



RCEF Seed Program recognizes outstanding seed coops, associations

JA Poblete

More than 500 seed growers nationwide gathered for the first-ever General Assembly of Seed Growers' Cooperatives and Associations organized by the RCEF Seed Program. Held in Nueva Ecija, Iloilo, and Davao from April to May, the assembly reviewed the performance of partners in Phase 1, defined policies for Phase 2, and facilitated the exchange of best practices among seed growers.

"If not for our strong collaboration with seed growers' coops and associations, we wouldn't have been able to deliver

the seeds that helped our farmers in their production," PhilRice RCEF Program Management Office Director Dr. Flordeliza H. Bordey said.

From 2019 to 2024, the RCEF Seed Program and the DA National Rice Program Inbred Seed component distributed around 20 million bags of certified inbred rice seeds to over 2 million farmers across 78 provinces.

Top-performing seed grower groups were recognized during the assemblies for their excellence and dedication in

quality seed production and delivery. In Luzon, the Isabela Seed Growers Multi-Purpose Cooperative was awarded Best Seed Growers Cooperative for addressing regional seed shortages.

In Visayas, the Southern Leyte Seed Growers Association earned recognition for its consistent performance across five municipalities. In Mindanao, the Davao Oriental Seed Producers Cooperative was cited for producing over 23,000 additional seed bags to meet demand in Regions 12 and 13. 🍌



PBBM autographs The PhilRice Story book, lead-up to Institute's 40th Anniversary

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed The PhilRice Story Book on June 30 at the sideline of the 50th Gawad Saka awarding ceremony of the Agricultural Training Institute held at PhilRice CES. This book signing marked a significant milestone in the lead-up to the Institute's 40th founding anniversary. The Institute received high commendations from the Gawad Saka participants for its excellent services. The President together with Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr., also led the turnover ceremony by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management of 16 mobile soil laboratories to various regions in the country, and an open forum with all the participants. 🍌 **AV Manalo**

PhilRice, IRRI team up for an international learning visit



PhilRice and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) hosted an international learning visit on May 2 at PhilRice CES, welcoming 24 delegates from Uzbekistan, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. The visit featured technical discussions and facility tours zeroing in on rice biotechnology, gene discovery, marker-assisted breeding, and climate-smart innovations. It was conducted to foster international collaboration and rice-related knowledge exchange, presenting to participants insights and strategies to advance food security and promote sustainability in their respective countries. 🍌 KM Panyo

Public hybrids take root in Abra

(From left to right) PhilRice Isabela R&D Coordinator Ofelia C. Malonzo, RICCE Project Lead Fidel M. Ramos, and DED for Development Karen Eloisa T. Barroga visited La Paz, Abra on May 30 to show support for the public hybrid rice seed production initiative in the province. The visit aimed to strengthen partnership with LGU of La Paz, Abra represented by Engr. Christopher Gulloy (fourth from left) and recognized farmers who completed season-long training, resulting in six newly accredited public hybrid rice seed growers who now help boost local yields from 3-4t/ha to 9-10t/ha and income. 🍌 CA Damaso



Rice seed entries for Svalbard Global Seed Vault prepared

In a milestone for global crop conservation, the Genetic Resources Division of DA-PhilRice has successfully prepared and vacuum-packed 4,417 rice seed entries for long-term storage at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway. These seeds, sourced from the PhilRice Genebank, represent a rich diversity of traditional and improved rice varieties cultivated across the Philippines. Their inclusion in the Svalbard Vault ensures that these vital genetic resources are safeguarded against natural disasters, climate change, and other potential threats to global food production.

🍌 AV Manalo

Hello, HEALTHIER rice program!

The Department of Agriculture has announced the rebranding of the Malusog Rice Program to Healthier Rice Program in 2025. The change aims to expand the program's scope by integrating biotechnology and conventional rice projects, offering a wider variety of healthy rice options such as high iron and zinc, low-glycemic index, brown, and pigmented rice to help meet the nutritional needs of the Filipinos. 🍌 GA Barroga



Seed access and delivery expedited

SeedNetwork members from Regions 3, 4B, 5, 6, and 7, along with regional focal officers and resource persons from the Bureau of Plant Industry, participated in the Rice Seed Information System (RSIS)

Workshop for Cluster 1 held on May 19-21. Meanwhile, participants from Regions 10, 11, 12, 13, and BARMM attended the Cluster 2 workshop on June 16-19 at PhilRice CES. The training was conducted to support the Local

Seed Support to Rice Production Project by improving the tracking of seed access, production, and distribution. Through RSIS, participants knew how to address variety mismatches and to ensure timely delivery of appropriate seed varieties, promoting seed system efficiency.

