Clearfield Rice: Louisiana State University

Rice is among the most widely consumed grains in the world, and controlling weed infestation is especially difficult in the damp conditions rice crops require. But the fight against rice-field intruders—especially the red rice weed, which affects nearly half of U.S. rice acreage—made strides in the 1990s after a professor at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center discovered a type of rice with a natural resistance to the imidazolinone family of herbicides.

Tim Croughan, Ph.D., isolated this rice and other resistant rice lines by using enhanced plant-breeding and whole-plant selection methods. The process, which in no way resembles genetic modification, is similar to methods that rice breeders have used for the last 50 years to develop many of the rice varieties found in supermarkets today. The result of Croughan's research is Clearfield Rice.

Now, farmers can use imidazolinone-based herbicides on Clearfield Rice crops to dramatically reduce weed infestation and increase crop yield. Four resistant-rice lines are available to farmers, and Louisiana State University is working with BASF to introduce additional varieties to ensure crop sustainability.

Read more at www.orygen.net/clearfield_rice/index.htm. ■

AUTM. 2007. Clearfield Rice: Louisiana State University. In *Executive Guide to Intellectual Property Management in Health and Agricultural Innovation: A Handbook of Best Practices* (eds. A Krattiger, RT Mahoney, L Nelsen, et al.). MIHR: Oxford, U.K., and PIPRA: Davis, U.S.A. Available online at www.ipHandbook.org.

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