

# RiceTec Creating Yield-Forecasting Models

## Preview Of 2011 Releases

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Chad Duckworth, marketing and sales support manager for RiceTec recently explained one benefit of RiceTec's research efforts. "Across the Southern rice belt – from the Mid-south to the Gulf Coast – we conduct well over 60 large scale yield trials on an annual basis. We take the economic data from our hybrids and the commercial varieties to establish yield-forecasting models which will help our farmers make decisions on which hybrids will best fit their particular situation."

According to Duckworth, this data let growers know what to expect by planting RiceTec hybrids compared to varieties. "We also use trial field economics to help our customers figure out the best way to manage their crops. In addition to the on-farm yield trials, we annually conduct several trials dealing with seeding rates, nitrogen rates and timings, and different planting dates for the hybrids to help our customers know when the best planting window is for the areas."



Both here and at

**Chad Duckworth, Marketing and Sales Support Manager for RiceTec recently explained benefits of RiceTec's research efforts.**

Photo by John LaRose

our Alvin, TX station, and a few locations off station, we have various herbicide trials dealing with the application of Newpath and Beyond in different tank mixes, timings and rates for our hybrids."

Duckworth explained XL 723 and Clearfield XL 729 and Clearfield XL 745 have proven successful for RiceTec. "XL 723 has been just a race horse hybrid for us. It gives probably the best yields seen today from any hybrid or variety. Clearfield XL 729 has raised the bar and set the new standard for yield as far as Clearfield varieties or hybrids go. Last year we commercially released Clearfield XL 745 which has been a great seller. It is going to give us a good increase in yields over the Clearfield XL 729. The biggest plus with Clearfield XL 745 is in the area of grain retention. In the past we have seen some issues with grain retention with our previously released products. Clearfield XL 745 is going to hold on to the grain just about like a public variety would. Grain retention is greatly improved with it."

RiceTec technical services representative for Southeast Missouri, Brian Ottis agrees Clearfield XL 745's grain retention and disease package helped increase yield potential. "I think we are going to start to see a trend where Clearfield XL 745 becomes the dominant Clearfield hybrid on the market simply because of its grain retention and yield potential. All the

hybrids are going to have a similar disease package, the best disease package in the marketplace." Ottis elaborated, "even this year with the late crop and the amount of bad weather we have gotten, at this point we have only one report of a grower that has sprayed for sheath blight because he needed to spray for sheath blight."

Duckworth shared his expectations for new varieties. "We should see some new hybrids commercially available in 2011. Our new conventional hybrid will be numbered Clearfield XP 753 which has many characteristics identical to XL 723. Our small plot research data says that we could expect up to a 20 percent yield increase over XL 723. In addition, the XL 723 does potentially have some issues with grain retention, where the XP 753 shows to have grain retention improved to the level of public varieties."

For release in 2011 will be RiceTec's first hybrid with semi-dwarf characteristics, Clearfield XP 751. Duckworth said, "It is going to be about six inches shorter than Clearfield XL 729 or Clearfield XL 745. At this point it looks like it

is going to give us a good yield increase above Clearfield XL 729. We are still trying to pin down exactly what that number is but it looks like it is going to be somewhere around maybe 10 to 12 percent higher."

Ottis explained the nitrogen implications of the semi-dwarf Clearfield XP 751. "We have got our recommendations for

nitrogen fertility which is 120 units pre-flood followed by 30 units at boot. With this new hybrid, because it is so short, I think that we will be able to push this one a lot harder with nitrogen. It will not be so prone to lodge because it is much shorter. It may be that we can put a total of 200 units on it where we can really push the yield."

Ottis explained the benefits of another new variety for 2011, Clearfield XP 752. "Clearfield XP 752 will be a smooth leaf. This will help the growers that have got the issues with the itch and the dust. It also shows a grain yield improvement, grain retention similar to Clearfield XL 745, milling will be equal to Clearfield XL 745 and the lodging and the disease package will be the same as XL 723."

Duckworth added the 2010 seed supply is anticipated to be higher. "We are shooting for a greater supply than we had in 2009, but hybrid seed production is a different animal than grain production. Weather during the growing season affects hybrid seed production differently than grain production. We will complete seed harvest shortly and plan to have more information on what we have to sell in the near future." The new hybrids are expected to be released in 2011 but, Duckworth said, "ongoing testing will ultimately determine when new products will hit the market." Δ

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