

How can open and distance e-learning be more relevant in agricultural extension system in the Philippines



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Open and Distance (ODE) at PhilRice

Video conferencing

- Started in 2008 as “Online Campaign on Rice Production”
- From class type to online consultation



Open and Distance (ODE) at PhilRice

- Executed in 4 cybercommunities in Mindanao
 - Midsayap, North Cotabato
 - Dujali, Davao del Norte
 - Banay- banay, Davao Oriental
 - Sto. Niño, Agusan del Sur







Preliminary work



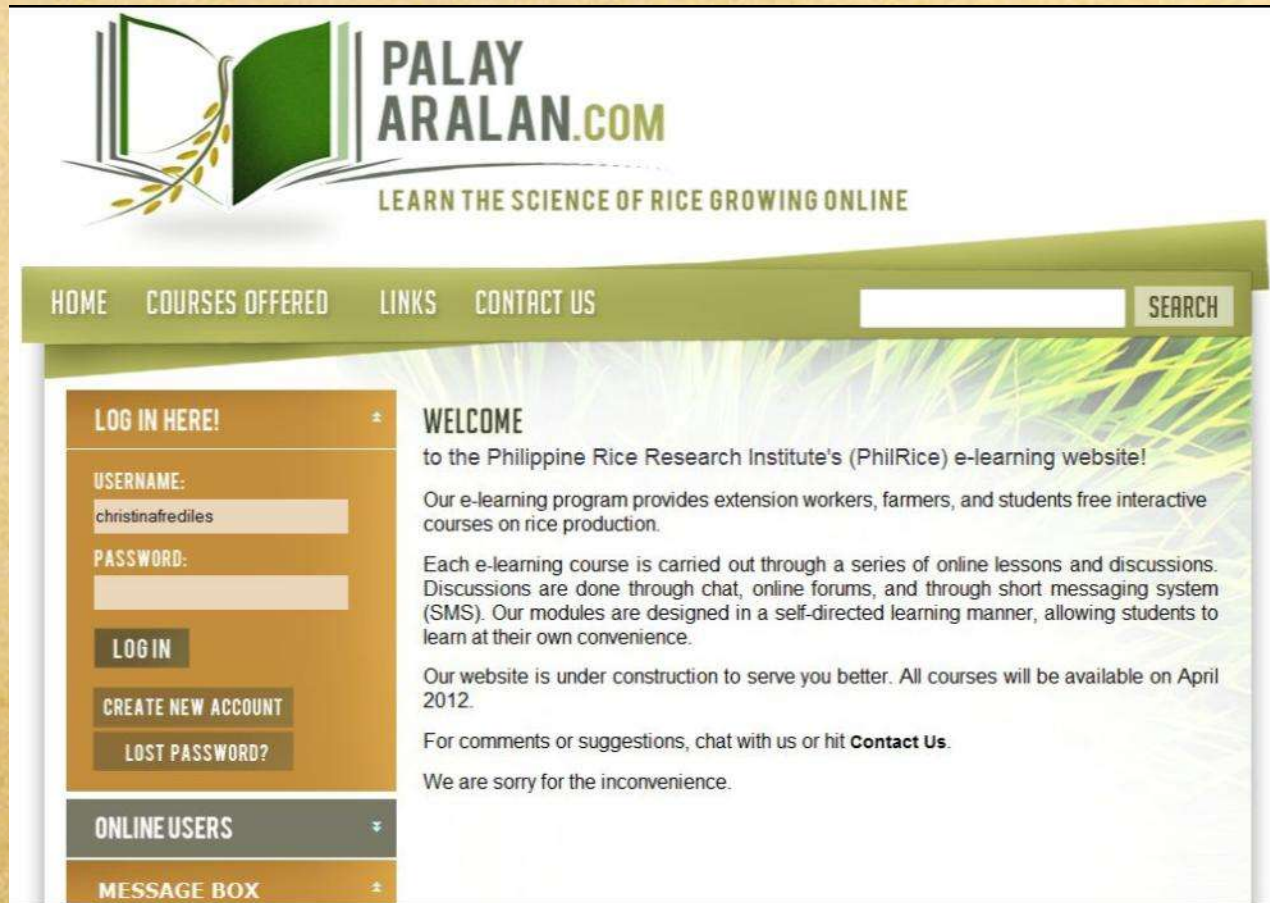
- Focus Group Discussion
 - to know rice farmers' concerns
 - serve as basis for tapping experts/initial topics for discussion
 - farmers co-designed the video conference curriculum

