

# Rice research highlights GCP synergy

# Rice projects sponsored wholly or partly by GCP

- **SP1**
  - Mini-core collections
  - SNP discovery (genome-wide SNP and Haplotypes)
  - Chromosomal Segmental Substitution Lines
  - Unlocking diversity in “wild genomes”
- **SP2**
  - Mutant applications
  - Drought response: reproductive (grain) and vegetative (tissue growth)
  - Stress transcriptome
  - QTL analysis--disease resistance, drought, salinity, P-deficiency
- **SP3**
  - MAS for drought
  - Improving new African rice (NERICA)

# Questions

Are we closer to knowing genetic control of complex traits (e.g., drought tolerance) in rice?

Any results for applications and generalization?

“GCP factor”: mobilizing resources and collaboration to maximize synergy

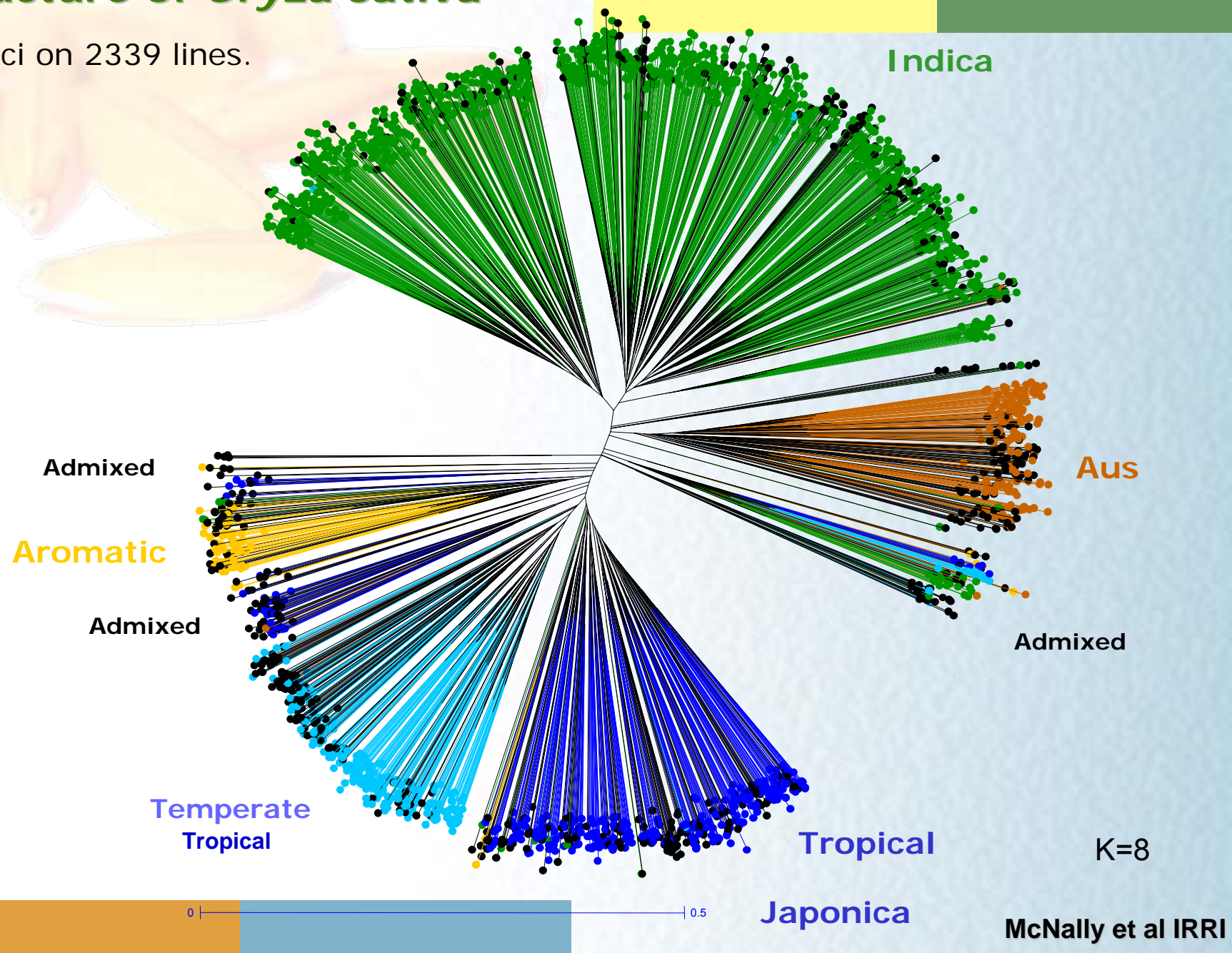
Problems and Challenges

# Highlights

- **Genetic diversity platform**
- **QTLs large and small**
  - **Salinity, P-deficiency, submergence, drought**
- **Integration of expression signatures, NIL introgression, and QTL alignment**

