Revitalize Indigenous Cordilleran Entrepreneurs (RICE) Inc

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
The New Year brings new promises and new hope. It also gives us the opportunity to assess the goals we set in 2010 and to plan for 2011.

We have seen some very positive changes this year, as RICE Inc continues to work with the farmers for the preservation of their terraces and heirloom rice. The Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project turned five years old in 2010. Our efforts, without a doubt, have changed attitudes toward the importance of preserving the native rice of the terraces; and it has in a very real way has helped and changed the lives of many of the farmers who have been touched by the project.

Our 2010 Annual Report highlights the stories of some of those farmers, who live in the far-flung villages and whose stories need to be heard beyond the mountains, hills and valleys that separate them from the mainstream populace.

Based on development parameters, the changes in their lives may seem insignificant or hard to quantify. But from the farmers’ standpoint, opportunities exist and technical support is now available that wasn’t there five years ago.

Five years ago, many people said that the vision was very idealist but impossible to accomplish. Five years later, the project has reached thousands of farmers through its trainings, workshops and consultative meetings. The project is helping lay the groundwork for the farmers to build an enterprise that is feasible, sustainable and owned and managed by them. Despite the natural calamities that have affected the Cordillera region recently– stronger and more frequent typhoons, landslides, El Nino’s severe drought and La Nina’s flooding, the farmers have consistently embraced the vision of Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project. They believe that because of this vision, they can realize their dreams; see hope beyond their condition; and believe that anything can be possible!

2010 Annual Report is our tribute to those farmers who have stood by the Cordillera Heirloom Rice vision. We would like to highlight our partnership with the committed men and women who work for and with their LGUs to assist their farmers, as we work together to help preserve the ancestral heritage found in the terraces and unique heirloom rice.

Journey with us to hear their stories gathered as I traverse the uphill trails to Pasil’s villages; the narrow terrace paths between Hungduan’s barangays, through the winding paddies of Barlig; over the treacherous trails of Sadanga and the muddy roads to Natonin.

Share our joys as five farmers saw an impossible dream become a reality when they traveled to Turin, Italy to showcase their rice. The trip to the Slow Food Terra Madre was a testament to their hard work and belief that their native rice can find a place in the future and that the terraces can have meaning to a new generation of farmers. The designation of the heirloom rice to the Slow Food Foundation’s International Ark of Taste should give all Cordillera farmers a great and renewed sense of pride in the terraces!

A heartfelt cheer and toast to all that was accomplished and experienced in 2010!

Vicky Garcia
Three varieties of rice designated to the Slow Food “Ark of Taste” (www.slowfood.org)
The Slow Food Foundation’s “Ark of Taste” is a catalog of outstanding gastronomic foods and food products that are threatened in our globally changing world. In July 2010, three heirloom rice varieties from Cordillera—Imbuucan from Ifugao, Ominio from Mountain Province and Chong-ak from Kalinga—were included on that prestigious list. Inclusion in the Ark means that the rice has met the foundation’s standards for taste, quality, environmental sustainability and respect for the cultural identity of the producers. All products listed in the Ark are recognized to have real economic viability and commercial potential.

IRRI features The Seed Keepers of Ifugao in RICE TODAY magazine
During Vicky’s visit to IRRI, she was introduced to Alaric Santiaguel, a contributing writer for IRRI. Interested in the project, Mr. Santiagel went on to interview Vicky and have extensive email communications with Mary Hensley. The result was a well-researched article about the seed keepers of Ifugao and the intrinsic value of the native rice of the Cordillera. IRRI sent a camera crew to visit and photograph farmers in Hapao, Hungduan, one of the project sites of Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project.

Jimmy Lingayo, RICE, Inc. provincial coordinator hosted them. During the visit, Jimmy introduced the crew to the farmer-leaders/elders in the community, showed them around the web-like terraces of Hapao and arranged for the crew to interview and video project participants. They enjoyed the trip but unfortunately got stranded for several additional days due to landslides that closed the roads within the province. See Attached Article.

Asia Rice Foundation (USA) Invites RICE, Inc. on its Annual Meeting at IRRI
On April 20, Vicky gave a project presentation to the Asia Rice Foundation (USA), whose annual meeting was being held this year at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños. Executive Director of Asia Rice Foundation Alicia Perdon invited Vicky to the Los Baños meeting, which had a video/audio link to members gathered in Ithaca, NY and Davis, CA. Vicky took the opportunity to report back on the region-wide evaluation and planning workshop for the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project, which was
generously underwritten by the Asia Rice Foundation (USA). Ms Perdon, a chemist by profession, offered to test the colored rice varieties for levels of anthocyanins, which are antioxidants that can help prevent cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other age-related diseases such as glaucoma, varicose veins and ulcers.

Slow Food Foundation invites representatives of the heirloom rice community to Terra Madre gathering in Turin, Italy.

As a result of the Ark designation, five farmers from the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project plus Vicky Garcia, the executive director of RICE, Inc. were invited to be delegates to the 2010 Slow Food Foundation’s Terra Madre gathering in Turin, Italy October 19-25, 2010. Mary Hensley, founder of the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project and president of Eighth Wonder, Inc., the project’s US-based marketing partner, joined the farmers at the Terra Madre as part of the Philippine delegation.

