



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
1100 Quezon City

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

No. 11  
Series of 2021

**SUBJECT: ENHANCING THE FOCUS OF THE HYBRID RICE PROGRAM, OPTIMIZING ITS YIELD ADVANTAGE AND ATTAINABLE YIELD**

**WHEREAS**, during the Management Committee Meeting on 25 May 2021, we recognize the increasingly significant contribution of hybrid rice in increasing rice production in the country;

**WHEREAS**, the report of the performance of hybrid rice indicated a clear yield advantage over the certified inbred seed varieties with farmers getting yield advantage of up to 5 tons per hectare (hybrid yield of up to 12 t/ha) and provinces having average yields of up to 7 tons per hectare.

**WHEREAS**, it is also noted that many areas cannot attain the desired yield advantage and optimum yield because of various technical and agro-ecological reasons. Foremost among them is the limited technical support, improper nutrient management, and insufficient irrigation during the cropping period.

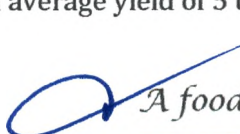
**WHEREAS**, it was also noted that varieties have location *and season* specificities that make them perform significantly better than other hybrid varieties in specific areas.

**WHEREAS**, the private seed companies' role is recognized as crucial in attaining the hybrid varieties' optimum performances and attainable yield. The companies can provide the needed technical support to farmers and guide them on the proper management of their varieties *following the clustering approach*.

**FURTHERMORE**, because of the popularity of certain varieties and the high cost of hybrid seeds, the pilferage and resale of seeds procured by the government have occurred, and curbing this illegal act required seed producers' joint efforts the government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR**, the Secretary of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by the laws, and in order to further exploit the yield advantage we are getting from hybrid rice, and as part of the actions that the Hybrid Rice Program and the regions should take, I hereby order the following:

- 1) Within the 15 provinces selected for hybrid rice planting and in the selected areas outside the 15 provinces, focus on areas where our last two field reports (2020 WS and 2021 DS) have indicated that hybrid rice has a yield advantage of 1 ton over the certified inbred seed and an average yield of 5 tons per hectare.

  
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- 2) The regions should be guided in selecting recommended commercial hybrid rice by the performance of these varieties in their area. The municipal and provincial performance for last 2 seasons of commercial hybrids planted in their area should be disseminated for the guidance of everybody. In the future, the National Rice Program and PhilRice should apply PRISM in monitoring the performance of hybrid rice varieties for more accurate and more objective yield monitoring. Funding for this monitoring using PRISM will come from the *National Rice Program*.
- 3) Include in the regional procurement agreements with commercial hybrid companies the provision of technical support, including the requirement that their hybrid variety's performance should not fall below the standards (at 1-ton yield advantage over the certified inbred seeds and 5 tons yield). The following should be included:
- a. Seed companies shall hire adequate personnel to provide technical assistance in areas where their seeds are being distributed and planted;
  - b. No variety of hybrid rice shall be distributed in subsequent planting in municipalities with yield performance below standard;
  - c. Seed companies shall submit a monitoring report to Field Operations Service (FOS) thru RFO the following:
    - i. Planting report by variety
    - ii. Harvesting report by variety;
    - iii. Pest and disease incidence (during the cropping season, if any) and measure(s) taken
  - d. Seed companies shall establish and sustain provincial technology demonstrations as part of their production learning centers. The technology demonstrations from the private sector in partnership with DA and LGUs will be included in the technical basis for seed procurements of new hybrid seeds.
  - e. Seed companies to include enough safeguards in their packaging to prevent tampering and reselling of the seeds supplied to DA.
  - f. The seed companies shall also be accountable if their local suppliers or staff are complicit in reselling and pilfering of seeds supplied to DA.
  - g. The seed companies shall assist the DA in going after unscrupulous individuals involved in pilferage and resale of seed supplied to the government. The following clause may be included:
    - Motu-proprio monitor and report persons (farmer-beneficiaries, private individual, government staff) reselling or pilfering government supplied seeds;
    - Authority to seed companies in filing cases to apprehended individuals who will be involved in unscrupulous transactions;
    - Motu-proprio blacklist seed dealers doing resale of seeds already procured by the government.

It is expected that the hybrid rice will contribute significantly to increasing rice production in the country if we can scale the planting of hybrid rice and use it as a means to cluster/consolidate our farms and modernize farming practice that can redound to increased productivity and income. However, the DA cannot do this alone; we must mobilize the private seed companies and other partners to be more accountable and play a more significant role.

This memorandum circular supplements the earlier issuance on the implementation of the Hybrid Rice Program and amends issuances inconsistent hereto.

Done this 2nd day of June 2021.



**WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.**

Secretary 



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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