

# 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 Deputy Executive Director Eulito U. Bautista said, "We need to get the better communication with our farmers, how they are able to cope-up, survived, and still attained high yield. We need to continue the TCP3 approach and even beyond the TCP3 project duration."

Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held its 1<sup>st</sup> quarter

meeting at PhilRice Agusan Experiment Station, Basilisa, RTRomualdez, Agusan del Norte on March 24-26, 2009.

The activity was participated by the PhilRice-JICA Technical Cooperation Project III staff from Batac, Nueva Ecija, and Agusan. It started with a field tour and open forum at the different TCP3 demo sites at Tagabaca, Butuan City and LGU-led expansion sites in Gamao and Marcelina, Bayugan City. Farmers were given the opportunity to raise their concerns with regards to the implementation of the project in their area.

JICA Team Leader Dr. Nobuyuki Kabaki, together with JICA expert Dr. Kenji Suemitsu, JICA members Mr. Toshitaka Kobayashi and Mr. Naoto Furukawa actively participated the meeting and plan-

ning workshop for the activities to be conducted for the remaining months of the TCP3 project.

Dr. Kabaki was very grateful for the full support that PhilRice staffers have rendered all through out the project duration. "The success of this venture will not be possible without the unwavering assistance of everybody in the TCP3 group", Dr. Kabaki said.



## JICA TCP3 SAN MARIANO, SAN ANTONIO *Cross Visit in Ilocos Norte*

The JICA TCP3 San Mariano, San Antonio Cross Visit in Ilocos Norte was participated by a total of 50 including farmers, extension workers, LGU from San Mariano, San Antonio and Philrice staffs last February 12-14, 2009.

First place visited is TCP3 site in Cabugao that led in development of location specific technologies for vegetables. They modified the planting recommendations by cultivating only the area where seedlings will be planted and leaving the crawling area uncultivated. They verified the bell pepper production technology. Recycled seeds are used in planting bell pepper. They are planting rice during wet season and vegetables on dry season. The area is rainfed that is being irrigated through open wells and shallow tube wells (STWs).

Next place visited is the S&T demo farm of Magsasaka Siyentista, Teresita Allado in Currimao. She is also palayamanan cooperater and a farmer leader. She shared her experiences in farming with the farmers of TCP3 San Mariano. She said that she wants to prove that aside from daily household chores, women are also excellent farmers. Ms Allado is the MS for cropping systems working on rice-zero tillage onion - relay corn and zero tillage mungbean. Her farm sources



of water are rainfed and Small Farmer Reservoir (SFR).

Last stop for the day is Batac Cyber Community composed of Barangay Quiling, lenga-laud, Libtong and Zanjera. It was formally organized in June 2007 with the help of Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (OPAPA) of Philrice Batac and Farmers Information Technology Services (FITS). They are helping the farmers to use computer in disseminating the new technologies and information developed by different agencies that helps them in farming. Effective Micro-organism Activated Solution (EMAS) was practiced by the participating farmers in the cyber community. After the dinner, a small program was conducted in which Dr. Kunio Inoue, JICA short term expert on vegetable production mentioned that "HEART" is the most important in vegetable cultivation. He also

added that in everything we do we must put our heart in it. We have to love what we are doing.

Visited REFMAV-V Enterprise on the second day, a dragon fruit farm in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte owned by Mrs. Editha Dacuycoy. A progressive farm planted with dragon cactus. It is the first dragon fruit farm in Region I. It is known as "One Town, One Product of Burgos". The visit was graced by town's Mayor Cresente Garcia.

Speaking on behalf of the other TCP3 farmers and extension workers who participated in Cross Visit, Mr Romeo Yabut President of Farmers Association claimed that they have learned so much through this cross visit by visiting farms and exchanging ideas with other successful farmers including JICA TCP3 sites. He also added that they are very thankful to JICA and Philrice for giving them the opportunity to enrich the knowledge and skills that they have acquired in the strategic training and updates on rice science and technology being conducted in San Mariano, San Antonio. Mrs. Alma Aguinaldo also added that this cross visit has broke the barriers between the Northwest Luzon and Central Luzon.





