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Research & Technology Driving Sustainable Grain Quality in Rice Supply

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GOALS IN RICE BREEDING







THESE FACTORS IMPACT RICE QUALITY!

- Genetic
- Biotic and Abiotic Pressures
- Agronomic Practices
- Pre- and Post-Harvest Processing and Handling





ANNUAL AVERAGE RICE YIELD, ARKANSAS



RiceTec

Source: nass/usda.gov/AR

GLOBAL RICE ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION





Source: nass/usda.gov

GRAIN QUALITY

- What is it?
- It impacts consumer satisfaction, economic returns to producers and processors

• GQ attributes:

- Grain shape, size and distribution
- Amylose content
- Gelatinization temperature
- Protein content
- Pasting properties
- Millability
- Appearance (translucency and chalkiness)



KERNEL RIPENING IN PANICLES

Uniform kernel maturity



Less uniform kernel maturity



INDIVIDUAL KERNEL DEVELOPMENT AND MATURATION





COMMON QUALITY ISSUES: KERNEL CHALK

Kernel Chalk







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STARCH GRANULES PACKING IN RICE KERNELS

Translucent kernel



Chalky kernel



COMMON QUALITY ISSUES: FISSURE, IMMATURE, INSECT & FUNGI DAMAGES







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KERNEL FISSURING AND HARVEST MOISTURE CONTENT





OPTIMAL HARVEST MOISTURE CONTENT





KERNEL BREAKING FORCE DISTRIBUTIONS





LOW AND HIGH MOISTURE CONTENT KERNELS AFFECT HEAD RICE YIELD

Bengal; Keiser



Harvest moisture content, %



RICE GRAIN QUALITY FUNDAMENTALS SUMMARY

- Panicle architecture and kernel development
- Harvest moisture contents and distribution in panicles (optimal harvest HMC)
- Kernel size and shape (impacts drying, milling, end-use processing)
- Kernel **fissuring** (field and drying-the glass transition theory)
- N fertilizer and irrigation
- Starch Chemistry



BREEDING PROGRAMS ADDRESSES GRAIN QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY

- Yield, milling, and functional properties
- Sourcing genetic pool resistant to kernel fissuring and kernel chalk



Breeding Programs addresses Grain Quality



Gene Editing--a tool to improve Grain Quality

- Gene editing technology allows for the generation of precise targeted changes within the genome of an organism
 - This may well open new opportunities to address grain quality challenges at the genetic level
- Can be used for both R&D
- Global regulatory picture is complicated but trending toward a more uniform gene editing friendly system.
 - Many nations allow non-GMO path to market for gene edited products that contain no foreign DNA
 - Including USA, Brazil, India and many others
 - Even draft EU framework allows for gene edited products to come to market

the plant journal

S E B

The Plant Journal (2023)

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Targeted mutagenesis of the vacuolar H⁺ translocating pyrophosphatase gene reduces grain chalkiness in rice

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HYBRIDS WITH 40-70% LOWER CH4 EMISSIONS VS. VARIETIES



University of Arkansas, Stuttgart, AR, 2012. Simmonds et al, 2015. ®RiceTec, Inc. All rights reserved. Studies conducted at EMBRAPA Clima Temperado, Estação Experimental Terras Baixas, Capão do Leão, RS, Brazil. 2021-2022

MORE VALUE FOR THE PLANET



• Change irrigation practices



THANK YOU!