# Structure of *Oryza sativa*

50 Loci on 2339 lines.



Indica

Aus

Admixed

Aromatic

Admixed

Admixed

Temperate  
Tropical

Tropical

Japonica

K=8

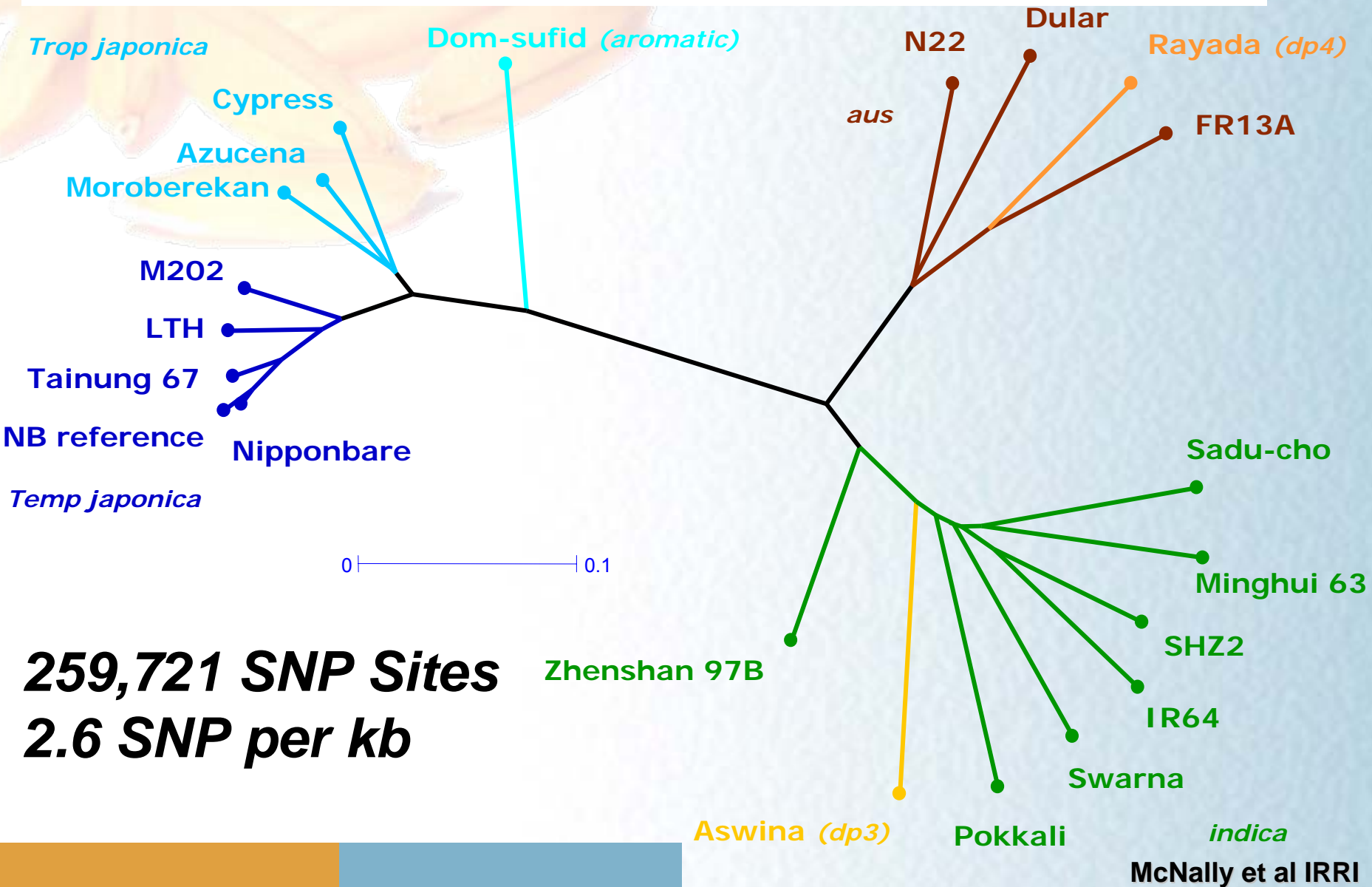
McNally et al IRRRI

0 |-----| 0.5

# Genetic populations with special relevance to drought research

Population	Feature	Produced and accessible at	GCP
CSSL	2 <i>sativa</i> x <i>glabberima</i> libraries 4 wild inter-specific libraries	CIAT	+++
	4 japonica x indica libraries	NIAS, Japan	
RIL (tolerant x sensitive, including DH lines)	~ 6 commonly used populations	IRRI, IRD	
Breeding populations	Advanced lowland and upland breeding lines, NERICA series	IRRI, WARDA	+
Introgression lines	<i>glabberima</i> x <i>sativa</i>	CIAT, IRRI, WARDA	
Mutants	Insertions/activations Deletions	International Rice Functional Genomics Consortium	+

# Oryza SNP Project: Sequencing Multiple and Diverse Rice Varieties: Connecting Whole-Genome Variation with Phenotype

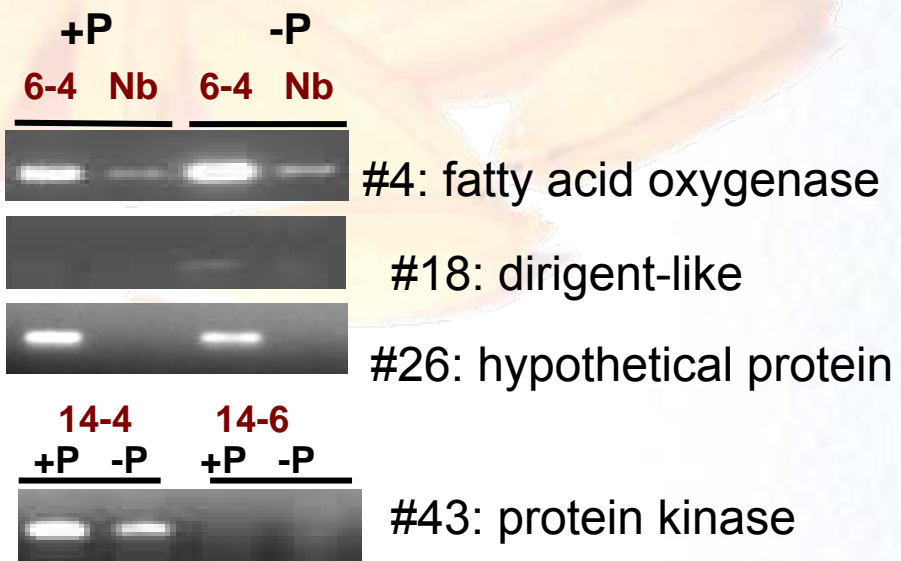




# Use of genome-wide SNP data

- Tag SNPs to characterize germplasm
  - High-resolution mapping and association analysis
- “universal” gene discovery chips
  - High-resolution genotyping (SNP, indels)
  - Transcriptome analysis

# Analysis of candidate genes in NIL- Pup1 lines under +P & -P in the field



NILs 6-4/14-4: +Pup1; 14-6: -Pup1;  
 Nb=Nipponbare.

Further analysis of these genes is ongoing (RNAi and overexpression)

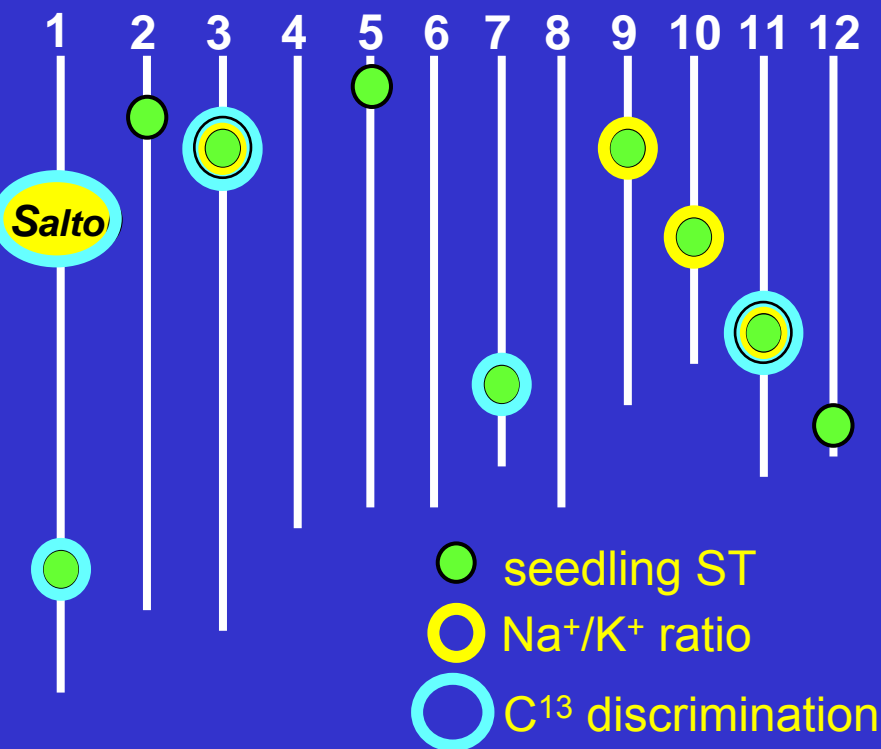
RNAi Transgenic plants of The four candidate genes



NIL-Pup1

*Pop1* phenotype expressed better under drought & overlaps with a major QTL for yield under water stress

