



DA-PhilRice-IRRI Collaboration

For rice research and development

Associated technologies

Accelerating the development and dissemination of resource-efficient technologies for rice production

Rainfed rice areas are often beset with several problems—water shortage, weeds, pests, disease, or lack of farm labor—that often leave farmers with no choice but to either grow hardier crops, shift to non-farming activities, or worse, abandon their rice land for more lucrative opportunities in the cities.

Irrigated rice areas have it better, except during the wet season when rainfall and severe weather events could leave floodwaters in their wake. These areas also suffer water shortage, especially during the dry season when the water supply becomes short at the irrigation source.

In both wet and dry farming conditions, the crop must contend with problems of water, weeds, pests, disease, or lack of farm labor, albeit in varying degrees. While no silver bullet can solve all of these problems, a range of technologies for rice production is available.

The goal of this project, under the Philippines' rice sector strategy, is to disseminate site-specific rice farming technologies that have been tested in field conditions as options for farmers so that they can improve their productivity and income.



Objectives

The project aims to help farmers increase production and reduce inputs through the development, dissemination, and adoption of crop management technologies appropriate for irrigated or rainfed ecosystems. Specifically, it aims to:

- Increase yield and area harvested to rice and other crops in irrigated and rainfed lowland ecosystems;
- Increase water productivity and reduce rice yield variability between irrigated and rainfed ecosystems with or without supplemental irrigation;
- Promote and improve awareness on resource-efficient technologies;
- Investigate changes as a result of adoption of direct seeding and alternate wetting and drying (AWD), such as shifts in weed species and populations, pests and disease, and mechanization; and
- Refine existing technologies adaptable to ecological conditions, especially on direct-seeded rice in rainfed areas.

Updates

Because of its impact on irrigated rice ecosystems, AWD is widely disseminated under the project. A good case is the Mlang-Malasila Rivers Irrigation System in North Cotabato that had established participatory demonstration farms focusing on AWD under the project.

In the 2013 dry season, 59 farmer-cooperators and 80 hectares of demonstration area from 7 irrigators associations began using AWD. By 2014, the number of farmer-cooperators went up to 81 and the total AWD demonstration area increased to 91 hectares.

The project started promoting AWD and other associated technologies—drum seeders, improved varieties, *Rice Crop Manager*—in 2013 to Regions I, II, III, VI, VIII, and XII with the help of field offices under the Department of Agriculture, the National Irrigation Authority, and other agencies.

The project is aiming to cover 500,000 hectares and increase the irrigation-serviced areas under AWD by 5–10%, and thus boost rice production, and reach 8 more regions by 2016 for nationwide coverage.

Partners

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