



BAR

Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Volume No.1 Issue No.15

1-15 August 2000

Agri Modernization Post-Doctoral Research Program in NSRI Approved

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), through the Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC), recently approved the *Post-Doctoral and Senior Scientist Research Fellowship Program in Basic Research for Agriculture and Fisheries* proposed by the Natural Sciences Research Institute (NSRI) of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

The program provides an opportunity for Filipino scientists and experts to hone their technical skills in the field of natural sciences through the use of research and laboratory facilities available in NSRI. The program may also partly serve as a reentry plan for young Ph.D. degree holders from abroad to adjust to the research environment in the country.



Researcher conducting DNA analysis at NSRI laboratories.

Furthermore, it provides an opportunity for scientists to forgo going to foreign laboratories and instead conduct their advance research work in the country and study Philippine problems.

The NSRI laboratories are equipped to perform DNA analysis,

mammalian cell culture, transmission electron microscopy, microbial analysis, soil and water analyses, biochemical studies, and pesticide residue analysis.

The program has two types of grants: the short-term grant which may cover two to six months of study, and long-term grant which may cover one to two years of study. It is open to Filipino citizens who may or may not be associated with any research institution in the country.

Short-term grants allow a recipient to pursue his or her ongoing agriculture-related research project which cannot be done in the home department due to lack of research facilities. On the other hand, long-term grants will be granted to proposals

See NSRI, page 3

The Essential Electronic Library: Agri Info Made Readily Available

Instant access to quality scientific information is now available through The Essential Electronic Library (TEEAL), a stand-alone compact library that uses a microcomputer, compact disk reader and laser printer. It provides access to the world's most valuable journals on different fields of agriculture. This facility can help R&D systems develop the technology

for enhanced agricultural self-sufficiency.



Last year, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) introduced this "library-in-a-box" in state colleges and universities (SCUs) through a lecture demonstration. The seminar participants were researchers, scholars, librarians, and other prospective users of an

See Electronic, page 4

BPI Corporate Plan

BAR to Support Bago Oshiro Complex Site Development

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will support the site development of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Bago Oshiro complex in Davao City.

This is one of the developments during the meeting of selected Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs), and BPI. The meeting was held on 26 July 2000 at the CERDAF Boardroom in Quezon City. The meeting was in line with the Bureau's call for a

See Oshiro, page 3

2nd National Banana Congress

Banana Smallholders to Meet Challenges of Trade Lib

Banana industry players have highlighted smallholders in the Philippine banana industry's bid to become globally competitive in the age of liberalized trade.

The 2nd National Banana Congress was held recently at the Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center in Doongan, Butuan City.

This year's theme was "Banana Smallholders Gearing Towards World Market."

The seminar-workshop was divided into technical topics concerning the banana industry. The topics were: 1) Philippine Banana Industry 2) Banana Industry Development Strategies 3) Banana Production and Postharvest Technology 4) Major Pest and Diseases Affecting Banana and Their Control 5) Opportunities of Philippine Banana in the Local and International Markets 6) Quarantine Regulations in the Philippines and Key Importing

Countries 7) Market Matching, and 8) Available Credit Programs. An open forum was conducted after each topic.

Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), noted that while the Philippines has the biggest area planted to bananas in Asia, 80% of the hectareage for banana is owned by small farmers. He also stressed that the biggest challenge for the Department of Agriculture (DA), local government units (LGUs) and farmers' organizations is passing on relevant postharvest and pest control technologies to smallholder banana cultivators.

"The target in the year 2001 should be at least one program for every major banana district," he added. He also invited farmers and LGUs to join efforts with the DA in order to produce more integrated results in banana RD and E.

Finally, he noted that under the leadership of Dr. Espino, the National Team Leader for R&D, "we can pool our little resources together and achieve more under the principle, *Isang Systema, Isang Programa Para sa Magsasaka*."