The biannual Terra Madre is a gathering of food communities, cooks, academics, young people and musicians from around the world. This year over 6,000 delegates from 169 countries came together in forums, seminars, formal and informal discussions to share their lives and knowledge, and to celebrate and promote traditional and sustainable local food production.

The 2010 Terra Madre had a special emphasis on indigenous people. Some of the opening speeches were given in indigenous languages in recognition of the fact that the world is losing so many languages, diverse cultures and foods. As Oi-Johan Sikku, a Sami from the Sápmi region of northern Europe said, “we want to build a future where traditional knowledge can tie together the past and the times to come.”

More than 70 Earth Workshops were held during the 5-day gathering. Some of the discussion of particular interest to our group included the protection and promotion of traditional knowledge of food production in local communities, the use of geographical indication to promote product authenticity, as a tool for accessing larger markets and promoting otherwise “marginal agriculture” areas, and examples for developing culturally sensitive tourism.
For the farmers, the experience was an eye opener, an awakening of personal empowerment as they realized that so many other people shared their same vision. Obstacles no longer seem so daunting when one realizes that one is not quite as isolated and that others share the same passion and are working toward a similar vision.

The farmers in our delegation rose to the occasion to participate, speaking in workshop sessions and giving interviews. Rowena Gonnay from Kalinga related that she now felt themselves as part of something bigger than buy-and-sell in their villages, that the experience expanded their thinking to go beyond their own ethnicity and language, and to recognize that we all share the same earth and toil for the treasures that come from every seed grown and produced. Because of the Terra Madre we are proud to call ourselves farmers.

They realized that their predicament and circumstances were not unique and farmers around the world share their problems. Delfin Otgalon from Ifugao said, “I never realized that all over the world, all the farmers I talked with shared my experiences in struggling to cope with the changing weather, tilling the soil, and tapping the water source. I also realized one more thing that is the same; we all love what we do”.

Imbuucan rice producer, and perhaps the oldest participant at the Terra Madre, Delfin Otgalon, spoke about the meaning of the traditional seeds to his community at the Network Meeting for Indigenous People and the Workshop on the Role of Indigenous People in Agro-biodiversity and Food Sovereignty. Vicky Garcia was a panelist in the Network Meeting for Traditional Rice Growers. Vicky spoke about the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project as a successful example of indigenous people’s empowerment through sustainable agriculture and successful business development. Also on the panel was world-renowned activist and environmental leader, Vandana Shiva, who addressed the tragic impact of the “Green Revolution” and corporate agriculture on Indian’s farmers and environment. Vicky was also a group moderator for a very lively Youth Food Movement workshop.

As Filipino delegates, the farmers shared their passion for preserving their environment – their terraces – by
promoting their traditional rice varieties and keeping them in production. They were able to share who they are by wearing their native costumes of strong and hardworking farmers and sharing their traditional crafts of weaving brooms and cloth, carving wood and making clay pots during the informal market place.

**Terra Madre Day Celebration in the Cordillera region and GMA, Cavite**

One of the basic initiatives of the Terra Madre is to support local food security through the growing and eating of locally grown food. Delegates who attended the Terra Madre in Italy participated in the Slow Food’s worldwide campaign to raise awareness of the local food. In Ifugao, 12 visitors from ISACC were hosted in Hapao, Hungduan. The two-day event was coordinated by Jimmy Lingayo, Delfin Otgalon and 18 area farmers. The focus of the visit was the village’s groundbreaking ceremony for the start of the Mini-angan transplanting season. Guests waded into the terrace’s mud and water to plant the rice. Each rice tuber is placed in a straight line with 6 inches of spacing. It was a real hands-on experience for planting rice in the steep terraces. The event ended with a celebration of locally grown food that was prepared and served by the farmers.

In Kalinga, the Terra Madre campaign event had 173 participants! Rowena Gonnay and Rowena Sawil shared their experiences of the Terra Madre through pictures and stories with women and children in four nearby villages in Pasil. In each of these meetings, participants talked about the abundance of food locally grown that includes root crops, citrus fruits, vegetables and rice. The meetings culminated with a sharing and eating of the local food brought by the farmers. In one village, they started their own backyard garden and planted cassavas.

In Mt Province, Blacio Akinchang and Jimmy Lingayo were the guest speakers for the cooperative development seminar (Batch 2 in 2010 series). In attendance were 24 representatives from five different CHRP member-municipalities. Jimmy and Blacio shared their experiences from the Terra Madre through pictures and some materials taken from the event. During the seminar, the participants were served locally produced food to commemorate the celebration. There was a picture taking time with the Terra Madre banner
and each participant got a TM pin courtesy of RICE, Inc.

Vicky participated in the Slow Food campaign by coordinating activities in her local municipality of General Mariano Alvarez in Cavite. She collaborated with the 7 barangays (villages) nutrition scholars, and through their contacts she visited day care centers and barangay centers to introduce the idea of a demo-class for motivating children to eat more local food. Vicky conducted several class demos showing the sources of basic ingredients found in food that is packaged in bottles, cans and boxes—like pancake mix, sugar, vinegar, catsup and pepper. Most children had no idea from what type of plants their food came. Vicky showed the finished product and also the seeds that were used to grow the plants that became the packaged food. This was a great springboard for discussions, questions and object lessons. A total of 65 children, along with many mothers from 3 different day care centers participated.

