

## INGER CODE OF CONDUCT

The International Network for Genetic Evaluation of Rice (INGER), formerly known as the International Rice Testing Program (IRTP), was created in 1975 as a partnership among the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) for rice germplasm exchange and utilization.

### Mandate

- Facilitate unrestricted, free and safe multilateral exchange and utilization of rice germplasm, and free sharing for INGER genetic materials and related information.
- INGER should continue to address the needs and priorities of the NARS. It should continue to promote the exchange of germplasm among NARS and International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs).

### Management

- Its broad policies and direction will be guided by the INGER Advisory Council, the core group of which is the Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia (CORRA). These are indicated in the INGER Code of Conduct.
- A Technical Advisory Committee composed of selected IRRI and NARS shall provide guidance on INGER technical matters (review of nurseries, minimum data for nominations, data collected, etc.). NARS scientists will come from different disciplines and national breeding programs with different levels of capability.
- INGER should be transparent in performing all its activities.

### Partnerships with NARS

- NARS shall continue to provide outstanding varieties and breeding materials for worldwide exchange.
- NARS shall designate the institutions for germplasm exchange and lead research institutions in implementing the INGER program in their respective countries.
- NARS shall designate a national INGER coordinator who will be the key contact person for variety nominations, consolidated nursery requests (types of nursery, number of sets, testing sites, cooperators), and import permit requirement.
- In implementing the program, NARS may decide to work with private breeding institutions in their respective countries.

### INGER-distributed germplasm

- The types of materials that can be nominated by the NARS and IARCs to INGER nurseries are traditional and released varieties, advanced breeding lines, and segregating populations. Hybrids can be accepted by INGER only if the parental inbred parents are also nominated for testing.
- Genetically modified rice populations will be accepted for evaluation only when INGER NARS partners have the necessary facilities and guidelines for testing.
- INGER will accept materials from private breeding institutions nominated by NARS.
- All materials nominated to INGER nurseries shall be accompanied by a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA).
- All materials distributed by INGER shall be accompanied by a MTA for FAO designated germplasm and/or MTA for non-designated germplasm, regardless of the seed source country or institution.
- Outstanding entries in nurseries will be stored in the International Rice Genebank at IRRI. They are available for seed distribution when needed. They may or may not be designated to FAO depending on the decision of country source of materials concerned.

### Policy on utilization

- Any entry in the INGER nursery may be released as a variety or used as parents in hybridization by a national program simply by informing IRRI and acknowledging the origin and seed source of the selected materials. The naming of an INGER variety to be released in a country should be made in consultation with the variety source.
- For FAO designated accessions, a recipient has no rights to obtain Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) on the germplasm or related information. For non-designated germplasm, the source of the materials reserves the right to allow/refuse to grant permission to a recipient to seek any form of IPR on the material or related information.
- INGER will document utilization of INGER genetic materials by NARS.