Mid-Project PI Meeting in Stuttgart, Arkansas

The RiceCAP PI’s recently met in Stuttgart Arkansas to discuss several aspects of the RiceCAP effort including the recent reviews of the project progress and the integration of research plans for year 3 of the effort. Although there were a number of areas that were discussed in detail, a major focus of the meeting centered on how the PI’s were working as a group to accomplish the goals of the project, what the bioinformatics effort would address over the remainder of the project, and what the anticipated deliverables would be over the next two years (namely, the development and distribution of germplasm and molecular markers, the incorporation of molecular marker technology into all of the rice breeding programs in the U.S., publications which directly impact the potential improvement of U.S. rice germplasm, and assessment of how the educational and outreach efforts will impact the rice community). In addition to the PI’s, several outside members were invited to provide input on the bioinformatics portion of the project including Drs. Bill Beavis, Peter Bradbury, Kevin Childs, Mauricio LaRota, and Kathy Yeater. The meeting outcome and prioritization of the efforts can be viewed on the RiceCAP website at http://www.ricecap.uark.edu/pdfs/RiceCAP%20Stuttgart06%20Meeting%20Final%202.pdf

**Research Updates**

**Update on the 2006 MY2 population in Arkansas**

Submitted by Ed Boza

During 2006, 325 F5 rice lines, the parents (Cypress and LaGrue) and six controls (MCR01277, Cocodrie, Spring, RT0134, Madison, and Trenasse) were planted at the Rice Research and Extension Center (RREC), Stuttgart, AR, using a RCB design with two replications. Each line was planted in two row plots – 0.6 m long (25 cm row spacing), using a seeding rate of 2.6 g/m². Phenotypic evaluation and harvesting were completed by October 10, 2006. At germination, a uniform stand was observed throughout the test. The date of first heading (Heading Variability Score) ranged from 2 to 3 (2 = all plants in rows within 2-5 days and 3 = all plants in rows within 6-10 days). A range of 24 days was observed in maturity among the progeny evaluated, ranging from 72 to 96 days. The parents were different in days to heading by only 2-3 days. Plant height ranged from 70 to 142 cm. The vast majority of the lines were harvested at 18 – 22% moisture content with a few exceptions; some lines were below 18% and some that were taken out of the field at 25 – 27% due to lodging. All samples were sealed in zip-lock bags once they reached 13% moisture content and ready to start cleaning before milling analysis. It has been suggested that Arkansas would clean the rice samples from the different locations prior to milling analysis in Texas.

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The MY2 population on July 10th before heading.

Most of the MY2 population had been harvested at a moisture content between 18 - 22% (October 3).

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BAYER’S HYBRID RICE LAUNCHED IN VIETNAM

Bayer CropScience launched its hybrid rice Arize® B-TE1 in Can Tho, located in the Mekong Delta region. The event made Bayer the first company to introduce hybrid rice seeds in Vietnam. The hybrid rice was touted to have higher yield than the best inbred under similar conditions. In addition, it also claims to have superior grain, cooking, and taste qualities.

For the complete press release:


-- Crop Biotech
10/20/06
A new bioprocessing facility for plant-made pharmaceuticals will open in Kansas, USA, officials announced recently. The facility, owned by California-based Ventria Bioscience, will process genetically-engineered rice for the extraction of proteins to be incorporated into oral rehydration solutions to address childhood diarrhea. This disease claims 1.9 million lives annually according to the World Health Organization.

“I welcome Ventria Bioscience to Kansas and look forward to their contributions to the health of children worldwide”, declared Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius in a statement.

State Agriculture Secretary Adrian Polansky said that a "closed system" will be used in which the rice is stored near fields and used only by Ventria. He also stated that any material not used by Ventria will be burned by the company.