On December 10, Vicky invited a number of farmers, barangay center workers and community leaders for the TERRA MADRE day celebration. Unfortunately, the district congressman called an emergency meeting for the same time and all the barangay leaders were required to attend that meeting. In the end, only 15 people were able to attend. But the initial campaign-advocacy had already been done prior to the TM day. At the event, there was a simple sharing of local foods that consisted of corn, sweet potatoes, three types of bananas, and all the vegetables found in the traditional song “BAHAY KUBO” (see lyrics). The song celebrates a well-sustained and balanced way of life that was lived by most people during the 1950’s to 1970’s. The Bahay Kubo concept exemplifies a similar idea to that of the Terra Madre—people growing their own food. The message is to encourage children and families to once again use their own backyards to grow their own vegetables as a local food source.

**RICE, Inc. JOINS the ADVOCACY for the NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM**
**July and October, 2010**

RICE, Inc., as an active non-government organization, joined the advocacy group pushing for the adoption and implementation of Organic and Sustainable Agriculture standards in the country. Vicky is a member of the technical working committee of the NOAB (National Organic Agriculture Board) and has attended several meetings called by the Board and hosted by BAFPS (Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Product Standards) office in Quezon City. As a member, Vicky raised issues and concerns of the indigenous farmers and was part of the review of the Organic Agriculture Implementing Rules and Regulations in Manila in October 2010. RICE, Inc. takes its responsibility seriously for making sure that the voices of the indigenous farmers are heard. Now that the Organic Agriculture Law has
been signed by Secretary Proceso Alcala, RICE, Inc. hopes that the implementation of the Organic Program (RA 100068) will also serve the interests of the indigenous farmers of the Cordillera.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL ECO-SHOW FOR GREENER TOMORROW-Aug 26-29, 2010
CITEM (Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions) is an export promotions agency for the Department of Trade and Industry. In 2010 it hosted the first government initiative trade exhibition/conference specifically on Philippine eco-products at the SMEX convention center, Mall of Asia. The conference highlighted ecological solutions for a greener Philippines. CITEM brought together organizations, companies and foundation that work toward the implementation of green solutions to the emerging climate change. Vicky Garcia was invited to speak about the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project in the Green Community forum. Vicky related the project’s intervention efforts in the preservation of the historic terraces and its traditional rice varieties, as well as presenting its economic development model in assisting the farmers.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY

RAISING THE VISIBILITY OF THE PROJECT
The Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project strives to be a model for culturally sensitive economic development. In reality, it takes a lot of time and energy to raise the visibility of the project, the farmers, terraces and the rice. Every year RICE, Inc. hosts visitors from a variety of organizations and businesses, both international and domestic. This year we had the pleasure of introducing the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project to the following people:

PEARL FORSS, an international foundation representative and a documentary filmmaker
LOUISA CHU, an American chef and food journalist
ELENA ANIERE, Program Director for Oceania & Asia for the Slow Food Foundation (Italy)

In addition, RICE, Inc. also has regular consultation meetings with the Regional Directors of Agriculture, National Irrigation Administration and CHARMM.

XinYa Media, Singapore
On May 15 -18, 2010, documentary filmmaker Pearl Forss visited the project in Ifugao and met with farmers in the Hungduan Farmers’ Association. She was able to interview farmers and the municipal Agriculturist Alfonso Cayong, who are actively involved in the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project. During the visit, Ms Forss viewed terraces being restored through RICE’s Adopt a Terrace Program and interviewed some of its recipients. At the Chinese Media Group XinYa, Ms Forss heads programming and production of documentaries highlighting sustainable development. She was previously a senior broadcast journalist at Channel News Asia.
International Food Exposition (IFEX) Philippines 2010
This year’s International Food Exposition (IFEX) Philippines focused on food manufacturers and exporters from different regions of the Philippines. During the event, Vicky met Louisa Chu, an American chef and food writer, who was an invited foreign journalist to the exhibit. Although the farmers were not displaying their rice at the Expo this year, Vicky had the opportunity to talk with Chef Louisa about the project and show her the farmers’ export quality rice. During the course of their discussion, Chu quoted Chef Thomas Keller, who in one of their sessions had said, “There will be time when it will no longer be the chefs who draw people’s attention to food, but the farmers who are the producers of the food.”

Slow Food International visits Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project
In June 2010, the Slow Food Foundation’s Program Director for Oceania/Pacific, Elena Aniere, visited the Cordillera farmers. Ms. Aniere’s primary goal was to validate the authenticity of the source areas of the traditional rice, observe how it is grown and meet with the traditional rice producers. Ms Aniere visited the three production sites for the nominated varieties: Pasil, Kalinga for Chong-Ak; Hingyon, Ifugao for Imbuucan and in Barlig, Mt. Province for Ominio.

