



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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Impacts of JICA TCP3 to women participating farmers in San Antonio, Nueva Ecija

Apart from daily household routine, women too are excellent farmers. This was proven by Mrs. Herminia Dulay and Mrs. Magdalena Lamson, two women-participating farmers of the LGU-PhilRice-JICA Technical Cooperation Project (TCP3) in San Antonio, Nueva Ecija.

Two years ago, Mrs. Heminia Dulay bravely convinced her husband to take over in managing their five-hectare rice field in barangay Camajuan because season by season, their rice farming was not getting any better and their debt is increasing. "Hindi na po kami makaahon sa utang dahil lagi kaming walang inaani," Mrs. Dulay recalls.

After getting the "go" from her husband, she started the challenge by visiting the office of the municipal agriculturist in San Antonio. Through the DA-

LGU, she became a participating farmer of the TCP3 project wherein she became a regular participant of the season-long training on rice production in San Mariano, San Antonio. In just two seasons, Mrs. Dulay proudly reported to more than 200 participants of the Farmers' Field Day and Forum held in San Antonio that she is now getting an average yield of 120 cav/ha or a yield increase of 40 cav/ha in dry season. When asked of what she did, she humbly replied, "I just followed and applied everything I heard from PhilRice staff."

More importantly, Mrs. Dulay was able to share what she had learned in San Mariano to about 40 other farmers in Camajuan. Because of her effort, she was able to organize farmers in her barangay making it the first TCP3 expansion barangay in San Antonio. Their group now conducts training on rice production that is being technically supported by LGU technicians.

Mrs. Magdalena Lamson shared an-



(Magdalena Lamson (center) participates in the demonstration of organic fertilizer production.)

other inspiring story. Nena, as fondly called by fellow farmers, is also a farmer who cultivates rice in 15ha farm. Nena relates that in her 400 sq m seedbed area, she incorporated 10 kg carbonized rice hull. At first, neighboring farmers were saying that she was crazy, but she continued. She started growing healthy seedlings and followed exactly what the PhilRice resource persons have taught and demonstrated. After one season of patiently participating in the training in San Mariano, the average yield had been increased by



Mrs Herminia Dulay (center) shares her experiences to DA-LGU EWs and PhilRice staff.)

20 cav/ha during the wet season. She is as well confident that the increase she got last season will be sustained or even increased every cropping season.

The TCP3 project started in 2004 and will end in Nov 2009. With the goal of developing location-specific rice production technology, the project is being implemented in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Nueva Ecija, and Agusan del Norte. In Nueva Ecija, the project is implemented in Rizal, Cabanatuan City, and San Antonio. After four years of implementation, location-specific technologies for the three areas have been developed and the yield of farmers have been increased at an average of 1 t/ha. Training manuals, technology promotion guide for extension workers (EWs), poster, leaflet, among others, were also developed to facilitate technology diffusion. Through the project, some 120 participating farmers, 359 EWs, and 2,200 farmers from neighboring municipalities of the province became aware of the latest rice production technologies being developed by PhilRice. More importantly, farmers' groups were strengthened, have gained access to most information from different agencies and have obtained the ability to adopt learned technology in their farming.

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,

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Techno Tips

Reap Rice in a Handy Way



The PhilRice reaper got famous among local farmers because of its reverse motion, ability to work in soft soil conditions, adjustable cutting height, and higher reaping capacity, coupled with low cost and simple design. This machine



has a field capacity of three hectares per day using a 6 hp gasoline engine with a manpower requirement of two. Interested to buy one, text 0920-911-1398 or visit the Rice Engineering and Mechanization Division of PhilRice.

PhilRice Tower Lightning

This year, tower lightning event last Dec 5 was participated by close to 500 guests including the PhilRice Central Experiment Station staffers and neighboring community to witness the spectacular fireworks display and creative tower lights design.



Drum and lyre presentation from Maligaya Central Elementary School, mini parade, food sale and a gig before the main event was held.

Philrice tower lightning was first conceptualized by Dr. John L. de Leon in 1991. Since then it became a tradition. De Leon said that the event is the Institute's sincere way of sharing all its joy and glad tidings with the employees and their families.

For this year tower design, the Physical Plant Division of PhilRice came up with a sophisticated Maria Clara motif which symbolizes grace and elegance, hence, the reason for the colorful flowers with the imposing star at the top.

This year's Tower Lighting was spearheaded by Mr. Ronilo Beronio, the new PhilRice executive director. Beronio, in his speech, highlighted the importance of family. He said that it is impossible to accomplish anything if the family is not solid, hence, it is imperative that it should be the foundation of all the endeavors of the Institute.



LGU-PHILRICE-JICA TCP 3

Monthly Consultation Meeting & Christmas Party In Lagare, Cabanatuan

This monthly meeting served as consultation with the participating farmers at the core site (Brgy. Lagare) for the sustainability of the TCP3 activities and strengthening of the farmers' association. Cluster-leaders from the TCP3 expansion barangays of Cabanatuan City were also attended the meeting to make them acquaint in the TCP3 process and strategies, and enable them to have an exchange of ideas and experiences especially on how the TCP 3 core site had started and become successful in terms of technology promotion/adoption, and strengthening of the farmers' association.

Some lecture-discussions were also given to the participants on crop management systems related to rice production and rice-based farming system, which was based on the developed location-specific technology packages. In addition, field observations/problems encountered from the previous cropping season were discussed and have sharing of knowledge and practices among the farmers to make their farming more productive and profitable.



During the meeting on last Dec. 12, it was planned the schedule of survey for the study on determining the reasons of the participating farmers' dropout from the TCP3 activities both at the core site (TDFs) and expansion sites (DFs); and also the conduct of the impact assessment of the project (before and after) at the original site (TCP3-Lagare).

Highlights of the activity was the TCP3 Christmas Party for Cabanatuan City, which aimed to strengthen the project partnership with the farmer-clusters both from the core site and expansion barangays together with the partner-LGU and PhilRice-JICA

project team. Ms. Josephine S. Santos, OIC-Department Head of CAICO, Barangay Chairman Romeo E. Valeriano (Lagare, Cabanatuan City), and Mr. Joel V. Pascual (TCP3 site coordinator) delivered their messages emphasizing the worth of continuing partnership and commitment for more successful implementation and outcome of the TCP3 project. It's become a dynamic activity because of some group games conducted and raffle prizes/gift giving.