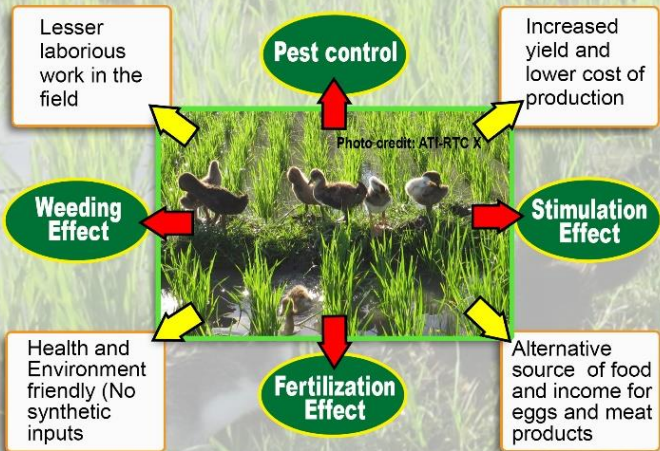


# 6 Duck feeding

Chick booster is necessary during the first three weeks. In the fourth week, commercial feeds must be mixed with rice/corn bran to prepare the duckling for alternatives feeds for the second month. Water should be available at all times in place where duckling for drinking. Ducks will eat green plants like kangkong/Azolla/banana trunk and other leguminous plants mixed with rice/corn bran as alternatives feeds.



## Beneficial Effect



Produced by

**AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE  
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER X**

El Salvador City, Misamis Oriental

and


**Rice-Duck Movement Inc.**




Rice-Duck Movement Inc.

# Integrated Rice-Duck Farming System (IRDFS) How to Start...



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# Integrated Rice-Duck Farming System

## Basic Practices

The following materials are needed:

- >150-200 ducklings per hectare
- >Good source of irrigation water
- >2.5 rolls of nets for inclusion
- >400 meter rope number 5
- >0.5 kg of tie wire
- >Bamboo sticks for post
- >Duck housing
- >Waterer/feeder
- >Brooding box

Integrated Rice-duck farming system is made up of 6 components, these are Duck housing, Duck sourcing, Duck preparation/acclimatization, Net installation, Field release, and Duck feeding.

### 1 Duck housing

Ducks need shelter, duck should be put in a housing that would keep from dry and safe from predators, with pens and space enough for them to move, so that smaller ducklings will not be trampled over by the bigger ones. Duck housing need not be very expensive. Materials readily available in the area can be used. Cover the flooring with rice straw or rice hull to make the housing clean and dry. Duck housing should be build near at the rice field.



### 2 Duck sourcing

Availability of quality and healthy ducklings which will be released to a hectare rice field is one of the most important factors to consider in this technology. It is advisable that the day-old ducklings will be transported to the farmers field for brooding activity during rice planting schedule. Delaying the delivery of ducklings after hatching will increase the risk of mortality.



Note: The recommended planting distance is 20x20 cm.

### 3 Duck preparation and acclimatization

Acclimatize the ducklings after 3 days of brooding in a small pond close to the duck house and allow the duckling to swim for 30 seconds. At this stage, the rice plant has already been planted for 3-4 days. See to it that the water is enough for ducks to swim and walk. Remove the ducklings from the water after 30 seconds and allow them to dry for 2- to 3 hours. When the ducklings are completely dry, allow them to go back for practice swimming for another 30 seconds, repeat practice swimming in 2-3 days.

Acclimatization of ducklings is the most important part in preparing the duck for eventual swimming in the rice field. Without this, ducklings will suffer high mortality (up to 80%) during releasing in the rice field.



### 4 Net Installation

Nets are used to protect the ducklings from getting out from the rice field and ensure that dogs and other predator (including human) will be keep away from them. The nets are held upright by posts, nylon and tie-wire to keep from sagging. After harvest, the nets are removed and stored for use for the next cropping season. The net can be recycled for a maximum of 10 cropping.



### 5 Field release

Ducklings are allowed to swim freely on the rice field after 7 days with the completion of the acclimatization process. Unlimited feeding should be done in the next 2-3 weeks for duck growing inside the rice-field. Feeding should be twice a day, one in the morning before releasing the ducks and another one in the afternoon. This time, the ducklings are allowed to explore all the rice areas to eat insects, snails, weeds and weed seeds, mudding the soil and fertilizing it with their manure.