Invitation RICE, Inc. to participate in Agri-Fair Project partners PhilRice and PhilMech, formerly known as BPRE, invited RICE, Inc. to exhibit the project’s heirloom rice at their trade fair. Unfortunately, due to a devastating typhoon and resulting landslides in the Cordillera region, the farmer-representatives were not able to travel out of the province. However, Vicky Garcia attended the occasion and was interviewed by a writer from PhilMech for a possible article in their agency’s publication. See article.

NEW GOVERNMENT- NEW REGIONAL PARTNERS:
Department of Agriculture/RFU, NIA and CHARMM
The May, 2010 national election of Benigno Aquino III as the Philippines’ new President brings high hopes that he will follow the legacy of his parents and work to eliminate corruption and poverty and restore trust in government. With the national election, new officials were installed in all of the government agencies. Over the past few months there have also been several changes in personnel on the regional level. Vicky Garcia made a courtesy call to the new Director of the Department of Agriculture (CAR), Lucrecio Alviar Jr, who replaced
Director Cesar Rodríguez. Vicky took the opportunity to introduce Director Alviar to the work of the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project and provide him and his staff with an update about the project and to promote good relations for the Department’s continued support. Also attending the meeting were Tulip Yagyagan, Heirloom Rice Regional coordinator for NIA (CAR) and Robert Domoguen, DA (CAR) Information Officer.

NIA (CAR) Regional Director Engineer John Socalo RICE, Inc. had established a strong partnership with NIA (CAR) during the term of Director Abraham Akilit. But because of the change in leadership, a courtesy call was necessary to continue the partnership between the farmers and this office. The new Regional Director of NIA (CAR) is Engineer John Socalo. In 2009, when Engineer John Socalo was a provincial director of NIA, he helped arrange for logistical support during the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP) inspection of the project’s pilot certification areas. During Vicky’s recent visit with the Director, they outlined the areas where the work of RICE, Inc. aligned with the NIA mandate to assist farmers/irrigators in irrigation and production support and services. Director Socalo confirmed his continued support for the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project and sees specific areas of partnership with RICE, Inc.

CHARM 2 Director Cameroon Odsey The Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) Project is a government poverty reduction program that is executed through the Department of Agriculture. The program specifically targets indigenous communities in three provinces of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). The CHARM goal is to increase the farm family income of rural poor through sustainable agricultural development and to enhance the quality of life for the rural poor through improving land tenure security, food security and watershed conservation.

Vicky requested a meeting with CHARM Director Cameroon Odsey to give an update on the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project and to emphasize to the director that RICE, Inc. has program operations in nine of the thirty-seven targeted municipalities (21 of the 85 villages) of CHARM 2. Inclusion in the program would offer an opportunity for assistance in the areas of irrigation improvements, organic agriculture trainings and other infrastructure support. Director Odsey was very excited to share CHARM 2’s plans for institutionalizing the capacity of village organizations, an effort that is certainly shared by the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project.

Meeting with Governor LEONARD G MAYAEN of Mountain Province Anything is possible and when faced with a desperate situation, appealing directly to the Governor for help seems best. That was exactly what the farmers of Mountain Province did during the consolidation-processing period in September. The RTFC-Mt Province had projected pledges of 3 metric tons of rice from its participating farmers, but the actual delivery amounted to 6 metric tons—twice the amount of the expected pledges. Certainly, this was a good indication of the interest by
farmers in making sales from their rice, but it also pointed out the weaknesses of the cooperative’s planning. Proper coordination was lacking, as were adequate supplies to handle this amount. This is a classic case of over-supply for the available market.

However, the overwhelming interest by the farmers brought them together to solve their problem. There was a real show of unity and comradeship among the group from Sadanga, Tadian, Natonin, Bauko and Barlig. They discussed their problem and made a decision to appeal to the Governor for help. The officers of the RTFC-MP, led by Donald Alubia from Barlig along with a representative from each of the different municipalities, met with the governor and requested the use of a provincial dump truck to help with the hauling of their rice to PhilRice. Vicky accompanied the group to their meeting with the newly elected governor. She then took the opportunity to share the project with him and his staff. Thank you Governor Maya-en, and congratulations on your election!!!

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

RICE, Inc. has established a partnership for counter-part resource sharing with the Agriculture Training Institute (ATI) of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit in Baguio City. Through this partnership many trainings were conducted, serving 949 farmers and training numerous inspectors and operators for roles within their cooperative enterprise.

1. Project Evaluation and Planning January 14-21, 2010

This year’s evaluation and planning sessions were conducted separately in the three provinces of Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province. A total of 92 farmers and leaders attended. The resulting output from these planning and evaluation sessions was used to improve the implementation of the on-going activities with farmers. The results called for expanding production areas through the Adopt-a-Terrace program and increasing the production of the traditional rice varieties through seed banking and continuing to redistribute quality native seeds to interested farmers. Please see attached provincial planning output.
2. Inspectors’ Quality Control Training June-July 2010

The provincial heirloom rice coordinators were responsible for overseeing the Quality Control Trainings within their own province. Trainings were conducted in participating municipalities with the lead municipal inspectors conducting the training for new village inspectors. As a result, 30 additional inspectors have been trained to inspect and assist farmers to meet the quality control standards required throughout the production and post-harvest process: Ifugao has 12 new inspectors; Kalinga has 12 and Mountain Province has 14 new inspectors. The 38 additional inspectors will be responsible for inspecting the quality of the rice harvest at the village level and working with the farmers to improve their agriculture practices. Village inspectors work hand-in-hand with the lead municipal level inspectors in order to coordinate quality production within their municipality and to meet the pledged goals of the municipality. The success of the trainings was validated when the farmers brought their pledges to the processing centers. The percentage of acceptable palay increased from the previous year, with a visible improvement in the quality of the grain. Farmers now have a better understanding of the quality standards required and are using improved agricultural methods and techniques that will help them meet them. Congratulations to the inspectors!

