussion with farmer cooperatives on Mar. 10 at the NFA Central Luzon and Nueva Ecija offices. The collaboration aims to uplift farmer's livelihoods, bolstering cooperatives with improved technologies, legal support, and stable market linkages.

 AV Manalo

VISITING LEARNERS OF PHILRICE CES

MARCH - APRIL 2025

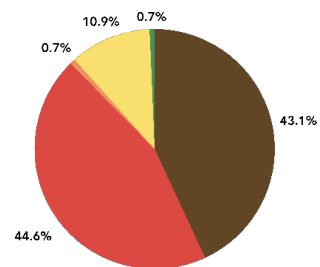
 **1772**
LEARNERS
from 38 groups



95%

SATISFACTION RATE



LEARNERS' PROFILE



- | | |
|---|----------------|
|  Farmers | Origin: |
|  Students/Faculty | Region I |
|  Collaborators/Scientists | Region II |
|  Other Government Agencies | Region III |
|  Walk-in | Region IV-A |
| | Region IV-B |
| | NCR |
| | Bicol Region |



International Visitors

- Creattura Co. - Japan
- Nomura Research Institute - Japan
- Faeger Co. - Japan
- Sagri Co. - Japan
- Kyushu University - Japan

Infographics by KIARA MAE E. PANYO



Researchers from Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering join the launch of the 1,001 PH Rice Genome Project, which aims to preserve culturally valued traits.

Genome project launched

Researchers from UP Los Baños, PhilRice, and partner institutions launched the 1,001 PH Rice Genome Project (1k1RG) on Apr. 3, during a convergence workshop at PhilRice CES. Backed by DA-National Rice Program and Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, the project aims to decode the genomes of traditional rice varieties, empowering researchers to fast-track the breeding of nutritious, climate-smart rice for future food security.

🍌 AV Manalo



Techniques to create engaging, clear, and usually appealing slides are shared to support staffers.

Wellness supported in workplace

An annual medical examination for pesticide applicators and support personnel assigned to critical work areas was conducted on Mar. 11 at PhilRice CES. This is done to monitor the health of employees exposed to occupational hazards and identify potential health risks that could compromise their ability to perform their duties. 🍌 AV Manalo



The role of PhilRice IMS key personnel is reiterated during the workshop.

Staffers coached on creating presentations

Support personnel from the GASS sector and branch stations participated in a coaching and mentoring program that focused on enhancing PowerPoint presentation skills on Mar. 14 at Social Hall. The session aimed to ensure effective communication, better decision-making, and stronger collaboration within teams and with external partners.

🍌 AV Manalo

IMS awareness promoted

The Institute's Integrated Management System (IMS) key personnel participated in an IMS Awareness workshop conducted at the Social Hall on Apr. 7-8. It aimed to enhance the participants' understanding of IMS principles and to share IMS best practices for operational efficiency and overall performance.

🍌 AV Manalo



The annual medical examination is part of the Institute's occupational health and safety program.



(L-R) PhilRice's Senior SRS Michelle C. Quimbo, PhilRice's Senior Consultant for Agriculture Extension and Strategic Communication Rex L. Navarro, PhilRice's DED for Development Karen Eloisa T. Barroga, SEARCA's Center Director Mercedita A. Sombilla, and PhilRice's DED for Research Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang, meet to discuss collaboration on innovative rice farming products.

SEARCA and PhilRice strengthen partnership

Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) center director, welcome the delegation of PhilRice on Apr. 16 at the SEARCA headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna. 🍌 AV Manalo

Data visualization skills sharpened

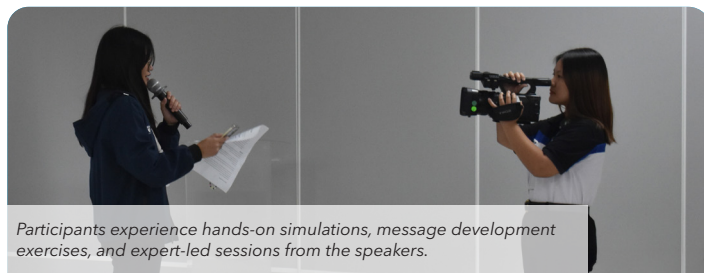


PhilRice staffers are taught to create functional Excel dashboards using PivotTables and charts.