AV Manalo

Public service and advocacy intensified



PhilRice CES conducted the 1st Governance Forum: Enhancing Citizen Access through Inter-agency Online Services, Integrated Benefits, and Legal Advocacy for PhilRice staffers on June 23 at the DA-CBC Multipurpose Hall. The activity aimed to increase awareness of government services and benefits offered by agencies like GSIS, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, SSS, LTO, and Land Bank, and empowered participants through a paralegal seminar on their legal rights and responsibilities. AV Manalo



6th National Seed Summit convenes stakeholders

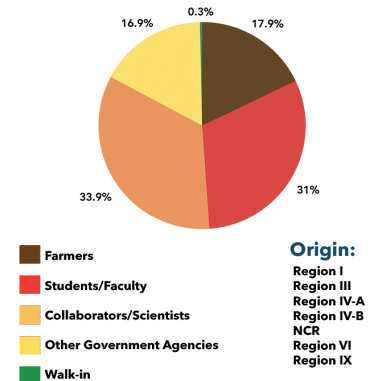
The DA-Bureau of Plant Industry, through its National Seed Industry Council and in collaboration with the Philippine Seed Industry Association, led the 6th National Seed Summit 2025 on May 27 held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management in Diliman, Quezon City. The summit brought together over 150 plenary participants including PhilRice led by Executive Director John C. de Leon. The summit underscored the importance of strong collaboration among the public sector, private companies, and farmers to strengthen and empower the local seed industry. AV Manalo

VISITING LEARNERS OF PHILRICE CES

MAY - JUNE 2025



LEARNERS' PROFILE



International Visitors

- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- National Agriculture and Food Research Organization in Japan
- Ezertech Corporation - Uruguay, Paraguay, Italy, Brazil, Belgium
- Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region - Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Malaysia, USA
- International Rice Research Institute - India

Infographics by KIARA MAE E. PANYO

Scaling CGIAR innovations tackled



The Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) experts and partners from Southeast Asian countries gathered in an event dubbed as “Scaling CGIAR Innovations with Strategic Partnerships” held on May 14-15 in Hanoi, Vietnam, with PhilRice Executive Director John C. de Leon serving as one of the panelists. The occasion showcased agri-food system innovations under the CGIAR initiative on Asian Mega Deltas and aligned them with national priorities and policies. Through discussions, demand mapping, and systems analysis exercises, participants explored collaborative strategies to scale solutions for food, land, and water challenges, strengthening regional partnerships and deepening their commitment to sustainable, science-driven development. 🍌 AV Manalo

PhilRice advocates environmental responsibility



As part of the Institute’s commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement, the Physical Plant Division and the Integrated Management Systems and Services Office of PhilRice spearheaded a river clean-up drive along the Dupunga River in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. The initiative aimed to rehabilitate the riverbanks by removing accumulated waste and debris, thereby contributing to the preservation of local ecosystems. The activity also fostered inter-office collaboration. 🍌 AV Manalo

Building safer and more inclusive tourism spaces

PhilRice, through its Community Relations Office, participated in the Tourism Women’s Rights and Child Safety Training for Tourism Stakeholders held on June 9-10 in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. Organized by the Provincial Tourism Office of Nueva Ecija in partnership with the Department of Tourism-Regional Office III, the training highlighted the importance of ethical, safe, and socially responsible tourism practices, values, and policies. Key discussions covered child-safe tourism, the protection of women and children, and the implementation of responsible tourism policies. The knowledge gained will further guide the Institute in enhancing its visitor services in compliance with the national standards on gender sensitivity and human rights. 🍌 LL Mandia



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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GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

