

SERIES #03, 2019

FAQs

Rice Competitiveness
Enhancement Fund (RCEF)



RCEF-SEED



Program Aspect

1. How can I say that I am an eligible farmer RCEF-Seed recipient?

You are eligible if you are listed in the Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture (RSBSA).

2. Is it possible to get rice seeds from PhilRice even when not listed in RSBSA?

No. Only eligible farmers can avail of RCEF-seeds from PhilRice. If you are not listed in RSBSA, we encourage you to contact your local government unit (LGU) to register in RSBSA.

Seed growers and non-seed growers are allowed to buy rice seeds from PhilRice. However, for non-seed growers PhilRice only offer a maximum of 40kg to every farmer when stocks are also available.

3. How many times will I receive rice seeds as an RCEF-Seed beneficiary?

You will receive seeds for two consecutive cropping seasons. After two seasons, you can still avail seeds if you have met the area target yield. The area targets yield are as follows:

Baseline Yield	Yield Target for Low-Yielding Season	Yield Target for High-Yielding Season
Irrigated Area		
Below 4t/ha	4t/ha	5t/ha
4t/ha and above	5t/ha	6t/ha
Rainfed Area		
Below 4t/ha	3.5t/ha	-
4t/ha and above	4.5t/ha	-

4. How much rice seeds can we get from PhilRice?

The eligible farmers shall receive free seeds for two consecutive seasons starting Dry Season 2020, with the following allocation:

Farm size (ha)	Bags (20kg/bag)
Less than or equal to 0.5	1
More than 0.5 to 1	2
More than 1 to 1.5	3
More than 1.5 to 2	4
More than 2 to 2.5	5
More than 2.5	6

5. We are already registered in RSBSA. What should we present or bring during the seed distribution to get rice seeds?

Bring any valid ID (e.g., voter's, driver's license, senior citizen's) that has your picture, name, address, and signature.

6. Can we let someone get our rice seeds for us if we fail to claim it personally?

Yes, as long as your representative bring your ID and an authorization letter. Leaders of Farmers' Organization (FO) can also claim as representative.

7. What if the seeds we received did not grow?

You can immediately contact the PhilRice Text Center (0917-111-7423) about the problem. The responsible persons will then investigate so they can determine the cause and provide solutions.

8. What should we do as an organization?

We encourage the organization to participate in the roll-over scheme. Organization members should agree on the amount to be rolled-over. We also encourage organizations to practice group marketing, synchronous planting, and bulk ordering of inputs.

9. What can we get by joining in the roll-over scheme and working as a group?

By joining in the roll-over scheme and working as a group, the organization can be nominated in the Rice Achievers Award. The FO will also have the seed money, which will be used in continuing the seed program or in other services supporting the members.

10. What are the opportunities given to provincial extension workers/provincial local government unit (PLGU) workers?

PLGUs can avail training conducted by PhilRice and its partners such as the Agricultural Training Institute, Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization, and the DA-Regional Field Offices.

11. Can you give an idea to the kind of ordinance PLGUs should create?

Ordinance that encourages farmers to join FOs.

12. What is the role of PhilRice coordinators that will be assigned to target provinces?

To ensure efficient implementation in the ground and enhance complementarity of RCEF-Seed with the DA-National Rice Program, the DA Secretary shall designate a Rice Focal Person in each DA-RFO as planning and operation counterpart for the RCEF-Seed. The PhilRice RCEF-Seed Regional Coordinator shall be stationed to the DA-RFO and work closely with the Rice Focal Person under the supervision of the Regional Executive Director. Similarly, the PhilRice RCEF Provincial Coordinator shall be stationed to the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist under the supervision of the Provincial Agriculturist. The Regional and Provincial Coordinators shall regularly report to their respective PhilRice base stations.

RCEF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Program operations shall include the following:

1. Regular consultation with stakeholders and coordination with implementing partners;
2. Coordination with and assistance to DA in updating the list of target municipalities and harmonizing farmers' masterlist database;
3. Conduct of periodic meetings at the provincial, regional, and national levels as necessary;
4. Provision of technical support;
5. Monitoring and evaluation of the program's outputs and seasonal assessment of cluster and FO performance;
6. Preparation and submission of financial and physical reports;
7. Establishment and maintenance of a feedback mechanism to enhance program implementation; and
8. Establishment of baselines, and impact evaluation of outcome on the third and sixth year.

13. Can you cite ideal areas that can be a drop off point of the rice seeds?

PhilRice shall identify the seed delivery schedule and drop-off points in consultation with DA-RFOs and City/Municipal Local Government Units (C/MLGUs), and/or FOs. When feasible, the FOs with the deputized delivery inspector may receive the seeds from the seed grower association/cooperative during the agreed schedule of delivery. Farmers can claim the seeds during the set schedule from the drop-off points.

