



BAR Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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

Volume No.1 Issue No.9

1 - 15 May 2000

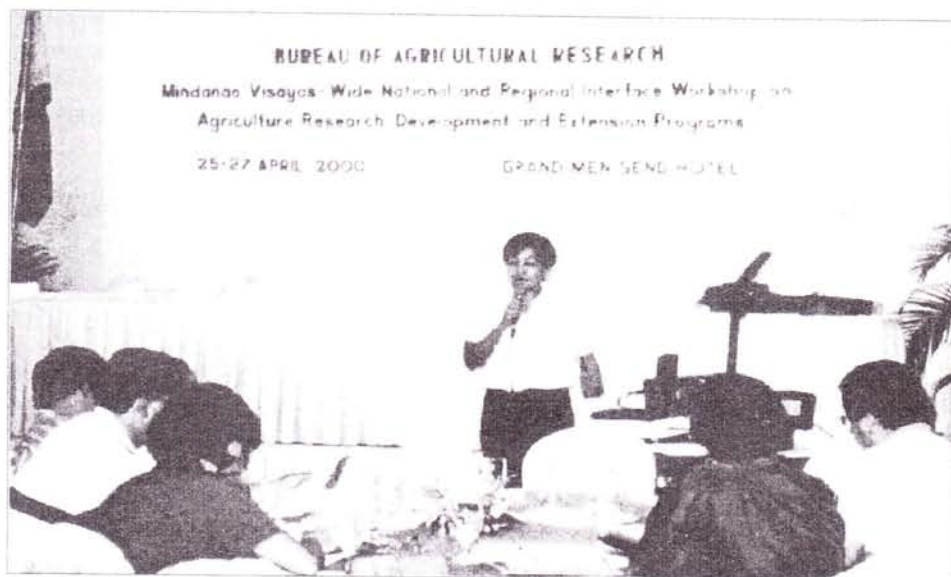
The National Programs Division of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), with the technical support of the National Corn RDE Network, evaluated the performance of *Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR)* projects in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. The evaluation meeting was held on 27 April 2000 at the Grand Men-Seng Hotel in Davao City.

CPAR, a program started by the BAR in 1998 through the Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs), aims to promote client participation in research project identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Each of the 15 RIARCs was granted an initial fund of P500,000 for trainings and community consultations as well as the implementation of small projects identified by the communities.

The coverage of the accomplishment reports presented by the regional project leaders ranged from the conduct of PAP training and community consultations to the construction of community learning centers. The disparity in accomplishments between the regions shows that resourcefulness and strong linkage with local government units (LGUs) are major determinants of the success of participatory projects similar to CPAR.

In Region 10 for example, the project was able to get the support of other government

CPAR Mindanao - Visayas Projects Evaluated



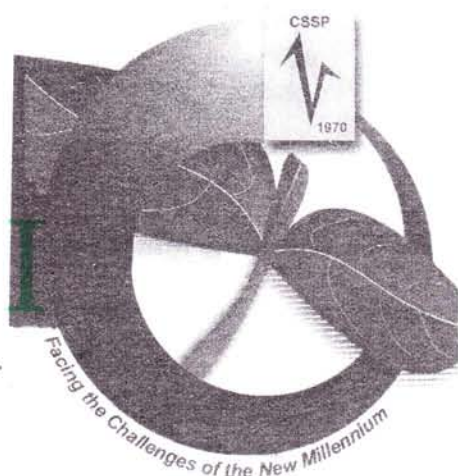
CARAGA RIARC Manager Freda Maslog during the evaluation.

agencies, even NGOs. With the seed money, a CPAR Farmers' Learning Center was constructed. An action research was also conducted on corn livestock and fisheries in addition to sponsoring farmers' trainings, and cross-visits.

Overall, the program shows that the major objective of increasing farmer participation in resource assessment and needs identification was achieved. The add-ons such as the generation of additional support for the community-vary from region to region. Site validation of the project

BAR-WINROCK Opens New Opportunities For Smallholders

The Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Bureau of Agricultural Research, and Winrock International is now in the final stages of drafting the masterplan for the launch of the *Market-driven Business Development for Smallholders* project. Over a three-year period, starting next month, this project will implement an innovative



CSSP 30th Annual Scientific Conference:

Paving The Way To New Discoveries And Advances In Crop Research

In line with Crop Science Society of the Philippine's thrust to continuously provide avenues for new ideas, discoveries, and advances in the field of agricultural crop research, CSSP held its 30th Annual Scientific Conference. The event was held on 2-7 May 2000 at the PhilRice-NTA Center, Mariano Marcos State University in, Batac, Ilocos Norte. The theme of this year's conference is "CSSP at 30: Facing the Challenges of the New Millennium".

