

Years Of Research Pays Off

New Rice Varieties To Be Released In 2009



Dr. Steve Linscombe, Breeder and Director of Louisiana State University Agriculture Center in Crowley, explains new varieties being released next year.

Photo by John LaRose

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As the breeder and director of the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center in Crowley, Louisiana, Dr. Steve Linscombe has been specializing in rice for over 20 years.

As one of three different scientists that are actively involved in rice breeding at the station, Linscombe has helped to develop many new types of rice and to expand rice education.

One of these new varieties that will be released next year is called 151. "The 151 is in large scale seed increase this year," said Linscombe, "it should be fairly readily available in 2009. If the numbers work out, there should be 350,000 to 400,000 acres of seed available."

This new variety, developed at the station, has

been in development for about six or seven years.

"We're working on a lot of different areas," said Linscombe, "we have a number of other Clearfield lines that we are trying to improve in yield potential and disease packages. We also have a couple of lines we are looking at very closely that would be Clearfield medium grains."

"131, is also in large scale increase and should also be readily available in 2009. There is quite a bit of 131 being produced," said Linscombe, "the other thing that we are working with is a jasmine type line that seems as if it is going to be very competitive with the imported Thai jasmine."

"We think that this jasmine line has a lot of promise," said Linscombe, "I would say after two or three years it could gradually replace older varieties." △