# IR29/Pokkali ST QTLs

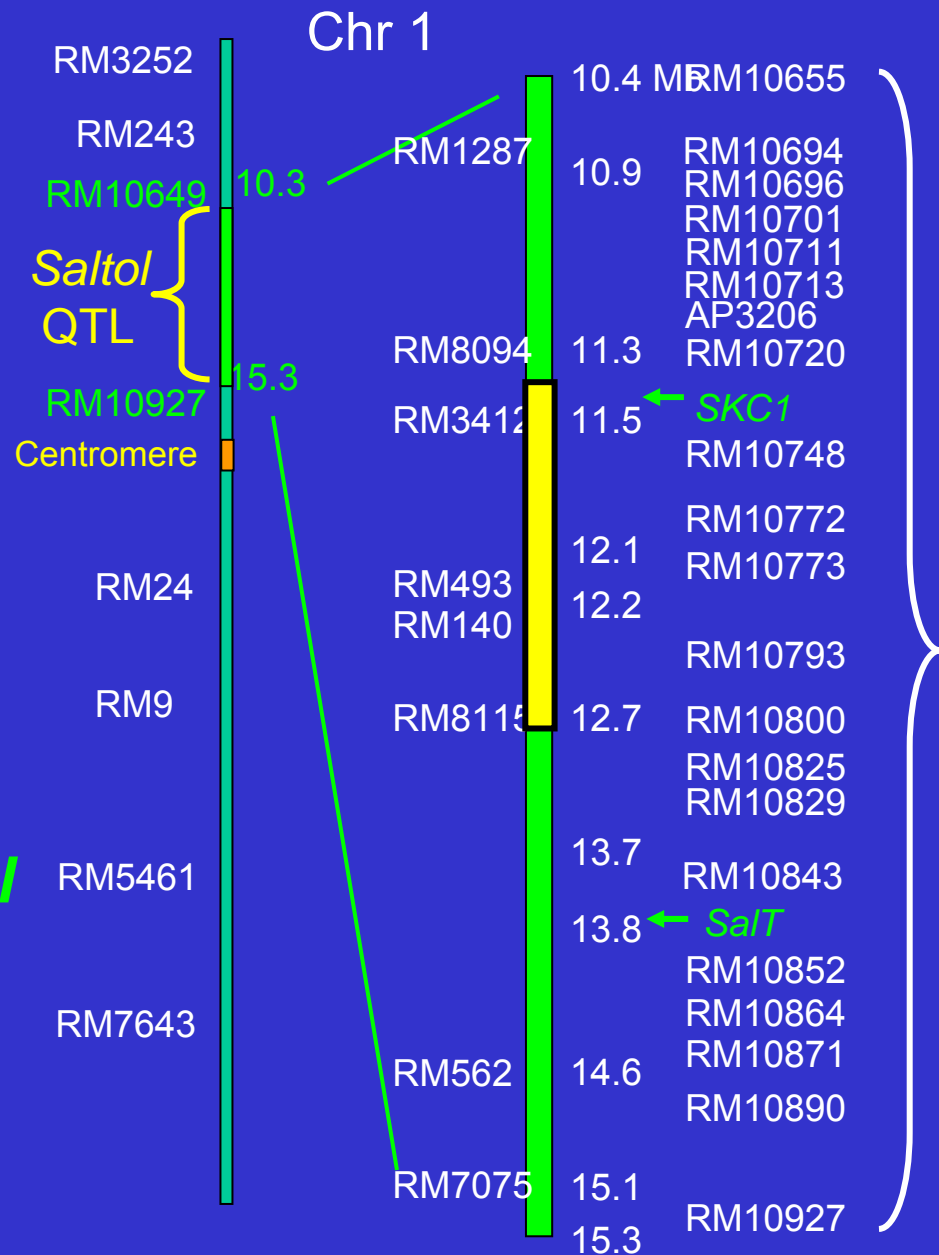


● seedling ST  
 ○ Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> ratio  
 ○ C<sup>13</sup> discrimination

## Diagnostic markers for *Salto*

- ◆ SSRs
- ◆ Gene/allele specific
- ◆ SFPs

# *Salto* fine-map



30 SSRs and gene-based markers across the *Salto* region

# Rice mutant lines with altered response to salinity

5,000 IR64 mutants screened for seedling tolerance & sensitivity



- 5 mutants selected as more tolerant than IR64
- 3 mutants selected as more sensitive than IR64



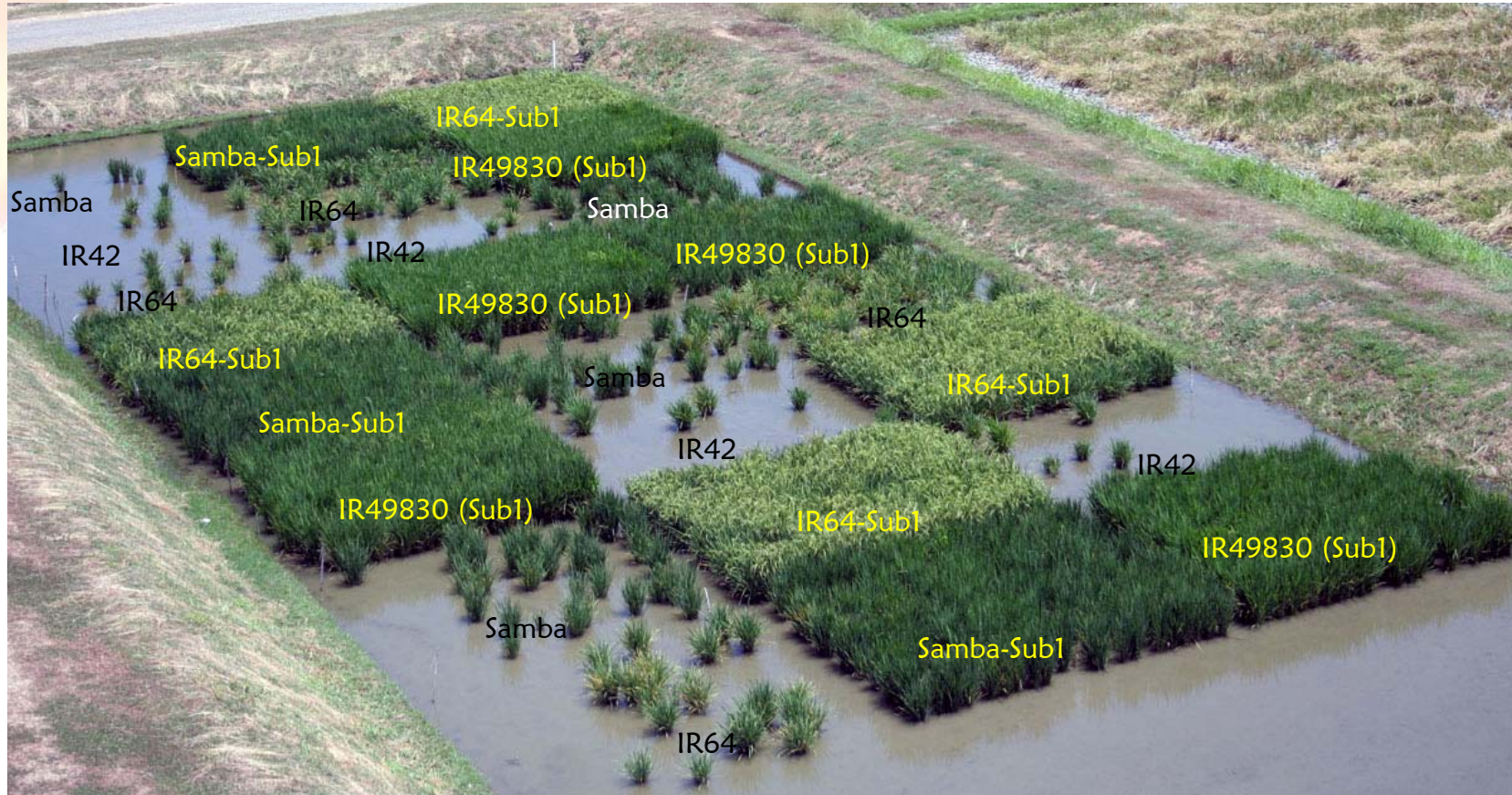
IR64 14 22 21 20 FL478

3 weeks @ EC = 18 dSm<sup>-1</sup>

# Introgression of *Saltol* and *Pup1* into popular varieties using MAB

- SSRs, gene-specific and SFP markers were developed for both *Pup1* and *Saltol*
- Sets of foreground and recombinant markers were selected for both QTLs
- MAB is being used to introduce *Pup1* into 3 Indonesian upland varieties and *Saltol* into two Bangladeshi varieties