This year's conference was attended by two-hundred and sixty-six participants from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Cotton Development Authority (CODA), National Tobacco Administration (NTA), Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), National Research Council of the Philippines (NRC), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), and officials from the provincial government of Ilocos Norte. Four plenary sessions, 12 scientific sessions, fellowship night, farmers' and traders' forum, and awards night were held during the week-long conference. Presented during the plenary sessions were four papers addressing different issues on agriculture as Filipinos face the challenges of the new millennium. A discussion on the role of the private sector in biotechnology opened the plenary session. The paper entitled, *Private Sector Biotechnology Initiatives in the Philippines and ASEAN Regions*

was presented by Dr. Paul S. Teng, biotechnology director of Monsanto Philippines, Inc. Other papers presented were: *Addressing the Nutritional Quality of Crops* by Dr. Elsa Bayani of the National Nutrition Council; *Mechanization in the New Millennium* by Dr. Rey C. Castro; and *Philippine Agriculture under Liberalized Global Trade* by Dr. Mercy Sombilla, a policy economist in IRRI. A total of 71 scientific papers were presented during the scientific sessions. The topics discussed were on plant breeding and genetics; socio-economics; plant physiology and biochemistry; postharvest handling, processing and utilization; crop protection; soils and plant nutrition; and crop production and management. The presentors of the scientific studies provided the participants an introduction and overview, methodology, policy implications, and preliminary results of their technologies. A fellowship night was held at the MMSU poolside, building rapport and harmony among the participants. Batac Mayor Elena Nalupta graced the event. Likewise, MMSU President Dr. Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr., PhilRice Executive Director Santiago R. Obien, Administrators Eugenio D. Orpia Jr. (CODA) and Antonio M. De Guzman, Jr. (NTA), and Ilocos Norte Vice-Governor Mariano R. Nalupta, Jr. delivered speeches. A total one-hundred ninety-one farmers and traders from Kalinga Apayao, Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Norte participated in the Farmers' and Traders' Forum. This forum highlighted the financing opportunities for farmers and entrepreneurs wherein farmers can avail of seeds and planting materials at the right time and quantity, and postharvest handling of vegetables and fruits. Mr. Albert Gudoy of Cooperative Rural Bank, Mr. Rustico Pinili of PhilRice, Mr. Florencio Dadiz of Hybrid Rice Seed Grower, Dr. Emma Ruth V. Bayogan, and Mr. Roberto Sarabia. Mr. Pinili, the speakers in the forum, advised the farmers and traders to combine old and

new farm practices in their endeavor to improve agricultural production. BAR Director Eliseo R. Ponce of BAR delivered the inspirational message during the awards night. Dr. Ponce emphasized the need to develop more technologies and to allocate more resources in developing these new technologies. To achieve this, he added, the farmers - who are the main players in agriculture - should be the focus of research and development (R&D). He also emphasized the need to make a hard and effective decision on which crops to produce in order to attain food security and global competitiveness.

Three finalists in the *Best Paper Competition* were also given awards. The best paper came from PhilRice, *Enhanced Generation and Development of Elite Breeding Lines from Traditional Rice Variety Wagwag* by Nenita V. Desamero, Yolanda A. Dimaano, Celia L. Diaz, Jonathan M. Niones, Grace B. Amar, Rodante E. Tabien, and Philbert S. Bonilla. The paper from IRRI, *Towards Construction of a Physical Map of the Rice Genome* by Alma C. Sanchez, Binying Fu, Jason Talag, Sibin Yu, Reyceel Maghirang, Jessica D. Rey, Catherine Aquino, Josefina Mendoza, Gurdev S. Khush, and Zhikang Li placed second. The third placer was a paper from Institute of Plant Breeding, *Physiological Mechanisms of Drought Resistance in Mungbean* by Eureka Teresa M. Ocampo and Restituta P. Robles.

On the other hand, the 2000 Achievement Awards were conferred to Dr. Ofelia K. Bautista for the field of Education; Dr. Stanley C. Malab for Research Management; Dr. Gerardo A. Santos for Research; and Dr. Justino R. Arboleda for Technology Development. Honorary Fellows titles were bestowed on Dr. Fe Divinagracia-Laysa and Dr. Ma. Concepcion Claudio Lizada. This year's distinguished service awards went to Dr. Abella C. dela Viña and Dr. Evelyn Mae Tecson-Mendoza. (Rita dela Cruz).

Interregional RDE Project Underway

A consultative meeting on *Interregional Strengthening Program on Agriculture and Fisheries R&D for Muslim Mindanao* was held on 25 April 2000 at the BAR-CERDAF Conference Room in Quezon City.

The project concept was formulated barely four months after the inception meeting of the top officials of Regions 9, 12, ARMM, BPI and BAR.

As agreed by the participants, a *Project Formulation Team (PFT)* composed of A&F experts was formed to facilitate and lead the conduct of visitations, interviews, consultations, and collect data from the identified project sites of Marawi, Sulu, and Maguindanao. BAR Director Eliseo Ponce stressed the importance of the PFT members' individual roles as well as their responsibilities as a team.

The proposed projects agreed upon by the heads of the concerned regions during the consultation meetings include genetic conservation and germplasm collection. These projects are expected to directly benefit the farmers and fisherfolk in the identified target areas.

