



Heirloom rice from the
famed terraces of the
Philippines

Preserving a taste by
protecting a heritage

Revitalize Indigenous Cordilleran Entrepreneurs (RICE) Inc

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Revitalize Indigenous Cordilleran Entrepreneurs (RICE) INC.

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Project Partners

Provincial and Municipal

Government Units of

Ifugao, Kalinga and

Mountain Province

Local Agriculture offices

Ifugao (6)

Aguinaldo, Banaue, Hungduan,

Hingyon, Kiangan, and Mayoyao

Kalinga (5)

Pasil, Lubuagan, Tanudan,

Tinglayan and Balbalan

Mt Province (7)

Barlig, Bauko, Bontoc, Natonin,

Sadanga

and Tadian

Director's Page

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 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