CHALLENGES

- Unstable signal
 - Farmers shouting
 - Cancellation of the succeeding sessions



E- Learning



The screenshot shows the homepage of the PALAY ARALAN.COM website. The header features a logo of an open book with rice stalks and the text "PALAY ARALAN.COM" and "LEARN THE SCIENCE OF RICE GROWING ONLINE". A navigation bar includes links for HOME, COURSES OFFERED, LINKS, and CONTACT US, along with a search box. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main text area. The sidebar contains sections for "LOG IN HERE!" with a login form (username: christinafrediles, password field, LOGIN button, CREATE NEW ACCOUNT button, LOST PASSWORD? button), "ONLINE USERS", and "MESSAGE BOX". The main text area has a "WELCOME" section with the following text: "to the Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) e-learning website! Our e-learning program provides extension workers, farmers, and students free interactive courses on rice production. Each e-learning course is carried out through a series of online lessons and discussions. Discussions are done through chat, online forums, and through short messaging system (SMS). Our modules are designed in a self-directed learning manner, allowing students to learn at their own convenience. Our website is under construction to serve you better. All courses will be available on April 2012. For comments or suggestions, chat with us or hit **Contact Us**. We are sorry for the inconvenience."

- Started in 2008
- Module-based (pest, nutrient)
- Can finish the course in 1 - 40 days



News forum



Read this portion first before taking the pre-test.

- [Course Overview](#)
- [Course Objectives](#)
- [Participants](#)
- [Click here for the Pre test](#)

Topic outline



News forum

WELCOME STUDENTS!

- [Course Overview](#)
- [Course Objectives](#)
- [Click here for the Pre test](#)

Lesson 1: Introduction to Leaf Color Chart

- [Click here for Lesson 1](#)
- [Post your questions here](#)

OFFERED COURSES

HOME COURSES OFFERED LINKS CONTACT US

Course categories: Available Online Courses ▾

Courses

- Rice Postproduction Technologies
- Minus-One Element Technique
- Management of Armyworms and Cutworms
- Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Using LCC
- Production and Use of Rice Straw-based Organic Fertilizer
- Management Options for Golden Kuhl
- Management of Rice Blast Disease
- Management of Rice Black Bugs
- Modified Dapog Technology
- Controlled Irrigation
- Management Options for Ricefield Weeds

Chat Sessions



Certificate of Completion

Online Course on Management Options
for Golden Kuhol

presented to

Renato Jacaban

on February 22, 2011 by the Philippine Rice Resea

OLIVE ROSE M. ASIS
Program Director, OPAPA

clearning.openacademy



Certificate of Participation

is presented to

Mary Wainaina

for actively participating the online course on *Armyworm and Cutworm*.
Given this 9th day of September 2011 by the Philippine Rice Research Institute

OLIVE ROSE M. ASIS
Program Director,
OPAPA-PhilRice

EUFEMIO T. RASCO, Jr.
Executive Director,
PhilRice

www.palayaran.com

CHALLENGES

- Low number of students
- Drop-outs

POSSIBLE WHYs

- Inadequate promotion
- Interest of the students (specific topics)

REFLECTIONS

On E-Learning

- Optimise other promotional strategies
- Identify intended participants
 - farmers/extension workers who want to learn more and students

REFLECTIONS

On Videoconferencing

- Participatory approach
- Need for site coordinators (infomediary)
- Location-specific ICT interventions
- ICT infrastructure must be in place

Possible key intended audience:

- progressive farmers
- students

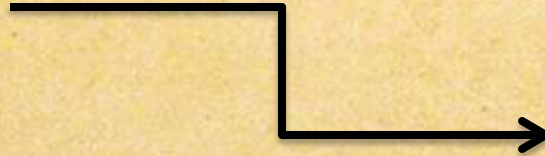
Why progressive farmers ?

- Progressive farmers can significantly contribute to national production
- May not be directly involved to farming but serve as major decision makers in the farm.

With ODE, farmers can make informed decisions.

Why students?

- They can serve as infomediaries



Those who
access ICTs for
those who cannot
access them.

WHY?

Internet connectivity issue will be solved

Computer literacy

Farming involvement

Recommendations

(where ICT infrastructure is no longer an issue)

- Try different segments of the population
- Adjust curriculum as needed
- Explore traditional modes of sending invites and combine with modern ones
- Explore participatory approach
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration

Put farmers at the heart of the process

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