According to Dr. Ponce, the implementation of the genetic conservation and germplasm project is urgent. He cited as an example the case of Sulu where economically important plant and fruit trees endemic to the region remain underutilized. On the other hand, a "renaturation" project should be implemented in Lanao Lake to counter the declining population of endemic fish species that command a high price.

Dr. Eusebio Mariano of CEM-UPLB expressed advocacy

for the livelihood programs for farmers and fisherfolk.

A one-week field visit for each identified project site will be conducted to further ensure the adaptability of the proposed projects in the different parts of the region.

Dr. Ponce pointed out that during the initial year of implementation, the project should promote:

- ❑ Institutional reorientation/reforms - a "mutual relationship" should be established between the Department of Agriculture (DA), local government units (LGUs) and the local people; and
- ❑ Institutional partnerships/relationships - linkage between the national R&D centers and the farmers should be established to facilitate information and technology transfer.

On the other hand, the group agreed that the project should also include human resource development that will provide researchers the opportunity to become experts in their fields through further studies abroad. The group also suggested that technical training be implemented among LGUs and farmer leaders, thereby making them efficient partners in the project implementation.

The Project Formulation Team is tasked to formulate the mechanism on how the involved agencies will operate and how the projects will be carried out.

According to Dr. Ponce, a minimum amount of P10 million will be allocated to the target regions 9, 12 and the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for this



year.

Dr. Eusebio Mariano, an economist, heads the Project Formulation Team. He is currently the dean of CEM. He will be assisted by Dr. Florentino Monsalud of FSSRI, a soils expert. Other members of the team are: Dr. Esmail Disoma, a sociologist and Vice-chancellor of MSU-Marawi; Prof. Pedro Escudero, a fisheries expert also from MSU; and Dr. Anastacia Gochangco of BPI, the team's crops expert. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

The CPAR...

assigned for implementation.

- ❑ Community Endorsement the final plan endorsed to the community and in the process, fine-tuned and finalized. The community members will make commitments to participate in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the community development plan.

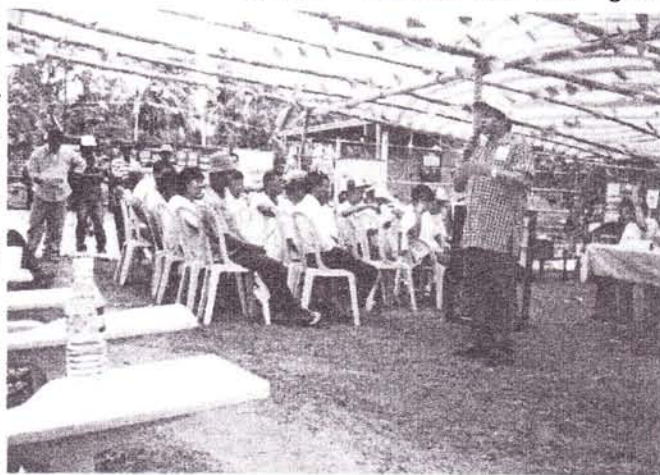
The successful implementation of the joint DA-FARM Programme in Infanta, Quezon through the Infanta Community Development Assistance, Inc. (ICDAI), an NGO, and the coordinator of the FARM Programme at the field site level, paved the way for BAR to implement CPAR. Zonal PAP trainings were conducted in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, with the participation of representatives from all the RIARCs. The trained RIARCs staff facilitated the conduct of PAP in selected communities where CPARs were implemented. (Cecille Baquiza)

Corn-Based Farming Systems Project

Conducts Farmers' Field Day

An experimental project on corn-based technologies conducted its first public viewing through a Farmers' Field Day on 6 April 2000 in Brgys. Mabini and Mangarin in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. The project, entitled *Enhancing Adaptation and Utilization of Location-Specific Corn-Based Technologies in Major Corn Growing Areas*, has six components led by Dr. Romeo V. Labios (FSSRI), Dr. Alberto Y. Robles (DTRI), Dr. Pio A. Javier (NCPC), Ms. Jocelyn D. Labios (FSSRI), Ms. Cynthia M. Medina (FSSRI), and Ms. Elsa Luis (BIOTECH). The whole-day affair highlighted the results of one cropping season of the project as well as showcased the technologies being introduced through the project. It was participated in by more than 200 farmers and guests, which included Hon. Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato, governor of Occidental Mindoro, Hon. Mario Gene J. Mendiola, mayor of San Jose, other officials of the local government units, municipal agriculturists and technicians of selected municipalities, private companies, STIARC staff, UPLB staff, and farmers from different barangays of San Jose. Farmers from other towns such as San Isidro, Magsaysay, San Agustin, Sablayan, and as far as Mamburao also came to the field day. The event was divided into two parts. The morning activities included the registration, viewing of posters and exhibits, and field visits to various on-farm trials such as *On-farm varietal and fertilizer trials, integrated pest*

management strategies for corn, and Tillage practices in corn-based farming systems. These were located in the farms of selected farmer-partners in barangays Mangarin and Mabini. Farmers and other guests



