

**RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2008  
CECIL MCCRORY EXHIBIT BUILDING, 7:30 A.M.  
ABBEVILLE, LA**

Chairman Durel Romaine called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Durel thanked the LSU AgCenter for the variety work and extension programs that they provide to farmers. Present for the meeting were Glenn Duhon, Jimmy Broussard, Fred Cramer, Dwight Hardee, Larry Thibodeaux, Wayne Zaunbrecher, Richard Hardee, Donald Sagrera, David LaCour, Ross Hebert, Durel Romaine, Christian Richard, Ted Girouard, Stuart Gauthier, Dr. Steve Linscombe, Dr. Johnny Saichuk and Dr. Xueyan Sha.

Durel then called upon Dr. Linscombe to provide a research update. Dr. Linscombe began by passing out a variety recommendation table to the group. He explained the circumstances leading to the omission of Rice Tec hybrids from the list. Because LSU did not sign a research agreement with Rice Tec, LSU can not include the hybrids in their variety trials. Dr. Linscombe is hoping for a reconciliation of this matter and for LSU to trial hybrids in the future. Dr. Linscombe moved on to cover the recommended conventional long grain varieties. He mentioned that chart values can be misleading when it comes to the variety Wells. Even though it always seems to perform well statistically, it has never stood up to lodging, panicle blight and climatic conditions. A new variety called Catahoula will be available to growers and should be comparable to Cheniere and Trenasse in yield. Catahoula will have good blast resistance and milling should be better than most other current long grains planted. Growers looking for a new long grain conventional variety may want to try Catahoula.

A good supply of Clearfield seed should be available for growers. However, demand for CL151 seems high.

Blast in CL151 was seen in a light textured, drained field in Allen Parish. This may be an anomaly because it appears that CL151 has blast resistance similar to CL131, Cypress and CL161. CL151 should have grain chalkiness similar to Cocodrie. All CL151 sold this year has graded out as #2 rice.

Promising research lines currently in Puerto Rico include a Clearfield long-grain with CL 161 like grain quality and maturity 15 days earlier than other Clearfield types. In addition a medium grain Clearfield is also being developed.

Dr. Xueyan Sha then covered medium grain and aromatic variety developments. Neptune is a new medium grain currently in its 1<sup>st</sup> year of seed production. It has a yield similar to Jupiter but it has a bigger bolder grain than Jupiter. It has a 2 inch shorter plant height than Jupiter or Bengal and it has 2 to 3% better head rice set than Jupiter. It has the potential to make a ratoon crop similar to a long grain's ability to second crop. Although it has better rotten neck blast protection than its peers, it lacks their tolerance of panicle blight.

A specialty rice type named LA2125 will be available to growers. It has a Jasmine like cooking quality and an aromatic aroma like Della. It has a yield like Cypress, a plant height like Wells, and good milling qualities. 6 acres of foundation seed yielded 50 barrels per acre. Because imported jasmine rice makes up 10% of domestic rice consumption, LA2125 hopefully will give domestic producers a variety that will challenge imported Thai jasmine. It has a slightly darker grain color than imported Thai Jasmine. However, it is a big improvement over past attempts like Jasmine 85. Thai Jasmine currently gets a 40% market price premium. Yet the Thai Jasmine market will be difficult to penetrate due to cultural and marketing obstacles. The food service industry's acceptance of this LA 2125 would be helpful to its success. Farmer's should not plant LA 2125 unless they have a market for it. It cannot be co-mingled in bins with other rice varieties.

Dr. Linscombe commented on the world GMO situation. Europe has approved Liberty Link soybeans. China now has BT Rice. Even though it is causing a 15% increase in rice prices, Europe still seems dead bent on zero production of transgenic rice. The economic crisis may end up being good for rice. Past experience shows that there is increased demand for rice in troubled economic times. These developments could lead to more pressure on Europe to accept transgenic rice.

Dr. Linscombe mentioned that Clearfield Resistance in red rice is becoming more of an issue with 20 verified cases in Louisiana this year. It does not seem like the problem is in the seed supply. It is more of a breakdown on the farm level. Also the hybrids are contributing because of increasing shattering and grain dormancy issues.