The two-day affair named 18 resolutions that could help farmers with small banana landholdings. These are:

- ❖ Request the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for a strict and full implementation of the AGRI-AQUA LAW of setting aside the minimum of 10% of the loanable amount for agri- and agrarian-related projects;
- ❖ Request the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and other lending institutions to simplify borrowing requirements by eliminating other non-essential documents and accepting agricultural land as collateral;
- ❖ Request LBP and other lending institutions to accredit PCIC coverage as farmer's additional collateral to loans;
- ❖ Request DA to enhance the use of mass media to maximize information dissemination particularly on available credit to farmers;
- ❖ Request the DA to cause the repeal of LOI 790 by Congress;
- ❖ Request the DA and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to formulate product standards and issue certificates on organically grown banana;
- ❖ Request the LGUs, DA, DENR, and PNP to coordinate with each other in the elimination of illegal checkpoints;
- ❖ Request the DA, DILG, LGUs and other concerned agencies to prioritize the construction/ rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads;
- ❖ Request the DA to implement fast and effective information dissemination of technologies that will improve the banana industry;
- ❖ Request the DA thru the National Irrigation Administration to provide/rehabilitate irrigation and drainage projects for local cultivars;
- ❖ Request the DA to conduct a study that will improve the farm gate price

BAR To Hold Midyear Evaluation, Planning Workshop

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will hold a three-day midyear in-house evaluation and planning workshop on 24-26 August 2000 in Olongapo, Zambales. The workshop will review and evaluate the Bureau's accomplishments in the last six months, and identify contributory/limiting factors that affect the implementation of major programs, projects and activities, as well as determine concerns that should be prioritized. In the same manner, the workshop shall map the Bureau's activities for the next two quarters.

The planning workshop will utilize the participatory approach. The workshop will include a lecture discussion, open forum, workshop and plenary session. An expert moderator will facilitate the workshop and synthesize its output.

The first day of the workshop will be devoted to the opening program

and discussion of its rationale and mechanics. On the second day, plenary sessions will be held, presenting the review of division/unit accomplishments in the first quarter and their commitment targets/workplan for the second quarter. A workshop will also be held among the division/unit heads who will identify strategies and solutions to problems and issues affecting the implementation of the project or program. On the third day, a presentation of the workshop outputs consisting of the division's/unit's revised targets, activities and budgetary requirements, and synthesis of the workshop will be held.

This activity aims to come up with an Accomplishment Report for the first semester, a Commitment Target for the next semester, and a report on the Bureau's Status of Funds as of 30 June 2000. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

NSRI...

dealing on the following topics: biodiversity, pheromones for mango leaf hopper; screening; chemical structures; chemical reactions and formulations; molecular biology of endosperm development and chemical, molecular and cellular basis of the wound healing properties of *Moringa oleifera*.

Research proposals will be reviewed by the NSRI experts and BAR.

Included in the long-term grants are a monthly stipend and appropriate research funds amounting to P200,000 to P500,000 a year, depending on the research topic.

The post-doctoral research fellowship for agricultural modernization is the first such program to be offered in the country. The program shall start soon upon the signing of the MOA between BAR and the University.

For further information please contact: Dr. Ernelea Cao, Director, Natural Science Research Institute, UP Diliman, Quezon City. (*Saturnina Halos; Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)

Banana...

- ❖ of local bananas;
- ❖ Request the DA to conduct a study that will improve the harvesting system of local banana;
- ❖ Request the National Government to direct the LGUs to give more focus on the development of the agriculture sector;
- ❖ Request the National Government thru the DA to issue a policy that will prioritize loading of highly perishable products to shipping vessels;
- ❖ Request the National Government thru MARINA to improve the handling system of highly perishable products;
- ❖ Request the National Government thru the DA to conduct a study that will regulate/eliminate the value-added tax (VAT) of imported farm inputs;
- ❖ Request for the extension of special interest rate on loans of government lending institutions to banana smallholders; and
- ❖ Request the House of Representatives to sponsor a bill creating the Philippine Banana Industry Development Authority. (*Junelyn S. de la Rosa*)

Oshiro...

Corporate Plan that shall embody the institution's restructured vision, mission, mandates, goals and medium-term development plan.

BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, who served as the resource speaker for the said affair, stressed that the complex will be devoted to the fruit tree scion grove, germplasm collection and maintenance, breeding and center for data bank. It was also agreed upon that the BPI will lead the supervision and maintenance of the whole complex. The project also includes the renovation of the existing building based on the master plan to be drafted by BPI. Dr. Ponce added that the Southern Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (SMIARC) should maintain an area within BPI station and integrate its regional R&D activities with BPI. This would mean the concentration of BPI/SMIARC management offices including the laboratories, support services and housing facilities in one area. This would promote accessibility.

Several issues were raised by

the RIARC managers with regard to the prioritization of their centers that carry out R&D activities with greater impact on the region's agricultural needs. The R&D activities should be integrated, inter-disciplinary in approach, focusing on germplasm collection, breeding, genetics and midstream researches.

