



BAR

# Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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

Volume No.1 Issue No.11

1 - 15 June 2000

## Million-peso Project to Boost Corn Industry



## RP, Thailand Sign Agri Research MOU

Bangkok, Thailand - Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and Dr. Ananta Dalodom, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation on agricultural research and development.

This international collaboration is one of the Bureau's top projects in its pursuit of a more dynamic R&D system in the country.

The new partnership provides that BAR and DOA actively participate and reap mutual benefits in the exchange of technical information on agriculture, exchange of plant germplasm, support exchange visits of scientists and researchers, conduct joint research, symposia, workshops, seminars and training programs.

In September this year, a delegation of 25 DOA

The potential of corn as an immediate substitute for rice has been highlighted in support of the government's vision of attaining food security and self-sufficiency for the country. It is estimated that 20 percent of the populace depends on white corn as food. However, a tremendous decline in white corn's annual production yield has been observed in the past few years due to neglect in terms of budget allocation for research and development.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) spearheads a landmark project aimed at turning the outlook for this sector around.

The approved project entitled *Strengthening the Integrated Corn Research Development and Extension Network* was presented to partner R&D institutions in an orientation meeting held on 06 June at the ATI-BAR Conference Room in Quezon City.

The project generally aims to ensure stable supply of affordable high-quality corn seeds through institutionalized sustainable corn RDE and the development of technologies.

The project is a sub-component of the Grain Sector Development Program (GSDP), with funding coming from the Asian Development Bank. The P510-million project (loan proceeds and GOP combined) will focus on increasing the national average production yield of high-quality white corn seeds and special corn types to meet the increasing demand for corn by consumers and corn-user industries.

Specifically, the project aims to:

- ♦ renovate and upgrade research facilities in eight research centers, namely USM, UPLB, ARMM, regions 2, 5, 7, 10 and 12;
- ♦ implement the national integrated corn research and development agenda;
- ♦ promote the use of genetically improved seeds through farmers' training and dissemination of parental lines and selected varieties to enable the country to achieve an average yield of 1 metric ton/ha/cropping/year, and;
- ♦ develop core scientific staff for corn research and BAR monitoring staff.



# BAR Named Lead Institution of NARS Forum

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) was recently designated as the lead institution and coordinator of a topic of the NARS Issues Forum under the *Electronic Global Forum on Agricultural Research* (EGFAR). The topic assigned to BAR is "Integration of NARS: From NARIs (National Agricultural Research Institutes) to NARS (National Agricultural Research Systems)". This development came about during the GFAR 2000 Global Forum Meeting held in Dresden, Germany this May wherein BAR Director Eliseo Ponce was one of the country's representatives.

As lead NARS/coordinator of the topic, the Bureau will establish a webpage that will serve as a platform for the NARS Forum discussion. A battery of questions on the evolution of NARIs into NARS will be prepared. The feedback and added information from various contributors shall then be collected and analyzed. This will allow both the Bureau and contributors to monitor or document past experiences and, in turn, draw lessons and new insights which shall be of use in the identification and drafting of management tools and policies.

## NARS Forum

The NARS Forum is one of the services being developed under the EGFAR and is aimed at developing "user-driven *Knowledge Marketplaces* on topics of specific interest to the management of NARS." It is an internet-based electronic platform that will facilitate the exchange of management experiences, approaches, and know-how among NARS and research institutions.

The NARS Forum is being organized around a nine-point agenda of strategic issues of interest to NARS. Lead NARS that have already been identified include topics such as "Funding Strategies and Mechanisms for Agricultural Research" from EMBRAPA of Brazil and "Management of

Information and Knowledge System" in the Philippines from PCCARD. Other institutions such as IICA, the University of Campinas, and South Africa are also in the process of being identified as lead NARS for the remaining topics following the Forum's rapid process of structuring and organization.