Staffers from the Data Analytics Center and the Administrative Support Division participated in a hands-on workshop on Interactive Excel dashboarding held on Mar. 18-19, at the CBC Training Room. The session aimed to build fundamental skills in data visualization. Best practices in data formatting were also shared, enabling teams to deliver clearer and more accurate reporting for informed decision-making.

🍌 AV Manalo

Media training conducted



Participants experience hands-on simulations, message development exercises, and expert-led sessions from the speakers.

In preparation for the developments of Malusog Rice, spokespersons and communication officers of the Malusog Rice Program were trained on media relations management by crafting effective, timely, and concise messages, along with effective social media management and situational activities, on Apr. 23-24 at the DA-CBC Multi-purpose Hall. Known communication practitioners from different institutions, namely BusinessMirror science editor Lyn Resurreccion; Siyensa na, Tekno Pa Radio Program anchor Hermelina Tenorio; Central Luzon State University crisis communication expert Ronan G. Zagado; International Rice Research Institute science communication and advocacy expert Ma. Aileen Garcia; and PhilRice development communicator Charisma Love Gado-Gonzales shared their expertise. 🍌 GA Barroga



The tennis tournament is in honor of former CLSU President Pedro A. Abella.

Tennis club scores 1st runner-up

The PhilRice Tennis Club participated in the 2025 President Pedro Abella Memorial Tennis Tournament held at the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) Tennis Court on Apr. 2-12, finishing as 1st runner-up. The event was conducted to promote camaraderie through sports, boosting the athletes' morale and strengthening teamwork among club members.

🍌 MA Baltazar



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 PHOTO CONTEST

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Deadline: September 30, 2025



For Single Photo Entries:
<https://bit.ly/BP4PhotoEntry>



For Photo Series Entries:
<https://bit.ly/BP4PhotoSeries>

Adoption of SMART ICM practices widened

PhilRice monitored on Mar. 12 the fine-tuning sites in Tarlac and Bustos, Bulacan of the Integrated Crop Management (ICM) package of technologies of the Scalable Modern and Adoptive Rice Technologies (SMART) program. A meeting with LGU partners and a Rice Development Intervention Monitoring System reorientation with Tarlac Provincial Agriculturist Engr. Lester A. Dulay were also conducted. The LGUs expressed strong support and commitment, marking a key step forward for wider adoption of data-driven rice farming. 🍌 AV Manalo



(L-R) DOST Undersecretary Teodoro M. Gatchalian, PhilRice's RiceBIS program leader Diadem Gonzales-Esmero, PhilRice DED for Development Karen Eloisa T. Barroga, and National Anti-Poverty Commission Secretary Lope B. Santos III, join the 1st DSWD-led national convergence team meeting.



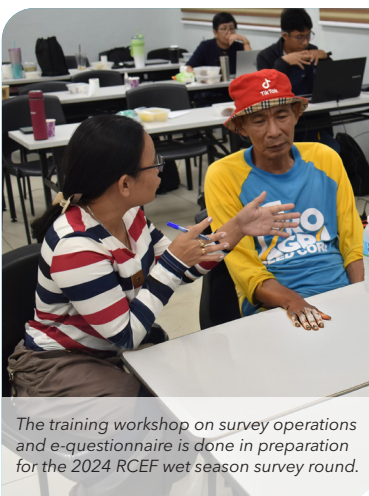
Site monitoring in Tarlac and Bulacan aims to strengthen local implementation and readiness for scaling SMART ICM.

United against hunger

PhilRice, through its RiceBIS Program, participated in the National Convergence Team's first meeting on Apr. 14 at the Department of Social Welfare and Development Central Office to present its support for the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty. During the meeting, Dr. Barroga and Dr. Esmero were officially accepted as members of the National Convergence Team. The initiative was conducted to integrate farmer cooperatives into government feeding programs, empowering communities by improving market access, farm productivity, and income while contributing to the goal of zero hunger.

🍌 SJ Ruiz

RCEF Monitoring and Evaluation strengthened



The training workshop on survey operations and e-questionnaire is done in preparation for the 2024 RCEF wet season survey round.

The Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Seed Program in partnership with the Philippine Survey and Research Center, conducted a training-workshop on survey operations and e-questionnaire at the CBC Training Hall on Apr. 2-5. The training aimed to ensure accurate and efficient data collection through improved understanding of updated protocols and use of digital tools, enabling participants to refine field strategies and strengthen coordination for high-quality monitoring and evaluation.

🍌 KM Panyo



A MOA is signed to expedite market linkages for GAPproved rice.



AGUSAN STATION

Marketing agreement sealed

PhilRice Agusan, through RiceBIS 2.0, entered into a Marketing Memorandum of Agreement on Mar. 4 in Cabadbaran City, together with the DSWD-Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty, local government, and several farmers' associations. The agreement will provide local farmers with more opportunities to market their produce through Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations. This convergence effort seeks to promote the marketing of high-quality, locally grown rice. 🍌 KM David



As part of PhilRice Batac's anniversary celebration, a taste test of various inbred and hybrid rice varieties is conducted revealing that farmers preferred the inbred NSIC Rc 480 (GSR8) and the hybrid NSIC Rc 446H (Mestiso 73), citing their superior taste and quality.

Community service offered

To mark its 26th anniversary celebration, PhilRice Batac conducted a community relations service in Adams, Ilocos Norte on Mar. 4. This included a community farm consultation, assessing local rice production practices and identifying effective interventions to improve farmers' productivity in the area.

🍌 SC Abad

BICOL STATION

PhilRice Bicol turns 14

The youngest branch station celebrated its 14th anniversary on Mar. 25 at its headquarters in Ligao City, Albay with the theme "Teknolohiya'y PalayWakin". The celebration aimed to honor staffers' contributions and milestones, inspiring continued dedication through a two-day event that included a motorcade, moral enrichment, and gala night.

🍌 DB Sadullo



The seed warehouse is funded by South Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs.

BATAC STATION

Better access to high-quality seeds

PhilRice Batac inaugurated a solar-powered seed warehouse equipped with cold storage and acclimatization rooms on Mar. 19, in Batac City, Ilocos Norte. This is to improve seed quality and supply chain efficiency, empowering Ilocos rice farmers with better access to high quality seeds and contributing to a more resilient and sustainable rice production. 🍌 FM Bonilla



PhilRice Bicol also celebrates its 14th anniversary through a tree planting activity.



Farmer-leaders and 14 government agencies from Laguna and Quezon join the site working group meeting led by PhilRice Los Baños.

LOS BAÑOS STATION

MOA with farmer-leaders signed

The RiceBIS project at PhilRice Los Baños held a site working group meeting that occasioned the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Agreement at the station's Conference Hall on Mar. 12. The meeting shared project updates and identified farmers' needs, highlighting the necessity of improved post-harvest facilities, irrigation systems, and market linkages.

UG Merin

Responsible rice consumption promoted

PhilRice Los Baños, in collaboration with the UPLB Development Communicators' Society and Malinta Los Baños Elementary School, launched the 8-week literacy campaign on Apr. 8. IRead, the literacy campaign, focused on agriculture and the BeRiceponsible Campaign.

AV Manalo



The literacy campaign promotes awareness on responsible rice consumption and the importance of ABKD.



PhilRice Isabela staffers join the parade to celebrate San Mateo, Isabela's 79th founding anniversary.

ISABELA STATION

San Mateo marks 79 years of progress

PhilRice Isabela joined the celebration of San Mateo, Isabela's 79th founding anniversary on Mar. 17. The event honored nearly eight decades of progress and unity. PhilRice continuously supports agricultural development and growth in the said municipality.

AV Manalo



PhilRice Isabela and CES staffers practice evacuation and rescue procedures, respectively.

Getting prepared for disaster

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Agricultural Training Institute Regional Office 2, and PhilRice Isabela joined a fire and earthquake readiness activity on Mar. 19 in Malasin, San Mateo to enhance their emergency preparedness. Guided by the Bureau of Fire Protection-San Mateo, personnel and staff members were acquainted with proper safety protocols and fire extinguisher maintenance. Meanwhile, over 30 PhilRice staff members and personnel participated in a High-Angle Rescue Technique Training program held at the CBC Multi-purpose Hall at PhilRice CES on Apr. 2-4. The training, led by the Bureau of Fire Protection-Special Rescue Unit, aimed to equip participants with essential rescue skills, such as knot tying, rappelling, ladder rescue, and emergency transfer techniques to prepare them for natural calamities and high-risk situations.

