

Entry No. IRRC-0123

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Nutrient management
Keyword 2	: Decision support tools
Keyword 3	:
Title of Entry	: Rice Crop Manager Philippines provides more increases in yield and profit to lower yielding farmers
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Select only one type of presentation	: 3-5 minute flash talk
Abstract	: Since its release in 2013 through the Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA), the web-based decision support tool Rice Crop Manager Philippines (RCM; http://webapps.irri.org/ph/rcm/) has consistently shown that farmers can increase their yields and profits through field- and season-specific nutrient management. An RCM recommendation includes the right amount of fertilizer NPK for a targeted yield level and proper timing of fertilizer N application. From 2013 to 2017, 896 on-farm field experiments were conducted for irrigated and rainfed rice for eight cropping seasons in nine provinces across the Philippines. The

performance of the nutrient management component of RCM in terms of grain yield and added net benefit was compared to the farmers' fertilizer practices (FFP). Across provinces and agro-ecologies, RCM proved to increase yield by 389 kg/ha/season (458 in the DS, 325 in the WS) with an added net benefit of 106 USD/ha/season (125 in the DS, 89 in the WS) compared to FFP. Further classification based on measured yields from FFP shows that across the nine provinces lower yielding farmers reap more benefits from RCM than higher yielding farmers. Farmers who typically yield less than 4.0 t/ha obtained greater increases in yield and added net benefit (657 kg/ha/season; 184 USD/ha/season; 22% of 896) than farmers who typically yield greater than 6.0 t/ha (173 kg/ha/season; 48 USD/ha/season; 21% of 896). Further classification based on agro-ecology shows that the increase in yield and added net benefit from RCM for rainfed (375 kg/ha/season; 108 USD/ha/season; 13% of 896) and for irrigated (391 kg/ha/season; 106 USD/ha/season; 87% of 896) rice is comparable. Despite the low representation of rainfed rice in trials conducted from 2013 to 2017, RCM research has since expanded its trials to more rainfed locations across the Philippines. In order for RCM to provide more benefits in terms of productivity and profitability to rice farmers across the Philippines, DA regional and local agricultural extension workers using RCM should be targeting farmers who typically yield 4.0 t/ha and below as well as farmers growing rice not just in irrigated but also in rainfed environments.

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