

graphs going up. "Here is how I could fulfil my campaign promise of more rice for my countrymen, how the Philippines could become an exporter of rice," FM must have been thinking.

Listening to the science of it as SK explained, this was FM's Eureka moment. He was convinced that IR8 was indeed the Miracle Rice he promised except by name. But FM was told, not by SK, but the IRRI plant breeders that IR8, along with the other promising lines IR9 and IR5, "should be monitored for several more generations" – meaning IR8 wasn't ready for multiplication and distribution to farmers, needed more years and more plantings and more waiting – but FM said no. ANN wrote about it: "But newly elected President Ferdinand E Marcos, who won in 1965 on a campaign promising the people abundant rice, could not wait" (author not named, 04 December 2011, *Source Watch*, [sourcewatch.org \[https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/IR-8_%22Miracle%22_Rice\]](https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/IR-8_%22Miracle%22_Rice)). Science could wait, but not the hungry.

What IRRI dryly called "IR8-288-3" only us Filipinos would have called by another name – *Miracle Rice*. Indeed, it was journalist Napoleon G Rama who first came up with that nickname in his article "Miracle Rice – Instant Increase" in the 06 August 1966 issue of the weekly *Philippines Free Press* magazine (Marc Frey, RW Pruessen & TT Yong, ed, **The Transformation Of Southeast Asia**, Routledge, London, 2015, [books.google.com.ph \[https://books.google.com.ph/books?id=a51sBgAAQBAJ&pg=PA337&lpg=PA337&dq=%22miracle+rice%22+napoleon+g+rama&source=bl&ots=BFa3aCKMIs&sig=z5Rr676a5OzUR-D4W0vSb3zJm4M&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj-hLfKgNPWAhULHJQKHW5zArQQ6AEIJDAA#v=onepage&q=%22miracle%20rice%22%20napoleon%20g%20rama&f=false\]](https://books.google.com.ph/books?id=a51sBgAAQBAJ&pg=PA337&lpg=PA337&dq=%22miracle+rice%22+napoleon+g+rama&source=bl&ots=BFa3aCKMIs&sig=z5Rr676a5OzUR-D4W0vSb3zJm4M&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj-hLfKgNPWAhULHJQKHW5zArQQ6AEIJDAA#v=onepage&q=%22miracle%20rice%22%20napoleon%20g%20rama&f=false)).

In an email, SK writes to me of his encounter with FM at IRRI (with minor editing):

It was I who first introduced IR8-288-3 to President Marcos in the 1966 dry season. He flew in by helicopter for a few hours to see for himself Miracle Rice. You can see me showing President Marcos my research results and the rice breeding line IR8-288-3. President Marcos asked me and I quote, "Dr De Datta, don't tell me that this little rice plant from IRRI can out-yield our tall, vigorous Philippines rice varieties like Peta, Tjeramas, Bengawan, Binato among others." I told him, "Mr President, please see for yourself my research results." He was convinced and congratulated me. When he flew back to Malacañang, he requested thru Secretary Bong Tangco to get 2 kg seed of Miracle Rice to be multiplied by the National Rice Seed Growers Association headed by Mr Abel Silva. President Marcos ordered the then Executive Secretary Rafael Salas to get the seeds multiplied and distribute the seeds of Miracle Rice urgently to the Philippine farmers. President Marcos then announced to the nation that within a few years he will make the Philippines self-sufficient in rice. He certainly did that, and kept his promise to the nation.

1st chance SK misses IR8 history.

During the encounter SK describes above, this was probably the time when FM offered to make him a Filipino citizen by Presidential Decree, but SK declined for some reason. *Mistake*. This was SK's first chance at IR8 history and he missed it. SK did not realize that if he had said yes, that would have sealed his fate as an historically important contributor to the miracle that was IR8. SK missed this first chance making it on the book of IR8 history. He didn't know that, at the very least, the Filipinos do *not* look down at you when you have a dual citizenship – in fact, they will admire you.

Reading on the subject, by email I asked SK if he was the fellow who pointed to or identified IR8-288-3 as the potential super yielder, and he said yes. This was one of SK's Eureka moments. These are the meanings of the digits: "IR8" is the product of the 8th cross between 2 different varietal parents – the Indonesian tall *Peta* and Taiwanese dwarf *DGWG*;