### Vocabulary

**Rice Plant Morphology and Development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaf blade</strong></td>
<td>The thin, elongated, flat portion of the leaf.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ligule</strong></td>
<td>A thin, upright, membranous appendage at the top of the leaf sheath. It is attached to the base on the inside of the leaf collar of the rice plant.</td>
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</table>
| **Auricle**   | 1) A pair of small ear-like appendages borne at the base of the leaf blade and usually arising at the sides where the ligule and the base of the collar are joined.  
  2) An ear-shaped appendage, usually occurring at the junction of the leaf sheath and the blade that may not be present in older leaves. |
| **Leaf sheath**| The lower part of the leaf enclosing the stem, originating from a node and wrapping around the culm above the node.                             |
| **Node**      | 1) The joint of a stem from which leaves or branches arise.  
  2) The solid portion of the culm, panicle axis, and panicle branches. Leaves, tillers, and adventitious roots arise from nodes on the culm.  |
| **Internode** | The portion of a stem between two nodes.                                                                                                     |
| **Tiller**    | A vegetative branch of the rice plant composed of roots, culm, and leaves which may or may not develop a panicle. Shoot arising from the main culm (stem). |
| **Nodal roots**| Roots developing from the upper nodes of the stem when deepwater rice varieties are flooded. These roots can also develop if there are hormonal imbalances, or the soil is deficient of oxygen. Roots are also known as adventitious roots. |
| **Mat roots** | The mat of tangled roots developed below the soil surface or in floodwater.                                                                    |
| **Ordinary roots** | Roots developed at the base of the plant. They absorb nutrients and anchor the plant.                                                      |