Deputy Opposition Leader, Kezia Purick, has welcomed the promising results coming out of a series of rice trials conducted in the Top End recently.

“The future development of the Territory’s horticulture and agriculture sectors is closely linked with agricultural research and development,” Ms Purick said.

“The recent trials and the positive results from Vietnamese-sourced rice seeds could have very positive long term benefits for the Northern Territory.

“The development of a domestic rice industry and the future growth of the Top End as a food bowl depend to a very large extent on the Territory’s involvement in the Ord Stage 2 project.

“While the Western Australian and Federal governments have made a very strong commitment to the on-going development of the Ord, the Northern Territory has been sitting on the fence.

“Agriculture Minister, Kon Vatskalis, should outline the Territory’s plans for future involvement in the Ord.

“The Federal Labor Government’s Northern Australian Taskforce sneered at proposals to expand the Territory’s horticultural and agricultural industries.

“I only hope the Henderson Government doesn’t share this attitude to developing the Territory’s regional economies.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976