

June 12, 1969
RICE FOR PROGRESS

RICE FOR PROGRESS STAMPS
(June 12, 1969)

The Bureau of Posts issues today, June 12, 1969, the Rice for Progress Stamps coinciding with the celebration of the Philippine Independence.

An offspring of a mixed marriage between two undistinguished, disparate and freakish rice varieties, a Filipino giant and a Chinese dwarf - the tall Peta of the Philippines and the dwarf Indica, native of Taiwan, whose native name is so foreign as it is unpronounceable, Dee-geo-woo-gen, the Miracle Rice, nicknamed IR 8, was born in Los Baños under the Marcos Administration.

Known throughout the world was the Miracle Rice, it has kept rice planters and agricultural experts abroad in a state of exhilaration. Countries as far west as Ghana in Africa and as far as Mexico in South America, among them, Australia, Cambodia, Iran, Malaysia, Central Africa Republic, Dominican Republic, Laos, India, Vietnam, have flooded the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños with requests for more and more seeds of the Miracle Rice.

Today, this fast-ripening strain of rice, which is ready for harvest after 120 days, averaging 190 cavans a hectare, with 3 crops a year (while the ordinary variety yields an annual average of 27 cavans per hectare only), could well be the solution to the nation's chronic problem of rice shortage.

Indeed, IR 8 is well on its way to revolutionizing the rice industry, not only in the Philippines but also in all other lands in the tropic zone for the Miracle Rice loves sunshine and thrives best during the sunny season.

Thus, as we celebrate Philippine Independence today, we give due honor not only to the occasion but to the wonder and the great promises of the Miracle Rice.

The Special set of stamps issued today was designed by Chief Philatelic Artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. and printed by Harriso & Sons, Ltd., London, England by heliogravure process in four colors.

The stamps featuring Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos and the First Lady harvesting the IR 8 (Miracle Rice). They measure 31x45 mm perf. to perf, vertically composed, in denominations of 10, 40 and 75 in quantities of 2,000,000 of each denomination. The stamps are in sheets of 50.

It is fittingly called the
RICE FOR PROGRESS STAMPS

