



# TCP3 Newsletter

LGU-PhilRice-JICA Technical Cooperation Project for  
“Development and Promotion of Location-Specific Integrated  
High-Yielding Rice and Rice-Based Technology”



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## Cabanatuan and Cabugao Farmers Graduated from 2 year Training

**Farmers’** field day (FFD) and mass graduation was conducted in Lagare, Cabanatuan city, Nueva Ecija, last May 23, 2008, graced by Hon. Alvin P. Vergara, City Mayor of Cabanatuan City and Congresswoman Leonita V. Chavez. Around 220 participants attended the FFD and forum of TCP3.

During the field visitation, the participants evaluated the performance of the different inbred and hybrid rice varieties appropriate in their area for adoption and multiplication, and enhanced their knowledge on the other cost-reducing and yield-enhancing rice production technologies using the location-specific technology packages.

Mass graduation was also conducted, in

which 41 participating farmers (WS 2006—DS 2008), 23 ATs from Cabanatuan (WS 2006—DS 2008) and 21 extension workers from other LGUs graduated from the training course titled: “Strategic Training and Updates on Rice Science and Technology”.

**In** the case of Rizal, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, the graduating farmers invited to the PhilRice Batac on May 30, 2008, in front of 40 ATs from six Palayamanan core sites and our honorable guest, Mr. Teofilo Quintal, Provincial Agriculturist, Ilocos Sur.



Mr. Jovencio Lopez Sr., President of Rizalina Farmer’s mentioned their achievements in the two years and their sustainability plan.

**Graduation** does not mean the end of the activities nor termination of our relationship. The graduated farmers will continue their work for improvement and their association will become the model of the following groups.

### Invitation

The monthly TCP3 Newsletter is prepared;

1) to work as an educational/technical guide with some timely technical tips;

2) to work as an information dissemination tool to notice important events or messages; and

3) to work as a motivator by showing excellent activity examples with pictures or posting interview articles.

We welcome your articles.

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## ATs Trained to Upscale TCP3 Developed Extension Methodologies and Technologies

**Forty** ATs from the 6 Palayamanan core sites of Northwest Luzon, including ATs manning the Currimao and Cabugao TCP3 sites, were trained on rice science and vegetable production as an initial step to upscale the methodologies and technologies developed at the TCP3 project. The training was conducted May 28–30, 2008, at PhilRice Batac.

Concept of the training was to transfer the skill of experts to the extension workers, for them to effectively disseminate the technologies to their clients.



Hence, the training featured actual practicum like carbonize rice hull and compost making, and establishing ampalaya and tomato in the field.

Dr. Reynaldo C. Castro, Branch Manager of PhilRice Batac, stressed in his welcome remarks that the success of the project in both towns of Currimao and Cabugao, prodded PhilRice to upscale the result of the TCP3. By adopting the TCP3 methodologies in the Palayamanan sites, Dr. Castro also expressed his confidence that more farmers in Northwest Luzon will be served and benefited bringing self-sufficiency on rice and high value crops in the region.

“To become more confident in teaching the farmers, one has to learn a skill, and practice the technology before disseminating,” said Ms. Alma Aguinaldo, Sr. SRS of PhilRice during her discussion on the TCP3 Methodology. Using scenario analysis with emphasis on the approaches utilized in the TCP3, Aguinaldo encouraged the participants to adopt the developed methods and approaches to be more efficient and effective in their line of duty as extension workers.

## Timing of Fertilizer Application

The latest study showed different result in best timing of basal fertilizer (BF) application between CES (Nueva Ecija) and Agusan.

For Nueva Ecija, where we have more sunshine in the second cropping season, early application of BF may increase the number of tillers in the initial stage (Fig.1), but not resulted in higher yield because of the shortage of nutrients in the latter stage (lower leaf color in Fig.2). The timing of top dressing (TD) is crucial.



the plant growth is so good in the dry season, if we apply BF before transplanting (TP), application of TD also should be done earlier than usual using leaf color chart (LCC).

On the other hand, in Agusan, where we have less sunshine in the same period and where the plant growth is slow, the early application may lead early and uniform flowering and resulted in more grains in panicle, high ripening percentage and higher yield. Also, in the area where is a problem of water availability after TP, like Agusan, the BF application before TP can be recommended to provide enough nutrients in the early stage.

Professional farmers should be able to judge the appropriate timing of fertilizer application based on the scientific knowledge and leaf color observations.

