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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LET'S AIM TO PRODUCE MORE PROFESSIONAL FARMERS"

San Antonio Field day and Mass Graduation

A total of 275 farmers from seven (7) barangays and extension workers participated and successfully completed the strategic training and updates on rice science and technology last April 30, 2009.

The LGU San Antonio-PhilRice-JICA Technical Cooperation Project 3 was formally launched in August 2, 2007 at the project barangay in San Mariano, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija with 48 participating farmers and 18 technicians. On its 3rd season, 5 expansion barangays was launched namely ; Lawang Cupang, Pa-

paya, Cama Juan, Santa Barbara and Santo Cristo. During the implementation of the project, major activities were conducted such as the adoption of recommended technologies and identification of farmers' best practices for the development and promotion of suitable input and location-specific technology packages for rice, and establishment of technology promotion system. These were carried out through the establishment of technology demonstration farms (TDFs) of the farmer-partners (FPs), the farmers' learning fields (FLFs) of the participating farmers (PFs), and capacity enhancement of the FPs and PFs, and agricultural technologists (ATs) on rice science and technology

The program started with the field visit in which the demo farms practice and follow the various Location - Specific technologies and palay check system. The Mass Graduation Ceremony was held at the Municipal Gymnasium of San Antonio. Ms. Kumiko Uchida and Mr. Ervin Mella from JICA Philippine Office witness the said event. Philrice Executive Director was also present to give his inspirational message to the Farmers Participants. Questions and possible solution regarding present rice farming problems and situation experienced by the farmers during the cropping season was discussed and addressed.

"I'm hoping that this will not end after graduation. Instead, I'm expecting that all of you will pass the technologies and shared your experiences during the implementation of the project with the other farmers. We both learned from each other not only you have learned from us." said by

Mrs Ofelia Malonzo

"My Husband and I almost give up farming until LGU-PhilRice-JICA TCP3 was introduced to us. In this project, new technology in rice farming was introduced, proper way of using fertilizer, water saving technologies and recommended rice technologies to achieve higher yields was taught to us. We felt very blessed because of this. Our knowledge in farming was intensified and develops our capabilities to achieve high yield." Mrs Herminia Dulay of Cama Juan said with teary eyes in her impression with the project.

Cabanatuan Mass Graduation and End Season Review and Planning

This mass graduation activity aims to feature the result of the implementation of the technical cooperation under LGU-Philrice-JICA collaborative project thru the led of LGU Cabanatuan for the promotion of location–specific and integrated high yielding and rice based technology. Through the TCP3 activities, it was conducted the promotion of the different technology demonstration farms, and technology updating through training of farmers together with their respective agricultural technologists.

The graduates were composed of 176 participating farmers from the core site and TCP 3 expansion barangays who successfully completed the training course on Location-Specific Technology on Palay Check System from Caalibangbanga, Polilio, Cinco-cinco, Bagong Sikat, Balite, Bakero and Lagare. The pro-

gram was graced by Atty. Ronilo A. Beronio-Philrice Executive Director; Hon. Alvin P. Vergara – City mayor of Cabanatuan; Dr. Nobuyuki Kabaki-Team Leader JICA TCP3; Mr.Ruben B. Miranda Deputy Exec. For Development of Philrice and MS. Josephine S. Santos – OIC Department Head CAICO. An open forum and dialogue was conducted before the program to discuss the problems and issues on rice production .

Dr.Kabaki congratulates the farmer-graduates and thanks the LGU-Cabanatuan CITY for the successful implementation of the project. He also emphasized three (3) important things among the farmers to value the TCP3 activities which are: a) accountability (referring to the technologies) b) solidarity (referring to the farmers' group unity), c) reproduction (new technologies for higher yield).

After the graduation, planning of activities for the next cropping season was conducted to develop strategies for the sustainability of the TCP3 activities. Strengthening of the TCP 3 farmers group into full-pledge cooperatives to established more linkages to other government and private institution to make their organization more stable and provide economic services to its members.

JICA-TCP3 donated solar dryers to farmers

JICA-Technical Cooperation Project 3 sponsored on the rehabilitation of solar dryers of Charito, Bayugan, Agusan del Sur and Tagabaca, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.

Long after the existence of the project, the TCP3 farmers of Charito asked financial assistance from JICA representatives for the rehabilitation of solar dryer. Farmers in Charito had a hard time drying their produce because they do not have existing drying pavement that could accommodate their harvested palay for drying.

Owing to the dire need of the community, JICA approved the request and provided materials for the rehabilitation. The rehabilitation started on September 5, 2008 and with the full support of the barangay officials, TCP3 farmers, and the local inhabitants solar dryer was made possible.

On the other hand, during the visit of the JICA representatives and the PhilRice TCP3-staff in Tagabaca, Butuan City on February 24, 2009, the TCP3 farmers took the opportunity of presenting their resolution asking for a financial assistance from JICA for the rehabilitation of

their basketball court for solar dryer. Not long after receiving the resolution, JICA granted the request and now materials for the rehabilitation are to be delivered to Tagabaca.

The unwavering support of JICA, in collaboration with PhilRice, reduced the burden of the farmers on drying their palay during harvesting of the two selected barangays

Techno Tips

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a practice that combines biological (e.g., use of beneficial organisms) and cultural methods (e.g., use of resistant rice varieties) to control

(Long-horned grasshopper feeding on Golden apple snail eggs)

pest populations and reduce pest populations to nondamaging levels. It promotes the judicious use of pesticides when all other pest control measures have already been implemented. IPM is applicable to all pests especially when properly planned and implemented.

An organism is considered a pest when it significantly reduces the yield of the rice plant. Pests feed on, attack, and destroy the plant.

The major pests of rice plants are insects such as black bugs, rice bugs, brown planthoppers, green leafhoppers, and stem borers; pathogens that cause tungro, sheath blight, blast, and bacterial blight; weeds; snails; and rodents.

Natural enemies are also known as beneficial organisms or friends of the rice plant. They help control pests in rice fields by attacking insect pests. They can be naturally occurring or introduced in the area. Natural enemies are predators such as lady beetles, damselflies, dragonflies, spiders, and parasitoids like wasps, and some pathogens.

To some extent too much fertilizer can induce fungus and bacterial diseases such as bacterial leaf blight, bacterial leaf streak, sheath blight, sheath rot, and blast.

In cases of pest outbreaks insecticides can be applied while using IPM. But apply pesticides cautiously, only when necessary, and if it is economically efficient.

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.

For additional information,

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