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MANGO INCEPTION MEETING HELD



Dr. Golez discusses the framework of the Mango IIIP Project.

The inception meeting for the high impact project (HIP) "Action Project on Enhancing the Productivity and Quality of Carabao Mango through Integrated Pest Management" was held last 17 February 2000. This activity, which was facilitated and coordinated by Ms. Digna Sandoval, is part of the series of regular inception meetings held by BAR to monitor and evaluate all HIP projects conducted by DA attached agencies.

Members of the project's Technical Evaluation Team (TET) which include Dr. Domingo Angeles, Dr. Edwin Benigno and Dr. Edralina Serrano, and proponents Dr. Oscar Opina and Dr. Elda Esguerra, attended the activity at the Post Harvest Research Training Center (PHRTC) in UP Los Baños, Laguna.

Based on the project framework, Dr. Opina presented several strategies to insure the initial implementation of the HIP on Guimaras and Iloilo in the Visayas, Pangasinan and Zambales in Luzon, and Davao Oriental and Cotabato in Mindanao. These include the integrated approach to program implementation and community-based participation. Also, he stressed the importance of participants' commitment and their willingness to share resources.

Moreover, the proponents presented their Terms of Reference for evaluation. These are progress monitoring, conduct of site visits, evaluation and certification of progress reports, and submission of the project's assessment reports and recommendations to BAR.

On the other hand, the TET made several recommendations to improve the project implementation. For a more efficient and effective monitoring by the TET, Dr. Angeles and Dr. Benigno suggested the use of a Gannt Chart and meteorological data. This will reflect the plan of activities as well as the actual accomplishment for every project component, and provide useful information for data analysis in the final report, respectively. Finally, the TET expressed their interest to have a social scientist in the project, and asked the proponents to include food safety as one of the project's objectives. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuason*)

PONCE: GIVE MORE SUPPORT TO SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

This was what BAR Director Eliseo Ponce told members of the Sugarcane Core Planning Team (CPT) in a consultation meeting held last 9 February 2000 at the Sugar Regulatory Administration Boardroom. The activity was facilitated by Ms. Agnes Collado and participated by FIAC members and Sugarcane National RDE network members. The activity focused on the review and packaging of the sugarcane RDE agenda and programs.

According to Dr. Ponce, the sugarcane industry plays a key role in the country's economy. Although it is independent and could take care of itself, its potential for further development will be realized only through increased R & D support. With this regard, he pointed out the important role of the DA in orchestrating and supporting the R & D system for the sugarcane as well as other industries in agriculture and fisheries.

Based on the presentation of the agenda and programs by CPT Chairman Salvador Catelo, several suggestions were given to improve its implementation. First, the group recognized the importance of clearly defined roles of the private and public sectors in program implementation. Agencies like the Philippine Sugar Research Institute, Philippine Sugar Millers' Association, and Sugar Regulatory Administration should have specific RDE responsibilities specifically on accountability and complement each other to respond to the issue of limited resources. Other recommendations included the segmentation of the sugar RDE agenda/program, assessment of best machinery suitable for farm work, adaptation, and the incorporation of new varieties, machinery, prices, and other on R&D activities and the sugar national information network.

Mr. Santiago Ureta, FIAC Chairperson, approved the agenda/program. A letter of recommendation is still to be submitted to BAR for its endorsement to the Senior Scientist Advisory Committee for technical approval. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)



The Winner's Guide to Success

How do successful people think? What drives them? Here are seven keys to success:

Take full responsibility

In a society in which people blame everyone from their parents to the government for their failure, motivational superstars refuse to buy into the victim mentality. Their credo is: "If it's to be, it's up to me."

You can't control things in life such as nature, the past and other people. But you can control your own thoughts and actions. Taking responsibility for your life is one of the most empowering things you can do.

Live life "on purpose"

Not living life on purpose consists of expending just enough effort to get by with the least amount of problems. When you live life on purpose, your main concern is doing the job right. You love what you do and it shows. People want to do business with you because they sense your commitment.

Write out a plan

Trying to achieve your goals without an action plan is like trying to drive through unfamiliar roads to a distant city. With a written map in hand, you'll enjoy the trip and arrive at your destination in the shortest possible time.

Be willing to pay the price

Wanting a big house, a luxury car or a million dollars is nice, but practically everyone wants these things. Successful people find out what it costs to make their dream come true then make it happen. They don't complain about the work it takes.

Become an expert

If someone videotaped you at your job to make a how-to tape for other people, would you be proud of the tape or embarrassed? Do everything to improve your skills.

Never give up

It may sound obvious, but when you're truly committed to your goal, giving up isn't even an option. You must be willing to do whatever it takes to make it happen.

Don't Delay

Remember, we don't have forever. But rather than seeing it as negative or depressing, use the knowledge to spur yourselves on. Go after what you want energetically and passionately accomplish your dreams! (Adopted article of Michael Jeffreys, Reader's Digest, December, 1999)

Web NEWS

Genetically Modified Food Debate:

Visit the following sites for more information: A Maizing Ban

A Maizing Ban (http://www.wired.com))

Genetically Engineered Food for Developing World? (http://hunisci.com)

130 Countries Adopt Biosafety Protocol (http://www.africanews.org)

We Can Engineer Nature. But Should We?

(http://www1.nytimes.com)

Tightened Biotech Crop Regs Urged (http://dailynews.yahoo.com)

Who's New at BAR

Barely two weeks after employing two contractual staff, BAR has decided to further bolster its workforce by contracting the services of Ms. Evelyn Avellanoza and Ms. May Maguyon. They took their posts in FMD (Financial Management Division) and IDD (Institutional Development Division), respectively.

Hailing from Nueva Ecija, Evelyn graduated in 1997 with a degree in Business Administration from the Central Luzon State University. Gentle and simple, she considers hanging out with friends and playing bowling a fun way to will away extra time. Before starting her job here at BAR, she already expected a heavy workload...and now that she's here? "It's true." She said with a smile.

She is charged under the National Ornamental RDE Network in UPLB.

May, an Atenean, has a degree in Psychology. Having worked in private companies in the past, she admits that she finds the atmosphere here at BAR a bit different. Nonetheless, she expects to learn a lot from this new environment. Originally from the Quezon province, May finds solace in nature tripping and climbing, and also enjoys different types of music.

She is charged under the National Plantation Crops Sub-network in CaVSU.



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