

COPY

TO: JMW - *2420*

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
111 WEST 50TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020

Rice
Protein study

January 31, 1966

MAR 2 1966

Dear Bob:

Your letter of January 20 regarding availability of funds for the nutrition program has been turned over to Jack Weir. He can answer your questions much more directly and completely than I can and you will be hearing from him shortly.

I am wondering how you and the staff at IRRI now feel about the desirability of studies of the factors which affect protein content of rice. Presumably the amount of nitrogen available to the plant during the grain-ripening stage is important. Possibly the use of earlier maturing varieties would result in a generally higher level of nitrogen available during grain ripening than would be the case with a late maturing variety grown with the same amount of nitrogen available initially. One might then wonder if the use of early maturing varieties plus heavier applications of nitrogen would result in generally increased levels of protein in rice grain. No doubt there are other factors which may affect grain protein level which should be understood.

I mention this to you only because I know that two years ago you seemed to see quite a lot of promise in this line of work and I am wondering if more recent experience has caused any change in your thinking.

It would seem to me that as a search is made for better amino acid balance in cereal grains it would be important to seek an understanding of the factors which affect total protein, particularly factors which could be manipulated.

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Letter to Dr. Robert F. Chandler, Jr., January 31, 1966, page two.

There is no need to reply to this letter since we can probably touch on this subject when I come through the Philippines in February.

With best personal regards to you and Sunny,

Sincerely yours,

Sterling Wortman
Director

Dr. Robert F. Chandler, Jr.
Manila Mail

cc: Dr. John M. Weir ✓

SW:gm