Table 1. Yield Components of 5 Hills Samples in Basal Fertilizer Timing Experiment in CES and Agusan (Average of 3 TDFs)

Place	Basal Fertilizer	Panicles / m <sup>2</sup>	Grains/ Panicle	Total Grains/m <sup>2</sup>	Ripening (%)	1000 Grain Weight (g)	Grain Weight (t/ha)
CES	Before	317	84.9	26788	92.9	27.1	6.60
	1 WAT*	377	87.6	33197	83.6	26.0	7.01
	2 WAT	372	90.9	33933	87.1	26.5	7.60
Agusan	Before	327	69.0	22347	68.9	25.6	3.94
	1 WAT	342	60.0	20265	65.8	25.6	3.38

\*WAT=Week After Transplanting

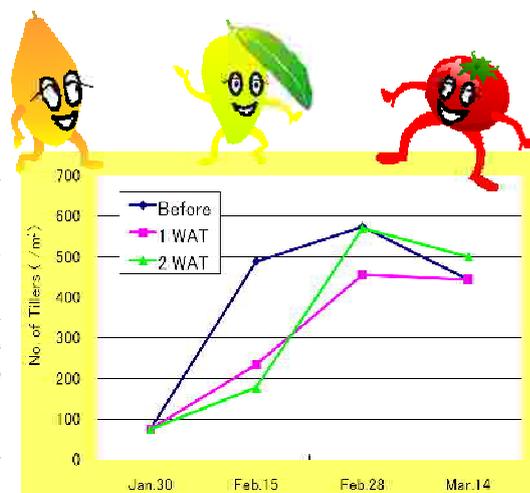


Fig. 1 Effect of Basal Fertilizer Timing on Number of Tillers (CES)

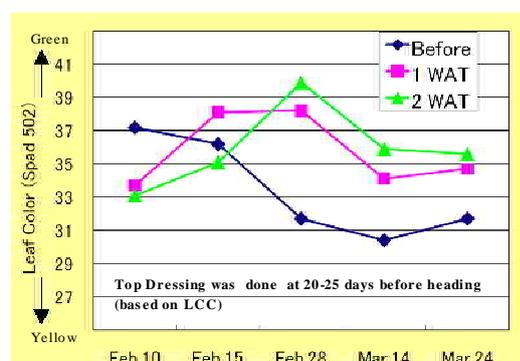


Fig. 2 Effect of Basal Fertilizer Timing on Leaf Color (CES)

## JICA-TCP3 End-Season Review and Planning Workshop in Agusan



In Agusan, the end end-season review and planning workshop was conducted last June 4-5, 2008 at Tagabaca, Butuan City and Charito, Bayugan City, respectively. This activity was conducted to analyze the January to June 2008 cropping season (heavy rainy season) accomplishments of both sites and to formulate plans for the next season.

Engr. Artemio B. Vasallo, Acting Branch Manager, PhilRice Agusan, said that this end season review is very vital to assess and evaluate the project process and implementation strategies for the improvement of the project in the area.

To meet the target of TCP3, "to increase one (1) tone per hectare of yield of the farmers", problems and concerns of the participating farmers and farmer partners with regards to their experiences of applying the technology to their farms were given attention. Mr. Abner T. Montecalvo, GMA Rice Program Coordinator for Mindanao, encouraged the farmers to apply the technologies that the project has recommended specially on the making and use of

organic fertilizers to reduce their cost on buying highly expensive inorganic fertilizers.

Among the 32 participating farmers of Tagabaca, Mr. Eduardo Maquiling got the highest, 6.6t/ha. yields in this season. According to him, he adopted quite wide planting distance of 25 x 25cm. He only applied 8 kg of 14-14-14 and 7 kg of urea three weeks after transplanting. He used 17 days old seedlings of NSIC Rc146 (PJ7) at 2-3 seedlings per hill.

Mr. Absalon Madelo, one of the farmer-partners of Charito, used NSIC Rc146 (PJ7) and NSIC Rc82 in his farm. From the two va-

rieties, he got a yield of 4.7t/ha.

Just like humans, plants need nutrients that will help them survive after transplanting. Dr. Nobuyuki Kabaki, JICA Team Leader, encouraged the farmers to apply basal fertilizer in their field so that their soils will have available nutrients that the plants need after transplanting. Plants also will have high tillering with the advance fertilizer application.

But, farmers were hesitant to apply basal fertilizer because their area is prone to flood. Ms. Genevive Abordo, PhilRice-Soil Specialist, explained that flood may wash only a little basal fertilizer, if the fertilizer is properly incorporated in the soil just before transplanting.

Dr. Kenji Suemitsu, JICA Expert, inspired everybody on his presentation on "How to become a professional farmer?". The participants realized that life can be more beautiful and progressive if they have a dream for the improvement of life, appropriate technology and strategic process to realize the dream.

The workshop was participated by the project management team including representatives from the different developmental stakeholders involved in the implementation of the TCP3 like NIA, LGU, ATI and PAO. (Elgie Mary Iman-PhilRice Agusan)

