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Considering Farmers Preferences in the Adaptation and Dissemination of White Corn as Staple Food in Region 8

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The project have two components: (1) on-farm participatory varietal selection (PVS) and (2) seed system of newly developed improved white corn varieties. The PVS of 11 white corn flint and 1 local variety was conducted at Brgy. Butigan and Brgy. Maganhan, Baybay City Leyte to test yield performance, and adoption compared with farmers' variety during 2015 wet season (WS) and dry season (DS). The varieties/entries used were: IES 10-04, IES 89-10, IPB var6, IPB var8, USM var24, USM var22, USM var28, Northland White, Tupi Red Cob and Pito-pito and Kalimpos as local variety. Results revealed that NGR 800 (Northland white), IES 10- 04 and Kalimpos, a local variety, were the top three performing varieties/ entries based on yield, preference analysis and sensory

evaluation, milling recovery and storage evaluation conducted. Northland white was significantly preferred by the farmers because of its softness, taste like cooked rice, not cohesive, taste good, white when cooked, and long and big ears, medium ear height, and complete kernel rows. Northland and Kalimpos were used for seed system and outscaling and 36 farmers were already availed. Beneficiaries have the chance to harvest and select good quality corn ears in the field instead of giving them shelled corn.

Keywords: participatory varietal selection, on farm seed system, improved white corn.

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