Dr. Linscombe was asked about the status of Liberty Link rice. Liberty link seed is shelved in cold storage, and would probably take at least 2 years to bring into production into rice farmers fields. A promising development is the Belgium Company,

BASF's entry into the rice transgenic breeding business. Dr. Linscombe thanked everyone for their support of the Rice Research board.

Dr. Saichuk then gave a state update. He believes that the new variety Catahoula will take over some of Cocodrie's market share. Trenasse acreage should be stable because of its early niche. In 1998, 60% of rice planted in Louisiana was a Clearfield variety, 15% was a hybrid. Hybrid acreage could increase in 2009 because of increased seed availability. The 2008 harvest season started with high expectations but because of rains at harvest time and hurricane damage yields are down 500lbs from last year. This year the average yield was about 6,000 lbs per acre. Dr. Saichuk mentioned that he had visited farmers in Vermilion Parish in 2008 with phosphorous deficiency problems, iron toxicity, and insect and disease issues. He mentioned that he did not know of any new fungicides available to growers in 2009 but the insecticide demacor would see more use in the next growing season.

Stuart then gave an overview of the Vermilion Parish rice crop. He presented a short powerpoint that began with an explanation of the purpose of an advisory committee. Then Stuart pointed out that 61,296 were planted in Vermilion in 2008. 98% of the acreage was in long grain rice. 73% was in a Clearfield type. This included about 14% hybrid and 57% CL161. 77% was water-seeded. Stuart briefly mentioned the impact that Hurricane Ike and Gustav had on the rice crop due to the rushed harvest, rutted fields, missed opportunity for 2<sup>nd</sup> crop fertilizer application, and that 10,000 acres of rice land flooded with salt water. This has led to soil sampling by farmers, and the AgCenter to assess soil salt values. A wide range in values is being seen with the highest reported value to date at 20,249ppm. Stuart then touched on Clearfield resistant red rice being seen in the parish and he mentioned that the new stewardship agreement mentions the prohibition of a ratoon crop, crawfish production or following Clearfield with Clearfield rice.

Next Stuart passed out cards to all the participants and asked them to write what they thought the parish average dry barrel yield was in 2008. The average response was 36.1 barrels per acre. The state average will be around 37 barrels per acre.

The participants were then asked to write what were the major problems that they faced in 2008. Responses were:

1. Input costs-high price for P & K fertilizer; How much can fertilizer be reduced without dramatically reducing yields?
2. Economics
3. Salt conditions
4. Different Maturing Varieties
5. Second Crop
6. Salt Water
7. Yield reduction 5 barrel/acre due to: Late planting, stand problems, unknown
8. Input costs-fert., \$, repairs, diesel
9. Newpath resistant red rice
10. Costs of inputs
11. Long range planning/marketing
12. Marketing
13. Cost of Production
14. Costs-fuel, repairs, fertilizer
15. Water Weevils
16. Input Costs (Fertilizer & Fuel)
17. Weevils, sheath blight, total disease package, rice marketing
18. Weather, Nutrient Problems

After grouping the problems the following list was compiled:

1. Cost of production
2. Marketing
3. Variety Work
4. Salt
5. Yield
6. Water Weevils

The group was then asked to write what programs they would like the AgCenter to present in 2008 to address these problems. The response was as follows:

1. High yielding variety development
2. Second crop studies

3. Nutrient plots
4. Cost of production
5. Informative January Rice School-have pesticide recertification @ rice school
6. newsletters/e-mails
7. Budgeting with variable costs of production
8. Field tour
9. Rice School
10. E-mail
11. Field tour

The meeting concluded with a comments about past season crop insurance being required for preventative planting, the need for rain too remove salt before next planting season and the recent Hurricane protection Meeting at Abbeville High. It was mentioned that LSU AgCenter's recognition of the flooding threat to the Vermilion Parish Rice Industry may be helpful to further this initiative.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.