

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
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Title of Entry	: Economic Analysis of Hybrid Rice Seed Production in Asia and the Philippines
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	: The widespread commercialization of hybrid rice in the Philippines is stymied by the limited availability of F1 seeds at affordable price. The country produces hybrid seeds but not enough to meet the demand. Private companies have responded by importing cheaper hybrid seeds in addition to their local produce. The standing issue is whether the Philippines can produce hybrid seeds at a cost competitive with other hybrid seed-producing countries. This paper assesses the farm-level competitiveness of producing F1 seeds in the Philippines relative to China and India. Specifically, yield and input-use in hybrid were examined; costs of and returns to producing F1 seeds were estimated and compared; and policies on increasing hybrid seed availability and affordability in the Philippines were recommended. China ranked first in terms of land productivity with an average F1 seed yield of 3.12 t/ha per cropping season, a superior yield advantage of 36% over the Philippines (1.98 t/ha) and 27% over India (2.29 t/ha). The high yield in China is attributed to their advances in biotechnology that overcome the biotic or abiotic pressures. The Philippines had the lowest F1 seed yield, as China and India are more familiar and experienced with the technology. On average, China incurred the largest total hybrid seed production cost at US\$4,959/ha, hence the biggest unit cost at US\$1.59/kg, despite being the highest yielder. The Philippines has a total production cost of US\$2,303/ha. Despite its lowest yield of hybrid seeds, its unit cost of US\$1.16/kg was cheaper than in China and almost comparable to India. The cheapest cost of hybrid seed production was in India at US\$2,294/ha, with cost per unit estimated at US\$1/kg. Results indicate that the Philippines can compete with other hybrid seed-producing countries in terms of cost. However, to reduce the local price, the supply of F1 seeds needs to be increased. This can be done by improving the seed yield through further research on parental lines, planting row ratio, fertilizer rates including splitting and timing, plant protection, and water management. Additional study is also needed in finding suitable areas for hybrid seed production in the Philippines.

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