

**BAR**

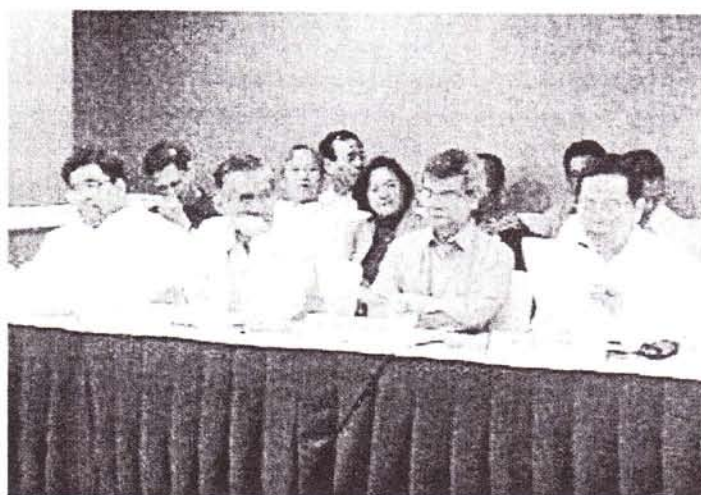
Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH<http://www.bar.da.gov.ph>E-mail: rd@bar.da.gov.ph

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1-15 December 2000

CERDAF Starts Evaluation of NIRDEAPs



CERDAF members in attendance included (L-R) Jeremiah Tanchanco (PhilFoodex), Edwin Acoba (ATI Director), Rogelio Panlasigui (DOST USec) and Eliseo Ponce (BAR Director).

The National Integrated Research, Development and Extension Program and Agenda (NIRDEAP) of all commodities have undergone an evaluation heralding the start of another crop year for the agricultural sector.

On the occasion of its first meeting, the Council for Extension, Research and Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) members have begun assessing the overall framework, formulation and process of the NIRDEAPs.

The meeting was held on 28 November.

The affair aims to introduce them to their functions stated in EO 127.

The R&D accomplishments under AFMA and its impact were also presented to the Council by the Bureau of Agricultural Research.

The details of the NIRDEAP were discussed by Dr. Ponce who acknowledged the hard work put in by the National Team Leaders and all the people who have been part of the development of the NIRDEAP since 1998.

Essentially, BAR and its partners from DOST, specifically PCARRD and PCAMRD, have created the networks. In saying this, Dr. Ponce made clarifications as to the role of BAR, PCARRD and PCAMRD in the process. He said that while BAR is implementing research, they are not part of the networks.

Historical developments have been responsible in identifying lead institutions in each network.

Basically, the institutions that are part of PCARRD and PCAMRD's original set of networks are also part of it, with refinements as mandated by AFMA.

According to USec. Rogelio Panlasigui, the members of the Council need to agree on the NIRDEAP because it is the very foundation of that one program-one system approach embodied in AFMA. The Vice-chairman further suggested that the one system-one program needs to be defined in terms of the

GSDP on Corn RDE Takes off

The Department of Agriculture (DA) recently approved the release of P6.9-million budget for the project entitled *Institutionalization of the National Integrated Corn Research, Development and Extension Program*, an initial implementing activity of the Grain Sector Development Program (GSDP).

As a major component of GSDP, the project aims to strengthen the capability of the country to conduct integrated corn R&D activities to intensify the national corn productivity, efficiency and profitability.

An appropriate RDE management structure and operational procedures crucial to the implementation of the project have been successfully established after a series of workshops and meetings among implementors.

As a major component of the implementation plan, a project management staff comprised of 13

*See GSDP, page 3**See CERDAF, page 3*

CGIAR Embarks on Change

Building on the momentum of the discussions and consensus reached during the International Centers Week (ICW2000), the Consultative Group for International Research (CGIAR) Change Management which is composed of the CGIAR Steering Group and Change Design Management Team met on December 7-8 in the World Bank headquarters in Washington D.C.