3. Cooperative Planning and Assessment-July 22-25, 2010

Twenty-five cooperative members and officers from three provinces participated in a 3-day workshop on cooperative planning and assessment held at the Kalahan Foundation in Nueva Viscaya. Participants focused on their roles as producer-entrepreneurs and as cooperative managers in their respective municipalities. The seminar was conducted by ISACC, a Manila based NGO that advocates for transformational development through responsible management of resources and sustainable partnership. Please see attached output.


In 2009 three sets of post-harvest machines were custom-designed, manufactured and installed for use in Ifugao, Mountain Province and Kalinga. Nine local operators were given a 2-day basic operator’s training workshop on troubleshooting, repair and maintenance for their new machines. PhilRice trainers provided a training manual giving step-by-step instructions, with both pictures and outlined descriptions. Participants achieved confidence as operators and went home with new skills and a Machine Manual for Operators. PhilRice provided a holistic training design with very thorough, knowledgeable trainers and in an atmosphere of partnership. They also acknowledged the importance of and need for follow-up support to farmers who receive new machines and technologies.
The above chart shows the number of participants in each of the trainings that was facilitated by RICE, Inc. during 2010. The four primary trainings were Project Evaluation and Planning (PEP), Inspectors’ Quality Control Training (Quality Control), Cooperative Planning and Assessment (Cooperative) and Post-Harvest Machine Operators Training (PH Operators). RICE, Inc. also helped facilitate the continuing series of trainings to terrace farmers in Organic and Sustainable Agriculture (Natural Farming Systems) with funding through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI). All workshops were then re-echoed by participants in a series of meetings at the village level (Village Meetings). The re-echoing of information at the village level is crucial for the dissemination of the information to all project participants. Village meetings assure that all farmers involved in the project have the same basic understanding and that all farmers who are interested in improving their skills have an opportunity to do so.

CORDILLERA HEIRLOOM RICE PROJECT—Development
Rice farming in the upland terraces has always been challenged by the weather, either by typhoons or extreme drought. But year in and year out, farmers plant their rice and prepare themselves for whatever weather comes. How has the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project worked to support farmers?

CHRP has provided farmers with a consistent participatory forum in meetings and during training. It has offered farmers an opportunity to discuss issues that affect them and has challenged them to understand more about the market so they can participate more fully in the business enterprise.

Regular assessment/evaluation is done annually in order
to know whether the farmer-producers are satisfied with the results of the project’s efforts. Their comments and inputs are gathered in order to make changes and improvements. The CHRP has enticed new and younger farmers to go back into farming. Many of our trainings encourage an exchange of ideas between the old and the young. There is much that can be learned from the elder farmers about seed selection, the use of traditional agricultural farming practices and the incorporation of traditional farm rituals. These are encouraged along side the use of newer information on improved organic and natural farming techniques. Because the heirloom rice is now considered a high value cash crop, farmers who have been affected by drought or typhoons can now be referred for agriculture disaster assistance for aid in obtaining the next crop’s seedling and irrigation supplies.

**PRINCIPLE BEHIND FARMER ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

Each year, RICE, Inc. works to build the bridge between the Eighth Wonder market and farmer-producers’ cooperative. It’s much more than just helping to negotiate a price for the rice. RICE, Inc. helps build the farmers’ understanding of how to participate more fully in all the aspects of marketing their rice. The cooperative officials are given management and marketing training to understand the market. Gender equity is emphasized by paying the inspectors and operators (men and women) at same rate. The use of safety gear and sanitation practices is required during the consolidation process. All of these things are important factors to model a Fair Trade enterprise which does the following:

- Promotes people’s participation
- Promotes producer’s welfare
- Promotes environmental sustainability
- Promotes Local and Export Market
- Promotes socio-economic development

“Eighth Wonder and producers are partners. We practice open dialogue, transparency and respect in order to achieve the equity desired”

As farmers and their cooperative representatives work to learn the many facets involved in marketing their rice, RICE, Inc. has been facilitating these functions during the consolidation and shipping phases on behalf of the farmers and the project’s marketing partner, Eighth Wonder. RICE, Inc. is working toward supporting the cooperatives to assume these responsibilities within the
internal supply chain. Some of these responsibilities include coordinating the product purchase (through the cooperative), assisting the farmers with production and processing, and making the linkage for distribution to local or foreign markets. This year Rice Terrace Farmers Cooperative (RTFC) consolidated and processed all the rice under its own management. RICE, Inc. only performed a final quality control check before it was shipped to PhilRice for its organic fumigation. This was a huge step in the responsibilities assumed by the farmers.

