D. Economic Benefits Associated with Tongil

The assets of those farmers planting Tongil increased more than those who continued planting traditional rice without any changes in technology. Their farm size, number of farm buildings, power tillers, power sprayers and mechanically driven threshers have all increased more rapidly than those of the non-cultivators of Tongil. Even their holdings of farm livestock have increased.

Prior to the introduction of Tongil, the government purchased a limited quantity of rice shortly after harvest for storage and to stabilize the price. Since the government's purchasing price was lower than that of the free market, farmers refused to sell their rice at the time of harvest. However, with the introduction of Tongil, the farmers sold their rice to the government soon after threshing and it was able to meet its goal.

E. Cooperation with IRRI

At the end of 1968, a cooperative agreement between IRRI and Korea (ORD) was signed. This provided for training Korean scientists at IRRI, five the first and subsequent few years. Koreans were to be trained in several of the agricultural disciplines, including breeding, soil chemistry, soil microbiology, weed control, disease and insect control, and rice quality. Along with training, it was agreed to continue the cooperative varietal improvement program. One of the targets of this program was to increase the number of generations of hybrids in the breeding program to two each year by growing a summer crop in Korea and the second one during the winter months in the Philippines at IRRI. This combination led to a cooperative training and research program.

In a similar manner to the varietal improvement program, seeds of any newly released varieties were increased in the Philippines during the Korean winter months. This enabled the ORD to accelerate its dissemination of new varieties to the farmers. From the release of Tongil to present, several hundred tons of rice seed have been multiplied at IRRI and air-freighted to Korea for distribution to farmers.

Much credit is given to IRRI for the strategy involving a three-way cross between indica and japonica types to produce high-yielding varieties (HYV). Tongil was the first HYV released in Korea.

In close collaboration with the Korean agricultural universities and IRRI, ORD made excellent use of their facilities and technical information in developing the new HYVs. This has had a very unifying effect between IRRI and Korea.

F. Project Targets

Average yields from rice grown on experiment station plots provide little, if any, meaningful data. There are many strains, selections and/or varieties cultivated under various conditions. Thus to make a valid comparison of the experimental yields at several stations, or even one