14. Should non-RSBSA listed farmers who will come during distribution period be entitled to free seeds?

Yes, farmers that are not listed will still be granted seeds. However, farmers who are listed in the RSBSA will be prioritized during seed distribution. We also encourage the PLGUs to prepare a kiosk where farmers can enlist before getting the seeds.

15. How are technical briefings be conducted?

PhilRice will provide technical briefing guidelines to LGUs.

16. What support can the LGU provide for RCEF?

The LGUs are the RCEF-seed partners and prime movers in the ground. For PLGUs, they are requested to:

- a. Provide overall coordination among city/municipal LGUs on the implementation of the program within the province in partnership with PhilRice provincial coordinator, specifically on the following:
 - validation of rice producing cities/municipalities, firming-up corresponding seed allocation, and determining planting schedule;
 - validation, consolidation, and endorsement of the list of farmer organizations and farmer-beneficiaries;
 - support during seed distribution;
 - technical and logistics support during technical briefing;
 - social mobilization, communication, and capacity enhancement activities that will be conducted in the province;
 - monitoring activities
- b. Identify a site for the technology demonstration following the prescribed protocol;
- c. Conduct field days at the end of every season in the techno-demo site;
- d. Allow the PhilRice RCEF-seed Provincial Coordinator to be stationed at the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and provide supervision in the conduct of RCEF activities within the province; and
- e. Adopt complementary projects supporting RCEF

Meanwhile, the **City/Municipal LGUs** are requested to:

- a. Coordinate with the PLGU on the overall direction of the implementation in the province
- b. Validate the DA-updated RSBSA rice farmer masterlist by cross-checking with the list of members of farmer organizations in the city/municipality;
- c. Facilitate/endorse the accreditation of rice farmer organizations within the city/municipality to PLGU then DA-RFO;
- d. Help identify drop-off points within the city/municipality and schedule for seed delivery in consideration of the locality's planting calendar;
- e. Identify potential temporary seed storage facilities and help in securing the seeds;

RCEF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- f. Assign a permanent staff to be deputized as seed delivery inspector;
- g. Announce and cascade the details of seed distribution to farmer organizations and farmer-beneficiaries;
- h. Facilitate seed distribution and technical briefing with PhilRice;
- i. Assist in the monitoring of area planted and yield; and
- j. Support the social mobilization, communication, and capacity enhancement activities that will be conducted in the city/municipality.

17. What support will PhilRice give to the LGUs?

PhilRice will provide computers that will be used to validate beneficiaries and in monitoring purpose. The RCEF-Rice Extension Services may also offer Training of Trainers and refresher courses to some agricultural extension workers.

18. Can we buy rice seeds from PhilRice even if we are not seed growers?

Yes, only when available. PhilRice offers 1bag (40kg) of rice seeds for none-seed growers. We also encourage to buy seeds from nearby cooperatives and seed growers.

19. Can we buy foundation seeds from PhilRice even if it's less than 10kg?

Foundation seeds are only distributed to members of the SeedNet and selected DA-accredited seed growers in every province for further multiplication. With this, only DA endorsed seed growers are given the permission to buy foundation seeds from PhilRice.

20. We are seed growers of Narra Palawan, an organized association. We would like to inquire how can we avail rice seeds from Nueva Ecija?

There are available seed outlet in PhilRice Los Baños and PhilRice Mindoro. You may approach these nearby outlets for the rice seeds. If unavailable, you can ask assistance from PhilRice Nueva Ecija.

*collective operation of its members

21. How can we request training/seminar from PhilRice?

PhilRice only gives training to rice trainers. The Agricultural Training Institute is the appointed agency that conducts agriculture-related trainings. You can contact your LGU so they can administer your training/seminar.

22. How can we avail machines from PhilRice like reversible airflow flatbed dryer?

PhilRice developed prototype of rice machineries suited for local conditions. However, commercial production of these developed prototype is done by accredited/licensed agri-machinery manufacturers. In the absence of licensed manufacturers, PhilRice can provide technical assistance to individuals who are interested to own or put up the facility like that of the reversible airflow dryer. PhilRice can fabricate critical components of the facility (blower and furnace) while other components such as drying bed and shed can be constructed by the interested individuals. PhilRice also provides the blueprint of that components and monitor the progress of construction to make sure that correct specifications are followed.

Please contact the PhilRice Rice Engineering and Mechanization Division (REMD) for assistance or contact the PhilRice Text Center so they can immediately link you to REMD.