During these five years, a total of 61MT has been consolidated for the US market. This volume represents 3.6 million pesos or approximately $80,000 USD, which has been injected directly into the local economies of Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province. Farmers were able to sustain their farmer enterprise by paying their membership dues. Fees were collected by the cooperatives for every kilo processed in order to pay for electricity, machine maintenance (operators), and machine replacement parts, while the remainder of the money was used for the cooperatives’ purposes.

FARMERS OF THE CORDILLERA HEIRLOOM RICE PROJECT

Poverty and lack of employment opportunities are two of the major causes for the abandonment of the terraces.

In 2005, RICE, Inc. started organizing terrace farmers. At the time, there were no regional farmer organizations that provided a forum for discussing the issues facing the small-holding terrace farmers. No one was addressing the questions that were on every farmer’s mind - could continued farming in the terraces be feasible? Is the only option to leave and seek economic opportunities elsewhere? What type of support would be needed to help people stay? How can farmers continue to preserve their land when manpower is scarce? Can small-scale farming be more than subsistence farming?

RICE, Inc. has painstakingly worked to organize village farmers who continue to grow traditional rice varieties. Through the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project, farmers in 156 far-flung villages, across 18 municipalities in the provinces of Ifugao, Mt Province and Kalinga have come together to address these very issues. Thousands of farmers across the region have been oriented to the vision of the project, which provides them an opportunity to consider a choice that could benefit their terrace fields, their families and communities, and for their cultural identity as represented through their heirloom rice called Unoy, Tinawon or Ginulot.
Thousands of farmers have participated in the sponsored workshop, trainings and forum discussions. Many farmers have joined together to form villages associations and cooperatives. But for the project to be successful, it needs a few committed farmers to lead the way in showing that through improved agricultural techniques and careful attention to all phases of crop production, the quality of their native rice can be elevated to the level of a high value crop.

For those who wished to improve their farming skills, the project has provided trainings on improved sustainable farming practices, post harvest technology and product development. Farmers who participated in CHRP’s trainings tend to fall into two groups: those who would like to receive technical assistance to traditional rice variety (TRV) farmers but are not interested in selling, and those who would like to further improve their production as a means of livelihood support for their families.

The CHRP has realized that it must concentrate its work where there are at least a minimum number of farmers in an area who can work together as a group.

RICE, Inc.‘s local coordinators report the following stories from the farmers when asked how they spent their money from the sale of their rice.

In Hungduan, Ifugao, where farmers have consistently sold their MINI-ANGAN rice, the money supported the following:
- 4 farmers have sons or daughters who have graduated with a degree from a regional/provincial universities. Families of these students have realized their dreams through consistent sales from their rice alone, and 18 others are sending their children to college
- 5 used their sales to open a small income generating “sari-sari” stores, E-load center, piggery, and tilapia hatchery
- 8 used the sales to pay off their mortgaged fields and are now using the field debt-free and benefiting from its full harvest production
- 6 used the sales to pay medical and hospital bills to aid ailing parents and children
- All families have used some of the sales to buy some basic household items for food or home renovation.
In Banaue, Ifugao, farmers who actively participated in the first three years have used their sales in the following ways:

- To purchase additional rice for family consumption, which normally lasts for only 7 months. Because EW buys their rice at a high farm-gate price, some farmers sold a portion of their harvest in order to purchase a larger quantity of lower priced commercial rice
- 3 families have started their own small “sari-sari” store, which has become the source of their daily income for the family
- 12 families paid off their debt and mortgages that were used to pay for wedding expenses and education of their children.

Aguinaldo, Ifugao is another municipality that has consistently sold to EW for the last 4 years and have reported the following use of their sales:

- Though most farmers have minimum sales between 2,500-5000 pesos, they used their sales to buy household food items, commercial rice, and for school expenses.

Although Lubuagan, Kalinga has not participated in the last 2 years, they had the highest sales from 2006-2008. Members saw that the value of their rice could be translated into a good source of income. Some of the testimonies of the farmers are as follows:

- One family with 6 members in the cooperative put together its sales and was able to buy a used jeepney. They are now using it as a passenger jeep that transports people from village to the provincial capital
- One family merged their sales and was able to finance and pay off a loan to purchase a diesel generator. The generator was rented by the project during the processing period for a week when there was no electrical service in the municipality
- 13 farmer members paid off their debt on their terraces and can now farm their fields for their own use.
- One village with 9 members in the cooperative put together a portion of their sales to build up a small kindergarten classroom and an outpost or waiting shed in front of the school
- 2 families were able to pay off their debt from sending family members overseas.
In Pasil, Kalinga, 32 farmers have consistently sold rice and have used their sales for the following:
- 12 paid off their debts that have been gathering interest in the bank
- 2 used the money to pay processing fee to work overseas
- 15 used the money for college tuition fees and other school expenses
- 6 paid off hospitalization and health related debts.

