

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

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RESOLUTION RICE

Rice is an important economic crop in the State of Mississippi and it is the only food consumed daily by more than one-half of the world's population. Mississippi is one of the six major rice-producing states in the Nation, with an international reputation for the production of high quality, long grain rice. Mississippi rice farmers continue to support the successful efforts to expand international and domestic markets through the efforts of the Mississippi Rice Research and Promotion Board and the Mississippi Rice Council.

Delta Council praises members of the Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, the Mississippi Rice Council, and Farm Bureau for joining in the effort to ask the Mississippi Legislature to offer continued support for the Mississippi rice research and promotion efforts. Through research and market development, which is funded through the uniform assessment program, rice farmers have been able to meet cost-of-production challenges for future years.

It is the view of Delta Council that the rice industry is most effective when it articulates the voice of the rice industry through a single industry-wide organization. ~~to this end~~. Delta Council acknowledges the cooperative efforts and applauds the joint work of the Mississippi Rice Council and Farm Bureau. Delta Council also appreciates the diligent and effective work of the USA Rice Federation in recent passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

~~Delta Council also views that foreign market development and market development programs administered by USDA are critically important to the U.S. rice industry. In this regard,~~ ***Further***, Delta Council requests that USDA take steps to apportion the Foreign Agricultural Service rice industry funds in a way that represents an allocation of funding levels commensurate with the percentage of farmer check-off funds that are collected by the rice producer States as part of the USA Rice Federation (AR, CA, LA, MO, MS, TX).

Delta Council also applauds the work of the Mississippi Rice Council and Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation to represent the interest of Mississippi rice growers in U.S. farm policy. U.S. rice policy should continue to include rough rice in all export incentive programs, similar to the treatment of U.S. milled rice.

~~Delta Council stresses the importance of strengthening production research programs at the Delta Research and Extension Center. Disease resistant varieties and the advancement of technology to improve cultural management practices in irrigation are two extremely high priorities in terms of Mississippi rice production.~~ Further, Delta Council urges all research and promotion boards to continue to carefully evaluate the status and outlook of the water resource challenges facing the Mississippi Delta and jointly, or individually by crop, focus on ways to strengthen the research, education and outreach to landowners and farm operators as it pertains to water resource management.

Delta Council fully supports the uniform assessment and urges all rice farmers to acknowledge the benefits that accrue to them through research and market development as a result of this producer-funded program. A third-party administrator of the producer check-off funds should be continued for the purpose of insulating the Mississippi Rice Promotion Board fund balance from any efforts to treat these producer check-off dollars as part of the General Fund of the State of Mississippi.

Adopted by: **Delta Council Board of Directors**
June 1, 2018

