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To: California Rice Growers (For Distribution by Seed Sellers)

From: Kent S. McKenzie, Director and Plant Breeder

Re: Rice Varieties owned by the California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation, Inc. (CCRRF)

The Board of Directors met November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and adopted a new policy on the planting and use of our varieties as part of an effort to stop the expansion of weedy red rice in California. The planting of non-certified rice seed has been revealed as a practice associated with new infestations of weedy red rice. This includes farm-saved seed and the sale of non-certified seed.

### **New Seed Policy**

- 1. Only classes of certified seed (Foundation, Registered, and Certified) of CCRRF rice varieties may be planted.**
- 2. All restrictions associated with US Plant Variety Protection Act (PVP) must be followed (e.g. varieties to be sold as a class of certified seed only). Possible violations will be referred to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for investigation.**
- 3. Foundation Seed of CCRRF rice varieties will only be allocated through the California Crop Improvement Association to California rice growers who have been approved to produce certified classes of rice seed.**
- 4. In accordance with state seed law, handlers of rice seed must also be registered with CDFA.**
- 5. Foundation Seed cannot be resold or transferred without written permission from CCRRF and varieties are not approved for export from California.**
- 6. Purchasers of Foundation Seed are now required to sign a Material Transfer Agreement for patented rice varieties and their customers must be notified of the restrictions on the use of seed of CCRRF varieties.**

CCRRF ownership, PVP protection, Utility Patents, the Certified Seed Program, and the exclusive CCRRF production of breeder and foundation seed of our varieties will provide the mechanism to put into play this new policy. Additional information is available at [http://www.crrf.org/ccrrf\\_res\\_019.htm](http://www.crrf.org/ccrrf_res_019.htm).