Mayor Mario Gene J. Mendiola (above) and Gov. Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato (below) grace the Farmer's Field Day

were divided into four groups and were assigned to visit four stations manned by both the farmer-partner and project staff. In order to have a better view of the introduced technologies, each group was allowed to visit each station one after the other and to ask questions regarding the on-farm experiments. A luncheon followed before proceeding to the afternoon activity which is the

program proper. The project overview was presented by Dr. Romeo V. Labios, the project leader, and this was followed by speeches from guests, the governor and mayor who again pledged their full support to the project. One of the program highlights was the testimonial from farmer-partners who shared their experiences regarding the introduced technologies. The on-farm trials generally drew a lot of praise, especially the introduced *Integrated Pest Management* practice and conservation tillage practices. The program reached its peak during the open forum, boosted by the presence of representatives from the LGUs, the NFA, STIARC, UPLB and private

sector who answered the concerns raised by the farmers. The queries focused on two main concerns: the problem in marketing the produced corn grains, and the use of "Power" herbicide in the conservation tillage technology. The NFA representative explained the present 2000 bags buying limit for corn and their existing price, the procurement requirements and the

reason behind their price and buying limit. Dr. Arnold B. Estrada, Product Development Manager of MONSANTO Phils., explained the effect of the POWER herbicide in relation to issues on environmental concerns. On the other hand, Dr. Romulo P. Davide, a respected pest management specialist, explained the

Region IX Holds Annual In-house RDE Review/Planning Workshop

The Western Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (WESMIARC), under the Department of Agriculture, held its annual In-House RDE Review and Planning Workshop on 3-4 May 2000 to assess the research, development and extension activities in the region.

Moreover, this event served as a venue for interaction to further strengthen linkage and complementation of RDE players in the region.

Representatives from different farmer organizations, PO, RAFC, ATs, SCUs, and Municipal Agricultural officers were in attendance to identify research-extension problems and areas for expansion in research.

The results of the review showed Region IX, specifically the provinces of Zamboanga and Basilan, has a great demand for

livestock production particularly swine for meat as source of protein and horse as draft animal. The banana and cassava industries are the other booming sectors.

However, the development of these industries has been hampered by several factors such as problems on marketing, poor transportation infrastructures and facilities, lack of government trade policies and support, as well as the unstable peace and order situation of the region.

The two-day activity involved the presentation of the current RDE projects/activities of all WESMIARC Research and Laboratory Services Stations, Regional Planning and Monitoring Division, Regional Operations and other offices in Region IX directly involved in the delivery of support services. The highlight of the event was the "Best Paper Award" competition. Ongoing and

completed projects were judged on their sustainability, economic feasibility, and relevance/contribution to the food security program of the government, among others. The *Community-based corn-livestock-fisheries Farming Systems Action Research* project and *Establishment of Farmers Information and Technology Services at DA-WESMIARC: A Process Documentation* project each received a cash prize of P5,000 from the Bureau of Agricultural Research.

The participants presented the proposals for their RDE program implementation for the year 2000. Rubber, fruits, rice, corn, and livestock were identified as top priority commodities based on the Regional Research, Development and Extension Agenda and Program. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)

BAR Unifies...

to ensure self-sufficiency and food security in the country.

He also pointed out that the complementation of the national and regional RDE networks in the integration of agenda and programs will help eliminate unnecessary activities by addressing more region-specific problems and needs.

As part of the workshop, Dr. Ponce emphasized the roles of the national network as partner in the integration of RDE programs including identification of priority regions and their respective priority commodities and assisting priority regions in the formulation of projects based on the Regional Integrated Research and Extension Agenda/Program (RIRDEAP). The National networks are also responsible for the evaluation of

project proposals of their priority regions.

Regions were grouped based on the commodities under the *Agrikulturang MakaMASA* banner programs.

Dr. Ponce also emphasized the need for the creation of Regional Commodity Networks with members coming from the DA and partner SCUs based on the following identified areas:

- ☐ Grains (rice and corn)
- ☐ Ornamentals and Vegetables
- ☐ Fruit trees and Plantation crops
- ☐ Livestock and Poultry
- ☐ Socio-economics
- ☐ Agricultural Engineering, Soil and Water Management
- ☐ Special Concerns (Rootcrops, Fiber and Coconut)

As part of the Interface workshops, Dr. Ponce stressed that regional RDE networks should identify five to six priority commodities. Research projects on the priority commodities will be implemented in the next two-three years based on following criteria:

- ☐ Urgency of the problem;
- ☐ Extent of expected impact/output;
- ☐ Immediate utility of research output; and
- ☐ Preparedness of the proponent to systematize planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

A commodity team leader is assigned to every regional RDE network to identify and prioritize R&D projects. These projects are reviewed,

The CPAR: An Approach to Rural Development



The PAP RIARC Trainors

The Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) was initiated by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in 1998 to institutionalize successful participatory approaches generated by the *Farmer-centered Agricultural Resources Management* of FAO (*FARM Programme*).