# Submergence of 17 days in the field at IRRI



LETTERS

***Sub1A* is an ethylene-response-factor-like gene that confers submergence tolerance to rice**

Kenong Xu<sup>1</sup>, Xia Xu<sup>1</sup>, Takeshi Fukao<sup>2</sup>, Patrick Canlas<sup>1</sup>, Reysel Maghirang-Rodriguez<sup>3</sup>, Sigrid Heuer<sup>3</sup>, Abdelbagi M. Ismail<sup>3</sup>, Julia Bailey-Serres<sup>2</sup>, Pamela C. Ronald<sup>1</sup> & David J. Mackill<sup>3</sup>

# On DROUGHT

## Words of wisdom from a drought breeder:

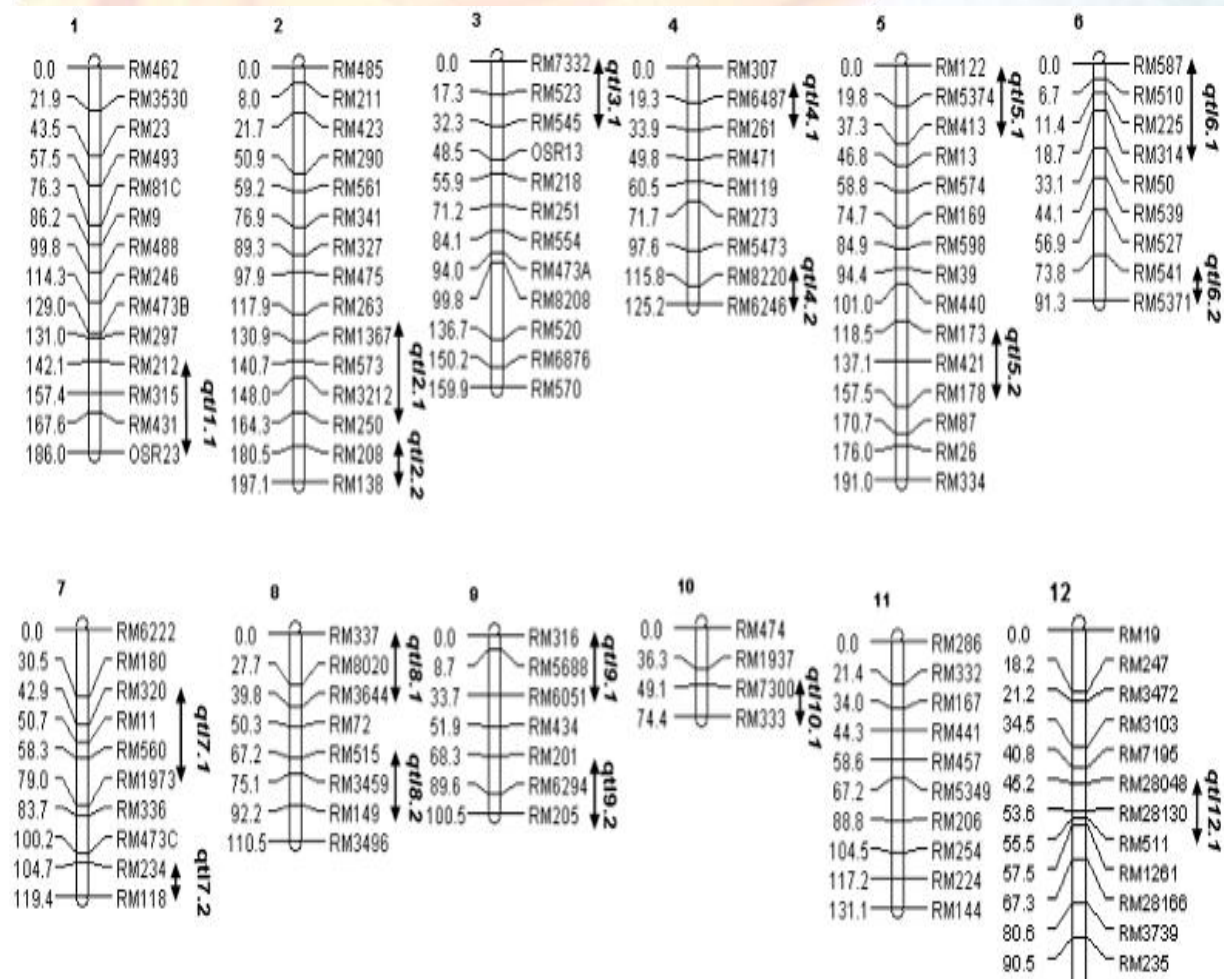
1. Smart conventional breeding will give fast results
  - o Identify and disseminate donors
  - o Promote direct selection
  - o Identify traits and tools to improve screening
2. Link molecular genetic research tightly to crop improvement
  - o Forward genetics first
  - o Focus on big effects, and use big populations
  - o Expression studies using near-isogenic lines to identify genes and deliver MAS-ready systems
3. Be patient, and stay the course

*How can I just make it rain Now?*



# Mapping major QTLs for yield under drought

*G. Atlin et al.*



➤ **Vandana/Way Rarem:** chr.12 (RM511) - 50% of variance for yield under stress

➤ **Apo/IR64<sup>2</sup>:** chr. 9 (RM201) - 20%

➤ **Apo/Swarna<sup>2</sup>:** chr. 6 (RM510) - up to 50%

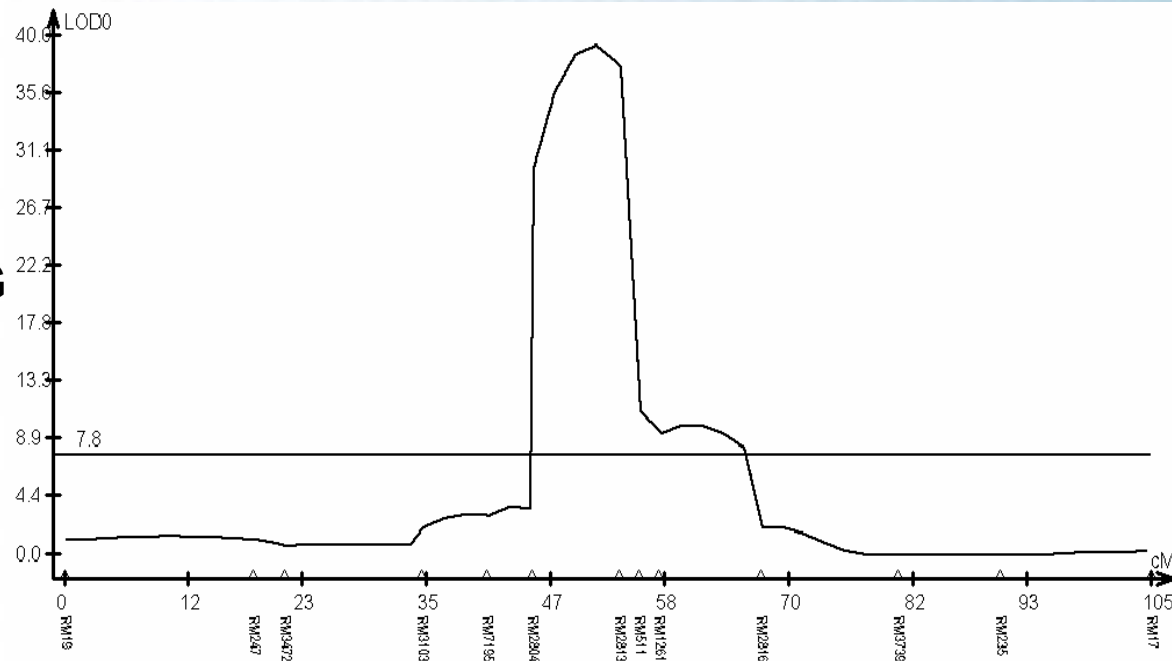
**QTL intervals identified under drought stress and NS conditions in Vandana\Way Rarem**

*Bernier et al. Crop Sci, 2007*

# Major QTL for yield under drought

- **Vandana/WayRarem**

- Chr 12 (49cM)
- Large effect on grain yield under drought ( $R^2=0.33$ )
- Effect similar in 2 years (low G x E)
- Up to 51% of  $\sigma^2_G$



