

<b>Publication Date in IRRI Website</b>	14 June 2019
<b>Title of the Application</b>	Increasing Hybrid Seed Production through Higher Outcrossing Rate in Cytoplasmic Male Sterile Gramineae Plants and Related Materials and Methods (hereinafter “2 <sup>nd</sup> HO PCT”)
<b>Application Date</b>	07 June 2017
<b>Application Number</b>	PCT/IB2017/053363
<b>Publication Number</b>	WO/2018/224861
<b>Publication Date</b>	13 December 2018
<b>Publication Link in the WIPO Website</b>	<a href="https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/detail.jsf?docId=W02018224861">https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/detail.jsf?docId=W02018224861</a>
<b>Status of the Application</b>	PCT application withdrawn in 25 April 2019

## Background

The “High Outcross” (HO) trait responsible for increasing hybrid rice seed has the potential to reduce the cost of hybrid rice seeds, and allow smallholder farmers’ access to more affordable hybrid rice varieties. The HO trait found in the wild relative *Oryza longistaminata* was successfully introduced into cultivated rice. Rice female lines containing the HO trait showed a strong increase in hybrid rice seed production. This innovation was the basis for the initial PCT application on HO, filed by IRRI in 2016.

Genetic fine-mapping work seemed to identify a possible set of candidate genes within qSTGL 8.0 which when upregulated would contribute to the HO phenotype expression. Based on those initial results, IRRI decided to apply for this 2<sup>nd</sup> PCT application on HO.

However, a technical review conducted in March 2019 with IRRI scientists pointed out that, the set of claims pertaining to this 2<sup>nd</sup> PCT application were not supported by new scientific data. In this context, this PCT application (PCT/IB2017/053363) was withdrawn on 25 April 2019.

Given the possible importance of the HO trait for hybrid seed production, IRRI is actively pursuing its scientific work on HO.

Furthermore, IRRI, as a non-profit international organization, promotes responsible technology transfer and intellectual property management in accordance with its Intellectual Property and Commercialization Policy (IP&C Policy)<sup>1</sup> and with the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets (“IA Principles”)<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Available at <http://books.irri.org/Approved-IPC-Policy-291017.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Available at <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10947/4486/CGIAR%20IA%20Principles.pdf?sequence=5>