The NARS Forum involves the collaboration between FAO, ISNAR and other International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs). The involvement of other NARS colleagues in the discussion of similar problems will help in the development of a "community of NARS" capable of sharing and generating vast information. This will allow for a wide discussion on the different agriculture fora. This will also play a key role in the build-up of a body of knowledge.

## EGFAR

The EGFAR is a system of webpages that facilitate information exchange between stakeholders of agricultural research and development (ARD). Its three main functions, namely gateway, electronic forum discussion, and information services, ensure continued interaction between GFAR members and their clientele.

This system is monitored in close coordination with FAO/WAICENT, CGIAR, and GFAR stakeholders' information services such as the Regional/Sub-regional Fora and their databases. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan*)

## Million-peso...

### Implementation Strategies

As agreed upon in the last concluded consultation-meeting, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabakan, North Cotabato will house the Corn Central Laboratory. Included in the agreement is the renovation and upgrading of existing research facilities.

Upgrading of laboratories within the USM Crop Science Laboratories shall be done through

acquisition of equipment, renovation and repair of existing laboratories. These laboratories are: DNA and Molecular Genetics Laboratory; Crop Protection Laboratory; Database, Biometrics/Statistics Laboratory; Soils and Plant Physiology Laboratory; and Seed Technology Laboratory.

The above facilities are expected to serve scientists, researchers and students conducting researches on corn. The project will also provide vehicles to facilitate monitoring of corn sites and transport of white corn seeds from the fields to the storage warehouses.

There is "a need for a more focused R&D program for corn."

This was the diagnosis of the BAR for the corn sector. It has been realized that corn R&D in the country is not as extensive and organized as rice.

This time, white corn research will focus on germplasm and varietal improvement, pest management, grain quality improvement, processing and development studies, socio-economics and marketing studies.

A seed distribution training program shall be developed and implemented for small corn farmers by the network, in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and LGUs.

The training program is designed to teach small farmers how to produce their own genetically improved seeds from varieties continuously developed by the corn research network. Funding for this program will come from the Integrated Crop Management of ATI.

Moreover, the project will include human resource development by providing researchers opportunities to pursue doctorate degrees here and abroad. Skill enhancement trainings will also be supported in this project to build the capability of corn researchers and farmers.

The project would entail the services of one full-time project director, five full-time senior scientists and a minimum of three support staff.

Project implementation will be from October this year up to 2004. (*Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)



## Tree Crop...

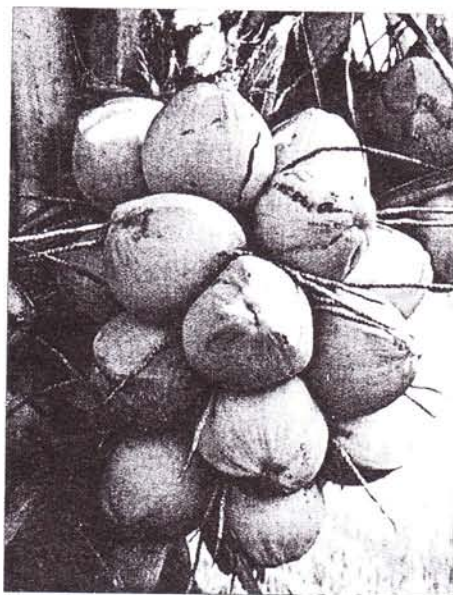
Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban who in turn endorsed it to the DA Secretary.

On 15 December 1999, Secretary Angara formally endorsed the paper to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the WB for funding. Since the project is not in the list of priorities of the DA submitted to NEDA for the year 2000, the condition was to implement the project by phase.

During the pilot phase, proposed project components are tested on a limited scale using existing DA budget, under the High-Value Commercial Crops or HVCC.

Three committees were created - the Project Steering Committee (PSC) headed by Undersecretary Panganiban, the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) chaired by Asst. Sec. Edmund Sana, and the Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by Mr. Rudy Guieb of the Field Operations (FOS).

