

Philippines 16th National Rice Technology forum focuses on ramping up local rice production

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The 16th National Rice Technology Forum (NRTF) was held in Hagonoy and Digos City of Philippines, Davao del Sur, with the theme, "Masaganang Palay at Bigas, Maunlad na Pilipinas."

The three-day event, which is expected to draw a thousand of participants from the different parts of the country, aims at promoting the adoption of yield-boosting rice technologies by showcasing high-yielding and climate-resilient rice varieties, machinery, and best practices in a 131.83-hectare demonstration area.

As a collaborative project by the national government, local government units (LGUs), local farmers, and other partners and stakeholders from the private sector, the NRTF responds with the President's directives to boost the country's local rice production and ensure food security through convergence and cooperation.

Spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture (DA)-Davao Regional Field Office (RFO 11), DA-Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC 11), and the private sector-led Rice Board, the event kicked off with a field tour at the technology demonstration farms in Poblacion, Hagonoy.

The techno demo farms showcased 24 hybrid rice varieties and smart technologies that have been tried and tested to be high-yielding, pest and disease resistant and climate-resilient contributing higher income for farmers and high quality and

affordable rice for consumers.

During the NRTF, thirteen seed companies and six nutrient management companies presented their products, best practices, and technologies for proper land preparation, soil and water management, nutrient management, and pest and disease management, among others.