- No effect under control conditions

# Near-isogenic rice lines derived from IR64<sup>4</sup>/Aday Sel



Lowland stress after re-irrigation  
IR77298-5-6 NILs

- Sister-lines with contrasting performance to drought stress but no obvious polymorphism
- Genome scan (55K Affymetrix Chip) suggest 6 genomic regions different between two sister lines



Lowland stress 5-6 & 12-7 NILs

Region	Chr	Start	End	Mb
1	4	16,166,620	16,162,540	0.00408
2	5	27,035,050	29,363,633	2.328583
3	6	22,033,705	23,069,148	1.035443
4	9	15,522,889	16,077,435	0.554546
5	10	15,838,595	22,246,842	6.408247
6	12	23,636,569	23,967,787	0.331218

# Improvement of water use efficiency in rice by expression of *HARDY*, an *Arabidopsis* drought and salt tolerance gene

Aarati Karaba\*<sup>†</sup>, Shital Dixit\*, Raffaella Greco\*<sup>‡</sup>, Asaph Aharoni\*<sup>§</sup>, Kurniawan R. Trijatmiko\*<sup>¶</sup>, Nayelli Marsch-Martinez\*<sup>||</sup>, Arjun Krishnan\*\*<sup>†</sup>, Karaba N. Nataraja<sup>†</sup>, Makarla Udayakumar<sup>†</sup>, and Andy Pereira\*<sup>\*\*,\*\*\*††</sup>

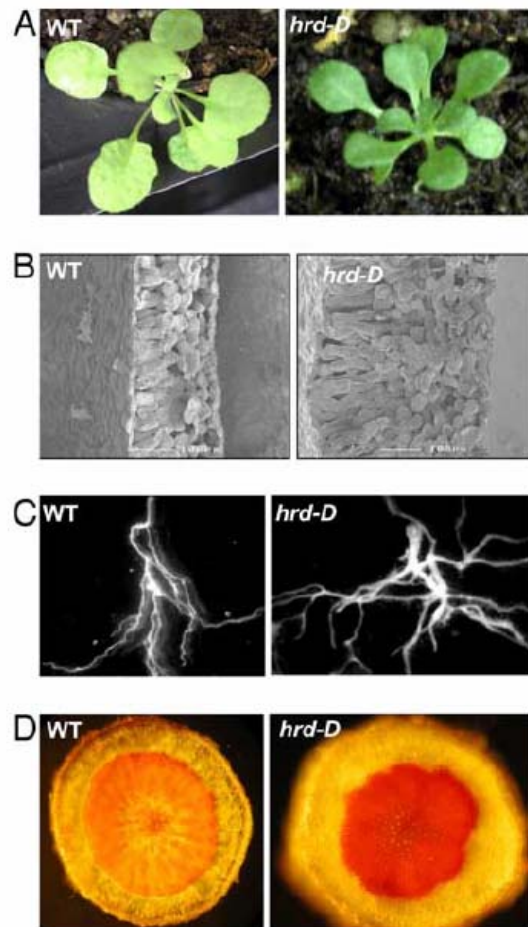


Fig. 1. The *hrd-D* mutant phenotype in *Arabidopsis*. (A) Rosette leaf phenotype of WT and *hrd-D* mutant with smaller slightly curled thicker deep

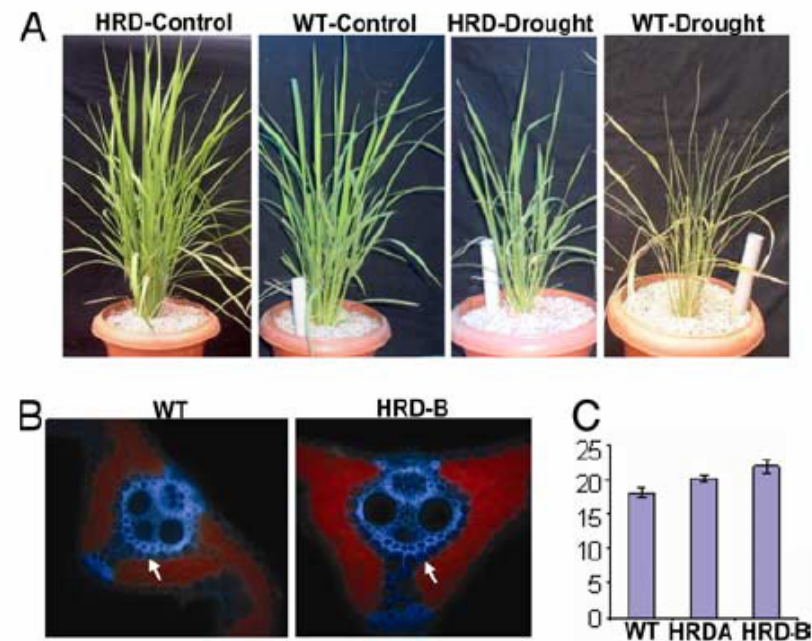
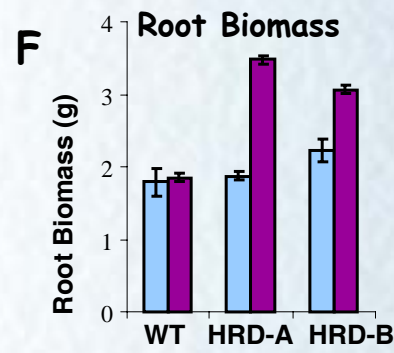
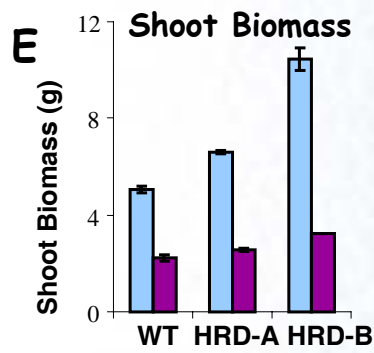
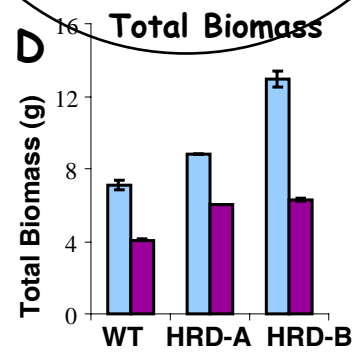
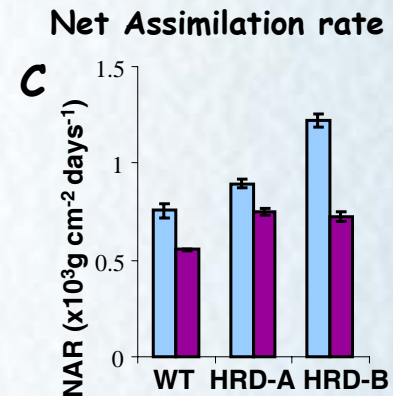
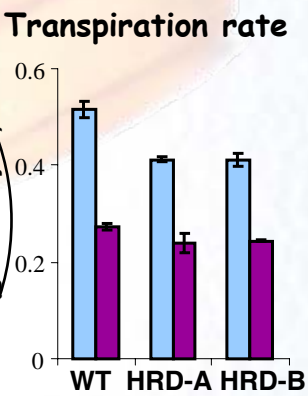
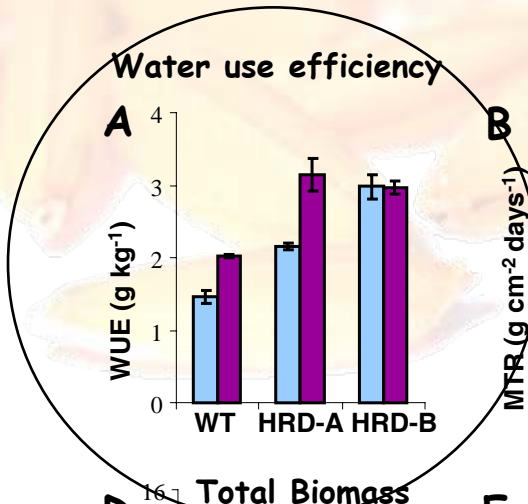