The group agreed that all other stations not identified as centralized experiment station will be considered as satellite stations and be converted to Agribusiness Development Projects (ADP) which demonstrate advanced technologies and training.

The meeting was attended by heads and division chiefs of BPI and four RIARCs, namely the Northern Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (NOMIARC), Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (EVIARC), Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CVIARC) and SMIARC. (*Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)

Announcement...

- Food Systems and Nutrition
- Food Quality and Safety
- Integrating Environmental Concerns into Food Security Efforts to Ensure Sustainability
- Maintaining Biodiversity and Preserving Germplasm
- Agricultural Technology Adoption and Trade

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WebNEWS

Visit the following sites for more information:

Improved Rice: 30-year Expansion of Rice Production in Developing Countries

[Http://www.futureharvest.org](http://www.futureharvest.org)

Agriculture to grow 4.8% in the Second Quarter

<http://www.da.gov.ph>

Researchers Clone Pigs

[Http://www.cnn.com/nature](http://www.cnn.com/nature)

Scientists Looking at Redesigning Photosynthesis to Increase Rice Production

<http://www.cgiar.org/irri/science>

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2001 Scientific Cooperation Research Program (SCRIP), which supports international cooperative research on food, environment, and agriculture in the United States and collaborating countries, is now accepting research proposals on new technologies in food and agriculture.

American scientists affiliated with a university, federal or state agency, or private non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit proposals. Collaborations may be with research institutions in developed and developing countries that have diplomatic relations with the U.S., including the International Agricultural Research Centers linked with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Filipino researchers and scientists who wish to avail of the Program are requested to collaborate with Filipino members of the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE). The PAASE members together with Filipino scientists will evaluate the research proposals.

Proposals must deal on one of the following subject areas:

See Announcement, page 3

R&D Projects for Y2000 Approved by SSAC

The Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC) approved recently for funding the R&D projects of the Legumes, Soil and Water Resources, Vegetables and Fisheries networks.

This followed a series of consultation meetings held with the National RDE Network Team leaders in July and August. Team leaders of the networks presented their priority projects in the meetings. The SSAC evaluated each project based on its conformity to the National RDE Agenda and Programs.

The following budget will be allotted to the networks over the next five years: Capture Fisheries (seven projects): P165 M; Fisheries Postharvest (seven projects): P17 M; Aquaculture (16 projects): P85 M; Vegetable (19 projects): P27 M; Soil and Water Resources (5 projects): P10 M; and Legumes (18 projects): P17 M.

Recommendations

During the consultations, the SSAC made several recommendations to further improve the agenda and projects of the networks. For capture fisheries, the SSAC pointed out that a strong collaboration between the National and Regional Research Centers was needed because R&D implementation depends largely on the regions. Moreover, alternative uses of the municipal waters should be explored as sources of livelihood for

the people.

For aquaculture, the development of new commodities/species (ex. Ornamental fish) for export was encouraged. However, it was agreed that mangrove conversion to fishponds should be lessened to avoid the further deterioration of the environment.

Increased technical expertise and a more intensive review of literature were recommended for the Fisheries Postharvest and Marketing Sub-network.

For the Legumes network, extension work and services must be coordinated with Regions 1 and 2 to facilitate the transfer of the peanut storage technology to farmers.

A farm advisory system was proposed for the Vegetable network. This is expected to provide both producers and consumers with timely information on postharvest and marketing. Another information campaign on the proper use of pesticide on vegetables should also be launched. In this light, extension services in the form of risk assessment studies for vegetable consumption should be considered for the program. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuyon*)

Electronic...

information resource on agriculture in an electronic format.

The positive outcome of the seminar prompted BAR to take the lead in the procurement of this information technology innovation. The Bureau has acquired three sets of the electronic library consisting of 172 CD-ROM discs. These will be distributed to SCUs, namely UP at Los Baños (UPLB), Central Luzon State University (CLSU), and the University of Southern Mindanao (USM). (*Rita T. dela Cruz*)

Chronicle

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Volume No. 1 Issue No. 16

16-31 August 2000

CABI Meeting in Asia

For the first time since its inception, the Centre for Agricultural and Biosciences International (CABI) held its meeting in Asia. On 11-12 August, the Asia Member Government Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It gathered 12 CABI Asian member countries (including Thailand, the newest member) and key partner agencies.