GAD compliance of CES, Bicol recognized

The Commission on Audit (COA) has commended PhilRice CES and Bicol for their Gender and Development (GAD) efforts during the evaluation of their 2024 GAD accomplishments held at their respective stations earlier this year. COA Auditor May Salvador (in pink blouse, from the right) recognized how the stations effectively implemented and mainstreamed GAD-related programs, resulting in a 93.3% utilization rate for CES and 48.43% for Bicol. 🍌 GD Carrera



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

GAD agenda firmed up

PhilRice Gender and Development Office organized and conducted a stakeholders' consultation with representatives from the City Government of Muñoz, National Irrigation Administration, Department of Agrarian Reform, Central Luzon State University, and Municipal Agriculture Office-Zaragoza on May 29 at its headquarters to firm up its gender and development agenda. The GAD agenda will address gender issues in agriculture by validating strategies to close gender gaps, and will align them with national policies like the Magna Carta of Women, and will enhance stakeholder collaboration. The consultation pushed for more inclusive, convergent, and responsive services for rice farmers. 🍌 GD Carrera

Admin sector promotes good governance

The General Administrative Support Services (GASS) sector of PhilRice gathered for the GASS Convergence with the theme, "Promoting a Culture of Good Governance @40: Strengthening Integrity, Accountability, and Efficiency in Public Service" on June 9 at DA-CBC Plenary Hall. The convergence served as a milestone activity as PhilRice is celebrating its 40th founding anniversary, emphasizing the critical role of good governance in fulfilling the Institute's mission and vision. The activity was spearheaded by Deputy National Director Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values, Mr. Jesus V. Sison (in white long sleeves), whose inspiring keynote message challenged the staffers to elevate the standards of leadership in government service. He emphasized that honorable leadership, accountable stewardship, and selfless love for country must not only remain as aspirations, but be embodied in the daily performance of duties. 🍌 AV Manalo

Safe and more nutritious rice for schools



DepEd Assistant Secretary for Operations Dexter A. Galban (fifth from left), along with representatives from PhilRice and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, initially discussed the integration of PhilGAP-certified rice into the School-Based Feeding Program at the DepEd Central Office on May 22. The meeting was conducted to ensure that school children receive safe, high-quality, and more nutritious rice while empowering local farmers through direct procurement from RiceBIS communities. By aligning with the *Sagip Saka* Act, the initiative strengthens farm-to-school linkages and promotes food safety, benefiting both young learners and farmer cooperatives through improved nutrition and market access. 🍌 KA Rodriguez





AGUSAN STATION

Partnership to strengthen agri-based livelihoods sealed

PhilRice Agusan and Caraga State University (CSU)-Cabadbaran Campus formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding under CSU's TechnoAANI program on May 19 at CSU-Cabadbaran in Agusan del Norte. The partnership was established to advance research and development initiatives that will strengthen agri-based livelihoods in the region. It will specifically support projects like the TechnoFARM, which aims to provide location-specific technology packages to boost yields, reduce costs, and increase farmers' income, while also offering capacity-building activities to improve resilience and food security in Northeastern Mindanao.

CM Necesito



Farmer and Fisherfolk Day celebrated

PhilRice Agusan celebrated the Farmer and Fisherfolk Day with Agusan rice farmers through an event dubbed as *Barrio Fiesta 2025* on May 16 at the Carrascal Sports and Cultural Center. Various technologies, such as the Minus-One-Element Technique, Leaf Color Chart, and climate-resilient rice varieties were promoted to help boost farmers' productivity and their resilience to changing climate conditions.

CM Necesito

BATAC STATION

Science-based rice-related info made accessible

PhilRice Batac provided access to science-based rice-related information by promoting and distributing IEC materials and collaterals during the Farmers' Festival held in the City of Batac on May 1-4. The event promoted innovative agricultural solutions and honored the vital role of farmers, offering to participants practical technologies that support improved productivity and sustainability in rice farming.

CO Lapat



Staff retooled knowledge, skills on PalayCheck

PhilRice Batac staffers participated in the in-house Training Course on the Updated PalayCheck System on May 6-7 and 13-14 for Batch 1, and on May 20-21 and 27-28 for Batch 2. The training provided updates on the 2024 edition of the PalayCheck System to the participants to help farmers improve their productivity and reduce their costs.