CS Bumanglag and DC Nabor

LOS BAÑOS STATION

Rice appreciated at SyenSaya

PhilRice Los Baños joined other local agencies in carrying out the 16th SyenSaya on Mar. 11-13, to promote rice science and technology. The occasion was themed "*Teknolohiya at Inobasyon: Kabalik at Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Kinabukasan*". As part of the Food Security and Sovereignty hub, the station engaged around 1,000 students through brown rice tasting and a display of rice varieties.

JH Trinidad



PhilRice Los Baños promotes the Be RicePonsible campaign during the 16th SyenSaya.



Dr. Karen Eloisa T. Barroga, DED for Development leads the brainstorming workshop on rice extension campaign.

Extension campaign developed

PhilRice RCEF Extension leads gathered in Murcia, Negros Occidental on Mar. 11, for a brainstorming workshop to structure a strategic rice extension campaign framework for the Visayas. The workshop aimed to boost the competitiveness of Visayas' farmers through technology adoption and targeted interventions, with Iloilo and Negros Occidental identified as pilot areas.

GA Carreon and VA Tingson



CPSU students emerge as champions, La Carlota City College as 1st runner-up, and Catholic Ming Yuan College as 2nd runner-up in the 1st Battle of the Brainy Organisms Challenge.

NEGROS STATION

CPSU wins rice quiz contest

The Central Philippine State University (CPSU) triumphed in the 1st Battle of the Brainy Organisms Challenge, held on April 3 at PhilRice Negros. The competition, which featured a team quiz format with faculty and students, aimed to enhance knowledge of rice science and innovations, particularly PhilRice implemented programs like Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. CPSU's winning team, led by faculty member Ms. May Opino with students Mariel Villanueva and Abegaile Pino Lozano, emerged as champions, further strengthening awareness of sustainable rice farming.

BR Marco

Month of Planet Earth & Earth Day 2025

Our Power, Our Planet

PROCLAMATION NO. 1481 DECLARING APRIL 22 AS THE PHILIPPINES' EARTH DAY and PROCLAMATION NO. 1482 DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS "THE MONTH OF PLANET EARTH" IN THE PHILIPPINES to raise the level of awareness on the impact and severity of environmental degradation and destruction in the country and the need to protect and save the planet from environmental degradation, and to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Adopt a Plant
April 22, 2025
 9:00AM IMSSO building (beside Clinic)
 50 Plants for Adoption first come first served basis

PhilRice Segunda Mana Drive
 Clothes donation drive
April 22, 2025
 9:00AM IMSSO building (beside Clinic)

Clean-up Drive
April 25, 2025
 Building perimeters and offices

This activity promotes sustainability and conscious consumption by giving away pre-loved items. It encourages employees to declutter, support eco-friendly practices, and foster a spirit of community and generosity.

We provide plants for adoption to promote among staffers a culture of mindfulness- to care and protect the environment. Plants inside offices also promote greener and healthier workplace.

Better Rice Communities.
IMSSO ADVISORY NO. 2025-0020

RETIREES



Hazel Jane M. Orge dedicated her life to public service and professional excellence, culminating in a remarkable 38-year career in PhilRice. With degrees in Psychology and Public Administration, she began as a training officer in Cotton Research and Development Institute in 1986, joined PhilRice in 1992, and rose through the ranks, becoming Chief Administrative Officer in 2024.

Throughout her career, Ms. Orge made significant contributions to the Institute, from enhancing operations at the Batac branch to advancing HR initiatives at the headquarters. Recognized for her leadership and commitment, she received multiple awards, including the Dangal ng PhilRice in 2021, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, service, and dedication to her family and country.