Prior to the implementation of CPAR, the FARM Programme conducted a Regional Training in Participatory Assessment and Planning (PAP) approach to deepen the understanding, broaden the application, and build the capacity of the participating countries. The training was divided in two phases: a) improvement of the understanding of the PAP concepts and development of tools and techniques to be used in the field and, b) development of methodologies to be adopted in actual field site conditions. Eighteen participants from the eight FARM Programme countries (China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam and the Philippines) were trained to serve as PAP national trainers in their respective countries. The innovation in the PAP lies in the fact that the process is drawn from successful community development

approaches to meet the challenges of finding a way to bring the farm households to the center of the decision-making process. It facilitates the community to interactively plan their development based on their needs, and prepare a program of action to make the plans a reality. The PAP approach involved a number of processes that

can be adopted, adapted, added, subtracted or modified according to the need, circumstances and ability of the community. The processes are:

- ❑ Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) provides the community with an understanding of their natural resources, their constraints, problems, and opportunities.
- ❑ Participatory Social Appraisal assesses the social institutions, cohesion, and maturity of the community.
- ❑ Participatory needs assessment identifies the community needs.
- ❑ Community Envisioning Exercise articulates the community's collective interest into a common agreed vision. The community vision is a powerful tool that motivates a community to attain and realize their goals.
- ❑ Participatory Community Planning - undertaken collectively and includes participation from

representatives of all groups. Formulation of plans is based on resource ability (what the community has, can contribute or can mobilize). It must also be within the ability, knowledge and expertise of the community to do it by themselves or to be able to build the capacity to do it for themselves.

- ❑ Community Consultation and Approval - the general assembly session of the community and stakeholders. The draft vision, mission statements and community plan-of-action are presented. This process is done prior to the community's approval and finalization of the plan and its monitoring/evaluation indicators.
- ❑ Re-planning with Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators - after the community consultation and approval, the community planning team will return to consider all comments,



RIARC participants during one of the PAP exercises.

proposals and inputs made. A re-planning is undertaken. This includes an M&E plan with appropriate indicators and tasks

BAR-WINROCK...

support system that will use new production and information technologies. The support system will seek to promote sustainable development while creating new business opportunities for the poor disadvantaged smallholders.

According to Inocencio Bolo, WINROCK country chairman, many rural farming families dependent on small farms often lack access to information and new technologies to help them increase their production and improve their livelihood. This scenario can be reversed through investment in applied modern information technology. Information technology would provide agribusiness training and introduce new technology. Furthermore, it would be a way of disseminating market information that will support farmers, extension agents, families, producers, and community-based organizations and provide them specific assistance on target products.

The project has two phases. Phase I (Pilot stage) will be performed on Region I and will run up to May 2002. During this stage, participating rural-based organizations will actively implement market-driven and sustainable agribusiness practices. Moreover, the DA Information Technology and Participatory Research and Development Support System will be put into operation. Starting June 2002 up to May 2003, the project will be expanded for nationwide implementation. By 2003, there will be 13 DA regional offices, 35 ATI training centers, Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers and other agencies trained on the implementation of the support system. A core group of trainers will assist 50 priority agricultural provinces. *(Thea Kristina M. Pabuayan)*

Mindanao...

accomplishments for the Visayas-Mindanao areas is



PAP RIARC Trainers facilitate PAP community activities.

scheduled this month and in early June together with the following partner-SCUs: ViSCA for the Visayas Region, CMU for Regions 10, 11, CARAGA, and USM for Regions 12, ARMM and 9.

Although the evaluation process of the total program is ongoing, reports from the Visayas and Mindanao regions

BAR Unifies...

validated and then endorsed by the national team leaders, once these conform to the thrust identified in NIRDEA/P. Based from the endorsed prioritized projects, the regional RDE networks will prepare the detailed proposals for the collegial/peer review or by the national team leaders.

For an effective planning and implementation of regional programs, funding allocation shall be based on the priority R&D activities/commodities of a concerned region. According to Dr. Ponce, 60 to 70% of R&D funds will go directly to the region while 10% of the funds will be used in conducting networking activities.

The Interfaced RDE programs are for implementation starting 2001. *(Mary Charlotte O.Fresco)*

show that the program is worthwhile and should therefore be continued. The process facilitates the identification of projects relevant to the needs and aspirations of the community and ensures support of the intended beneficiaries.