## The Importance of Soil Analysis

Soil analysis is a tool for decision making to determine the kind and amount of fertilizers to apply. Soil should be analyzed every five years.

The different kinds of soil analysis include laboratory analysis, soil test kit (STK), or a nutrient-deficient diagnostic kit called Minus-One Element Technique (MOET).

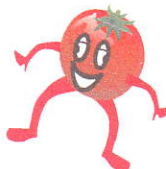
### Proper way of collecting soil sample

The soil sample should represent the area from where it was collected. The soil sample must represent an area that is uniform in slope, texture, depth of

sampling, drainage, and cropping and fertilizer history. Avoid contaminating the soil sample.

### What is STK?

Soil test kit (STK) estimates the level of organic matter, pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and calcium in the soil. It can show whether these elements are present at low, medium, or high levels. Based on the nutrient level, a corresponding fertilizer rate for a particular crop is indicated in the kit.



### What is MOET?

The minus-one element technique (MOET) offers a reliable, low-cost, and easy alternative technique for diagnosing soil nutrient status. Developed by researchers of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) - Los Baños, MOET determines nutrient deficiency based on the actual performance of rice plants. This technique benefits farmers and technicians especially those in the remote areas who barely have access to soil laborato-



“The performance of the plastic seeders is quite satisfactory and economically efficient,” says by the participating farmers of the LGU-PhilRice-JICA TCP3 in Cabanatuan City. This was emphasized by the farmers after an intensive lectures and demonstration of plastic drum seeder at the TCP3 core site and expansion barangays during technology updating for the promotion of location-specific integrated high-yielding rice and rice-based technologies.

The plastic drum seeder was first introduced at the TCP3 core site in Barangay



*Plastic Seeders Pick Up the Beat in Cabanatuan City*

Lagare on 2007 dry season (DS) cropping, wherein most of the farmers in the locality practiced direct-seeding method for crop establishment. After it was promoted at the demonstration field, more farmers being satisfied and willing to use the drum seeder, thus the participating farmers intensively used it during the dry season. “Compared with manual broadcasting, about 50-60% less rice seed is needed, there are savings in labor cost, and these machines are easier to use in operations such as weed control, fertilizer and pest management,” says by Ms. Remy Prieto, CAICO agricultural technologist. She was the first who owned plastic drum seeder in Cabanatuan City after she witnessed the demonstration during the training at the TCP3 core site in DS 2007. After this, she forwarded text message to the Farmers’ Call Center of PhilRice on how could she acquired plastic drum seeder that she used in her farm using hybrid rice seeds. “I’m very thankful because of the reduced cost on the quantity of seeds utilized, and reduced labor cost for seed sowing/ bedding, pulling of seedlings and transplanting”, she added.



Mr. Lorenzo Aber, which was planted by NSIC Rc146. Highest yield was attained by the plot with 30 kg/ha seeding rate using plastic drum seeder with a yield of 7.3 t/ha, followed by the 40 kg/ha with 7.26 t/ha and 50 kg/ha with 6.88 t/ha. Comparing with the farmers’ practice plot that used manual broadcasting with a seeding rate of 150 kg/ha, it was only yielded 5.77 t/ha using similar inbred variety. With the persuasive results on the use of plastic drum seeder, TCP3 Lagare Farmers’ Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Inc. decided to buy their own drum seeders, which they are now using in schedule-basis to accommodate all its farmer-members. Direct wet-seeding of rice using practice drum seeder brought an innovatory change in rice cultivation in Cabanatuan City, not only at the TCP3 core and expansion sites but even in the nearby barangays. Through the development and promotion of location-specific technology packages under the JICA-TCP3, it brought rapid dissemination and wider adoption of this technology among the farmers for a more productive and profitable rice 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 an motivator by showing excellent activity examples with pictures or posting interview articles .

**We welcome your articles.**

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For previous issues.



On 2008 dry season, the use of plastic drum seeder at different seeding rates were established at the demonstrated field managed by