

Missouri Joins Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi And Texas In Hybrid Rice Breeding Agreement

Beighley Talks About Agreement And Recent Yield Trials

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Southeast Missouri State University recently signed a hybrid rice agreement; Rice Hybrid Agricultural Development Regional and International Cooperative Endeavor, (RHADFICE), with the Louisiana State University, University of Arkansas, Mississippi State University, and Texas A & M University to cooperate in breeding hybrid rice.

This is the first time hybrid rice will be bred in Missouri. Southeast currently uses pure-line rice varieties from other universities but is in the process of developing its own hybrid rice variety. In 2011, the rice breeding program will evaluate a hybrid rice variety from Louisiana State University.

Dr. Donn Beighley, rice breeder and associate professor at Southeast Missouri State University said he and the University have worked closely with other University rice breeders since 2000.

“The collaboration to breed and produce hybrid rice was the next natural step in our cooperative research,” Beighley said.

Beighley and another representative will sit on the hybrid rice advisory committee to make decisions on how the hybrid rice agreement and program will move forward and focus on bringing in money from the production and sales of hybrid rice to Missouri’s rice producers.

Beighley, has been developing rice varieties for the Bootheel region of Missouri. Beighley hopes to release two new rice varieties to Missouri rice producers soon.

Beighley is currently harvesting rice at an Experimental Station near LaJas, Puerto Rico. He took time to talk about some Missouri yield trials and a fungicide treated versus non-fungicide treated yield trial conducted at the UM Delta Center under the center pivot by Gene Stevens.

“In the fungicide versus the non-fungicide treated trials we observed that a new line out of Arkansas; Templeton, is known to have high

levels of blast resistance and it did very well. There was very little difference between treated and non-treated yields whereas, when we looked at Francis and Wells, which are both known to have problems with blast, that they basically did not yield at the non-treated test.”

Beighley was asked about the top performers. “The varieties that performed well in our yield



Dr. Donn Beighley, Rice Breeder and Associate Professor at Southeast Missouri State University said he and the University have worked closely with other University rice breeders and this is the first time hybrid rice will be bred in Missouri.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

trial last year, which was treated, was Francis, CL111 and CL151. Some of the other public varieties that are now available, Jupiter, a medium grain, was one of them that did well in trial.”

“If you are going to be under center pivot, first try to select those lines that do have some level of blast tolerance or resistance and secondly be aware of what is going on in your field so that if you have blast starting to show up, go ahead and use your fungicides,” advised Beighley. Δ

REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower



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