Foremost in its agenda was making CABI's members aware of CABI's unique line of products and services. Highlighted during the meeting were recent changes in CABI International its new directions and aspirations. CABI solicited constructive inputs from Asian member-countries in drafting CABI's development strategies.

Discussions and demonstrations of CABI's electronic information products, site-visits to CABI's publishing displays, and plenary sessions on relevant topics associated to CABI were held during the two-day affair.

CABI is an inter-governmental non-profit organization

See CABI, page 3

BAR Midyear Planning, Review Workshop Held

Six months into the year, all divisions and units of the Bureau of Agricultural Research assessed their performance and mapped out activities for the next semester.

Instead of focusing on the different division's/unit's accomplishments, deficiencies in

program implementation were identified. These deficiencies form the basis for improving existing systems and processes.

Bureau Director Eliseo R. Ponce, Asst. Director Jovita M. Corpuz, the division heads together with their respective assistants were in attendance in the affair. Mr. Jess Fernandez of SEARCA was the facilitator for the workshop.

Dr. Ponce said the Bureau needs to further expand its horizon and achieve excellence through "homework, hard work, commitment, dedication, and loyalty"

See Midyear, page 2



P20-M Grant to Revive UPLB Research Output

Resources or lack thereof impact on the quantity and quality of research outputs.

The scientific and research community of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), one of the country's premier universities, lamented the university's dismal ranking among Asian universities in terms of research output. Ranked 43rd in 1998, UPLB was relegated to 52nd rank last year.

UPLB attributed this poor

performance to lack of funding for research initiatives of the university.

This development has prompted the Bureau of Agricultural Research to grant a regular research fund to support UPLB's capacity building. Before year-end, the Bureau would implement the research grant entitled "Harnessing UPLB's Research Capabilities Through an Internally Managed Research Grant." It is made up of two components.

The P10-million Research Grant targets newly arrived Ph.D.

degree holders in priority research areas. Experts and their technological know-how will be tapped and utilized for the advancement of the Philippine agriculture. The awarding of the grant will be subject to approval by the UPLB internal review committee.

The P10-million Research Grant for Senior Scientists, on the other hand is an understudy system in UPLB that will facilitate the effective transfer of accumulated knowledge and expertise of the

See UPLB, page 4

Agricultural Biotechnology R&D in RP: The Need for a Strategic Approach

To fulfill DA's mandate on food security and global competitiveness, it should provide access to the use and commercialization of good genetic materials and technologies. Biotechnology is one way to increase farm productivity to match the growing populace. The paper "Agricultural Biotechnology Research and Development in the Philippines: The Need for a Strategic Approach", examines the capability of our country to join and benefit from the biotechnological revolution. It also looks into the world trends and issues including contents, directions and management of Philippine agricultural biotechnology R&D.

The Philippines would be able to benefit from this revolution only when appropriate policy and regulatory framework are in place. Thus, the DA is now making steps toward this direction. It has been building technical capabilities within the ranks for the establishment of an effective regulatory capacity. A policy regulatory framework is expected to be drafted by the end of the year.

Part of this policy regulatory framework is the commercialization policy. The paper has emphasized the need to have a strong marketing support for biotech products. Guidelines on the commercialization of our biotech products are imperative. According to Dr. Patricio Faylon, the policy should also include the enhancement of risk assessment capabilities of regulatory agencies and their empowerment in terms of facilities and manpower. This would improve the credibility of regulatory agencies. For easier integration and sharing of results and with limited money that research institutions have, Dr. Faylon further suggested the utilization of information technology, specifically webpages, for the posting of reports and results of studies on biotechnology. Together with this is the need to develop databases for

technical developments around the world.

However, Dr. Leocadio Sebastian argued that prioritization should first be made. Competence and expertise must be enhanced in viable areas or where technology is available. This would include manpower development and upgrading of facilities. Focusing on specific areas would increase the quality and quantity of the country's biotech products. Only when these products become competitive could commercialization issues be addressed and move to the establishment of policy regulatory measures.

Dr. Ponce, on the other hand, supported DA's move to push the creation of a regulatory framework. He expressed belief the absence of a regulatory framework is really the problem because this creates inaction since the institutions that are supposed to do what they're supposed to do are not mandated. Furthermore, investors are not able to make decisions since the rules of the game are unstable and unpredictable. Hence, a solid regulatory framework is necessary so in order to know how to play the game. The challenge here is the ability of these institutions to implement policies and provide predictability and stability in the regulatory and policy framework.