The meeting was attended by the Change Management Team, key resource persons and members of the Steering Group of the CGIAR. The Steering Group headed by the CGIAR Chair include individuals representing a cross section of the CGIAR. They are from CGIAR centers, the Cosponsors, members from Southern and transition economies, largest contributors, other OECD bilaterals, other international and regional organizations, and partnership

committees. Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research was chosen to represent the Philippines as a member of the Steering group.

Hailed as the first major event in the change management process launched at ICW2000 last October, this two-day retreat sought to provide an informal setting in which issues can be freely discussed by members of the CGIAR Change Management. Such issues would serve as the building blocks of the program of change that would revitalize and re-launch the CGIAR.

Dr. Ian Johnson, Chairman of the CGIAR said, "This is a critically important meeting, and therefore I look forward to a productive exchange of ideas."

On the first day, the building blocks for the Change

Process of the CGIAR strategy was discussed while the building blocks for the Change Process Structure, Governance and Finance were discussed on the second day.

The Change Design and Management Team would be charged with relevant deliverables by MTM 2001. These are: 1) a restructuring plan for the entire CGIAR System with a clear rationale for program integration and/or consolidation of centers, 2) a governance plan that streamlines CGIAR decision-making and clarifies the roles of components and brings net efficiency gains and 3) a business plan for increasing efficiency in the provision of common services, coordinating system-wide programmatic activities and reducing center and system overheads in order to transfer more resources to research. (*Junelyn dela Rosa*)

ILIARC Relocation Proposed

The Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ILIARC) must be relocated to the PhilRice-National Tobacco Administration (NTA) Complex in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

This was the proposal forwarded by the Institutional Development Division (IDD) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

The proposal is in line with BAR's goal of integrating all regional research activities in a centralized research center where the DA family and related research agencies can conduct different types of researches.

Results of an evaluation of a Regional External Review Team, which is composed of specialists and architects, show the complex can accommodate both the ILIARC and the research staff.

The proposal is also anchored on enhancing

interconnectivity among partner research agencies.

The complex, located within the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) compound, will become the "nerve center" for R&D in Region I. It currently houses other major DA research institutions such as the RIARC for Rainfed Agriculture.

The newly implemented Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS) is also based in MMSU. The DA Dingras Experiment Station is only 30 km away from the campus.

PhilRice, NTA, MMSU have held a consultation meeting to arrive at a decision.

The ILIARC, located in Bacnotan, La Union, is actively conducting mid-stream researches on major commodities in the region such as rice, corn, garlic, onion, legume and mango. (*Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)

GSDP...

individuals as well as their respective roles and responsibilities were organized. This will be under the administration of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR). Also included in the plan are the detailed implementation plans of concerned agencies, the establishment of the Corn Central Experiment Station as well as the upgrade and renovation of research facilities and laboratories, the promotion and distribution of quality corn seed, and the creation of a human resources development program.

These will ensure that the targets and plans of the initial phase of the Program on Corn Research implementation are efficiently carried out.

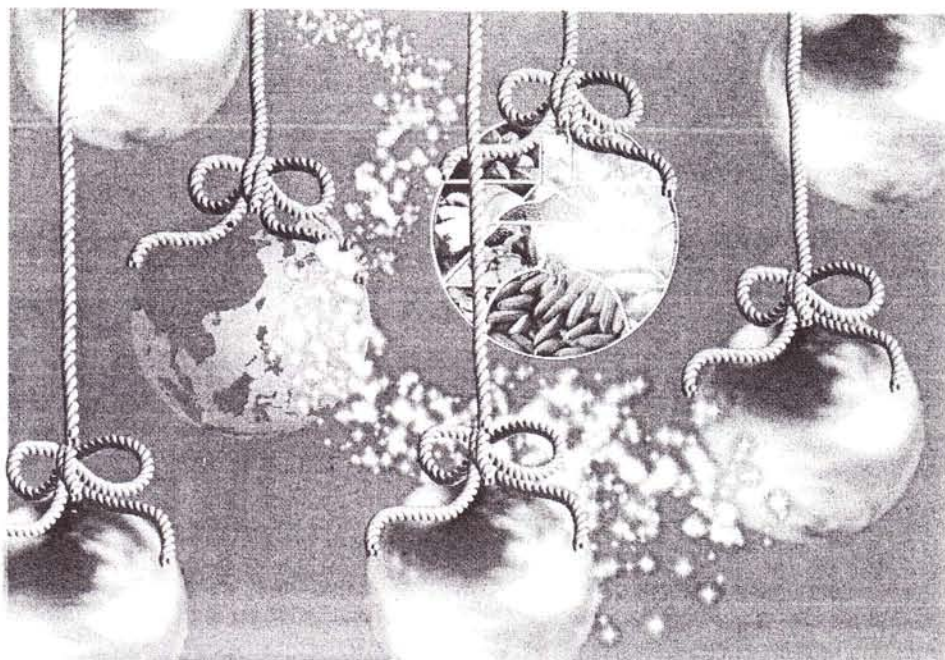
The program, which would operate on total budget of P527 million from the Asian Development Bank (DBM) and the Government of the Philippines (GOP), will be implemented until 2004. (*Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)