FM Bonilla





BICOL STATION

ICM for salt-affected areas project expanded

PhilRice Bicol and partner agencies, such as Albay Provincial Agriculture Office (APAO) rice program, Malinao Municipal Agriculture Office, and APAO rice station launched the expansion of the Integrated Crop Management (ICM) for Salt-Affected Environment Project in the Malinao cluster, Albay through a MOA signing and seed distribution held on May 27. This is to extend support to farmers in salt-affected rice areas. They were also trained on the PalayCheck System on May 28-30. 🍌 DB Sadullo

MIDSAYAP STATION

PhilRice Midsayap trains farmers on PhilGAP

In collaboration with the LGU of Midsayap, and DA-Regional Field Office 12, PhilRice Midsayap conducted the Philippine Good Agricultural Practices (PhilGAP) Training among RiceBIS farmers in PhilRice Midsayap station on May 15-16. PhilGAP certification and qualification processes were discussed during the training, helping the farmers improve their product quality, ensure food safety, and make their products more marketable.

🍌 ER Refalbor



Improved food processing practices shared



Farmers from the Bacay Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Coop in Masbate took part in a Training Course on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plan on June 11-12 at the Municipal Hall of Milagros town. Organized by the DA-Food Development Center and LGU

Milagros, the training was designed to strengthen the cooperative's Rice Kropok and Pigmented Rice enterprises under the RiceBIS program, by educating participants about food safety standards, certification requirements, and strategies to elevate product quality and expand market reach.

🍌 AM Jimenez

ISABELA STATION

PhilRice Isabela promotes cultivation of low GI rice

PhilRice Isabela promoted healthier rice options to Isabela and Cagayan rice farmers. They began planting PSB Rc 86, a low-glycemic index (GI) rice variety, in a pilot initiative launched in May covering 47ha giving farmers like Marites Angolan of Gamu, Isabela the hope to attain higher yield from varieties with more health benefits. 🍌 CS Bumanglag





LOS BAÑOS STATION

KSL activity tackles data management

PhilRice Los Baños conducted its first in-house Knowledge Sharing and Learning (KSL) activity on Basic Training for Digital Data Collection on May 19 at its headquarters. The session, facilitated by Ronel G. Discaya (first row, third from left), aimed to strengthen staff capacity in using tools like KoBoToolbox, improving their ability to collect and manage data efficiently for better project implementation and decision-making. 🍌 MM Vidal and JH Trinidad

Promotion of public hybrid expanded



PhilRice Los Baños, together with DA-RFO CALABARZON, conducted hybrid rice technology demonstrations in Tiaong, Quezon, and Sta. Maria, Laguna on May 13. This effort aimed to boost farmers' productivity by expanding access to public hybrid rice varieties and promoting efficient nutrient management practices suited to these hybrids to encourage adoption among farmers and local government partners.

🍌 JH Trinidad

NEGROS STATION

Field day provides access to new science-based rice info

PhilRice Negros conducted its field day with Bago City and Binalbagan farmers under its branch development initiative on June 5 at PhilRice Negros in Cansilayan, Murcia. Participants from the Association of Rice Farmers Tabunan and the Pucotod Bagroy Juaning Crossing Payao Irrigators Association joined the field tour featuring new rice varieties, the Binhing Palay mobile app, direct-seeded rice technology, and integrated nutrient management. The event aimed to promote practical and science-based technologies to improve their productivity and sustainability. Participants expressed their appreciation and called for greater farmer involvement in future activities of the station.

🍌 BR Marco



PhilRice Negros targets agritourism accreditation

PhilRice Negros joined the Philippine Farmsthetics Training organized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) on June 14-15 at GT Hotel Bacolod. The two-day workshop, held in collaboration with the Provincial Tourism Office and DOT Region VI under the Tourism Industry Skills Program, aimed to integrate aesthetics, sustainability, and local culture into farm tourism development. Through expert insights from Engr. Ed Roderick V. Cañuto (first row, fourth from left) of Ephrathah Farms, participants learned strategies to diversify farm operations and enhance visitor experiences in Negros Occidental. 🍌 BR Marco