23. Are there any accredited/recommended seed growers/dealers in PhilRice?

The BPI-NSQCS agency holds the list of accredited seed growers. PhilRice only has the list of eligible RCEF-seed recipient cooperatives and associations.

Technical Aspect

1. What is the suitable rice variety for our area?

Region	Existing quality varieties in the region	Newly-registered varieties tested in the region
Cordillera Administrative Region	PSB Rc 18	NSIC Rc 308
	PSB Rc 82	NSIC Rc 354
Region 1	NSIC Rc 214	NSIC Rc 352
	NSIC Rc 298	NSIC Rc 358
Region 2	NSIC Rc 308	NSIC Rc 400
	NSIC Rc 352	NSIC Rc 402
Region 3	PSB Rc 10	NSIC Rc 354
	PSB Rc 18	NSIC Rc 402
	NSIC Rc 218	
Region 4A	PSB Rc18	NSIC Rc 354
	PSB Rc 82	NSIC Rc 394
	NSIC Rc 218	
Region 4B	PSB Rc 18	NSIC Rc 354
	NSIC Rc 218	NSIC Rc 302
Region 5	NSIC Rc 302	NSIC Rc 352
	NSIC Rc 308	NSIC Rc354
Region 6	NSIC Rc 226	NSIC Rc 354
	NSIC Rc 308	NSIC Rc 356
	NSIC Rc 358	
	NSIC Rc 360	
Region 7		NSIC Rc 354
Bohol	NSIC Rc 302	
	NSIC Rc 356	
Cebu	NSIC Rc 302	
	NSIC Rc 226	
Negros Oriental	NSIC Rc 224	

Region	Existing quality varieties in the region	Newly-registered varieties tested in the region
	NSIC Rc 302	
Siquijor	NSIC Rc 302	
	NSIC Rc 308	
Region 8		NSIC Rc 400
Biliran	NSIC Rc 354	
	NSIC Rc 358	
Eastern Samar	NSIC Rc 302	
	NSIC Rc 354	
Leyte	PSB Rc 18	
	NSIC Rc 218	
Northern Samar	PSB Rc 18	
	PSB Rc 82	
Western Samar	PSB Rc 18	
	PSB Rc 82	
Southern Leyte	PSB Rc 18	
Region 9	NSIC Rc 224	NSIC Rc 354
	NSIC Rc 358	NSIC Rc 400
Region 10	PSB Rc 18	NSIC Rc 354
	NSIC Rc 158	NSIC Rc 400
Region 11	PSB Rc 18	NSIC Rc 302
	PSB Rc 82	NSIC Rc 308
Region 12	NSIC Rc 158	NSIC Rc 354
	NSIC Rc 226	NSIC Rc 308
Caraga	PSB Rc 18	NSIC Rc 354
	PSB Rc 82	NSIC Rc 400
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	PSB Rc 18	NSIC Rc 308
	NSIC Rc 224	NSIC Rc 400
National recommendation	NSIC Rc 222, NSIC Rc 216, NSIC Rc 160	

2. What is the recommended seeding rate?

Use high-quality inbred seeds with a recommended seeding rate of 40kg/ha for transplanting and 60kg/ha for direct seeding.

3. How to grow rice properly?

Seed Soaking

Before soaking, wash the seeds and remove half-filled grains and other foreign matters. Soak the clean seeds for 24hrs either in running water or in a soaking container. If a soaking container is used, drain and replace the water every 12hrs. After 24hrs of soaking or until the seeds bulge, remove the seeds from the water then wash the seeds again.

Incubation

Fill sacks with soaked seeds up to half capacity then place them on a platform to drain excess water in preparation for incubation. Incubate the seeds for 24-36hrs or until a white dot appears on the anterior end of the seed. Arrange the sacks of soaked seeds on a platform to enhance aeration during incubation. Cover it with plastic sheets or dry rice straw to enhance incubation. Rotate the sacks after 12 hours for even distribution of heat and to enhance uniform germination. If the sacks of soaked seeds becomes too hot (30°C), remove the cover and let it cool for some time before covering it again. When the seeds germinated, open the sacks and allow the seeds to cool down before sowing.

Seedbed Preparation & Seed Sowing

Prepare a 400m² seedbed area for 1ha at least a week before sowing. Construct raised seedbeds 1-1.5m wide, 4-5cm high, of convenient length, and distanced at 30cm in-between beds one day before seed sowing. Add 4 bags organic fertilizer per 400m² seedbed. This will help loosen the soil and facilitate easier pulling of seedlings. Level the surface of the seedbed to facilitate drainage and uniform water distribution. Sow pre-germinated seeds evenly over the seedbed at a rate of 100g/m² usually late in the afternoon during sunny days to reduce heat damage to the seeds. During rainy days, submerge the seedbed at least 2-5cm before sowing the pre-germinated seeds to protect the seeds from displacement in case of rain. Drain the seedbed the following day.

