

Life's Little Miracles

Whenever possible, I watch a Canadian television program which documents the fantastic medical advances and technology for rescuing children from debilitating and life-threatening infirmities. The show – from The Hospital for Sick Children, in Toronto – is aptly titled *Life's Little Miracles*. What I see holds me in awe. The scientific and technological capability is intriguing; the capacity of the kids, their parents, and the doctors to persevere against all odds...and to conquer...is the truly fascinating element of this program.

I feel the same when I travel and meet farmers and their families, most of whom are poor, uneducated, small landholders, who have experienced the power of science and technology in correcting nutrient deficiencies and raising high quality crop yields. They know prosperity is at hand. *Fertilizers...indeed another of life's little miracles.*

Rice is a major world crop with the distinction of being the staple food for many of the world's most populated and agriculturally challenged countries. PPI/PPIC published this special rice edition with the intention of showing the opportunity as well as the means for increasing both rice productivity and income for those farmers who persevere. There are many such farmers around the world...and it is time for them to conquer constraining soil fertility problems; it is time for them to experience the power of science and technology that can rescue them and their society from the debilitating conditions hunger causes.

This edition of *Better Crops International* is designed to help farmers and the agronomists working in both the field and research plots to understand the real need and the real opportunity for rice production. It is dedicated to those suffering with low yield and food insecurity symptoms. The information is written to document the miracles resulting from fertilizer...balanced and adequate use of fertilizers...to increase yields and food security, to raise the income of farmers, and to secure the environment. *Enjoy the miracle.*

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Printed on recyclable
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Stauffer'.

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