

# 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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## PhilRice Celebrates its 23rd Anniversary

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) intensifies its efforts in attaining rice self-sufficiency as it celebrates its 23rd anniversary, November 4-7.

The four-day event banners the theme "Sapat na Pagkain sa Lahat, Kabuhayan ay Aangat" in support to the rice self-sufficiency program. As part of the anniversary celebration, the PhilRice has started conducting massive trainings on *PalayCheck*, an integrated crop management system aimed at enhancing farmers' productivity.

### Highlights

The celebration started with a spiritual enrichment from Pastor Ronnie D. Domingo.

Dr. Libertado C. Cruz, Executive Director of the Philippine Carabao Center, shared his insights on "PCC: A work in progress" during the SRO Seminar on November 6, 2008. Following the seminar is the book launching of *Appreciating Rice* authored by educator-journalist Dr. Anselmo S. Roque. It aims to communicate the importance of rice among ele-



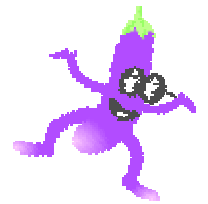
mentary and high school students.

During the employee's recognition on Nov. 7, supposedly Mr. Ricardo L. Saludo, Civil Service Commission Chair will serve as the guest of honor but due to his busy schedule he appointed Atty. Karin Litz P. Zerna, Civil Service Commission Region III Director to grace the big event held in Central Experiment Station of PhilRice in Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. More 200 employees from Central Experiment Station and other branch stations received outstanding employees, service, loyalty, and scholastic awards. JICA TCP3 bagged the

award as Outstanding R&D Team. The Philrice employees continued their celebration by having an Employees Sal-salo at Multi-purpose shed. Employees participated enthusiastically in traditional games, ball games, minds games and parlor games.

### Rice Awareness Month

Likewise, the Rice Awareness Month, as stipulated in Proclamation 524 issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in January 2004, will also be celebrated this November. Different activities such as rice trivia, rice awareness days, seminars and lecture series, and essay writing contest will highlight the celebration. All individuals, government and private agencies, and schools are encouraged to take part in this important event aimed at increasing public awareness on the creative process behind the production of the country's staple food.



Dr. Kyouichi Miyatake is an experienced agricultural economist in Japan. He completed his doctorate degree in Agricultural Science from Tsukuba University in 2006. He is currently a senior researcher affiliated to the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Niigata where his work focus on advanced scale rice farming (farms greater than 100 ha) and rice marketing strategies.

To properly conduct impact assessment in the pilot sites of TCP3 in Nueva Ecija, he mentioned three important aspects to look at and these are: 1) productivity brought about by the use of new technology/ies, 2) measurement of adoption rate and extension area, and 3) identifying factors limiting adoption, information dissemination, and government intervention. Using these

## NEW JICA SHORT TERM EXPERT ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

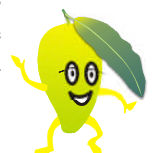
aspects on investigating the impact of rice technologies will ensure proper mitigations will be formulated and the project will be sustainable.

Applying his measures to the rice production activities in the TCP3 pilot-sites, showed that it is very important to use the farming system approach to understand how TCP3 farmers cooperators adopt rice technologies in the wet and dry seasons particularly the use of suitable varieties, length of land preparation, proper seeding rate, proper seedling age for transplanting, and fertilizer and chemical application. His study showed that following all these technologies would increase yield by an average of one ton.

Furthermore, he had discovered that a major limiting factor in the adoption of the technology particularly in



the first four technologies identified above is water availability. Thus, it is important to properly coordinate the other TCP3 activities in other parts of the Philippines with the National Irrigation Administration. Promotion of other rice technologies enhance production such as the use of suitable varieties (for pests and drought), drumseeder, MOET and LCC will be very important. It is also encouraged that there will cross-visits among farmer cooperators from different TCP3 sites to further improve delivery of information.



# TCP3 farmer turned entrepreneur wins Sen. Manny Villar award



**PhilRice Batac City**—“It’s my first time to receive such prestigious award” said 43-year old lady farmer Margie Allado of Pias Norte, Currimao, Ilocos Norte, recipient of Manny Villar’s “Pondo sa Sipag, Puhunan sa Tiyaga.”

