

## **ISO/CFC varietal exchange begins**

*May 2001*

*PHILSURIN Update (Official PHILSURIN Newsletter)*

High yielding varieties from Bangladesh and Indonesia have arrived in the country. They are currently under quarantine at theBPI Economic Garden in Los Banos, Laguna. Subjected to short hot water treatment to get rid of smut and downy mildew, these varieties will be observed for the presence of diseases for a period of one-and-one half to two years before planting them in the field. Infected plants will be destroyed.

PHILSURIN is strictly applying the BSES quarantine scheme to ensure the exchange of disease-free varieties among the consortium members.

The 5 varieties from Bangladesh are erect and self-trashing. Their yield potential ranges from 80 to 100 tons per hectare. The 6 Indonesian varieties are erect and moderately self-trashing with yields of 85 to 100 tons per hectare.

Thailand has committed to exchange 7 varieties and Malaysia, 5 varieties. This month, Philsurin will start trial shipments of tissue-cultured plantlets to Thailand and Bangladesh. The Philippines has committed to exchange 10 VMC varieties with the consortium.

This is the first time that a variety exchange program has been implemented in Southeast Asia. Financed by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and supervised by the International Sugar Organization (ISO), this project assures the availability and use of high-yielding varieties in the region.