A P15.2-million budget was estimated for the first phase of the project. The said budget shall cover the



procurement of input (P2.2M), trainings/meetings (P1M), monitoring, supplies and inputs (P7.4M), support

to R&D (P2.1M), marketing assistance (P0.5M), and the project preparation and evaluation (P2M).

Coconut was identified as the priority tree crop. It will be piloted in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. Tree crops that are identified to be intercropped with coconut are citrus, banana, papaya, pineapple, coffee, cacao, lanzones, rambutan, durian, guava, soursop, jackfruit, mahogany, and gmelina. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

## BAR VISION:

*"An assured future for the Filipino people through research excellence in agriculture and fisheries."*

# Rice Sequencing Project Yields Breakthrough

Monsanto has announced a major scientific breakthrough in decoding the genetic make-up of rice.

The new gene sequencing approach, conducted by Dr. Leroy Hood in the University of Washington in Seattle, led to the building of a "working draft" of all 12 chromosomes of rice.

Rice is now the first crop to be decoded or sequenced in genetic detail, providing fundamental information that will aid scientists and researchers in the development of improved types of rice. This information would also expand knowledge on crop yield, disease and pest resistance, hybrid vigor and adaptability to different environmental situations.

Furthermore, this research is anticipated to be the key to understanding the genomic structure of other grasses. Knowing the location

of a gene in rice can help find similar genes in corn and wheat.

Monsanto will provide the rice sequence files, as well as the tools used in the sequencing process, to the international research consortium International Genome Sequence Project (IRGSP). IRGSP is a group of research teams from 10 countries working to complete the entire genome sequence of rice.

Established in February 1998, the IRGSP is comprised of scientists from Japan, Canada, China, France, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States in a collaborative, multi-year effort to sequence the rice genome.

Monsanto will transfer the data of the "working draft" to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, the lead agency of the IRGSP. MAFF will in turn make this

data available to the member countries for use in completing the rice genome sequence.

Data though are not exclusive to IRGSP member countries. Monsanto will also provide access to registered researchers outside the IRGSP consortium.

Monsanto Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pharmacia, is a leading provider of agricultural solutions to growers worldwide by introducing cost-effective and integrated approaches in aid of improving productivity and food quality.

For more information on Monsanto, visit [www.monsanto.com](http://www.monsanto.com). (Karen T. Zafaralla)

*(This article is based on a press release submitted by BSMG Worldwide to the Bureau of Agricultural Research)*



Visit the following sites for more information:

Key Findings in the Development of Treatment for Kidney Diseases:  
<http://www.antivarals.com>

Corn Facts Database  
<http://www.cornfacts.monsantoindia.com>

Wash Your Veggies  
[Http://www.cnn.com/FOOD](http://www.cnn.com/FOOD)

## RP, Thailand...

employees shall visit the Philippines to formulate with the Bureau a general program of collaboration for the next three years. The national R&D networks shall be involved in a staggered basis: five delegates for the first year and another five for each succeeding year.

In principle, joint-research and development activities shall be implemented on the following areas:

- ♦ Rice R&D
- ♦ Field Crops R&D
- ♦ Horticulture R&D
- ♦ Sericulture R&D
- ♦ Plantation Crops (rubber, coffee, oil palm, coconut) R&D
- ♦ Farm Mechanization
- ♦ Plant Quarantine
- ♦ Basic and Applied Microbiology
- ♦ Soil and Water Resources Management
- ♦ Export Promotion
- ♦ Basic and Applied R&D on Crop Protection
- ♦ Farming Systems R&D
- ♦ R&D on Herbs Production
- ♦ Bilateral Information Network
- ♦ Social Science, Policy and Research Evaluation
- ♦ Biotechnology R&D
- ♦ R&D on Bio-botanical pesticides
- ♦ Plant Variety Protection Bilateral Network
- ♦ R&D on Hygienic and Organic Farming
- ♦ Agro-Tourism (June dela Rosa)

# Tree Crop Project Targets Rural Smallholders

The tree crop sector of the Philippines displays strong potential to become highly competitive and diversified. If developed, this sector may contribute significantly to the country's rural economy.

