

Hybrid rice good for wet season

The demonstration farm showcased the good performance of the hybrid rice varieties during the wet season in a field walk conducted in the DA PhilRice Isabela, Oct. 5.

“Farmers generally plant hybrid rice during the dry season. In this activity, farmers saw that six hybrid rice varieties exhibited good crop stand even in the wet season,” said Dr. Fidel M. Ramos, lead of PhilRice’s Public Hybrid Rice Seed Systems Project.

The six hybrid rice varieties planted in the 7,800-m² demo farm include the public hybrids Mestizo 1 or M1 (PSB Rc 72H) and Mestiso 20 or M20 (NSIC Rc 204H). With 123-day maturity, M1 averages 5.4t/ha with a maximum yield of 9.9t/ha. Meanwhile, M20 matures in 111 days, averages 6.4t/ha, and reaches a yield of 11.7t/ha. On-farm studies show that hybrid rice yields higher than inbred rice by a minimum of 15%.

The establishment of hybrid rice techno-demo farms in select PhilRice stations and state colleges and universities is in support of the DA’s Rice Resiliency Project that intends to produce more rice to lift the country’s rice sufficiency level from the present 87 to 93%.

About 20 farmers, seed company representatives, and PhilRice staff joined the field walk. DA-PhilRice, Longping Tropical Rice Development Inc, SL Agritech Corporation, Bioseed Research Philippines, Inc., and Aljay participated in the demo farm.