

The global rice consortium tests APV Pneumatic Seeders at the headquarters of the International Rice Research Institute

APV joined the Direct Seeded Rice Consortium (DSRC), a public-private multi-stakeholder research for development platform on direct seeded rice, in 2019 after participating in the *AGRITECHNICA Live* in Myanmar. Led by the International Rice Research (IRRI), DSRC is a collaborative effort of public and private organizations to improve the environmental and economic sustainability of rice production systems by developing and optimizing direct seeding innovations, practices and methodologies and to facilitate its adoption across Asia.

In 2020, APV provided the DSRC with a Pneumatic Seeder, one of the machines designed and developed by the company to make wet and dry rice cultivation more convenient and economical for farmers, for field testing and assessment based on the protocol drafted by consortium partners. Specifically, the equipment subjected to the field evaluation is the PS 200 M1 version suitable for spreading fertilizer with Control Box 5.2 on a specially constructed 2-meter horizontal bar support with soil scraper equipped for line seeding and additionally broadcasting options.

However, due to COVID-19 pandemic safety restrictions, the extensive tests scheduled at IRRI headquarters in the Philippines are currently on hold. Despite the circumstances, provisional field tests were conducted to calibrate and understand how the APV Pneumatic Seeder PS 200 M1 operates under actual field conditions.

Caling Balingbing, an engineer in the Mechanization and Postharvest Cluster, Sustainable Impact Platform at IRRI, performed the tests and describes the results below:

- The calibration test was easy to perform and did not take much time. The application rate can also be adjusted while driving.
- The APV Pneumatic Seeder PS 200 M1 works well in dry fields with broadcasting and line seeding options. However, there is no mechanism for covering the seeds with soil to protect them from birds and rodents after the seeding operation.
- The test in the wet field is in the plan while looking for appropriate tool carrier to operate the seeding machine effectively in puddled condition, which is quite difficult to operate with the typical 4WD tractor where the wheel configuration is more effective under dry field condition.

The results of the preliminary tests have provided IRRI engineers with some knowledge to help them adopt the APV seeder, which will be used for crop establishment at the IRRI farm in the coming seasons.

An update will be provided as soon as the other test results become available.

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