CERDAF...

responsibilities among the players, especially those that have the budget to give for R&D. This to achieve better coordination not only in the implementation and formulation of projects, but in seeking funds especially in the national level.

Fifteen of the 22 networks (Fisheries Postharvest, Aquaculture, Capture Fisheries, Fruits, Plantation Crops, Vegetables, Ornamentals, Rice, Corn, Coconut, Rootcrops, Fiber Crops, Legumes, Livestock and Poultry, and Biotechnology) presented their programs to the Council.

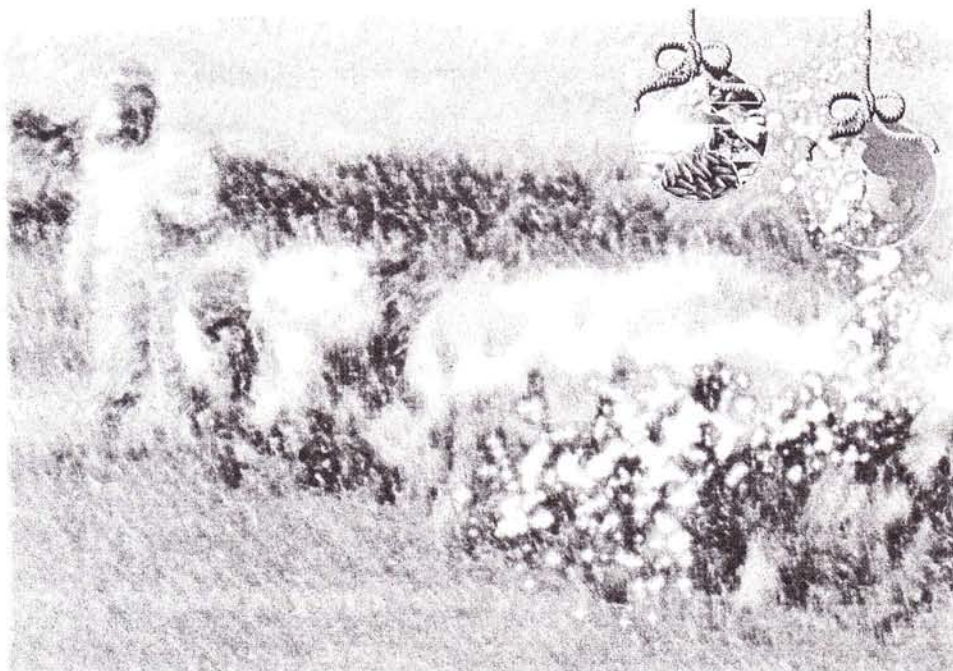
The rest will present by next year, in time for the second CERDAF meeting. (*Jennifer S. Farralles*)



Pasko 2000

Kasaganaan at Kapayapaan sa Taong 2001

Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce
Director
and Staff of the
Bureau of Agricultural Research



WebNEWS

Agriculture- and fisheries-related stories found on the Web :

Monsanto makes available the results of its draft rice genome sequence
http://www.rice-research.org/rice_ssr.html

