

January 13, 2023

Hello Asejia Lallo,

You have inquired about the best rice variety for aquaponics. Although we do not have any study that dealt with growing rice in aquaponics, I suppose any rice variety should work. Please take note that aquaponics usually lead to low EC levels hence low nutritional state for the rice plants, expectedly rice will not be as productive as when grown in the usual soil media. Now if you raise the EC levels by adding hydroponics nutrients to keep up with the requirements for rice, the fishes might suffer in their growth although you can select species tolerant to higher salinity levels.

If you wish rice with good eating quality, we usually recommend PSB Rc160 but for higher yields, farmers go for Rc222. Seeds are available at PhilRice either at Nueva Ecija or the nearest will be at Los Banos. For more colorful display for your project, I would recommend you mix in colored rice (with purple leaves), the one we usually use for PaddyArt.

Hope this information is suffice with what you require. Please do not hesitate to write again for I myself used to be an aquaponics enthusiast. I had a 3x10ft fish tank that is made from tarpaulin and I put a recirculating aquaponics system (RAS) to grow lettuce and some herbs, along with a hundred tilapias. Pretty intensive though.

Good luck to you!

-Jasper Tallada, Ph.D.
Supervising Science Research Specialist
Rice Engineering and Mechanization Division
PhilRice