This was revealed by a study on the tree crop sector published by the World Bank (WB). Encouraged by the finding, the Department of Agriculture (DA) embarked on a validation of the study. An interagency technical working group (TWG) was formed by the DA to develop a concept paper that factors in a program package on tree crops.

This paper calls for the creation of the *Smallholder Tree Crop Development and Diversification Project* (STCDDP).

Generally, the objective of the STDCCP is to assist the government formulate sound operational policies and strategies applicable in a rural development and farming systems network. These policies and strategies will further develop the country's potential in tree crop production, marketing and processing. These strategies involve the participation of smallholders and devising ways to increase their incomes and generate employment by promoting crop diversification. The tree crop project has the following specific objectives:

- ♦ raise rural incomes by promoting highly profitable tree crops within diversified farming systems, with the long-term aim of developing a population of self-sustaining farmers owning income-generating assets;
- ♦ alleviate poverty by targeting CARP beneficiaries, upland communities and other small farmers;
- ♦ accelerate private investment in agro-industries, small- and medium-scale business, private organizations and producers

associations through the promotion of highly competitive agribusiness;

- ♦ contribute towards agricultural and overall economic growth by increasing long-term output, value-added and exports of products with which the Philippines has a comparative advantage;
- ♦ increase tree coverage, with direct benefits to local upland population (through the added income from tree crops) and indirect benefits to downstream lowland areas (through improved water availability for irrigation), and;
- ♦ contribute to the conservation and rehabilitation of the environment.

This is a convergence project of the DA, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). This project promotes strong participation of the private sector and farmer groups, with the NGA providing the necessary technical assistance.

After a series of meetings, the concept paper was submitted to DA

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## Chronicle

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BAR

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16 - 30 June 2000

## IDG: In Support of NaRDSAF

*ExeCom Calls for Corporate Plan*

The provision of institutional development support.

This is one of the strategies of BAR to strengthen the R&D capacities of the institutions comprising the National Research & Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF). The support given comes in the form of financial assistance through *Institutional Development Grant* (IDG).

IDG is a flexible funding facility given to an agency/institution annually to be used for the upgrade and improvement of existing facilities and the acquisition of priority equipment such as Information Technology, communication, farm and

*See IDG, Page 3*

## New Staffing Pattern Ok'd; DBM Next Step

A proposal calling for a new organizational structure and staffing pattern in the Bureau of Agricultural Research has been approved by the Agricultural Bureaucracy Restructuring Plan (ABRP) Committee led by USEC Arsenio M. Balisacan.

However, the Committee stressed the need for a concrete rationale for the number of requested positions prior to approval by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The new staffing pattern calls

for a total of 254 positions in order to meet the staffing needs of the Bureau. At present, there are only 66 plantilla positions. Hence, 188 new positions are still required to satisfy the proposal. Some of the existing positions will either be upgraded/reclassified or changed titles. The ABRP also recommended that of the additional 188 positions required by the Bureau, 47 shall come from DA agencies which were downsized due to the restructuring. The remaining 141 positions shall be included in the

*See Staffing, Page 3*

## Improve HRD System, Strengthen RDE Linkage - SSAC

The Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC) has drafted resolutions during its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held in Olongapo City.

Headed by Dr. Fernando Bernardo from the International Rice Research Institute, the SSAC passed two resolutions: the "Adoption of a massive staff development program for the DA and the National Research Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF)" and "Strengthening the linkage between Research, Development and Extension (RDE)."

According to the SSAC, the staff development program will address the Department of Agriculture's (DA) need to have an efficient Human Resource Development (HRD) system in the NaRDSAF. This system will provide

benefits and incentives to the DA's agriculture and fisheries researchers, thereby hopefully solving the retention problem.