Conclusion of the workshop on genetic resources management in ecosystem organized by CGIAR
<http://www.cifor.org/grme/conclusion.htm>

Better agricultural practices and new crops counteract the effects of climate change
<http://www.futureharvest.org/earth/carbon.bkgnd.shtml>

One-third of domestic animal breeds at risk of extinction according to FAO
<http://www.fao.org/news/2000/001201-e.htm>

Black pearl farming in the Solomon Islands provides a commercially viable and environmentally sustainable alternative to over-fishing
<http://www.futureharvest.org>

ANNOUNCEMENT

New BAR Logo by 2001

Effective January 2001, the Bureau of Agricultural Research will use a new institution logo.

Secretary Edgardo Angara of the Department of Agriculture approved the appeal and design of the BAR Logo in late-November.

According to BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, the new logo is more gender sensitive, embodying the vision and mission of the Bureau. The design



incorporates the goals of achieving agriculture and fisheries modernization: food security, poverty alleviation and social equity, increased productivity and income, sustainable development and global competitiveness.

In the new logo, a farm family is placed at the center, replacing the lone farmer in the former design. This symbolizes farming as not for the men alone. Rather, farming is, more importantly, a family enterprise.

Year-end Report

BAR Allots P0.8-M Publication Grants in Year 2000

For the year 2000, the Bureau of Agricultural Research has given out a total P817,500 in Publication Grants to various research institutions and organizations.

Twelve research institutions and scientific organizations have availed of the financial support for the publication of scientific meeting proceedings: PhilArm, UP Diliman, DA-CARAGA, Philippine Association of Entomologists, Philippine Society of Agricultural Engineers, Crop Science Society of the Philippines, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Society for the Advancement of Vegetable Industry, Pest Management Council of the Philippines, Philippine Society of Animal Science, Philippine Society for Microbiology, and Grassland Society of the Philippines, Inc.

Three funding proposals from ERDB, Philippine Fisheries Association and the Philippine Society of Animal Science, amounting to P300,000, are currently being finalized.

Funding support will include the publication of technical handbooks, proceedings and a co-sponsorship grant for a scientific meeting.

Management of Grants

Every year, BAR awards Publication Grants for the following: publication of proceedings of scientific meetings and refereed scientific journals of SEC-registered, non-profit scientific associations, counterpart funds for refereed scientific journals of public institutions and publication of research methodology manuals.

A Grants Committee,

composed of the BAR Assistant Director, KPSD Chief, IDD Chief, NPD Chief, PIRD Chief, KPSD Asst. Chief and a Technical Consultant, screen applicants for this grant. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)

Chronicle

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**BAR**

Chronicle

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16-30 December 2000

BAR Programs P178M to Strengthen NaRDSAF

To uphold its mission to strengthen the R&D capacities of national and regional institutions, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) has allocated a total of P178M budget to its Institutional Development Grant (IDG). The amount is part of the P380M budget for R&D allotted by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the Bureau for the year 2000.

The Grant is a flexible funding facility given to members of the National Research & Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) to support infrastructure and human resource development and other critical R&D activities.

Recipients who received

human resource development support include PhilRice, UP Los Baños, Natural Science Research Institute (NSRI), Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). The grant covered scholarship support to deserving R&D personnel, conduct of specialized training (foreign and local) and thesis/dissertation assistance. In some national centers, the grant was used for the conduct of the Corporate Planning Workshop, which embodies the institution's Medium-Term Development Plan for the next five years.

On the other hand, recipients

See P178M, page 3

BAR, Winrock Conduct IT Infra Assessment in Region II

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and Winrock International (WI) recently conducted an IT facilities assessment in the three pilot project provinces in Region II namely, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, and Isabela.

The assessment is in line with the development of an integrated information delivery system crucial to the implementation of the *Pinoy Farmer Business Development Project*, a joint undertaking of the DA and WI, which is aimed at transforming the disadvantaged Pinoy farmer into a globally competitive entrepreneur using Information Technology. The project targets to aid Pinoy farmer develop their own business enterprise by providing sustained and market-driven support services such as market linkages, production technologies, business planning tools, mentors and other resources.

