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[\[Food Security\] Council of Agriculture Develops Stress-Resistant New Rice Varieties](#)[Food Security] Council of Agriculture Develops Stress-Resistant New Rice Varieties ([Chinese Version](#))

Udn.com (2011/01/26) To respond to the emerging food crisis in the world, Council of Agriculture develops four new rice varieties including Variety CWY981188, which have the features of drought-enduring and salt tolerance. Besides, the taste, quality and yield of the varieties are similar to those of the ordinary varieties. From this year on, the large-scale trial farming of these new varieties will be gradually conducted in the salinized lands, and the applications for the variety rights of them will be submitted. The researchers estimated, after the large-scale farming of these new varieties, the problem of the increasing wasted farms caused by salinization in Taiwan will be resolved and between half and one third of the agricultural irrigation water will be reduced.

According to Associate Agronomist of Chia-Yi Agricultural Experiment Station, Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Y. P. WU, Taiwan has 350 thousand ha. fine farming lands, but because of the over-use of pesticides, seawater inundation and rainfall decreasing, 15% of the farming lands have kept getting salinized so that no plants can grow in them any more. According to the researchers' estimate, if the salinization rate of the farming lands reaches 20%, the food shortage will occur.

The development of stress-resistant varieties and the relevant skills have been matured now, and the rice yield becomes steadier. The research team plans to conduct trial farming of the new varieties in Chiali, Tainan, where the salinization of the farming lands is severer. The team plans to keep washing the soil for three to five years in the trial farming, expecting to desalinize the lands and to observe the growing of the varieties.

The team believes that, with the yield of the new varieties (three to five tons per ha.), once they can successfully grow in reclaimed lands and sandbars, they could help Taiwan face the worsening environment under the circumstance of climate change.

Reference:

[Udn.com 2011/01/26](#) (Chinese)

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[National Science Council International Cooperation Sci-Tech Newsbrief](#)

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