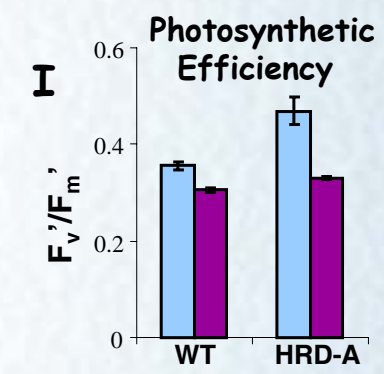
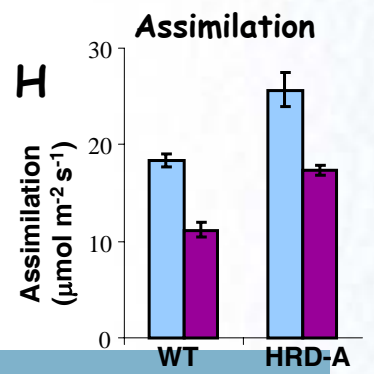
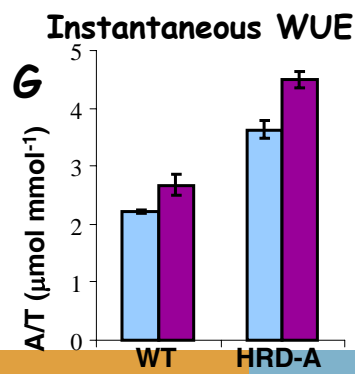
Fig. 4. Phenotype of *HRD* overexpression in rice. (A) Rice *HRD* overexpression line compared with WT Nipponbare under well watered (control) and water-stress (70% field capacity) conditions. (B) Leaf cross-section of WT and *HRD* overexpression lines, observed under fluorescence microscope, revealing red chlorophyll fluorescence and blue vascular bundles surrounded by the bundle sheath cells marked with an arrow. (C) Number of bundle sheath cells in WT compared with *HRD* overexpressors, which show significant increase ( $n > 5$ ,  $p = 7.5^{-10}$ ).