RETIREES



Nymfa S. Sosa has dedicated her 36 years serving as a research aide I at the Department of Agriculture in 1989, and at PhilRice Isabela in 1992, where she held key research positions and significantly advanced studies in rice production, pest management, and sustainable farming practices in Region II and in the Cordillera Administrative Region. Sosa's work included research on pest-resistant rice lines, documenting techno-demo activities, and conducting socio-economic studies on hybrid rice seed adoption. She retired as a science research specialist I. 🍌 [AV Manalo](#)



Angelita B. Obaña has served the agriculture sector for 38 years from being a graduate research assistant at the Bureau of Plant Industry in San Mateo, as a plant pest control officer in Cagayan Valley Experiment Station in 1989, then becoming part of PhilRice Isabela in 1992, where she contributed to major research efforts on rice production, pest management, and farmer capacity building in Region II, and where she retired as warehouseman 1. 🍌 [AV Manalo](#)

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS



Recognized as a recipient of the 2024 Alumnus of the Year Awards, Dr. Jaime A. Manalo IV, head of the Socioeconomics Division, participated in the Alumni Knowledge Exchange and Learning Enrichment Visit organized by Australia Alumni Engagement Program. The event was held in Australia from May 31 to June 7. The visit aimed to foster knowledge sharing and strengthen alumni networks, providing participants with new insights and global perspectives to enhance their professional and personal growth. 🍌 [AV Manalo](#)



Dr. Loida M. Perez of the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Division joined the Workshop on Precision, Policy, and People: A Genome Editing Workshop for Crop Improvement held in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 12-17. Organized by the International Rice Research Institute with support from CGIAR's Accelerating Crop Improvement through Genome Editing SGP-3 initiative and Thailand's Bureau of Rice Research Development, the workshop aimed to enhance participants' knowledge on genome editing for crop improvement, empowering them to contribute to more sustainable and advanced rice research initiatives. 🍌 [AV Manalo](#)

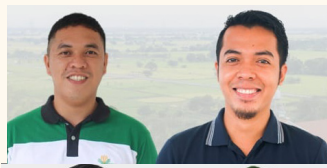


Gantimpala Agad Awards



Financial Management Unit, Bicol

For timely financial reports, COA commendations, and high budget utilization and liquidation rates in 2025.



RiceBIS 2.0 Team, Agusan

For achieving PhilGAP certification for 85 farmers, surpassing targets and strengthening Good Agricultural Practices in CARAGA.



Records Office, CES

For leading the successful update of PhilRice's Records Disposition Schedule after 15 years, approved by the National Archives in 2025.



RCFSD-RiceBIS Food Product Innovative Team, CES

For enhancing Pagbilao and Macarise rice brew products, securing a P5.5M grant, and boosting farmer skills with over 50% knowledge gain.



Crop Simulation Modeling Group, CES

For creating climate-based planting calendars for 39 provinces using 20 years of data and ORYZA simulations.



Dr. Fidel M. Ramos, Isabela

For leading M20 F1 hybrid rice efforts in Luzon, training 253 farmers, and advancing public hybrid rice seed production.



Belinda M. Gonzalvo, Los Baños

For leading public engagement, organizing visits and events, and promoting inter-agency collaboration with creativity and passion.



Ma. Carmela R. Merin, Los Baños

For managing over 350 disbursements with accuracy, timely reporting, and improved HR and administrative systems.



2025 DS Lakkay Palay Team, Los Baños

For hosting the first off-station Lakkay Palay in Marinduque with 502 participants and six demo stations despite limited resources.



Awards and recognitions

Pasasalamat Awards



Roberto F. Fajardo and William R. Apigo, CES
For fabricating advanced agri-machines like the Roboseeder and Autoboat Tractor, boosting innovation in mechanization.



Pauline Marie R. Santos, CES
For developing tech scoring for 34 innovations, managing 92-site data, and supporting major projects with diligence.



Nolly F. Isip, CES
For producing 76 flood-vulnerability maps using PAGASA data to guide climate-related planning and early warning efforts.



Rizaldy G. Pedron, Los Baños
For managing 12 techno-demo sites, ensuring adoption of SMART ICM technologies, and exceeding yield targets in varietal trials.



Maria Sofia M. Canilao, Los Baños
For promoting station programs through engaging events and exhibits, and fostering partnerships with professionalism.

