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Short Communication
VARIETAL RELEASE: RELEASE OF TWO DUAL PURPOSE OFADA RICE VARIETIES (FUNAABOR- 1 AND FUNAABOR-2) BY FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA (FUNAAB)

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Two new dual purpose Ofada rice varieties (*Oryza sativa*) were developed and released by Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta in collaboration with National Cereals Research Institute, Badeggi, Nigeria, Africa Rice Centre, Ibadan, Nigeria and National Rice/Maize Centre, Moor Plantation, Ibadan, Nigeria. A bottom-top approach was used for Ofada rice seed collection (accessions) from Farmer's field based on Farmer's preference. The collected Ofada rice seed (mixtures) were purified and field selection done using recurrent selection methods for desired morpho-agronomic, adaptive and nutritional characters. Repeated cycles of selection was done resulting in four distinct Ofada rice varieties, while two outstanding and dual purpose; upland and lowland agroecologies (first of its type in Nigeria) Ofada rice varieties were selected; FUNAABOR- 1 (aka Ofada gold) and FUNAABOR -2 (aka Ofada white) were finally selected, registered and released, after they were tested for acceptability, adaptability and stability across all south western states and in addition Edo and Delta states of Nigeria. The distinctive and specific descriptors of both released Ofada rice varieties are hereby presented:

FUNAABOR 1 (Ofada gold)

FUNAABOR-1 (formerly UORG-311) was result of recurrent selection from local collection of Ofada rice accessions in Moloko Ashipa and surrounding villages. FUNAABOR-1 is medium in height (99.7cm) that ease harvesting, medium maturing (95-100 days) that fit in to the traditional mix

cropping systems of the farmers, can be cropped twice a year, tolerant to termites and drought, 80% stay green attribute morphological indicator for drought tolerance and valuable raw material for animal feeds, high rationing ability (75%), adapted to both upland and lowland conditions with potential corresponding yield of 2.2t/ha and 2.7t/ha. The hull is thorny at posterior end, pubescent, unprocessed grain is reddish colour, milled grain is robust, coarse, brownish gold with red strips with a high milling recovery of 77.5%, very high swelling capacity (95%). It has high percent protein and very low fat content. Farmers' and consumers prefer it for special occasions.

FUNAABOR 2 (Ofada white)

FUNAABOR-2 (formerly UORW-111) was also result of recurrent selection from local collection of Ofada rice accessions in Moloko Ashipa and surrounding villages. FUNAABOR-2 is a tall (115cm) but medium maturing (100-105 days) variety and it easily fit in to traditional cropping systems of the farmers, excellent rationing ability (90%), well adapted to both upland and lowland conditions with potential yield of 2.0t/ha and 2.5t/ha respectively, tolerant to drought with high weed competitiveness, glabrous hull, processed and unprocessed grain is pure white, smooth longer grain, 70% milling recovering, sweet either raw or cooked, 80% swelling capacity, very good appearance and taste. It has high nutritional quality for percent ash, dietary fiber and total carbohydrate. It command premium price with high socio-cultural attachment

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