The evaluation group was composed of BAR's Information Technology Division (ITD) and Project Development Unit (PDU) staff, WI Country Director Inocencio Bolo, and Mr. Brian Moquin, an IT specialist from US.

Results of the assessment revealed that most of the IT infrastructures in the project areas such as internet connection, Local Area Network (LAN) and other IT services need to be given support and improved. In the case of the DA

See Assessment, page 3

DA Reorientation Beefs up BAR Manpower Complement

Sixty three new staff will join the Bureau of Agricultural Research following the implementation of the Department of Agriculture Reorientation program.

Specifically, the Bureau will seek the transfer of 17 and 46 personnel from the Agriculture Credit Policy Council (ACPC) and Cotton Development Authority (CODA), respectively. At present, only 13 personnel from ACPC have been given their official detail orders to BAR as effected by Special Order No. 795 issued December last year.

The additional manpower complement is in accordance to Section 3 of Executive Order No. 162 (Reorienting the Functions and Operation of the DA) or the preparation of the Agricultural Bureaucracy Restructuring Plan (ABRP). Under this provision, DA Units, attached agencies and staff bureaus must undergo reorientation of their policies, functions, programs, activities and strategies, including staffing modifications to address problems in existing and unfilled positions. As validated by Section 4 of E. O. No. 162, this can be done through the

See Reorientation, page 3

SEARCA-BIC Conducts Media Workshop for BIOTECH Awareness



Dr. Evelyn Mae Tecson-Mendoza addresses participants from the print media industry during the Media Workshop on Biotechnology

"We believe that the media, can greatly help us educate the public on Biotechnology."

Thus declared Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., R&D Manager of SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), during the opening of the *Media Workshop on Biotechnology* at the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon City last 15 December 2000.

The one-day activity was participated in by representatives from the country's print media industry and different agencies/institutions. Primarily, the workshop was conducted to discuss and present the different concerns and issues surrounding biotechnology in the hope of educating the public. The Biotechnology Information Center or BIC of SEAMEO-SEARCA based in UP Los Baños conducted the workshop. With the aim to promote greater understanding of biotechnology, BIC are making use of several modalities to form opinions from different sectors of society which will hopefully be the basis for strategic decision making, one of which was through this workshop.

According to Dr. Saguiguit, the lack of information is one important factor that promotes misinformation among the general public. Through this workshop, the Center was able to solicit opinions (whether positive or negative) to make it accessible among different stakeholders. Furthermore, the Center was able to seek the assistance of the media in disseminating the right information among its clientele.

Topics presented specifically focused on the scope, status and trends in biotechnology and issues related to safety. Presenters during the workshop included, Dr. Evelyn Mae Tecson-Mendoza, *Research Professor and Program Leader*, Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB); Dr. Eduardo Fernandez, *Deputy Director*, IPB; and Dr. Saturnina Halos, *Senior Consultant*, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR). (Rita T. dela Cruz)

NAFC...

irrigation suitability.

The HRD component was presented by Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Director Edwin Acoba. He discussed the two concurrent projects under the DA-Expanded HRD Program namely, the Fullbright DA Scholarship Program for A/F Modernization (FDSAP) and the Ateneo de Manila University Master in Public Management

Program, Major in Rural and Agricultural Development (MPM-RAD). Acoba explained that the DA-Expanded HRD Program oversees the implementation of other scholarship programs in the DA, like the DA-BAR Scholarship Program, which allows for scientists, researchers and other technical staff of the NaRDSAF to pursue graduate studies. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Public Relations Campaign Enhanced

"Research and development in agriculture performs a critical function in our society, thus it needs to be delivered in an effective and efficient way..." Dr. Diaz emphasized in a three-day training on *Information, Education, and Communication Message Production (IEC)* last 5-6 December.

The seminar sponsored by the SEAMEO-SEARCA and BAR was aimed at enhancing the employees' capability to develop a more proactive approach in the production of campaign messages and further establish strong partnerships with its clientele. In attendance were selected staff of the Public and International Relations Division and the Knowledge Products and Services Division. Dr. Paz Diaz of the College of Mass Communication of the University of the Philippines in Diliman served as resource speaker with Ms. Cleotilde Paula San Miguel of SEARCA.

