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Topic: Searching for microbial solutions to enhance rice disease resistance

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Presentation 1: Searching for microbial solutions to enhance rice disease resistance

Speaker: Dr. Van Schepler-Luu, Group leader/Scientist II: Plant Pathology and Host Plant Resistance, Rice Breeding Innovation Department, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Philippines

Summary: This session discussed the challenges of rice cultivation, including the impact of rice diseases, the need for sustainable practices, and the potential of beneficial microbes for disease resistance. The team also explored the effects of nitrogen fertilizer on soil and rhizophia microbial communities, and the management of diseases in plants through a holistic approach. The conversation ended with discussions on the use of native and locally adapted microbes in rice cultivation, the need for more studies on the long-term impact of chemical applications on soil microbiomes, and the potential for targeted breeding programs and newly isolated microbes for potential biocontrol applications. The research team also explore collaboration opportunities with industry partners for commercializing promising biocontrol agents.