Nutrient Management

Sufficient nutrients should be applied from vegetative to reproductive phases to ensure good crop growth development. A general fertilizer recommendation of 11 bags (7 bags 14-14-14 & 4 bags urea) for the dry season and 8 bags (5 bags 14-14-14 & 3 bags urea) for wet season will be applied.

4. What to do if the rice seeds are not planted immediately?

It can be stored if not immediately planted, but expect that the germination rate will deplete.

Note that seeds distributed under RCEF are intended for planting purpose and not for milling.

Producing new rice variety takes a long time and only few land areas are used for seed production. If these seeds are milled for consumption, the time, effort, and money dedicated to produce high-quality seeds will be put into waste. It will also be a waste to mill these rice seeds because it costs P1,520/sack.

5. Where can we store these seeds?

For longer storage that could last up to 1 year or more, seeds should sit on a palette in a clean closed-type area, with proper ventilation, and enough light. Always keep the area clean, dry, and insect free.

6. What will be the implications if the seeds are used repeatedly?

If used repeatedly, the seeds' purity will be affected. Lesser management during the production leads to poor growth. There is a 2-5% cross pollination that affects the varietal purity of the seeds, that may also contribute to poor performance or susceptibility of pest.

Varietal mixture from other fields or the machine use will greatly affect the performance of the variety especially seeds for the next season that are intended for commercial production. Competition among weeds, disease, and pest damage will result in poor quality seed. Seeds may become lighter, discolored, thin or half-filled which are not recommended for another planting.

That's why it is advised to allocate seed area for the next season with proper care. The area should be with good fertility, near the water source, and can be easily managed.

It is important to conduct seed purification through regular rouging. Always carry out thorough land preparation and transplanting method. Remove immediately seedlings that are out of the line during vegetative stage. Control weeds and other pests. Observe and remove plants that have different characteristics among the majority of the crop during reproductive and maturity phase. Harvest first the crop for seed purpose, before the majority that will be for consumption. Properly dry, clean, label, and store the seeds.

7. What is the yield penalty if seeds are used repeatedly?

There is no yield penalty as long as the purification process is properly observed. However, poor-quality seeds generally produce weaker or non-vigorous seedling. These make the seeds highly susceptible to biotic and abiotic stresses, which leads to yield reduction.

8. How can the use of high-quality inbred seeds help increase yield and lower production cost?

By using high-quality seeds and proper management, yield can increase up to 10% or more. The use of high-quality seeds assures high-seedling vigor, purity, strict limit on weeds, and uniformity of crop stand. Plus, if used with integrated crop management, there is another 1t/ha yield increase.

On the other hand, production cost is low as the use of inputs is maximized and nutrient uptake is more efficient. Seed purity adds to the uniformity of crop stand so marketing efficiency improves and post-harvest losses decrease.

9. Why is it important to do proper land preparation?

Proper land preparation minimizes weed growth; easily manages golden snail pests; enables easier irrigation and efficient water management; and ensures seed purity as the fallen seeds from previous sowing have time to germinate and decompose along with the weeds. It also helps in nutrient efficiency.

10. How can proper land preparation increase yield and lower production cost?

According to studies, there is a 5% yield penalty or yield decrease if land is not properly prepared. Proper land preparation helps in labor and water use efficiency.

11. How can proper nutrient management increase yield and lower production cost?

With proper nutrient management, maximum yield potential of rice variety can be achieved. Based on studies, if right element, amount, and timing (E-A-T Right) is not followed, only 3t/ha of *palay* can be harvested.

12. Why use combine harvester?

Harvesting has the greatest cost and the most labor intensive. Combine harvester helps lower labor cost. It also maintains the quality of harvest, and speeds up harvesting and threshing process. When used under ideal conditions, threshing and harvesting losses usually do not exceed 2%. However, the figure varies depending on the condition of the crop to be harvested, field condition, as well as the machine and its operator.

We are a government corporate entity (Classification E) under the Department of Agriculture. We were created through Executive Order 1061 on 5 November 1985 (as amended) to help develop high-yielding and cost-reducing technologies so farmers can produce enough rice for all Filipinos. With our "Rice-Secure Philippines" vision, we want the Filipino rice farmers and the Philippine rice industry to be competitive through research for development (R4D) work in our central and seven branch stations, including our satellite stations, coordinating with a network that comprises 60 agencies strategically located nationwide. We have the following certifications: ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management), ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management), and OHSAS 18001:2007 (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series).

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