The group focused mainly on developing effective messages and media campaigns for the print and broadcast medium. First, the group identified their client/target audience to clearly identify their (client) needs, what medium to use and what messages to adopt. Second, the group conducted a mock interview that could enhance their interpersonal/public relation skills in the conduct of press conferences and briefings. Lastly, some pointers on newsworthiness were discussed and explored.

This training is in consonance to BAR's objective of enhancing the capabilities of its PR men and women and promote public awareness on the existence of BAR and its efforts to achieve a sustainable agriculture and fisheries sector through research and development. (Grace Garcia)

P178M...

who received a development grant for infrastructure and acquisition of priority scientific facilities and equipment include 15 DA- Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs), one Regional Integrated Fishery Research Center (RIFRC)- Region 13, PhilRice, Fiber Industry Development Authority (FIDA), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) and six State Colleges & Universities (SCUs). These SCUs are Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA), Mindanao State University (MSU), University of Southern Mindanao (USM), Central Luzon State University (CLSU), UP Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) and Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Lopez, Quezon.

The allocation of the grant was based on the adherence of the institutions to the assigned mandated R & D program of the National/Regional Integrated Research, Development and Extension Program (N/RIRDEP), critical R&D needs in the implementation of R&D program, performance in managing collaborative R&D program and approved agency corporate/strategic plans. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

WHO'S NEW AT BAR

BAR Welcomes the following staff from the Agri. Credit Policy Council. Welcome to the BAR Family!!!

Evelyn T. Aquino
Sotero P. Aquino Jr.
Florinda B. Dasalla
Godofredo L. Espiritu Jr.
Renato C. Faustino
Rebec A. Fernandez
Gregoria M. Guce
Gladys S. Melendez
Ma. Nimfa N. Parico
Estelita S. Rama
Reynaldo D. Tan
Noel T. Videna
Lauro B. Yorro

Reorientation...

redeployment of any DA personnel to other DA units according to the requirements of the revised organization structure and staffing pattern.

Originally, the new BAR staffing pattern calls for a total of 254 positions. However, 188 new positions are still required to supplement the existing 66 plantilla positions and meet the needs of the Bureau. The staffing modifications shall conform to the DBM Circular Letter No. 2000-4 in terms of budget preparation and allocation for 2001. As provided in the Circular, staffing modifications shall be made with consideration for the agencies' new organizational structure, its new functions, priorities and programs.

BAR as Lead R&D Coordinator

The increased manpower complement of the Bureau is in response to its role as the chief coordinator of the country's agriculture and fisheries research and development system as decreed in the reorientation program.

As lead coordinator, BAR shall endeavor to increase the capability of the country's agriculture and fishery sectors in technology generation and dissemination. In November 2000, the Bureau's Director was appointed as Acting Coordinator of the DA R&D. In addition to his roles as Director, the Acting Coordinator is responsible for integrating the functions of R&D across all DA agencies, offices and units. Moreover, the Bureau must ensure teamwork and optimum performance of respective core functions among and within various agencies of the DA. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The University of Helsinki is enjoining interested scientists, researchers and students to submit scientific papers for possible inclusion in their book of proceedings on the Crop Management Symposium held last 15-16 December 2000 at the University of Applied Biology, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Helsinki.

Scientific papers should be based on the following topics: plant nutrition; postharvest quality; crop production and quality; cultivation and growth of commodities; orchard management; crop physiology; fruits; vegetables; and ornamentals.

All entries will be reviewed and considered for publication and should be submitted on or before February (first draft)/March (revised)/May (final draft) 2001.

For specifics, interested parties may contact Dr. Ramdane Dris at the Department of Plant Production, Section Horticulture, Box 27, Viikki, FIN-00014 University of Helsinki; Tel nos. +358 50 505 11 35/ +358 9 191 5 8 3 1 8 ; o r e - m a i l a t Ramdane.Dris@helsinki.fi.

Assessment...

