



DA-PhilRice-IRRI Collaboration For rice research and development

Rice Crop Manager

A comprehensive decision-support tool to help Philippine farmers increase farm yield and income

Increasing rice yields in the Philippines must be achieved with low production costs to ensure that farmers increase their income from rice farming.

Research has shown, for example, that when fertilizer is applied at the proper stage of the crop and in the right amount to match location-specific conditions, the fertilizer is more effective, resulting in more rice yield per unit area. Consequently, farmer income increases.

A decision-support tool for farmers

One of the goals of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) is to make available to farmers timely and regular farming advice through an information and communication technology (ICT)-based decision support tool called the Rice Crop Manager (RCM), which provides location-specific crop management advice.

RCM also aims to provide the DA with data on rice production to guide interventions or decisions at the barangay or municipal level. The tool will, in late 2016, become a rice advisory service that helps widen and strengthen the reach of extension efforts.



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Objectives

Field research implemented through PhilRice and IRRI has expanded to include rainfed in addition to irrigated rice locations. IRRI ensures the sustained and uninterrupted operation of RCM and provides technical assistance to the DA regional field offices (DA-RFOs) and the Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI).

Specific objectives for 2016:

- Collect essential data to enhance RCM for irrigated and rainfed rice;
- Release an RCM advisory service that includes in-season SMS reminders, farm and field registration, and GPS activity, as well as provides ID cards to registered farmers, monitors farmers with RCM recommendations, and selects rice varieties based on preferred traits by farmers;
- Provide technical expertise to DA-RFOs and DA-ATI on the use and promotion of RCM and other tools in the RCM advisory service;
- Maintain uninterrupted operation of the RCM advisory service; and
- Build capacity of staff from the DA.

Updates

RCM recommendations are provided to farmers as a one-page printout. From November 2013 to November 2016, about 920,000 printed RCM recommendations were given out to individual rice farmers.

Field research found in 647 trials that rice farm is from across 10 municipalities in the Philippines increased yield by an average of 370 kg (unmilled) following recommendations from RCM. Use of RCM advice resulted in an average increase in income of PHP 4,337 per hectare per season. This also means an increase of 24,000 metric tons of milled rice for every 100,000 hectares of rice grown per season. If recommendations were applied on 500,000 hectares over two rice-growing seasons, it would result in production increase of about 240,000 metric tons of milled rice in a year.

Partners

Department of Agriculture
DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)
DA-Agricultural Training Institute
DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research
International Rice Research Institute

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November 2016

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