Dr. Halos has proposed a four-pronged strategy on agricultural biotechnology development: 1) development of a sustainable system for the delivery of soil inoculants and biological control to small farmers; 2) development of risk assessment capabilities to access technologies elsewhere; 3) implementation of a strong manpower development program especially in modern biotechnology; and 4) Confinement of molecular technique applications and genetic engineering work to species and problems important locally. (*Saturnina Halos, Ph.D.*)

Midyear...

to the institution. He further stressed that "there is no place for mediocrity in an institution which seeks to be a center of excellence."

Each division/unit presented its respective needs and deficiencies as a summary of factors affecting productivity in the last semester. They then rated the division's performance as a function of its accomplishments.

The Director conferred top ratings to NPD, KPSD, ITD, and the FMD based on quantity assessment. NPD and KPSD got high ratings in terms of timeliness. PIRD and ITD got top ratings for quality assessment.

In Mr. Fernandez's synthesis, various factors affecting the productivity of the different divisions were identified:

A. Internal Factors

- Poor manpower job complementation (i.e. limited number, mismatched qualifications)
- Lack of full awareness on internal policies
- Lack of full knowledge on IT
- Workload of staff
- Delayed release of salaries of contractual employees
- Delayed fund releases
- Inefficient information dissemination and information gathering
- Unclear coordination mechanisms between divisions
- Limited working space
- Limited equipment and facilities
- Unfavorable working environment (i.e. leaking ceiling)

B. External Factors

- Conflict between the expert's schedule and BAR commitments
- Late submission of proposals

Dr. Ponce encouraged all BAR employees "to have the attitude of helpfulness, humility in everything we do, and stand by the principles that we believe in."

He stressed that "BAR's primary concern are the farmers and that we should do everything to empower and strengthen their linkage with the national research centers." (*Joell Lales*)

36 Recipients of Institutional Development, Publication Grants

The Bureau continues to extend assistance in the form of grants under the Institutional Development Program (IDP) and Publication Grants System (PGS).

As of the last semester, there are 25 grantees of IDP. Out of this, six recipients were granted the scholarship under the Fisheries Sector Program (FSP). This scholarship hopes to strengthen the manpower capability of research and development (R&D) of the institution/agency involved in fisheries.

Under the Non-Degree Assistance Program, the Bureau has sent 17 participants to locally and internationally held trainings. This assistance program involves

scholarship and travel support for researchers who wish to undergo specialized trainings or conferences in the country or abroad. It also includes support to R&D institutions offering staff development courses for Agriculture and Fisheries.

Meanwhile, two recipients availed of the Thesis/Dissertation Assistance Program (TDAP) - one from Central Luzon State University and another to Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center.

The PGS, also an assistance program of the Bureau offered to scientific societies, institutions or agencies to help develop knowledge management capability. It comes in the form of grants for the publication of

proceedings of scientific meetings/symposia, for the publication of refereed scientific journals, and grants for manual on research methodologies. It also comes in the form of assistance for the conduct of scientific seminars, conferences, and workshops. Through a cost-sharing scheme with the scientific societies, institutions or agencies, assistance is provided for the publication of handbooks, booklets, and manuals; reproduction of seminar kits (flyers, brochures, programme, supplements, etc.); and rental of facilities that will be used for the seminar.

To date, the Bureau has supported the publication of nine proceedings, one refereed journal, and one co-sponsorship to a conference workshop. (*Rita T. dela Cruz*)

CABI...

that disseminates scientific knowledge in support of sustainable development with emphasis on agriculture, human health, and management of natural resources, especially in developing countries. CABI today possesses a database of more than six million citations of research literature.

The Centre offers training courses, fellowships, placements and work experience schemes, technical assistance, project inputs, access to biological resources, and discounted rates for its publications.

As a non-profit organization, CABI aims to contribute to the world's development through its bioscience work, specifically publishing, on life sciences and information services. Dr. Blight said the people who make up CABI share with others the ideal of contributing to the improvement of livelihoods of people worldwide, but particularly in developing countries.

In attendance during the meeting were representatives from member countries Australia, Brunei, Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research, attended the affair.

Dr. Denis Blight, the director-general of CABI, and several senior members facilitated the sessions of this meeting. (*Junelyn S. de la Rosa*)

ARMMIARC Makes Headway in R&D Activities

In spite of the raging chaos and conflict in the Mindanao region, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ARMMIARC) has made inroads in R&D activities.

