

## International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) inaugurates its Speed Breed Facility

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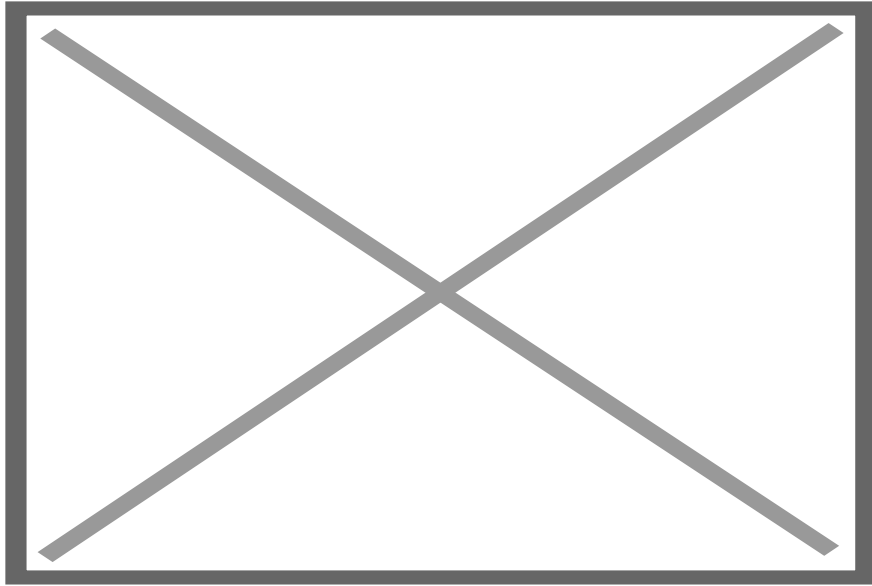
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International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Baos, Laguna held its Speed Breed Facility (SBF) Inauguration Ceremony in late mid August at the Lloyd T. Evans Plant Growth Facility (PGF). The event marks a significant milestone in rice breeding, as the facility aims to shorten the breeding cycle for increased efficiency and productivity.

Research Director and Head of the Rice Breeding Innovations Department, Dr. Hans Bhardwaj, talked about the overall goal of the SBF and how it aligns with the objective of reducing breeding cycle time to enhance genetic gains.



Occupying a 587-square-meter area, the facility will feature a remarkable capacity of 120,000 plants. It will shorten the turnaround time for rapid generation advancement by targeting 4-5 generations in a year. Equipped with an advanced automated irrigation and control system and interconnected chambers, the SBF will ensure improved reliability, precision, quality, environmental consistency, and water efficiency in the breeding process. Additionally, the facility will prioritize sustainability by operating with solar power, furthering its commitment to eco-friendly practices.

The SBF is targeted to be completed in March 2024. As the facility becomes fully operational, it is expected to revolutionize the field of rice breeding by optimizing the breeding process and contributing to the development of innovative solutions for global food security. IRRRI continues its commitment to cutting-edge research and collaboration, solidifying its position in rice research.