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## Provisia Rice Featured at Horizon Ag Louisiana Field Day

Horizon Ag welcomed more than 120 attendees to its Louisiana field day last week in Kaplan, where guests received the latest information on the Provisia™ Rice System and high-performing Clearfield® varieties.

“Clearly, as we ride around south Louisiana we can see that there is a need for the Provisia Rice System, and we are very excited to highlight what this technology brings to the industry,” said Horizon Ag General Manager Tim Walker. “Provisia is a technology that can help us get back to those cleaner rice-growing environments that we’ve become accustomed to for a number of years with the Clearfield system. Many of the attendees today had not seen a large-acre field production of Provisia rice, so we had a 20-acre demo field here they could view that looks very good in terms of weedy rice control.”

Provisia rice is tolerant to Provisia™ herbicide, which received EPA registration in early 2017. BASF partnered with the Louisiana State University AgCenter to develop Provisia varieties and Horizon Ag to multiply and market those varieties grown in the Provisia Rice System, which will be launched in 2018. The first Provisia variety is named PVL01.

Dr. Steve Linscombe with LSU AgCenter said PVL01 will be a good introductory variety to bring the technology to market, containing competitive yield potential and high quality above CL151 and in line with newer Clearfield varieties such as CL153. PVL01 has demonstrated very low chalk and highly desirable grain length, he said. With the U.S. rice industry currently dealing with quality issues, breeding new varieties for better quality is as important as yield potential, and PVL01 is a right step in terms of quality grain, said Linscombe.

“I think Provisia rice is going to be a very good addition to our toolbox where we’re having issues

controlling weedy rice in Clearfield rice,” he said. “It will not totally solve the problem. We are going to have to be good stewards of the system, but I think it will certainly help us going forward to have two herbicide-resistant technologies that will allow us to rotate in a system that hopefully includes another crop, such as soybeans, to manage weedy rice.”

PVL01 will be somewhat susceptible to blast, which can be addressed with available fungicides, Linscombe said. With 700 acres of seed production and four Horizon Ag demo fields in the state, researchers expect to have a much better idea about the variety after this season. Linscombe added that LSU is looking at additional Provisia lines that show promise.



LSU weed scientist Eric Webster said Provisia herbicide has *quizalofop* as its active ingredient. It is a good herbicide for grass control and probably one of the better choices available for weedy rice control, he said. After several years of work with the technology at LSU AgCenter, his initial recommended herbicide program includes Command® plus Sharpen® pre-emerge, followed by Provisia at the 2- to 3-leaf stage, followed by Provisia right before flooding. If broadleaves need to be addressed Webster prefers a separate application.

Researchers are still studying crop injury associated with applications of Provisia herbicide in large-acre fields this season. He said much of the injury caused by early applications of Provisia herbicide do not appear to be very damaging to the rice crop’s ability to develop.

“We are going to have some growing pains with this technology, so be patient,” Webster said. “The rice crop will normally outgrow injury caused by that first, early application in the 3- to 4-leaf window. We are also trying to get a sense of what we can tank mix with Provisia herbicide and should know much more after this season.”

### **Proven Clearfield Varieties**

The field day also featured large-acre plots of the two newest Clearfield varieties for Louisiana, CL153 and CL172. CL153 is expected to eventually replace CL151 and has a good fit for the whole Mid-South rice-growing region, said Horizon Ag Technical Services Manager Sunny Bottoms. It has shown yield equal to or greater than CL151.

“CL153 has shown very good stalk strength, and its disease package is much improved over CL151 as it contains the *Pita* gene, which confers resistance to several races of blast,” she said. “There is also improvement with the milling quality of CL153. It was the highest milling variety in Horizon Ag

strip trials last year, just a percent above CL172. It has lower chalk than CL151, so we are making progress on improved quality.”

CL172, a University of Arkansas release that shows solid performance potential in south Louisiana, also offers resistance to blast and has good stalk strength. The maturity falls between CL111 and CL151, and it dries down quickly, similar to CL111, said Bottoms.

“It is another variety with much improved quality over past Clearfield varieties, offering the lowest chalk of any Clearfield line available today,” she said. “It has a very long grain. The quality has attracted the attention of rice buyers, who have pre-contracted with growers this season.”

Bottoms also reported that the LSU AgCenter’s new CL111 breeder seed will have the *Pita* gene. Foundation seed production of CL111 in 2017 contains the *pita* gene.

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