# HRD overexpression improves WUE in rice

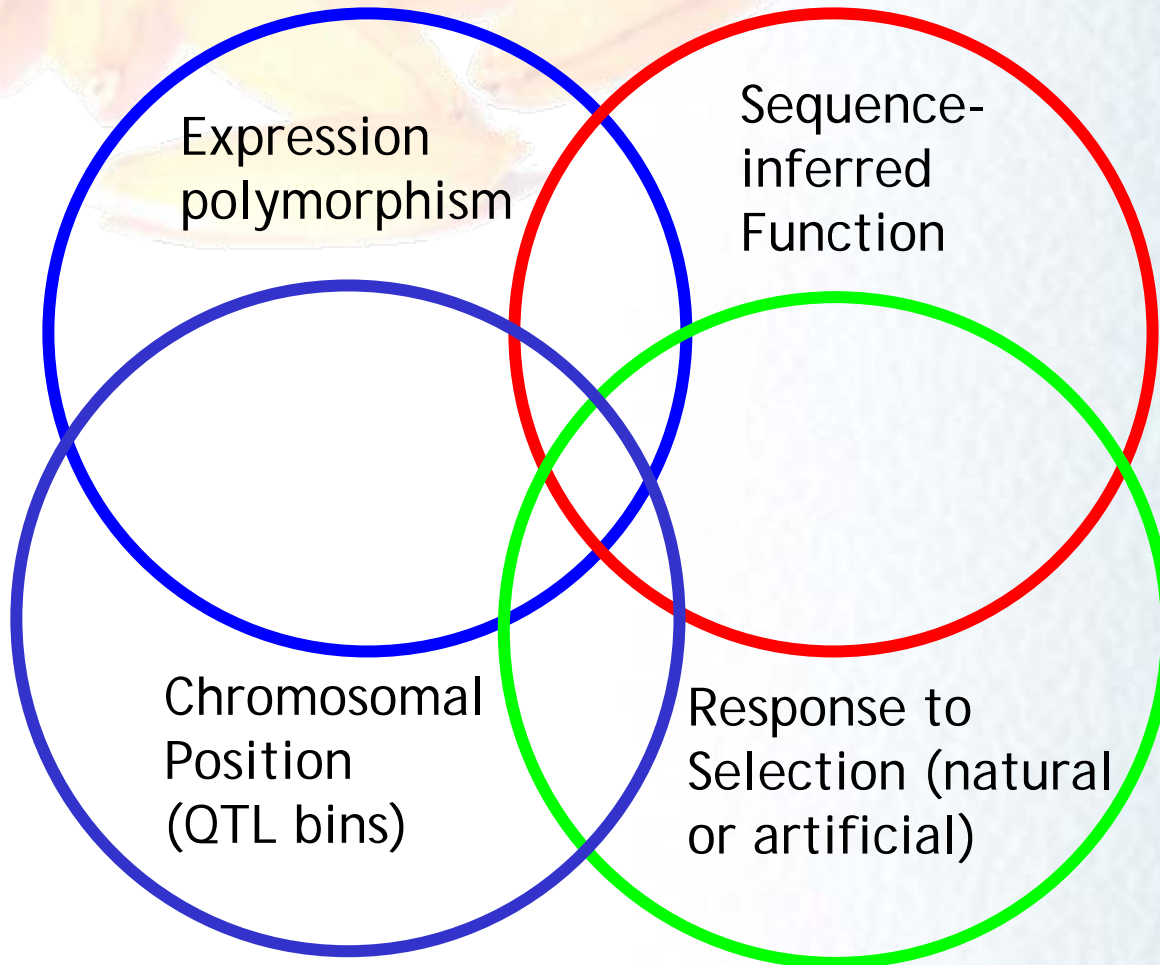


Field capacity  
Well-watered

70%  
field capacity  
Drought

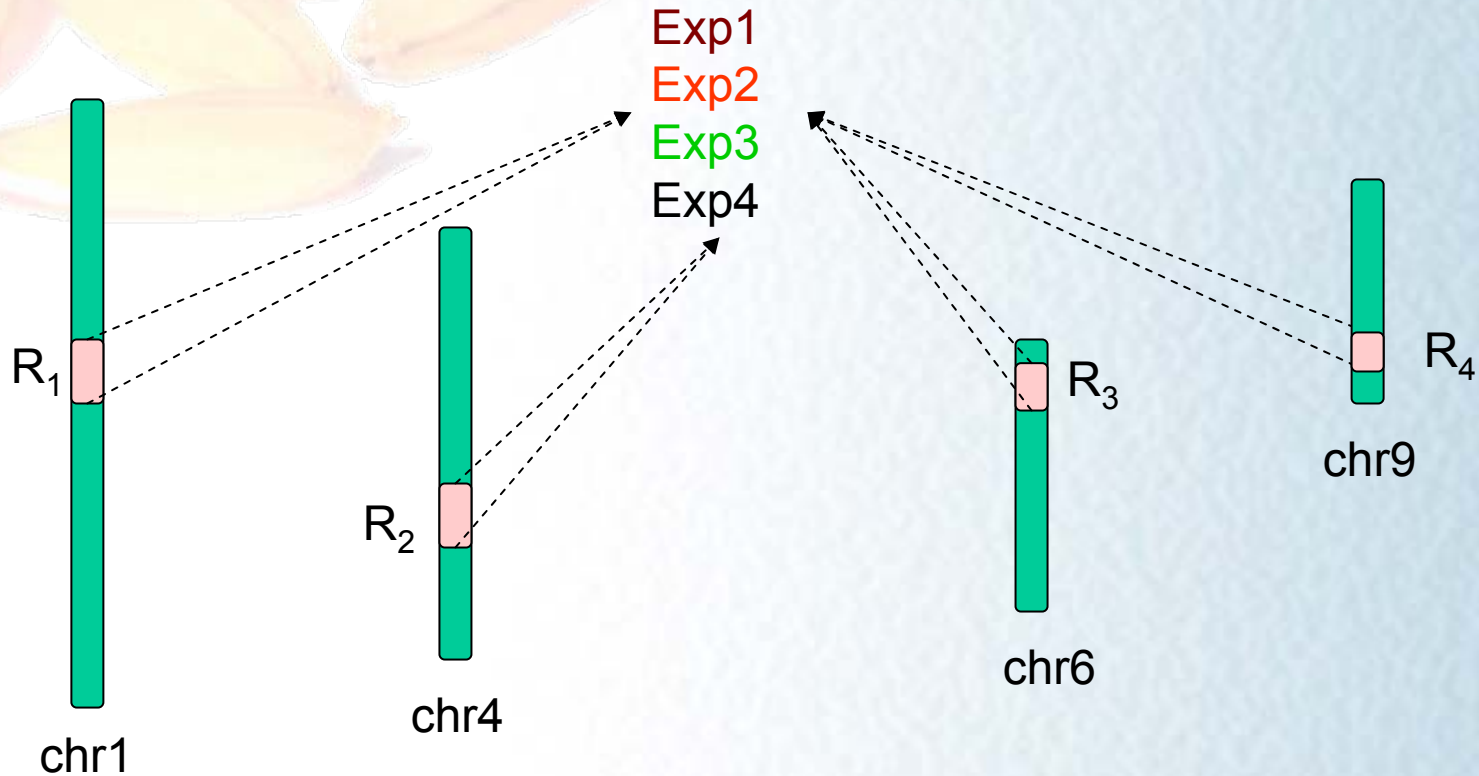


# Integrate expression and mapping data to narrow candidate regions



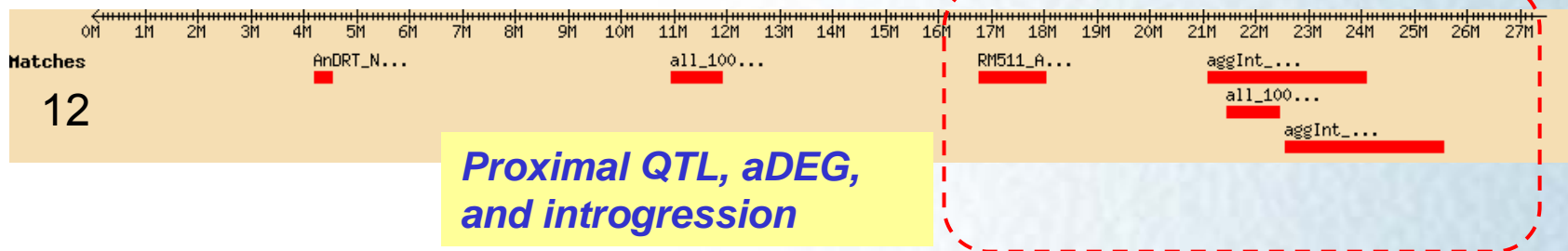
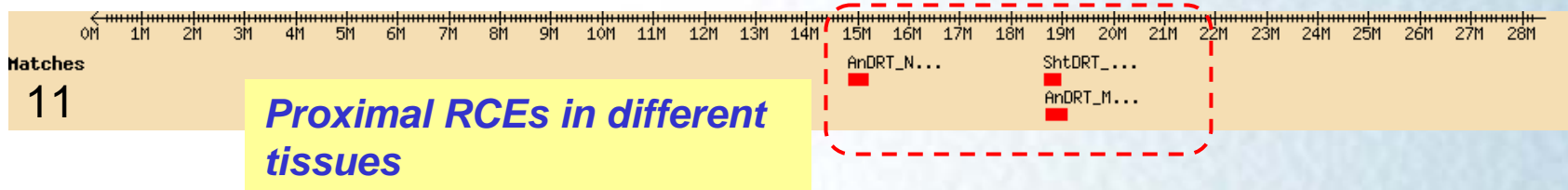
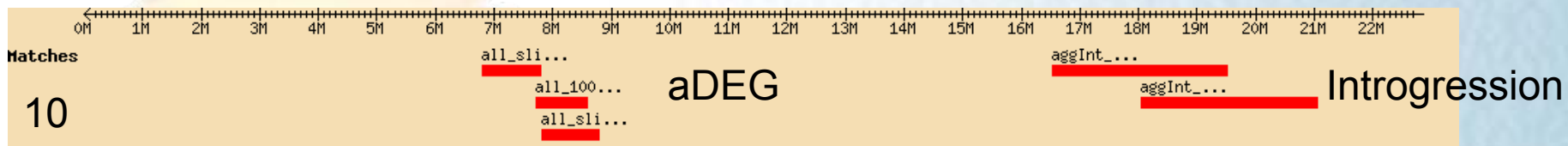
- ✓ **Expression signatures under different stresses**
- ✓ **Introgression of NIL detected by whole-genome chips**
- ✓ **QTL alignment**

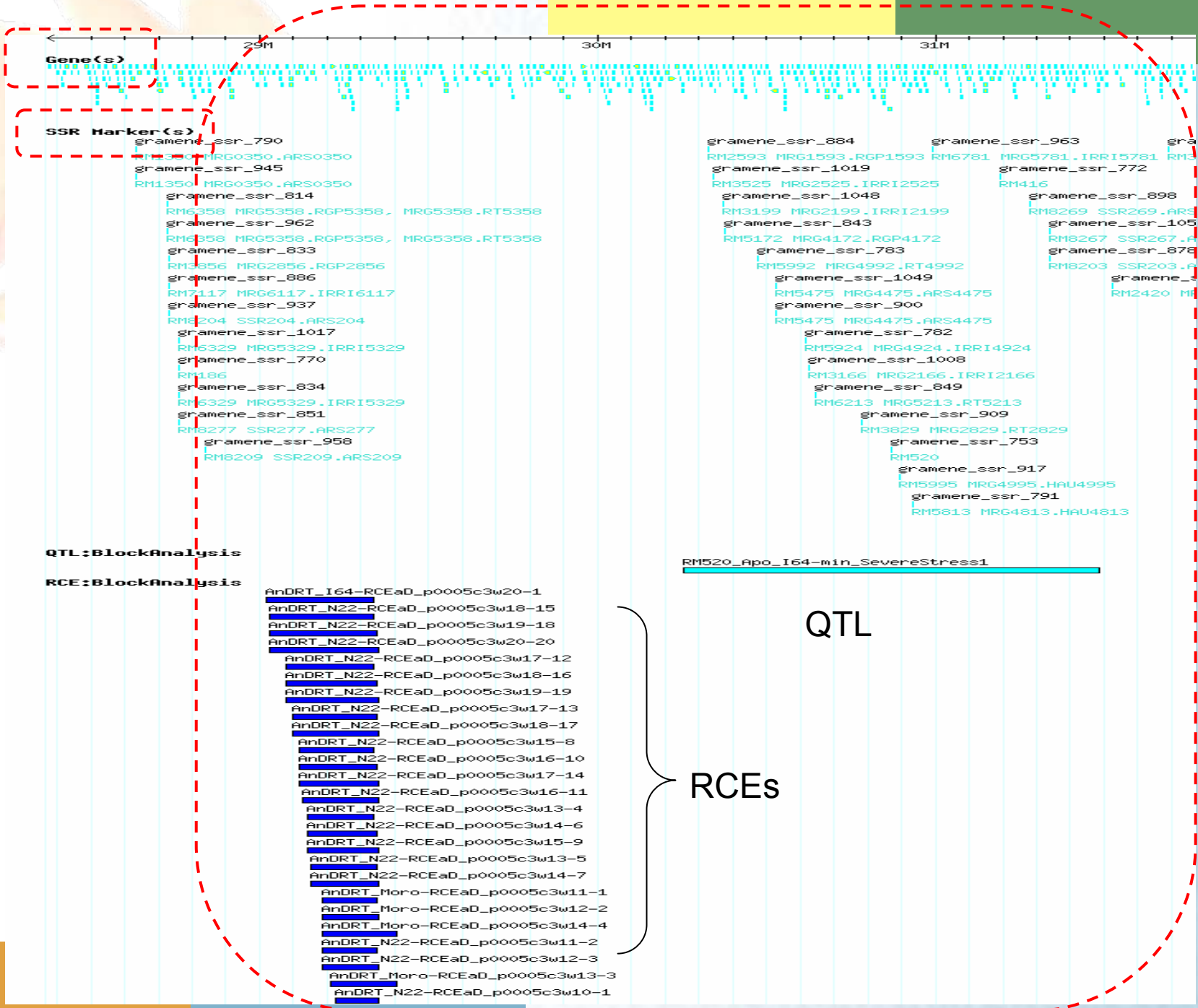
# Regions of correlated expression (RCEs) across different microarray experiments



