

Rice Varietal Development In ANGRAU

-Status and Future Research Strategies

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Rice is produced in a wide range of locations and under a variety of climatic conditions, from the wettest areas in the world to the driest deserts. 'Rice is Life' for more than half of the World's population and cultivation of rice has shaped the culture, diet and economic status of millions of people. Considering its importance the United Nations designated year 2004 as the 'International Year of rice'. Rice is grown in more than 100 countries across the globe in 158 million hectares, producing more than 470 million tonnes of milled rice. Major rice producing countries in the world are China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Burma and Philippines. Most of the rice produced is consumed by the producing countries and approximately 6 to 7 percent (~30 million tonnes of milled rice) is exported every year. The major rice exporters are India, Thailand and Vietnam; while major importers of rice are Philippines, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia and the European Union (www.worldriceproduction.com and Rice Almanac, IRRI, Philippines, 2013).