Access the complete release at Crop Biotech [http://www.ventria.com/news/Press%20Release%209-29-06.asp]

-- Crop Biotech, 10/6/06 and Associated Press, 10/2/06

Outreach

Unique pens promote ricecap

The Outreach efforts of RiceCAP have resulted in a number of tools to help communicate the importance of RiceCAP and the genomics projects it supports. To help raise the visibility of RiceCAP and to encourage people to learn what RiceCAP research is accomplishing, the outreach team designed several outreach tools, like brochures and post-its that sensitize users to RiceCAP and its goals. The most recent effort involved the creation of pens that contain real rice grains in the top of the pen and the RiceCAP logo and URL on the barrel. The rice in the top of the pen contains twelve different varieties of rice to emphasize the diversity of rice.

Some pens were already distributed to individuals involved in outreach efforts to the community. However, there is a limited remaining supply, which could be used for distribution to key individuals, perhaps through individual contacts or at upcoming winter meetings. If you are interested in obtaining pens, please send contact information (name, mailing address) to Jim Correll, indicating the number requested (25) and the specific audience to which they will be distributed.

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VIETNAM RELEASES PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION DECREE

The Vietnamese government has issued Decree No. 104/2006/ND-CP, which details provisions and executing guidelines that govern plant variety protection rights. Covered by this decree are complete plant varieties, breeding materials, and harvested materials of plant varieties from agriculture and forestry sectors. The registry application of plant varieties is stipulated under Section 2, Article 164 of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Law.

The National Protection Agency is tasked to establish and save national registration numbers of protected plant varieties. The decree takes effect 5 days from its publication in the National Gazette.
People

**TERRI PHelan is new Project Manager for RiceCAP**

Terri Phelan joined our grant team in September as the new RiceCAP project manager. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. During her coursework for a bachelor and master’s degree in geography and a minor in geology, she emphasized physical geography, karst, and geographic information systems (GIS) technology. Her professional experience includes GIS software and dataset administration, geospatial analysis, and project management for engineering and retail companies, a State multi-agency subterranean biodiversity project, and water and soil sample collection. She says that she is delighted to be back on the University of Arkansas campus and to be contributing to efforts that will help agriculture in Arkansas and beyond.

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**Workshops**

**RICE UTILIZATION WORKSHOP in February 2007 to Discuss Health Benefits**

The USDA Agricultural Research Service and USA Rice Federation will hold the 6th Rice Utilization Workshop on February 1-2, 2007, in New Orleans, LA.

Beneath the Hull: Exploiting the Health-Beneficial Properties of the Rice Grain is designed as a forum to promote the development of innovative uses for rice and coordinate research strategies. The workshop will address challenges for rice in the whole grain arena, focusing particular attention on phytonutrients in rice, and explore opportunities for health claim status. Topics to be discussed include:

- “Rice Phytonutrients: Efficacy in Promoting Health”
- “Capturing the Value of Rice Phytonutrients”
- “Novel Foods Touting Rice Phytonutrients”
- “Health Claim Issues”

Participants will further develop an action plan for researchers and the rice industry in general to effectively promote rice’s beneficial health properties. Discussion groups, social/networking events and optional tours are also planned.

For a full schedule of events and registration form, go to [http://www.usarice.com/processing](http://www.usarice.com/processing).

Register before December 15th for special hotel workshop rate.

Email Hien Le of Bio-tech Vietnam at hientttm@yahoo.com for more news on Vietnamese agriculture and biotechnology.

-- Crop Biotech, 10/27/06
Calendar of Events

**October 2006**

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**Schedule of Events**

**Plan Ahead for 2007**

- **12/3-5/06**—USA Rice Outlook Conference, Las Vegas NV
- **1/7-12/07**—International Microarray Workshop, Tucson, AZ.
- **1/13/07**—RiceCAP Annual Board meeting (in conjunction with PAG Conference), San Diego, CA.
- **2/1-2/07**—Rice Utilization Workshop, Beneath the Hull: Exploiting the Health-Beneficial Properties of the Rice Grain; New Orleans, LA (see announcement in this newsletter for details).
- **2/14/07**—Rice Breeders meeting, Memphis, TN.

**RiceCAP**

A coordinated research, education, and extension project for the application of genomic discoveries to improve rice in the United States. A project supported by the National Research Initiative (NRI) of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES).

**We're on the web!**

[www.ricecap.uark.edu](http://www.ricecap.uark.edu)