Every year as RICE, Inc. helps consolidate the volume to sell to Eighth Wonder, the same questions are asked. What is the sale for? Where will the money be spent? Why sell this much volume?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFITS from sales</th>
<th>Ifugao</th>
<th>Kalinga</th>
<th>Mt Province</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH/HOSPITAL</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLD ITEM</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORTGAGE</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMALL BUSINESS</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER DEBTS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVESTMENT BUSINESS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>134</strong></td>
<td><strong>111</strong></td>
<td><strong>146</strong></td>
<td><strong>397</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In our continuing effort to profile farmers, we gladly highlight some of the farmers who have been with the project since the beginning of Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project.

**ELSA NACOD-AN** (from Hapao, Hungduan) is a 43 year old mother of ten children, who joined the CHRP as a farmer and over the years has became a village inspector and active member of the Rice Terraces Farmers cooperative. “I come from a family of farmers. All of my children work as farm workers, tending the rice field of our neighbors and relatives. Life was difficult before we joined CHRP. However, when we saw that our rice could be sold at a high value to Eighth Wonder, at a price that would allow us to buy other things or to use the money for schooling, we started to dream again. Now, we see life differently. There have been changes that happened since our membership in the project began. One of my children has gone back to school and uses the pledges of our rice as a source for his school expenses. Another son, who is already married, has used the sales of his rice as capital to open a small store. Our life has changed for the better and that is why we appreciate our participation in the cooperative and the project!
ROMEO ESTIMA (from Hapao, Hungduan) - I joined this project because I am a farmer. Before CHRP, I worked many jobs after the planting season but still my income was not enough for the needs of my family. When my wife heard about this project for the traditional rice growers, she became involved. She started to go to the meetings and training conducted by RICE, Inc. She also started to make a list of what she wanted to do with the money from sales after harvest. That was in 2006. She still has her list. We are slowly dealing with our household needs. We decided to work together on the farm, instead of her working alone as I did odd jobs. Our farm has been pawned to our relatives because we badly needed cash for the education of our growing children. In 2007 we had a good harvest and we sold more than 150 kilos. For the first time my wife said that her labor from farming was rewarded. She and my children were so happy when we sold our first rice. That was the beginning of our planning as a family. In 2008, we joined almost all the trainings and meetings conducted by RICE, Inc. because we felt the partnership of the project to the farmers. I joined the first processing of rice when it was done at PhilRice. It was a big step for us farmers to see how we could be involved in processing our own rice with new machines. I never felt happier that we finally had the help we needed to process our rice, and the machines even simulate our traditional hand pounding instead of making it into polished rice. I believe that through this project, many of us will go back to tending our farm, because there is hope we can make a living from our terraces by continuing to produce our rice. In 2009, I became one of the processing machine operators for the cooperative, while my wife has been trained to be a quality control inspector. These jobs provide a little extra income too. Farming has become our joy. It is our key to not only our future but for our treasured terraces and the future of our children.

SADANGA, Mountain Province

In 2008, Mountain Province joined the Cordillera Heirloom Rice project through the initiatives of the late Francis Dangiwan, Jr., who later became the Mountain Province Farmer’s Cooperative President. Through his leadership and commitment to the project vision, he helped expand farmers’ participation to Barlig, Natonin, Tadian, Bauko and Sadanga. Unfortunately, Francis Dangiwan tragically died of a heart attack during a rescue effort to save some farmers trapped in a landslide. His courage and selflessness is not to be forgotten. The Sadanga farmer-members strive to continue his legacy by making the heirloom rice project a success in his memory.

EVELYN DANGIWAN is the wife of late Francis Dangiwan, Sr., who was the President of the Rice Terraces Farmers Cooperative in Mountain Province and a former vice mayor of Sadanga. In his memory, the cooperative has been inspired to carry on with its active involvement in the project. His wife, Evelyn Dangiwan, has joined the effort to continue the legacy of her late husband. During the buying and processing for this year’s crop in Bontoc, she came to provide support to the Sadanga-Gumiki group of farmers. She said that her husband believed that the native rice varieties must survive into the future and that she wanted to support the work that her husband had started. Within her own family, she was encouraging her own children and grandchildren to till their fields and keep the rice cultural rituals.
ELIZA BOYOGAN (from Sadanga) was one of the 30 farmers who anxiously waited to find out if their palay could be accepted for export. Mountain Province had collected twice as much as their negotiated pledge quota. Among other things, there were not enough vehicles available to haul the additional rice out of the province. Somehow, Sadanga’s pledges had not been included on the export list. The farmers had gathered to discuss what to do with their volume? When the meeting started, the first question raised was “why was it important for them to sell their rice despite the odds?” Eliza was the first one to stand and share her story. “I may not be important to many organizations, but with this group I feel I can speak my mind because with Vicky, we are all encouraged to speak. I am only 26 years old but already a widow with five children. My husband died two years ago when this project was newly introduced at our place in Sadanga. My five children back home are expecting that when I go home there will be more food to eat. And we also need medicine and clothes. Through this partnership that Vicky is offering, I have a new hope. As a mother, I must survive for my children. I must do whatever way I can. My husband left us a farm, which he inherited from his parents. I never thought tilling our terraces could help us. But now we were able to set aside our rice for our family consumption and still have something extra that we could convert into cash. Allow us to sell our rice to Eighth Wonder, please! We looked forward to this day (selling our rice). We all worked to plant and harvest our Gumiki. Every grain we harvest is counted as hope!