ARMMIARC revealed breakthroughs made by the Center in terms of infrastructure and human resources development.

A report submitted to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) shows that Institutional Development Grant (IDG) was utilized for procuring equipment such as office equipment, a water tank, and three brand-new vehicles, and for constructing facilities such as concrete perimeter fence, road network and an agrometeorology station. Furthermore, IDG was used to fund one doctorate scholarship program in the University of Southern Mindanao in Cotabato. A study tour in China and Thailand was also successfully conducted.

In a related development, the



The newly established ARMMIARC Office

DA-BAR National External Review Team (NERT) conducted a monitoring and evaluation in the said region to further examine the areas that need to be developed. The team recommended the construction of an RDE building that will serve as a venue of planning and monitoring of RDE activities and an Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) building for the regular training of technicians and farmers.

The team also recommended the creation of a degree and non-degree training program for the staff of ARMMIARC for the continuous development of R&D system in the Muslim region. (*Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)

WebNEWS

Visit the following sites for more information:

Better farming, new animal vaccines could mean safer food
<http://www.health@cnn.com>

High-protein, high-yielding maize to prevent malnutrition among millions
<http://www.futureharvest.org>

Scientists achieve major breakthroughs in Rice: Data to be shared with worldwide research community
<http://www.nature@cnn.com>

Degraded agricultural lands threaten world's food production
<http://www.news@futureharvest.org>

MARDI: Corporatized R&D Center in the Making

The Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) is a statutory body mandated to undertake research and development in food and tropical agriculture (except rubber, cacao and oil palm). For over two decades, its numerous R&D efforts have contributed to the development of crop varieties/ clones, animal breeds and new husbandry practices.

Dr. Saharan bin Haji Anang, the director-general of MARDI, and other directors from MARDI's research centers recently met with Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research. Dr. Anang disclosed to Dr. Ponce MARDI's vision for the new millennium - to become a corporatized R&D center that leads in technological innovations in food and agriculture. Specifically, under the New Agriculture Plan (NAP), Malaysia plans to shift to modern large-scale mixed farming from the plantation type of agriculture which accounts for 80% of total income from agriculture.

This year, MARDI has a core budget of 250 million ringgit, or approximately \$60 million. This will most likely double to 500 million ringgit in 2001. MARDI also gets additional

12th National Research Symposium

Harnessing New Sciences to Attain Food Security, Global Competitiveness

Department of Agriculture's (DA) thrust of creating a technology-based agriculture and fisheries industry is brought to the forefront of this year's annual National Research Symposium.

With a theme "Harnessing New Science in Attaining Sustainable Food Security and Global Competitiveness" the 12th annual National Research Symposium (NRS) acknowledges the importance of developing new sciences to acquire profitable, efficient, and environment-friendly agricultural production systems.

The symposium, which will start on October 3, 2000, is an annual undertaking of BAR to promote and recognize technological research breakthroughs in the field of agriculture and fisheries by members of the NaRDSAF.

This year, participating scientists and researchers will vie for the AFMA Paper Awards for Unpublished and Published research papers. The papers are based on three main research areas, namely biological, physical, and the social sciences.

Initial judging of entry papers will be held on 11-12 September.

funding from the Ministry of Science and Technology through the competitive grant funds.

Presently, Malaysia allocates a little over 1% of its Gross Value-Added (GVA) in agriculture for R&D. Under the NAP program, the plan is to increase this allocation to 2% of GVA. (Junelyn S. de la Rosa)

UPLB...

senior scientists.

The research grant, an offshoot of the Scientific Capability Development (Human Resource Development) component of the Institutional Development Program of BAR will be internally managed by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Extension of UPLB. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Authors will be informed of the preliminary screening results on or before September 22 while awarding will be held on October 5.

For the Unpublished Papers Category, local R&D research entries completed from 1997 to 1999 will be evaluated based on their relevance to the attainment of the AFMA objectives and their merit for publication in a refereed journal. Qualifying papers will be given the AFMA Research Paper Award (Unpublished Category). They are also short-listed for the AFMA Outstanding Research Paper Award.

The AFMA Research Paper Award-Published Category, on the other hand, will be selected from research entries already published in local refereed scientific journals and the ISI-Current Content journals of 1999. The awards for the published papers category will include the BAR Director's Award for selected papers published in a local refereed journal and the DA Secretary's Award for selected papers published in ISI-CC journals. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)

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