Regional office in Tuguegarao, their database management server connected to DA-ITCAF has been temporarily cut-off due to telephone line disconnection. The absence of an established and licensed Internet Service Provider (ISP) within the project area further aggravates the problem.

On the other hand, the evaluation group also revealed that the Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CVIARC) office has no existing telephone lines or LAN yet. Likewise, internet connectivity in Isabela is found to be in poor condition.

IT specialist Brian Moquin recommended that an ISP devoted to the *Pinoy Farmer Business Development Project* should be established. This is crucial to make market information such as production trends of major agricultural commodities, price trends, and names and contact details of prospective buyers and suppliers of agricultural inputs and machinery. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

webNEWS

Agriculture- and fisheries-related stories found on the Web :

Scientists Set to Defeat Millenia-long Problem of Locusts and Grasshopper Plagues

<http://www.futureharvest.org/news/index.thu.mb.shtml>

High-protein, High-yielding Corn to Prevent Malnutrition Among Millions

<http://www.futureharvest.org/news/index.thu.mb.shtml>

Php 6-M Mechanized Corn Production Project Launched in Central Luzon

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

Acid Soil-Tolerant Maize Hybrid Released in Columbia

<http://www.cimmyt.org/whatsnew/index.html>

NAFC Sector Leaders and Members Present Year-end Report

Leaders and members of the National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAFC) held its fifth meeting for this year. The meeting was presided by DA Undersecretary for Fisheries and Legislative Relations, Cesar Drilon and attended by different staff bureaus and attached agencies.

Among the agenda during the meeting were the presentation of the Agriculture and Fisheries (A/F) Performance Report for the year 2000 and updates on selected AFMA components like the Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZ), Irrigation and Human Resource Development (HRD).

Bureau of Agricultural

Statistics (BAS) Director Romeo Recide presented the A/F Performance Report and assured that the current political crisis made no effect in this year's agricultural production. In fact, he revealed that the agriculture sector gross value added (GVA) grew by 3.49% during the first nine months of the year. Recide elaborated that four subsectors, specifically crops, livestock, poultry and fishery, have increased its GVA from 2.1% to 3.6% allowing a self-sufficiency level of 13.5%.

On the other hand, Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Director Rogelio Concepcion presented an update on the SAFDZ, citing the completion of the national, regional and provincial zone maps indicating crop suitability. On the status of National Irrigation, NIA Administrator Manuel Arevalo reported that they are currently undertaking activities and researches to improve the irrigation service fee collection, update the management record of the National Irrigation System (NIS), and ensure water quality and its

See NAFC, page 2

Year-end Report

ERP Presents BAR's CY 2000 Accomplishments Before DA-ManCom

BAR Director Eliseo Ponce recently presented before the DA Management Committee (ManCom) the Bureau's accomplishments for the year 2000. In attendance were Directors/Administrators of DA Staff Bureaus and Attached Agencies and DA Regional Directors. Secretary Angara and Undersecretary for Fisheries and Legislative Relations Cesar Drilon presided the meeting.

One of the activities/key result areas/projects of the Bureau is to implement the national RDE programs and agenda. The Bureau was able to review a total of 152 R&D projects, out of which 126 were funded and 239 were monitored (this includes 1999 R&D projects). For the regional RDE programs, BAR reviewed a total of 105 projects in Agriculture and 45 in Fisheries.

The Bureau, through its R&D Institutional Development Program

was able to support 32 scholars, seven of which were beneficiaries of the Degree Program (MS, Ph.D., Thesis Support) and 25 of the Non-Degree Program (Post-doctoral, fellowships, training, workshops).

In terms of products and services, the Bureau provided and distributed a total of 17, 913 publications to its clientele. It has supported three scientific libraries and supported 21 scientific publications and meetings.

Making A/F information accessible to its partner institutions is one of the Bureau's concerns. This led to the development of the Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Information System (AFRDIS). For this year, the Bureau was able to install and maintain five servers. Moreover, 11 NaRDSAF Information Centers were organized and evaluated for IT capability building through specialized seminars and training conducted by the Bureau. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Chronicle

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