

Thai student gets Monsanto scholarship for rice research

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Singapore: Monsanto Thailand has chosen Mr Eakpol Phuvanartnarubal, a graduate student of Kasetsart University, as the recipient of the prestigious Beachell-Borlaug International Scholarship (MBBIS) 2012. The certificate ceremony was held at Siam Kempinski Hotel, Bangkok, on September 12, 2012.

The Thai PhD student will be conducting a research titled 'Breeding-by-design: New Submergence Tolerance Rice Prolong Flash Flooding Environment' with the main goal of improving rice variety with tolerance to prolonged flooding, a trait that is likely to be in demand both locally and internationally.

The project will be supervised by associate professor Apichart Vanavichit, director, Rice Gene Discovery Unit, which was established through the close collaboration between BIOTEC and Kasetsart University.

The MBBIS program was established in 2009 in honor of two of the world's most pre-eminent rice and wheat breeders, Dr Henry Beachell and Dr Norman Borlaug, with a prime objective to develop highly educated rice and wheat plant breeders, who can serve as future agricultural leaders. The program is open to students worldwide who are seeking a PhD in rice or wheat improvement through plant breeding.