With regard to the staff development and retention program, SSAC will ask the DA for a budgetary allocation of P1 billion every four years to be used for the development of at least 1,000 doctorate degree holders within the decade. Included in this program is the sponsorship of local scientists to study abroad for advanced training in agriculture and fisheries.

The second resolution aims to intensify the DA's role in orchestrating extension work and providing policy directions to the Local Government Units. SSAC members concurred that



(L to R) Dr. Solita Monsod and Dr. Florendo Quebral;  
(Foreground) Dr. William Padolina

the results and technologies generated by R&D projects will not be effective unless these are disseminated to end-users. The DA should then provide better incentives for extensionists, particularly those working on banner

*See SSAC, Page 4*



## Agriculture and Fishery Sector

# Japan-Assisted Projects in RP: An Overview

"It is high time for our two countries to further enhance relations in preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Agriculture and fisheries are the fields we must explore in terms of cooperation."

Thus declared Minister Tsukasa Kawada of the Embassy of Japan, guest speaker during the second National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAFC) lecture series at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM).

Although one of the world's most industrialized countries, Japan has not fully developed its agriculture and fishery sector. It is only recently that Japan focused its attention to the development of agriculture - specifically rice production. Agrarian reform has likewise boosted production. "However, this is still insufficient to feed a population of 1.2 billion," Minister Kawada said. Japan, therefore, has turned to importing agricultural and fishery products from the Philippines.

In support of the development of the Philippines' agricultural and fisheries sector, Japan has been extending assistance through the Overseas Development Assistance or ODA in the form of grant aid, technical cooperation, and loan aid. According to Minister Kawada, the Philippines is one of the leading beneficiaries of ODA, accounting for a total of \$319 million.

Japan's High-Level Economic Cooperation Mission authored a guideline on selecting future ODA projects and programs. It prioritizes economic structure for sustainable growth; lesser disparities in terms of poverty and regional inequalities; disaster management and environment conservation; human resources development, and institution building.

### Grant Aid

Japan has extended grant aids for the construction of three research



(L to R) Jovy C. Bernabe, Eiji Ueno, Valerio Kalaw, Minister Tsukasa Kawada, Demarce Raval

buildings, namely the BSWM, the Food Development Center for the NFA in Taguig, and the National Pesticide Analytical Laboratory (NPAL) of the Bureau of Plant Industry. In 1994, BAR received a P30-million grant for the

Sustainable Agriculture Systems Project (SASP).

Also under Grant Aid, the Philippines will receive P610 million worth of equipment for the *Increased Food Production Project* in aid of increasing food production.

### Technical Cooperation

This form of assistance is tapped for trainings, expert visits, and the provision of equipment and materials. In addition, Japan has introduced the *Project-type Technical Cooperation* which is used in an R&D project of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

### Loan Aid

To date, Japan has provided this kind of assistance to the Philippines for the implementation of the *Central Luzon Irrigation Project* in Luzon, the *Bohol Irrigation Project* in Visayas and the *Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project* in Mindanao. Also, loan aids have been given to agrarian and fishery projects: *Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project (ARISP)*, and construction of fishing ports in GenSan and Davao.

All these are an affirmation of the strengthening bilateral relations of the two countries. As Minister Kawada has said, "Our relations are becoming stronger in (the past) years." (Rita T. dela Cruz)

## BAR, PIDS Launch Seminar Series

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), in coordination with the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), recently held the first in a series of focused-discussion seminars.

During this seminar series, project proponents will present and discuss the different research outputs of selected projects. These outputs will help in the drafting of agriculture and fisheries policies for better planning and monitoring of agricultural R&D. This seminar series will also promote

the exchange of information among RDE stakeholders such as national and regional RDE network leaders and members, offices and technical staff of DA units, and BAR's technical staff.

The seminar series is divided into six parts. The first seminar is entitled *Review and Evaluation of Publicly Funded Research & Development*. Mr. Augusto "Gus" De Leon, a management consultant of De Leon Consulting, was the guest speaker. His three-part presentation revolved on the review and evaluation

of publicly funded agro-processing R&D, the clarification of the roles of the public and private sectors; and the identification of different government research programs that assist the private sector in agro-processing R&D.

