General Overview of Organic Rice Presentations

• An overview of U.S. organic crop production with a focus on rice – Ted Wilson
• Insect pest management in organic rice production – Mo Way
• Plant disease and weed management in organic rice production – Shane Zhou
• Planting differences and nutrient management comparing organic and conventional rice production – Fugen Dou
Organic Crop Production in the U.S.
Distribution of Organic Rice Production in the USA

Data source: USDA ERS, 2011
Organic Rice Acreage as a Percent of Total Texas Rice Acreage (2008-2014)
Comparison of Conventional and Organic Rice Production as a Percent of Texas Rice Acreage

- Conventional and organic rice both show gradual yield increases (2.1%/year) that are variable due to environmental stresses
- Organic rice yields in Texas average 56.4% of conventionally produced main crop rice and about 49% of main + ratoon crop rice
Will Organic Rice Yields Catch Up with Conventional Rice Yields?

- 480% yield increase since 1945 with ≈ 45% due to genetic improvements and 55% due to improvements to agronomic and pest management
- 19% relative increase in whole grain milling yield over the same period of time (Tabien et al. 2008)
What will Texas Rice Research Look like in the Future?

- Relatively small market will limit opportunity for development of cultivars that are designed for organic production
- Organic yields will very likely continue to be less than that of conventionally produced rice due to prohibited use of conventional fertilizers and pesticides
- Organic rice is typically planted later and as a result misses out on producing a ratoon crop
- Considerable opportunity for improving production and management

Conventionally Produced Texas Rice Yields (lbs/ac)

Crop Year

2008-2014 Texas Rice Yields
Thank You!

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