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Title of the Application	Nucleic Acid Sequences for Conferring High Yield in Rice and Methods of Using Sam (hereinafter “OsTPR Patent”)
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BRIEF BACKGROUND

Screening 320 diversity accessions from “in trust” germplasm, IRRI has identified a candidate gene, “OsTPR” that causes grain yield increase, via higher upper secondary rachis branches.

Superior haplotypes of OsTPR were identified. Those superior haplotypes are expected to add value to breeding programs and to rice farmers, with new elite varieties that deliver increased yield and good grain quality, thus overcoming the traditional trade-off between yield and grain quality.

This patent application will allow IRRI to grant an access to this innovation on terms that will create incentives for additional research and development as well as investment by downstream partners.

IRRI’s licensing strategies are designed to provide royalty-free licenses to NARES partners, and limited-exclusive or non-exclusive commercial licenses for private companies, with a commitment to impact assessment and impact acceleration. We ensure that our patent applications, and the patent claims, do not extend to farmers access and use of landraces per se. IRRI will continue to comply with all obligations of the SMTA including benefit sharing, where applicable.

In addition, as per IRRI's policy, royalties paid by future licensees to IRRI shall be shared with the benefit-sharing fund of the International Treaty for Plant Genetics for Food and Agriculture (see www.fao.org/3/a-i0510e.pdf), even when conditions for benefit sharing are not triggered.

As a non-profit international organization, IRRI promotes responsible technology transfer and intellectual property management in accordance with its Intellectual Property and Commercialization Policy (IP&C Policy)¹ and with the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets ("IA Principles")². This patent application conforms with the IA Principles concerning intellectual property applications, i.e., necessary for the further improvement of the innovation or to enhance the scale or scope of impact on target beneficiaries, in furtherance of the CGIAR Vision.

CURRENT STATUS

In June 2020, a PCT application was filed. The application focuses on the importance of pre-breeding evidence of introgressing the OsTPR trait in different genetic backgrounds. Moreover, this patent application will allow us to explore partnerships for research, both from the public and private sectors. IRRI intends to develop and release improved varieties which are superior in yield, grain and nutritional quality, and in the long run will benefit the smallholder farmers.

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

²Available at <https://storage.googleapis.com/cgiarorg/2018/03/CGIAR-IA-Principles.pdf>