AV Manalo



Gracia B. Amar, a Senior SRS at PhilRice Isabela, has devoted 33 years to advancing agricultural research, particularly in pest management, which has significantly impacted rice-farming practices. Her leadership in key studies, such as analyzing pest profiles in Nueva Vizcaya and exploring sustainable pest control methods, has helped farmers adopt organic and biopesticide solutions, boosting rice yields and promoting sustainable practices. Starting her career in 1992 as an

Agriculturist I at the Bureau of Plant Industry, Ms. Amar joined PhilRice in 1994 and became Senior SRS in 2005. Throughout her career, she exemplified dedication to the mission of PhilRice, playing a vital role in enhancing agricultural productivity and serving the rice farming community with integrity, loyalty, and passion for over three decades.

AV Manalo

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS



Executive Director John C. de Leon, participated in the inaugural CGIAR Science Week 2025 held on Apr. 5–13 in Nairobi, Kenya. He served as one of the panelists on Apr. 8 in a session that focused on fostering regional integration, scaling innovation, and amplifying the impact of CGIAR's research in addressing agricultural challenges. The event aimed to advance research and innovation in food, land, and water systems, inspiring participants through dialogues on digital transformation, climate-smart solutions, and inclusive, equity-centered approaches to agri-food research.

AV Manalo

MAY

- 2 Batac Management Review
- 5 CES Research Day
- 6-8 Bicol Management Review
- 19-23 CES Specialized Course on Organizational Strengthening for RiceBIS 2.0 Program
- 20 RCEF Visayas-wide SGCA Assembly
- 21-23 Negros Management Review
- 26-30 Midsayap Internal Audit
- 28 CES Development Sector Meeting
- 29 RCEF Mindanao-wide SGCA Assembly



MAY-JUNE

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE

- 3-5 CES SMART Farm program midyear review
- 9-11 Isabela Midyear Review
- 16-20 Los Baños Internal Audit
- 17-19 Negros Midyear Review
- 24-25 Negros QMS Surveillance Audit
- 24-27 Batac 1st Semestral Review



PROMOTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Bethsaida M. Catudan
Chief Science Research Specialist
Batac

Caryl S. Agting
Science Research Specialist II
Agusan

Elizabeth P. Molina
Supervising Administrative Officer
Admin

Gina D. Balleras
Chief Science Research Specialist
Midsayap

Gina B. Narca
Supervising Administrative Officer
PPD

Klifford M. Orge
Science Research Specialist II
REMD

Suennie Jane P. De Leon
Science Research Specialist I
SED

Gantimpala Agad Awards



RiceBIS, Isabela

For pioneering the PhilGAP ordinance in San Mateo and mobilizing P3.15M in training partnerships to advance rice commercialization standards.



RiceBIS Team, CES

For spearheading RiceBIS 2.0 across Region III, achieving 100% PhilGAP certification and facilitating over P3M in market-linked earnings for partner cooperatives.



Financial Management Division, Isabela

For significantly reducing COA AOMs from 31 in 2021 to just 3 in 2024, showcasing excellence in fiscal management and accountability.



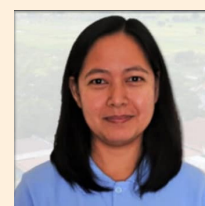
RiceBIS Team, Bicol

For securing P5.542M in grants, enabling Bicol's first full PhilGAP certification, and earning national awards for sustainable rice byproduct innovations.



Procurement Planning Team, CES

For meticulous planning and timely submission of the 2026 Indicative APP, reviewing over 2,500 items across 103 PPMPs worth P297.2M.



Roda P. Dasalla, CES

For ensuring the successful processing of a life insurance claim for the late Mr. Jayson Jose through empathetic, timely, and coordinated support to the bereaved family.



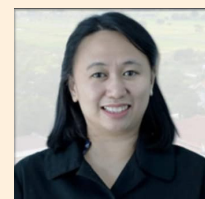
PhilRice Yan: Apat na Dekada Video Team, CES

For successfully producing four commemorative videos on PhilRice's 40-year legacy through collaborative writing, music, voiceover, and editing.



VarMIX-SB Breeding & PPD Team, CES

For resolving a longstanding water line issue affecting four screenhouse facilities since 2019 through diligent field inspections and coordination.



Christina A. Frediles, CES

For her exceptional creativity and output in producing publications and media content for Laktay Palay and PhilRice's 40th anniversary within tight deadlines.