Internal Awards

During the
Ease of Doing Business Month
(May 26)



Community Relations Office, most outstanding External Service Delivery Unit, achieving a 97% customer satisfaction rating for its efficient and people-centered Science and Technology Tour Services.



Physical Plant Division, most outstanding Internal Service Delivery Unit, earning a 96% satisfaction rating for their fast and reliable transportation services.



Records Office, most outstanding Internal Service Delivery Unit, earning a 96% satisfaction rating for their fast and reliable document retrieval.



Scientific Career System

**Newly upgraded
Career Scientist IV**



Dr. Roel R. Suralta
Chief Science Research Specialist

**Newly upgraded
Career Scientist II**



Mr. Edwin C. Martin
Supervising Science Research Specialist

**Newly upgraded
Career Scientist II**



Mr. Dindo King M. Donayre
Senior Science Research Specialist

PROMOTIONS/APPOINTMENTS



Sophia T. Borja
*Deputy Executive Director
Office of the Deputy Executive Director
for Administrative Services and Finance*



Susan R. Brena
*Chief Science Research Specialist
PhilRice Negros*



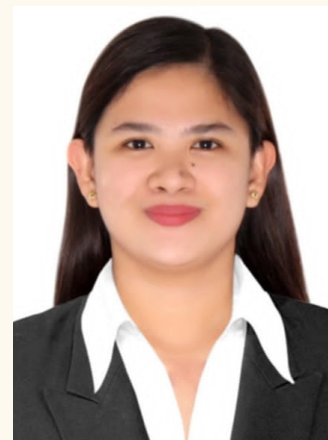
Jovino L. de Dios
*Chief Science Research Specialist
PhilRice Agusan*



Dr. Hazel V. Antonio
*Supervising Science Research Specialist
Technology Management Services Division*



Dr. Andres L. dela Cruz, Jr.
*Supervising Science Research Specialist
PhilRice Isabela*



Rea Joy V. Agudelo
*Warehouse I
PhilRice Isabela*



Awards and recognitions

External Awards

During the
**3rd National Agri-Fisheries
Technology Exhibition (NAFTE)**
1st Place- Best Product/Technology (Non-Food)
(Jun 18-20)

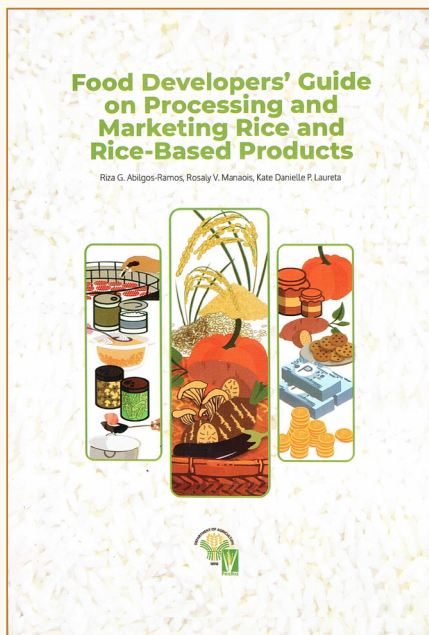


Rice Engineering and Mechanization Division MP Seeder

During the
**25th PSSST Scientific Conference and
Annual Meeting**
Certificate of Recognition
(Jun 18-21)



**Jan Nico Lazaro, Myan Ace Paola Villanueva,
Andres Tuates, Loida Perez, and Jayvee Kitma**



From the
**Cascais World Food
Summit 2025**
2nd Best Rice Book
(Jun 18-22)
DA-PhilRice

During the
**61st Founding Anniversary of the College of
Agriculture, Central Luzon State University (CLSU)**
Outstanding Alumni Award
(Jun 19)



Edwin C. Martin



External Awards



During the

Pagkilala 2025

Certificate of Recognition

(Jun 4)

**Rice Chemistry and Food
Science Division, CES**



During the

**1st National Performance
Appreciation System**

Top 1 Performing Regional Office

(May 29)

PhilRice Isabela



During the

**Cooperative's 25th Silver
Anniversary Stakeholders' Night**

Champion Patron Award

(May 26)

PhilRice Bicol