The remaining seminars will feature five PIDS projects, namely *Vegetables Program Area Research Planning & Prioritization*; *Agricultural Biotechnology Research and Development in the Philippines*;

See PIDS, Page 3



## BAR Units Hold Midyear Evaluation, Planning Workshop

Halfway into the year, several divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Research are poised to evaluate the implementation of the individual roles, responsibilities and functions they have set out for themselves.

Six divisions/units will conduct their midyear evaluation and planning workshop this June.

Specifically, the workshop will involve a comprehensive assessment and consolidation of accomplishments in the first two quarters of the year of the Public and International Relations Division (PIRD), Regional Programs Division (RPD), Institutional Development Division (IDD), Impact Evaluation and Policy Division (IEPD), the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PMEU), the Project Development Unit (PDU), and the Office of the Assistant Director (OAD). As an output, the divisions are expected to finalize individual commitment targets and develop strategic frameworks and plans to be implemented for the remainder of the year. Moreover, issues and problems shall be analyzed as basis for drafting agenda implementation strategies and policies.

### IDG...

laboratory facilities. This fund is also used for the conduct of other critical R&D activities that conform to the national and regional RDE agenda and programs.

The beneficiaries of the grant are DA-RIARCs, DA-RIFRCs, DA-national centers, national and regional centers under SUCs, provincial research and development centers and Provincial Technological Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries (PTIAF).

After more than a year of implementation, total IDG granted by BAR amounted to P158 million, plus P20 million from the MakaMASA fund. A total of 15 RIARCs, 15 RIFRCs, three DA-staff bureaus and attached agencies which include Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), PhilRice and BPI-National Mango Research Development Center (NMRDC), and 13 state universities and colleges (SUCs) have been the beneficiaries.

In the ExeCom meeting held recently, BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, who also chairs the Committee, stressed

Earlier this month, the National Programs Division (NPD) and the Knowledge Products and Services Division (KPSD) completed their midyear evaluation and planning workshop. NPD reviewed their key result areas (KRA's) and accomplishments. From these, areas that needed improvement and targets for the remaining months of the year were identified. On the other hand, KPSD drafted specific publication production procedures and guidelines. These include story conferences, publication deadlines, and the formulation of the division's own editorial policies. Sectional and individual functions were also identified.

This midyear evaluation is a tool with which BAR hopes to enhance the divisions' efficiency in carrying out their respective functions: strengthening of the human resource capability of R&D centers (IDD); management of linkage and the strengthening of public advocacy and relations (PIRD); facilitation of the monitoring of R&D projects (IEPD), and; formulation of regional RDE agenda and programs (RPD). *(Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)*

that recipients of the grant need to draft a comprehensive *Corporate Plan*. The *Corporate Plan* must embody the institution's Medium-Term Development Plan for the next five years. It also includes the institution's mission, vision and mandates. This *Corporate Plan* will be the basis for the kind and amount of financial assistance extended to member agencies.

To ensure that a comprehensive *Corporate Plan* is developed, a corporate planning and team building workshop must be conducted for member agencies, Dr. Ponce said. He also pointed out that the Institutional Development Division (IDD) should facilitate and extend technical assistance by providing effective facilitators for the corporate planning workshop.

The corporate plan will be reviewed by the National External Review Team (NERT) which is composed of senior specialists and experts in the field of agriculture and fisheries. *(Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)*

### Staffing...

BAR's budget on a three-year period starting Calendar Year 2001, with 47 new positions added each year until the requirement is fully satisfied.

The increase in the manpower complement of the Bureau is in response to its role as the principal orchestrator of the country's research and development system.