As corn RDE team leader and evaluation chairman, Dr. Salazar said in his report, "It looks like we have found in CPAR the critical key to making our DA field staff effective change agents in improving the lives of our poor countrymen in the rural areas. One that is truly MakaMASA." *(Carmencita V. Kagaoan)*

Corn-based...

herbicide's classification by the FPA and its safety compared to other herbicides. Comments were likewise elicited regarding the potential for expansion of efforts similar to the projects to other barangays and municipalities. There was also a raffle to the delight of the audience and prizes included BIO-N, organic fertilizers, super sweet variety corn seeds, grafted mango seedlings, shirts and hats courtesy of STIARC, MONSANTO Phils., and UPLB. The program ended with the awarding of certificates of appreciation and recognition to the farmer-partners and project counterparts. The activity was jointly sponsored by the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Bureau of Agricultural Research-Department of Agriculture, Office of the Mayor, San Jose Occidental Mindoro, Office of the Governor, Occidental Mindoro, Monsanto Phil. Inc., Cargill Seeds Co., and Pioneer Hi-bred Agricultural Technology Inc., and Southern Tagalog Integrated Agricultural Research Center. *(Romeo V. Labios, National Corn RDE Network)*

Visit the following sites for more information:

In BIOTECH, the European Tail Must Not Wag the American Dog
<http://www.bridgenews@bridge.com>

Biosafety Clearance Given to Monsanto's BT Cotton
<http://www.asianagenews@asianage.com>

Sweet Potatoes on a Mission to Prevent Blindness in Remote of Africa
<http://www.futureharvest.org>

Scientists and farmers create improved crops for water-scarce world
<http://newsreleases@cgiar.org>

Key East African Wildlife in Rapid Decline
<http://www.news@futureharvest.org>

Major Pollution Source killing World's second largest fresh water lake
<http://www.news@futureharvest.org>

BAR Unifies National And Regional RDE Networks

The Regional Program Division (RPD) of the BAR recently held two interface workshops to further strengthen the linkage between the national and regional RDE networks. The *Visayas-Mindanao-wide National and Regional RDE Interfacing Workshop on Agiculture RDE Program* was held on 25-26 April 2000 at the Grand Men Seng Hotel in Davao City. The *Luzon-wide National and Regional RDE Interfacing Workshop* was held on 9-10 May 2000 at the Bureau of Soil and Water Managements Auditorium in Quezon City.

Though conducted separately, the two workshops generally aimed to ensure the implementation of the "One System, One Program" thrust of DA R&D.

National and regional commodity team leaders, core technical team members, RIARC managers, R&D directors and scientists from regional partner state

colleges and universities gathered in this important activity to ensure the coherence of the regional RDE programs with the national thrust identified in the National Integrated Research Development and Extension Agenda/Program (NIRDEA/P). Aside from this, the workshop ensures the relevance and responsiveness of RDE programs to the needs of the region and to prioritize RDE activities to be implemented by RDE regional networks. Lastly, it aims to strengthen the linkage and complementation of the national, regional and provincial RDE networks. Among the interfacing activities involved are integration of agenda and programs, program planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation.

BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, the resource speaker for both events emphasized on the importance of "working together" of the national and regional RDE networks to generate more relevant and effective programs

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Who's New at BAR

For the month of May, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) hired the services of two contractuels, **Ms. Mary Charlotte Fresco** and **Ms. Maria Melissa Bucalig**. They took their tasks in KPSD (Knowledge Products and Services Division) and Regional Program Division (RPD), respectively.

Hailing from Liliw, Laguna, Charlotte graduated in 1999 with a degree in Development Communication from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna. Friendly and flexible, she considers reading books, watching movies, and hanging out with friends a good deviation to change a daily,

boring routine. Previous to her work at the Bureau, she was a Public Relation Assistant in a private company. When asked about her expectation regarding her new work, she alertly replied, "challenging!"

Charged under the Fisheries RDE Network in CLSU, Melissa describes herself as being sentimental, friendly, and family-loving. She's a product of the Philippine Normal University with M.A. units from Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU). At the age of twenty-three, Melissa had been a high school teacher, and a research assistant at MMSU Science Research Laboratory. She wills away her extra time by writing and collecting letters from friends, singing, reading pocketbooks, and watching television.

Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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

Volume No.1 Issue No.10

16 - 31 May 2000

RP, China Forge Stronger S&T Ties

On the occasion of the 25th year of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and China and the state visit of Pres. Joseph Estrada, the two countries recently signed the 12th Protocol of their Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Beijing, China last 11 May 2000. This is an agreement aimed at strengthening their scientific and technological cooperation through joint R&D activities, training and technology transfer. This endeavor forms a major foundation for mutual confidence building by both countries.

This Protocol was the outcome of the *12th Session of the Joint Committee on the RP-China S&T*

Agreement. Twenty-two projects were approved for implementation over the next two years. Fifteen of these projects

for implementation in the Philippines, while five were proposed for implementation in China.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are involved in 20 of the projects - six short-term study tour projects (two Chinese-proposed and four Philippine-proposed) and 14 exchange visits. The Department of Health (DOH) is involved in one Philippine-proposed short-term study tour and one exchange visit. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) serves as the lead Agency for the Philippines under the S&T Agreement.

The two countries agreed that the sending party shall finance the travel

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involve exchange visits, while seven are short-term study tour projects. Two short-term tour projects were proposed

Committee Calls for Revisions in Scientific Career System Guidelines

Barely a year after the reorganization of the DA-Scientific Career Evaluation Committee (SCEC), several moves have been made by the new members to develop a more defined Scientific Career System (SCS) guideline on recognizing qualified scientists in public service.