Awards and recognitions

Pasasalamat Awards



Reynaldo F. Diocton IV, Robinson Catalon, Dexter Cruz and Julius Dela Cruz, CES

For their bravery and selfless action during the April 24 fire at South Palayamanan, protecting lives and infrastructure with courage, compassion, and resourcefulness.



Virsuz L. Galdonez, CES

For developing innovative apps that improved field area computation and automated FSC request tracking to enhance efficiency.



Lester John G. Masilac, Negros

For surpassing seed distribution goals in Aklan and leading full LGU adoption of the RCEF App with complete data synchronization.



Girlie A. Carreon, Negros

For her outstanding initiative in strategic communication, event leadership, and public engagement beyond her core responsibilities.



Sarah Joy N. Ruiz, CES

For her initiative and creativity in designing key materials and mentoring colleagues, significantly contributing to Lakbay Palay and publication outputs.



Derwin J. Villena, CES

For ensuring accurate field signage by personally leading tarpaulin measurements, printing, and installations before Lakbay Palay.



Lyndon A. Peña, Bicol

For his consistent leadership in GAD advocacy and administrative coordination, earning national recognition and supporting station-wide success.



Abigail C. Batuto, Negros

For unwavering commitment as a Techno Demo officer, overcoming logistical barriers to consistently deliver on field targets.



Drones4Rice Laborers, CES

For their dependable fieldwork in drone trials, ensuring accurate data collection and maintaining optimal research conditions.



Gillian Mercado, Los Baños

For expertly organizing climate-related workshops and dialogues, ensuring meaningful participation across CALABARZON and MIMAROPA.

Graduate



Dr. Kristine Samoy-Pascual

*Doctor of Philosophy in Agri-Engineering
The University of Tokyo*

External Awards

From the

Australian Embassy in the Philippines

Australia Alumni Excellence Awards: 2024 Alumnus of the Year

(Apr. 3)



Dr. Jaime A. Manalo IV

During the

ITSO Presidents' Summit and General Assembly 2024 Platinum Awardee

(Apr. 10)



Philippine Rice Research Institute



From the
**Forum for Nuclear Cooperation
in Asia Awards**
Best Research Team of the Year
(Apr. 11)

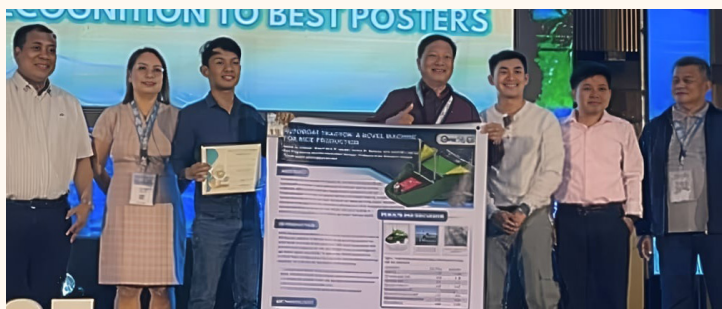


Rice Breeding Team for Adverse Rice Ecosystem

During the
**Department of Agriculture Performance
Appreciation System Awarding Ceremony**
Top 2 Performer (Under Cluster 4: Attached Corporation)
(Apr. 29)



Philippine Rice Research Institute



**Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems
Engineers Annual National Convention**

2nd Best Poster

**Jasper G. Tallada, Bien Fierre D. Agulan, Jimson B. Bedonia, and
Joneil B. Lagmay, Autoboat Tractor: A Novel Machine for Rice Production**



**Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems
Engineers Annual National Convention**

3rd Best Technical Paper

**Jasper G. Tallada, Bien Fierre D. Agulan, Jimson B. Bedonia, and
Joneil B. Lagmay, Autoboat Tractor: A Novel Machine for Rice Production**



**Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems
Engineers Annual National Convention**

2nd Best Technical Paper

**Paulino S. Ramos, Bien Fierre D. Agulan, Jasper G. Tallada, Katherine
C. Villota, and Vitaliana U. M alamug, Automated Alternate Wetting and
Drying Method of Irrigation in Rice Production**