With regard to the revised BAR organizational structure, the Bureau will be directly under the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture. Also, the Bureau proposed 10 key result areas that will provide the basis for the organizational structure. These are:

- ♦ National R&D Programs;
- ♦ Regional R&D Programs;
- ♦ Impact Assessment, Monitoring and Policy;
- ♦ Institutional Development;
- ♦ Knowledge Products and Services;
- ♦ R&D Information Technology;
- ♦ Public and International Relations;
- ♦ Project Development for External Funding;
- ♦ Financial Management, and;
- ♦ Administrative Services.

*(Junelyn de la Rosa)*

### PIDS...

*The Need for a Strategic Approach; Research Program Planning on Natural Resource Management; Fruits Program Area Research Planning and Prioritization; and Research Program Planning for Pest and Disease Management.*

These projects are the components of a PIDS study entitled "Economic Methodology for the Prioritization of National Research, Development and Extension Programs for Corn and Other Major Commodities: Objectives, Research Activities and Budget".

The second of the focused-discussion series is tentatively scheduled for the second week of July to be held at the Bureau of Plant Industry. The BAR-IEPD is the coordinator of this seminar series. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*



## 102 Years of Independence

The nation celebrated the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of its independence at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila. This year's event centered on the theme: *Isang Puso, Isang Diwa Tungo sa Isang Bansang Malaya*. It was a day of revelry highlighted by a float parade depicting important events in Philippine history and dramatizations of the revolution.

Participating government agencies presented their respective vision, mission, goals as an institution. The Department of Agriculture (DA) presentation showed the banner programs on strengthening the fishery and agriculture sector, an area to which the Estrada Administration expressed commitment. New machineries and equipment developed by different DA-attached agencies and staff bureaus and currently used by farmers were likewise paraded. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

## Relocation of EVIARC-Reg 8 Proposed

The Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (EVIARC) of DA-Region 8 has been proposed to be relocated to Babatngon from Abuyog, Leyte.

This developed as Department of Agriculture Regional Director Cirilo Balagapo has given the go-signal to the proposal calling for such a move.

EVIARC Region 8 Manager Rufino Ayaso III, in coordination with the DA regional director, presented to BAR the Master Plan of the Station Infrastructure Development Project Requirements which proposes the transfer of the station to Babatngon, Leyte. The Master Plan also calls for the rehabilitation of the existing administration building, as well as the upgrading of existing farm facilities such as seed processing building, farm machinery, fruit nursery shed and green houses. Furthermore, it proposes the

## Scholarship Program Opened To DA Agencies

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will award scholarship grants for degree and non-degree studies to employees of the Department of Agriculture and the National Research and Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) agencies.

The BAR Scholarship Program will defray expenses for tuition fees, books and supplies as well as provide a monthly stipend, thesis/dissertation allowance, basic salary and other benefits for graduate degree studies.

For non-degree studies and thesis/dissertation assistance, the Scholarship Committee shall

determine the kind and amount of support to be extended to beneficiaries

Through this program, the Bureau aims to further develop the skills and knowledge of the DA scientists, researchers, professors, technical and support staff, specifically in the following fields of study: crop science, animal science, veterinary medicine, fisheries, social sciences/socio-economics, farm resources, and computer science.

The details and forms for application may be availed at the HRDPE Section of the Institutional Development Division of BAR. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)



Proposed relocation site in Babatngon, Leyte

acquisition of new equipment for laboratory for research purposes.

The Master Plan also points out that the nearness of the proposed site to the DA-regional office will facilitate direct linkage and other networking activities.

An inventory report on facilities and equipment submitted to the BAR-Institutional Development Division shows that most of the farm and laboratory facilities in Abuyog are in bad condition and need to be rehabilitated and repaired.

Funding for the infrastructure development will be based on the cost-sharing scheme. The BAR will partially provide financial assistance through its *Institutional Development Grant (IDG)* while the rest would come from the region's core fund including MakaMASA. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

### SSAC...

programs. Moreover, there should be close coordination between the DA and the private sector for complementation of extension services. The DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) shall lead as a full-fledged coordinator of the development of the National Extension Programs for agriculture and fisheries. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)

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