The recently concluded SCEC meeting, held at the BAR Conference Room, served as the venue for the airing of ideas and recommendations on the ranking system currently used to screen and evaluate qualified DA scientists. The merit system established by the SCEC seeks to promote equal opportunities for career advancement of scientists, which includes promotion in rank

and increase in salary. The system is open to scientific personnel or those who directly participate in S&T activities and are occupying scientific research specialist positions or other comparable positions in an institution or unit. They hold masteral or doctorate degrees in the disciplines determined by the Scientific Career Council (SCC).

BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, who also act as the chairman of the Committee, raised some issues on the rating system used in ranking nominees based on education and scientific productivity. Scientific productivity refers to a scientist's creative work - its application and contribution to the field in the form of research findings, inventions and

discoveries.

The members of the committee, who are also proponents of various R&D institutions, agreed that there is a need to create a more defined points system to avoid the duplication of credit given to an idea or project. A maximum of 70 points is given for a scientist's scientific productivity, 15 points for the teaching experience and 15 points for professional standing, including awards and citations received. Multiple points may be given for the research development phase. For example, separate points may be given for the initial stage of conceptualization, the

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Senior Scientists Advisory Committee Holds 1st Meeting

Pursuant to the Special Order (SO) No. 151 creating a committee to handle the smooth operationalization of the national R&D system, the Senior Scientist Advisory Committee (SSAC) held its first meeting on 18 May 2000 at the CERDAF Boardroom.

Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and SSAC Secretary, headed the event. Members of the SSAC present were: Dr. Fernando Bernardo of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Chairman; Dr. Solita Monsod of UP School of Economics, the Vice-Chairman; Dr. Floredo Quebral of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), Dr. William Padolina of IRRI, and Dr. Ernesto Rigor of UP Los Baños (UPLB), members of the Committee. The other members are Dr. Gelia Castillo of IRRI and Dr. Edgardo Gomez of UP Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI).

During the meeting, three important issues were raised. One such issue is the review and definition of the Term of Reference (TOR) of the SSAC and its Technical Committee or TC. Since the members of the TC are yet to be appointed, officials and members of the SSAC agreed that they should have more or less the same functions as that of the TC from the *Seed System Project*.

According to the SO, the SSAC has five basic functions. One is to monitor changes in the global and national context by acting as a leader in the conduct of studies as well as invite experts to do the presentations. Another is to recommend the medium- and long-term strategies and priorities of the National R&D. The latter entails preparation or commissioning special studies and reports, and monitoring research supported by the Department of Agriculture (DA). SSAC is also responsible for the evaluation of quality and relevant public-funded research and related programs. To do this, SSAC needs to arrange periodic external program management reviews (ERPMRs) with regards to relevance, quality, effectiveness, and impact of each center/institute. In addition, SSAC shall recommend animal system-wide resource allocation to DA-supported centers/institutes and programs. Lastly, they shall address R&D/E issues such as commodity/activity balance, regional distribution, RD/E network conflicts, and monitoring the development of the National Integrated RD/E Programs (NIRDEPs).

Likewise, the Technical Committee shall provide technical support to the SSAC. Specifically, the TC shall conduct *ex-ante* and periodic review of the national and regional integrated research, development and extension programs. In relations to this, they will monitor ongoing RD/E programs and recommend solutions to problems that arise therein. It is also their duty to conduct special studies as commissioned by the DA.

Another issue discussed during the meeting was the briefing of BAR programs and projects. The SSAC addressed

some of the problems and needs that should be implemented with regard to the improvement of the projects. In relation to this, they were able to discuss and clarify concerns involving the approval of AFMA, its achievement from the time it was approved, and the untimely release of its allocated funds.

The third issue dealt with the nominees to the TC. The Committee agreed that seven Technical Committees - each consisting of three members - shall form the TC, namely *Aquatic Sciences*, *Biotechnology*, *Agronomic Sciences*, *Horticultural Sciences*, *Social and Policy Sciences*, *Animal Sciences* and *Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering*. The Committee also reviewed the TOR of the TC members as well as the scope of their responsibility.

Several people were nominated as members of the TC but no final decision has been made. According to the SSAC, they have to look at the CVs of these nominees prior to appointment. It was pointed out that the TC members must come from the scientific community, especially premier state universities and colleges.

The committee suggested that in order to have an up-to-date and objective view of researches, members of the TC could be experts based abroad but who come to the Philippines at least once a year. It was also suggested that in the detailing of experts, good administrative and supervisory skills must also be taken into consideration.

The SSAC will meet again on 12 June 2000 at Subic Bay, Olongapo City. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

R&D...

information network is an aggregate of distributed databases, it should be maintained and managed by partner institutions to enable users to access up-to-date information," Dr. Ponce added.

To ensure that the access to R&D information is uniform throughout the country, regional R&D institutions were grouped into clusters based on geographical proximity. Four clusters were established: *North* (MMSU, CODA, NTA); *Central* (CLSU, PhilRice, PCC, BPPE); *Visayas* (VISCA, CENVIARC, EVIARC), and; *South* (USM, and CEMIARC). These clusters are expected to facilitate the sharing of agriculture and fisheries knowledge with their counterpart team.

