

Special Interest Group for Hybrid Rice
Summary Notes & Action Points from Meeting on 21 February 2017

A Meeting of the APSA Special Interest Group for Hybrid Rice (SIG – HR) was organized on 21 February 2017. Dr. Frisco Malabanan (SIG Chair), Mr. Vaibhav Kashikar (SIG Co-Chair), Ms. Heidi Gallant (ED, APSA), Mr. Steven Layne (Communications Officer, APSA) and Dr. Narendra Dadlani (Director Technical Affairs & SIG Secretary) joined the meeting. Following is the summary of the discussions and the action points that emerged:

- a. Meetings of the SIG will be convened every two months. The next meetings of the SIG were decided to be convened in April / May, June / July and September, besides the last meeting during Asian Seed Congress (November). Dr. Dadlani will suggest dates to the Chair and Co – Chair for confirmation. The meeting dates will then be posted on the APSA website. The minutes from SIG meetings will also be posted on the website and shared with other SCs / SIGs.
- b. It was proposed to organize an ‘ASEAN Hybrid Rice Meeting’ in collaboration with IRRI and others. Secretariat to confirm the dates for the International Hybrid Rice Conference being organized by IRRI in Bali, Indonesia, to avoid any clash of dates. It was suggested that this meeting be held in Myanmar, where the Government is supporting the growth of hybrid rice.
- c. The SIG was informed that the Post Congress Tour after Asian Seed Congress 2017 is being planned to have focus on hybrid rice and visit is being planned to hybrid rice experiments at IRRI. Visit is also being planned for World Rice Museum at IRRI. Discussions have been initiated with IRRI in this regard.
- d. The SIG members while considering the possible subjects for discussion / presentation during Asian Seed Congress 2017 suggested to invite Prof Yuan Longpin, the Father of Hybrid Rice to address the SIG meeting. Besides him, it was suggested to invite Dr. Jauhar Ali, the hybrid rice expert at IRRI to present an update on hybrid rice technology and update at the meeting. Dr. Frisco agreed to initiate action to invite Prof. Yuan Longpin to the Congress from Phillipine Seed Industry Association and also share the contact details of Dr. Jauhar Ali. It was also proposed that we may seek a presentation on mechanization in hybrid rice seed sowing and transplanting and / or dry direct seeding in rice.
- e. The SIG Chair suggested that Mr. Steven Layne should visit Philippines before the ASC to interview experts about hybrid rice for publishing in the APSA magazine - Asian Seed, as a build up to the Asian Seed Congress.
