

POLICY FOR HEAD ROW RICE SEED PRODUCTION IN MISSISSIPPI

The intended purpose of this policy is to provide procedural guidance to those individuals associated with safeguarding rice seed purity throughout the development, maintenance, and multiplication of existing and new rice varieties.

This Policy is entered into among the Mississippi Rice Plant Breeder, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) Administration and the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association (MCIA). By signature of this policy, each party agrees to follow the guidelines contained within this policy effective immediately.

PANICLE SELECTION:

The Mississippi rice plant breeder will be the only authorized source of panicles to be used in head-row or breeder seed production of Mississippi-developed varieties.

LAND REQUIREMENT:

Fields in which head-row production is to occur must either be planted to another crop or summer fallowed for at least the previous two years preceding head-row breeder seed production. The site also must have been free of hybrid rice production for a minimum of five years. Additionally, it is preferred that the selected field would be summer fallowed the year immediately preceding head-row production.

ISOLATION:

Head-row or breeder seed production shall be isolated from any adjacent rice of another variety by a minimum of 60 feet. If a pollen trap buffer is to be used within the 60 feet isolation, it shall be of Foundation class seed of the same variety. No portion of the required 60 feet isolation may be used for seed. Additionally, head-row seed production fields shall be isolated from Hybrid rice fields by a minimum of 1320 feet.

EQUIPMENT INSPECTION:

An MCIA Inspector shall inspect all equipment used in head-row breeder seed production. The Breeder is responsible for cleaning all planting, harvesting, thrashing, cleaning or drying equipment prior to the inspection. The Breeder will contact MCIA at least two days prior to each needed inspection.

IDENTIFICATION/HANDLING OF HEAD-ROWS:

All harvested seed of individual head-rows will be harvested by the Breeder and grouped in no more than 40 rows per identifiable new bag.

SAMPLING OF BREEDER SEED:

MCIA will use AOSA rules for collecting samples. MCIA will collect a representative sub-sample from each identifiable bag of head row production. Each sub-sample will be grouped into one of four; five pound identifiable samples for Liberty Link testing at a USDA approved laboratory. If the number of harvested head-rows exceeds 840, MCIA will be notified prior to sampling to adjust final samples submitted for testing.

MCIA will collect a representative sub-sample from each identifiable bag of head-row seed in order to obtain a five-pound representative sample to be used in testing at the Mississippi State Seed Testing Laboratory, for the presence of red rice.

POLICY DEVIATION:

In the event of deviation from this policy, the Foundation Rice Seed Advisory Committee shall be consulted to develop and approve corrective action.

POLICY CONFIRMED BY:

Ed Redoña, MAFES Rice Breeding Program

Date: _____

Jeff Johnson, Head, Delta Research and Extension Center

Date: _____

Bennie Keith, Mississippi Crop Improvement Association

Date: _____