REMY BAKIDAN (from Puapo, Pasil) is a 38 years old farmer and the mother of 7 children. She has a bachelor’s degree in education but could not get a permanent teaching position at the local schools. In 2006, she started attending meetings for the Cordillera Heirloom Rice Project and took the training to become a quality control inspector. After further quality control workshops, she is now one of the trained facilitators for quality control and is responsible for training new inspectors in the municipality. Her husband has also been trained to be a post harvest machine operator. As part of the family’s commitment to their grandparents, the couple has been growing Unoy, including the Chong-ak variety, for as long as they can remember. Remy has worked hard to help the farmers organize and establish the UNOY cooperative in their village. Remy serves as the cooperative secretary and because of her leadership skills, she has represented the cooperative at the trade shows and exhibits in the region and Manila. Aside from her active role in the cooperative, she helps maintain her own farm and grows her own vegetables in her backyard. She considers her membership in the project as part of her ministry to her community and family!

REMEDIOS SALBANG (from Guina-ang, Pasil) is a very hardworking grandmother. She is 63 years old, has eight children and is a farmer. Remedios’s oldest daughter joined an orientation for the project and then convinced her mother to join the project because she thought this was an opportunity for the family. Remedios says that her family has been growing Unoy for as long as she can remember. It was the only inheritance given to her by her parents. They told her to hold on to it as a promise. Because they were poor, none of her siblings were
able to finish school. She worries what will happen to her own children. Of her eight children, only three were able to finish elementary school. But these three are still hoping to go to high school. In 2006 she joined the project. In 2007, from her modest first sales, she was able to send one of the three sons to high school. Every mother wants to support the dreams of her children. With this project, there is a reality for their dreams!

**ISIDRO MASIONG (from Gawana, Barlig)** - a father of 7 children is a farmer and a trained machine operator in-charge of processing the rice of Barlig. Over the last four years my family put to good use the sale of our rice... “We were able to pay the mortgage for our farm, started a piggery and sent 2 of our children in school”. Because of this project, our local government officials look at us as partners in the building of our community...RICE, Inc. has shown us that we can produce quality rice and can sell more. That is why most of us farmers are learning how to do our own quality control, and inspectors and operators are being paid for the work we do in order to meet the high acceptability rate of our rice. I am learning so much from this project. Our trainings alone have given me so much confidence as an entrepreneur, and this I consider the success of the project. They have invested in us as farmer-partners!

**Magdalena Kin-ud (from Mompolia, Hingyon)** is a grandmother at 71 years of age. In our culture, the land is divided up among the brothers. When we do not have enough harvest, the family shares. We were encouraged by our village leader to join the project because we need money for our aging condition. Becoming a member has a requirement: one must maintain the rice and the terraces and understand quality production. This project has allowed us to work together as a community again. My family, including my children, is involved in our farming activities, especially during the harvest period. Besides our rice getting high value from Eighth Wonder, we have learned new things. Though are sales are modest, they are growing with each year. We can now say that our farm is giving us hope for our future.

Keep your dreams alive. Understand that, to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe”...

Gail Devers (a three time Olympian champion/US team
RICE, INC.
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the year ended December 31, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>PHIL. PESO</th>
<th>US DOLLAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Eighth Wonder</td>
<td>Php 675,000.00</td>
<td>$15,697.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Receipts | Php 675,000.00 | $15,697.67  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISBURSEMENTS</th>
<th>PHIL. PESO</th>
<th>US DOLLAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication Expense</td>
<td>16,895.00</td>
<td>392.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cards &amp; Phone</td>
<td>49,728.51</td>
<td>1,156.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representation</td>
<td>28,100.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Expenses</td>
<td>233,758.24</td>
<td>5,436.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentation Expenses</td>
<td>12,372.50</td>
<td>287.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and Allowances</td>
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<td>6,883.72</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
<td>11,134.50</td>
<td>258.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>25,200.00</td>
<td>586.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>290.00</td>
<td>6.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Disbursements | Php 673,479.00 | $15,662.30  |

EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS | 1,521.00 | 35.37 |
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING, 2010 | 387,257.40 | 9,005.99 |

UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE, END 2010 | 388,778.40 | 9,041.36 |

Prepared by: Lourdes Cruz
Accountant

Noted by: [Signature]
Executive Director
## REVITALIZE INDIGENEOUS CORDILLERAN ENTREPRENEURS (RICE, INC.)

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance  
As of December 31, 2010

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT ASSETS:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>55,243.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seedlings</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>205,243.40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures</td>
<td>8,535.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-harvest Machine</td>
<td>175,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Properties &amp; Equipment</strong></td>
<td><strong>183,535.00</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**TOTAL ASSETS** 388,778.40

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND BALANCE:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted/General Fund Balance</td>
<td>388,778.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE** 388,778.40

Prepared by:  
Lourdes Cruz  
Accountant

Noted by:  
Executive Director