**Fourteen** entrepreneurs from all over the country coming from different walks of life with, different stories of success were awarded and given cash prize worth of PhP100, 000.00 a piece, one of them is Mrs. Allado.

**From** her humble beginning as a farmer-partner of the LGU-PhilRice-JICA TCP3 project, Margie attributed her success for being a part of the program. “Without the initiative of my sister-in-law, Teresita, a Farmer Scientist who introduced me to PhilRice and its JICA-TCP3 counterpart, I shouldn’t have known better farming at all, of which my capital of my business came from”, said Mrs. Allado.

**Margie**, a former domestic helper in Hong Kong, decided to come home for good, when she felt that life could still prosper even without going abroad. Instead, she teamed up with her husband in tilling their small parcel of agricultural land, hence, she has chosen to utilize her potential in farming.

**In** her initial farming days, after choosing

not to go back abroad, majority of her rice practices and vegetable farming came from traditional approaches that resulted to unpromising production. “At first, I have always thought that I shouldn’t come home at all, leaving all the opportunities I could have abroad due to the unpromising yield



that followed almost a bankruptcy from our capital”, Margie confessed. But then, tide had turned when she started to attend farming activities conducted by TCP3 implementers of PhilRice-Batac and hosted by sister-in-law, Teresita. “I assumed that if I am to follow what Sita is practicing in her farm, then I should be achieving her success also,” Margie said referring to Teresita, who on that time have become a very successful farmer.

**From** an observing farmer to an active farmer’s field school (FFS) participant,

Magie slowly has adopted the technologies and methodologies of the TCP3, putting all her effort to come up with a better yield.

“All the methods demonstrated in the TCP3 were simply followed by heart,” said by smiling Margie, “and because of simply following and changing my attitude towards farming technologies introduced from time to time, I was able to come up with a promising yield, and it has always been as such, since the day PhilRice and the TCP3 project was implemented in our Barangay.”

**Margie**, a TCP3 farmer by heart and now also a progressive entrepreneur, is earning twice as she did abroad. Asked about her secrets of success, “One don’t need to go farther and seek his fortunes away from his family, we only need to practice what is thought, perform by heart. Think farming as a noble profession too. All of which that I have now come from farming, and I have never stop doing it even with the presence of my business,” said Margie with a happy smile from her face. (Florante A. Nicolas)

## 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.

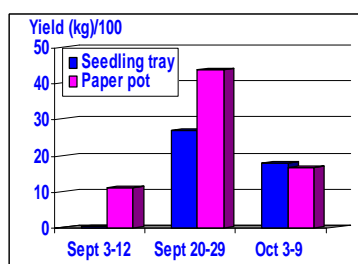
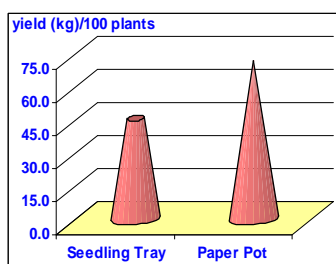
**We welcome your articles.**

For additional information,  
JICA TCP3 Office  
PhilRice CES, Maligaya,  
Science City of Muñoz,  
3119, Nueva Ecija  
Tel : (044) 456-0285;  
Telefax: (044) 456-0648

<http://project.jica.go.jp/philippines/0600881/english/index.html>



## Improvements in the Rice-Based Farming System



**Bigger** seedlings, earlier harvesting period and higher yield can be obtained when tomato (var Diamante F1) was raised in paper pots over those raised in cell trays. Used paper pots were made out of old newspaper, 7.5cm in height and 6.0cm in diameter. The paper pot can contain 95g of the recom-

mended TCP3 sowing media, which is 82% more than the volume (17g) each cell of the plastic tray can contain.

**The** trial during WS 2008, resulted to a 36.6% increase in yield over those raised in cell trays. (Because of heavy typhoon damage, harvesting period was only for two months.)

**The** start of harvesting was earlier by more than two weeks (17 days) in tomatoes raised in paper pots over those raised in cell trays. The more than two weeks of early harvesting especially during early dry season is advantageous to the farmer in terms of higher price resulting to higher income.