Systematic computation of gene expression correlation  $R$  (averaged across experiments) for a given genome block size has shown that some regions (of varying size) have significantly correlated expression (Spellman & Rubin 1998, Mauleon et al. in prep).

# Integrated view of analysis results in GBrowse





# Questions

Are we closer to knowing genetic control of complex traits (e.g., drought tolerance) in rice?

Any results for applications and generalization?

“GCP factor”: mobilizing resources and collaboration to maximize synergy

Problems and Challenges

# Gene discovery and applications in rice

## Potential/Power:

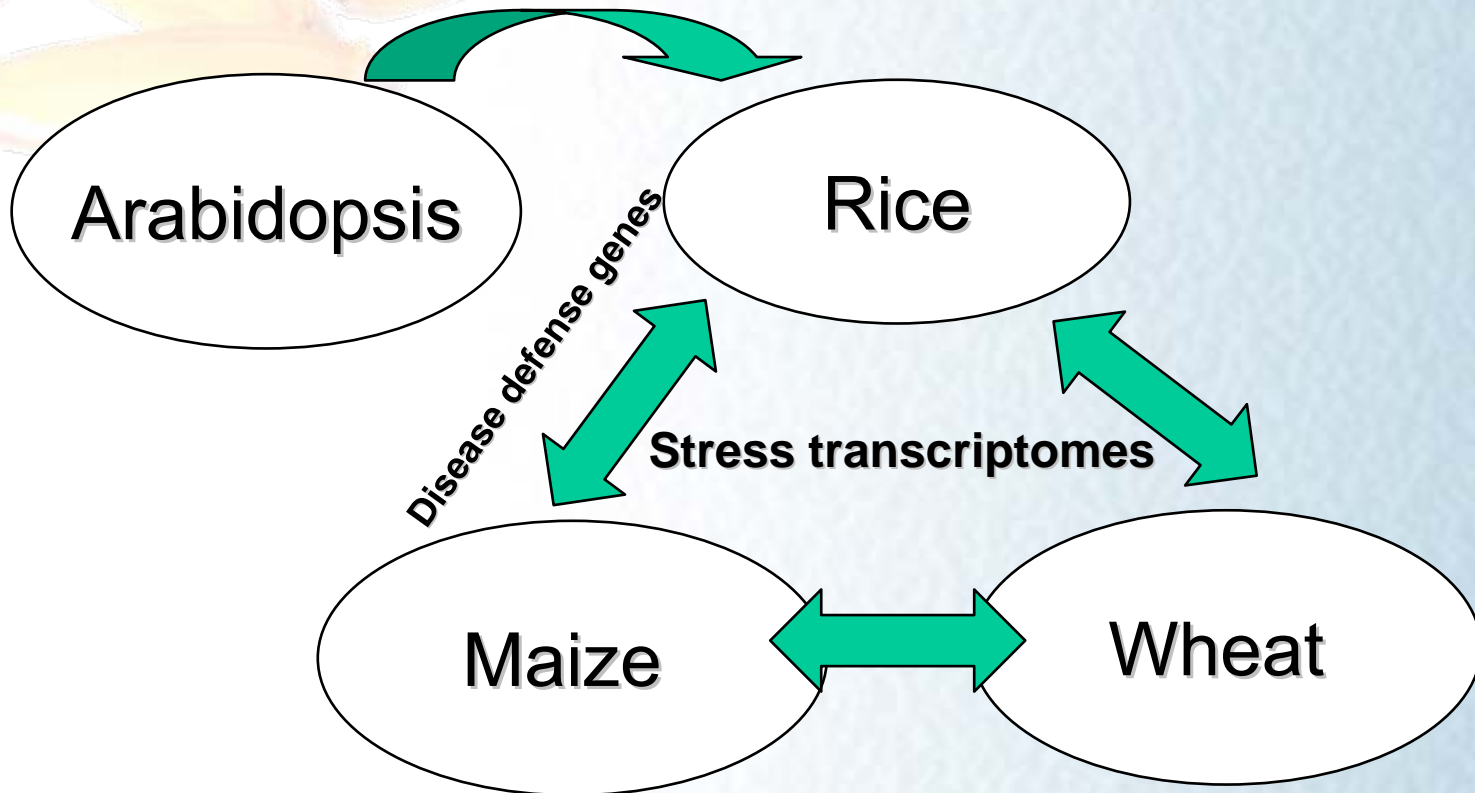
- Interplay of forward and reverse genetics approaches
- Using smart genetic populations
- Whole-genome genotyping and expression
- Comparative biology

## Challenges:

- The right alleles or allelic combinations that add tolerance to existing breeding lines/varieties
- Uptake in breeding programs—rapid trait conversion (MAS, MAB)
-

# Comparative biology between species

**Stress transcriptome**  
*Hardy* (AP2-ERF-like), ERECTA, Na/H anti-porter





# Acknowledgments

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- **Projects and colleagues not supported by GCP**

## **Slides/ideas provided by**

- **Abdel Ismail, Arvind Kumar, Ramil Mauleon, Rachid Serraj, Ken McNally**
- **Andy Pereira, Shoshi Kikuchi, Mathias Lorieux, Rebecca Nelson**

# *Oryza SNP Project*

## *Sequencing Multiple and Diverse Rice Varieties: Connecting Whole-Genome Variation with Phenotype*

*Goal: To generate a multi-varietal, genome-wide SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) database for rice to allow association between whole-genome variation and phenotype.*

The logo for the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), consisting of the letters "IRRI" in a bold, green, serif font.The logo for Colorado State University, featuring the text "Colorado State University" in yellow and white on a green background, with the tagline "Knowledge to Go Places" below it.The logo for Perlegen Sciences, featuring the text "PERLEGEN SCIENCES" in white on a blue background, with a stylized white wave graphic below the text.The logo for The Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy (TIGR), featuring the text "TIGR" in yellow on a green background, with a stylized green and yellow rice stalk graphic above it.The logo for the Generation Foundation, featuring a stylized green and blue figure holding a leaf, with the text "Generation" and "Cultivating Plant Diversity for the Resource-Poor" below it.The logo for the Center for Sustainable Rice Education and Extension (CSREES), featuring the text "CSREES" in white on a blue background, with a green and white circular graphic below it.

*International Rice  
Functional Genomics  
Consortium*

<http://www.oryzasnp.org/>