

Outstanding Rice Farmers

Honored at IRRI's
25th Anniversary Celebration
5-8 June 1985



International Rice Research Institute

A word from the chairman of the selection committee . . .

IRRI has deliberately chosen to mark its 25th Anniversary with a ceremony that brings its broad-ranging scientific work into a sharp focus: service to the small farmer.

After careful study, an IRRI selection committee chose 14 outstanding farmers from 10 rice-producing countries to be honored at the Institute's Silver Anniversary Celebrations.

These successful rice producers developed their own packages of technology appropriate to the realities of their ecological environments and institutional settings. They transformed modern technology developed in research laboratories and experimental plots into simple, rapid, and low-cost farm practices suited to local needs.

In addition, these farmers did not hoard their science-based knowledge. Moved by a spirit of service, they unselfishly shared their knowledge and skills with others less gifted or advantageously placed. Thus, they are recognized for their self-reliance and service to others in their communities by the most discriminating of evaluators: their fellow farmers.

The 25th Anniversary ceremonies emphasize these traditionally self-effacing men and women. They also remind us of a basic fact: rice is not grown in conference halls or laboratories. It is planted, nurtured, and harvested in thousands of fields in obscure villages by men and women such as these. Beyond the Institute's governing bodies and scientific work, these farmers and their families form the Institute's ultimate constituency.

In the end, the farmer judges if the scientific work of IRRI and similar research institutions is of value. It takes

a sense of realism — and a generous dose of humility — for agricultural scientists to work by the concept that meaningful research results and farm technology begins and ends with the farmer.

During this celebration, the scientists and workers of IRRI and of cooperating national programs will not only honor the farmers, we will listen to them. For behind their shyness or inability to articulate their thoughts in words is a rich reservoir of knowledge, arising from years of farming experience, to share with others. "Before you teach the farmers," an old Chinese peasant proverb advises, "listen to them."

To heed this advice, interviews and discussions with these producers have been planned. Such dialogue will hopefully give fresh insights into the identification of further research problems and of ways to fine-tune technology to local conditions.

From experience, we realize that farmers can effectively enlighten scientists into more effective directions of study. They can guide policy makers to a wide range of ideas, from improving food production to practical marketing. They can share with their fellow farmers the skills and farming experience that led to their success.

Without doubt, such an interactive process between farmers and rice research workers will yield mutually enriching benefits.

Our best hope for food self-sufficiency rests on the shoulders of small farmers who constitute the great majority of producers in the developing world.

It is in this spirit that IRRI invites and honors these outstanding rice farmers.

D. L. Umali
Chairman
Selection Committee

Outstanding Rice Farmers



Mr. Abul Kalam Azad
of Dinajpur District, Bangladesh

for

Pioneering on his riceland the use of integrated nutrient supply systems involving farmyard compost and chemical fertilizer, which enabled him to triple rice production; and for developing and promoting a pattern of intercropping, relay cropping, and crop rotation that allows farming families to be gainfully employed throughout the year.

Mr. Qu Yong Shou
of Hunan Province, People's Republic of China

for

Performing practical field experiments that largely reduced rice flower sterility caused by cold weather, thus enabling rice farmers to surmount the cold injury problem and achieve yields of 17 tons of rice per hectare for 2 crops; and for converting his riceland into a demonstration farm where other farmers could learn better management techniques.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Hara
of Ludhiana, Punjab, India

for

His scientific management of a rice farm; innovativeness in producing high quality seeds; and for his key role in the diffusion of new farming technology and bridging the gap between potential and actual yields.

Mrs. Sova Rani Dey
of West Bengal, India

for

Developing a remunerative rice farming system that gave yields of 9 tons of summer rice per hectare and 5 tons of winter rice; for her judicious adoption of modern farm practices and high-yielding varieties; and for unselfishly sharing her knowledge with other farmers.

Mr. Nekkanti Subba Rao
of West Godavari District, India

for

Harvesting an average yield of more than 8 tons of rice per hectare by planting high yielding varieties and practicing good farm management; and for active collaboration with the All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project in testing new varieties and producing certified seeds, thereby helping to establish mutually beneficial links between scientists and farmers.

Sumber Karya Tani Farmers Group
of East Java, Indonesia

for

Developing an economically and socially viable village cooperative that collectively prepared group production plans, carried out essential farm operations, and secured production inputs, credit, and services to increase rice production and promote nonfarm activities, which increased family income and savings; and for encouraging among members self-reliance and the awareness that personal interest is secondary to the interest of the community and that the basic element of leadership is good example.

Rahayu Farmers' Group
of West Java, Indonesia

for

Developing an economically and socially viable village cooperative that collectively prepared group production plans, carried out essential farm operations, and secured production inputs, credit, and services to increase rice production and promote nonfarm activities, which increased family income and savings; and for encouraging among members self-reliance and the awareness that personal interest is secondary to the interest of the community and that the basic element of leadership is good example.

Mr. Koichi Kimura
of Akita, Japan

for

Developing rice cultivation techniques that reduce by 60 to 70% the labor requirements for growing rice while harvesting more than 7 tons of rice per hectare; demonstrating a profitable rice farming system; and for being a selfless farm leader and adviser.

Mrs. Etsuko Tada
of Iwate, Japan

for

Introducing efficient and economical methods of mechanization of rice cultivation that helped women and the aged to practice high productivity rice farming; for her leadership in promoting cooperative farming; and for being a dependable consultant to farm families seeking information on rice farming and home life.

Mr. Yeon Do Kim
of Geyongsangbuk-Do, Republic of Korea

for

Harvesting more than 13 tons of rice per hectare, the highest ever in the Republic of Korea, using high yielding varieties and advanced farming technology; and for unselfishly sharing with others his successful farming experience.

Mr. Mohd. Nor bin Kahlan
of Selangor, Malaysia

for

His success in semimechanized rice farming of transplanted, broadcast, and drilled rice; and for being a dynamic model farmer in demonstrating new rice production technology to others and thereby becoming a leader in technology transfer.

Mr. Serapio San Felipe
of Morong, Rizal, Philippines

for

Attaining steady production of more than 10 tons of rice per hectare by planting high yielding rice varieties and following good soil fertility management involving compost composed of animal manure and crop residues and the application of chemical fertilizers; and for being the earliest effective barefoot technician deputized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to help rice farmers by nearby communities.

Mr. Wiboon Inlai
of Phitsanulok, Thailand

for

Harvesting more than 8 tons of rainfed rice per hectare using local tools and new varieties; adopting improved cultivation techniques promoted by the agricultural extension office; and for willingly sharing his knowledge with other farmers.

Mr. Vo Van Chung
of Tiengiang Province, Vietnam

for

Successfully integrating traditional and new technology into a simple and low-cost cultivation package enabling him to harvest yields of 12 to 15 tons per hectare a year from three crops of rice; for actively cooperating with agricultural research institutions in testing new varieties and cultivation techniques on his farm; for sharing his farming skills and seeds of high yielding varieties with other farmers through the An Phu Agricultural Cooperative of which he is the chairman; and for proving to others that rice farming is a satisfying means of livelihood.

Donors

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The responsibility for this publication rests with the International Rice Research Institute.