Mr. Sebastian O. Sebastian, a BAR IT consultant, stressed that research institutions are not the only ones who can access R&D information. Researchers, farmers, fisherfolk and even private companies may also tap into this resource. One of the major concerns raised is the cost-sharing scheme among partner institutions. Based on the BAR-R&D institutions framework of partnership, the ratio will be 1:2 where BAR would actively assist in the initial stage by providing technical hardware and software assistance. Also, each institution shall appoint an IT counterpart team comprised of at least three full-time staff and one ECE graduate - or its equivalent, responsible for the development of the information network. Furthermore, partner institutions should ensure its connectivity to the R&D NIN by supporting its network maintenance and operating expenses.

A memorandum of agreement will be drafted to determine the amount of investment needed to make the system operational by February 2001. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

Guimaras: Mango Country

One of the fastest growing fruit industries in the Philippines today is mango. Presently, the country ranks No. 6 in Asia and No. 9 in the world, accounting for 3.3% and 2.3 % of total mango production, respectively.

Large domestic markets, which acquire at least 90% of the mango produce, as well as the country's strategic geographical location, contribute to the further development and boom of this industry.

To date, the most recognized Philippine mango variety in the world is the *Carabao* mango. Producers are continuously improving and developing it as a top commercial crop.

At the forefront of developing the country's mango industry is the National Mango Research and Development Center (NMRDC) under the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

The NMRDC was established in 1969 in the municipality of San Miguel, Jordan in Guimaras Island, one of the country's top mango-producing provinces. According to NMRDC head Hernani Golez, the center "spearheads the development and adoption of cost-effective and environment-friendly technologies to increase the productivity of small mango growers and develop the industry system through total quality management."

Total Quality Management involves research on production technologies, production and distribution of quality planting materials and extension work such as information dissemination/campaign, and sponsorship of different mango festivities related to mango production.

One of the more popular mango events in the province of Guimaras, the *Manggahan Festival*, was held recently. This annual event is an eight-day long celebration, which featured varied and spectacular activities that depict the province's attractions, cultural heritage, special events, products and services. The main aim of the event, however, was the promotion of the province as the "Mango Country".

NMRDC and Guimaras' Mango Industry

The province of Guimaras is part of Western Visayas and is located southeast of Panay island and northwest of Negros.

Its total land area of 60,465 hectares is divided into five municipalities namely Buenavista, Jordan, Nueva Valencia, San Lorenzo and Sibunag.

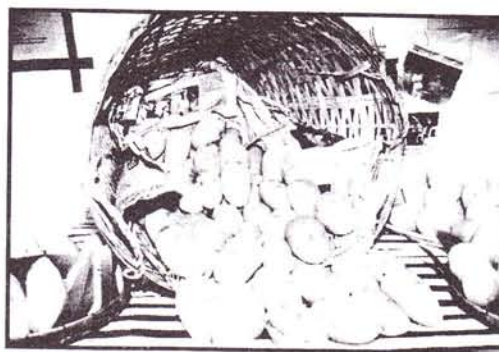
The island is basically an agricultural province

planted to coconut, rice, and mango. At present, vast tracks of land are now being developed for mango which ranks as the island's third most important crop and takes up 16% of the island's total agricultural area.

NMRDC has helped advance the island's present mango production. Because of the Center's continued research and support on production and technology,

Guimaras now boasts of being the only province in the country certified free of quarantine pests, mango seed weevil, and mango pulp weevil. Moreover, it is the only province capable of exporting high-quality mangoes to Australia and the United States.

As of 1999, the number of mango-bearing trees in Guimaras totaled to 130,000. At a seasonal harvest of 16,000 metric tons, this constitutes 2.6% of the country's total mango produce and 20% of Western Visayas'. Other local varieties such as the *Pico*, *Katchamitha*, and *Pahunan* are also being developed for the local and foreign markets. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon*)



RP, China...

the sending party shall finance the travel expenses of the study group/experts. The receiving party, on the other hand, shall subsidize for expenses incurred for food, accommodation, emergency medical treatment and local transportation of the visiting group. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the DOST for the Philippines and the MOST for the Chinese will be the communication liaison offices. The two countries will conduct the monitoring and evaluation of the projects through exchange missions. This, to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the approved projects. Both countries will draw up plans on packaging the technology of the projects to encourage cooperation in the fields of metrology and microelectronics.

The Joint Committee also reviewed the implementation of scientific and technological cooperation programs under the 11th Protocol. Of these 13 projects, eight are already completed, five being short-term study tours while three are exchange visits.

The 12th Session of the RP-China Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held at the Ministry of Science and Technology in Beijing. The 5-man Philippine delegation was headed by Dr. Carol M. Yorobe, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning of DOST. While the 7-man Chinese delegation was headed by Mr. Yuan Shuguang, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, MOST.

The 13th session of the Joint Committee is tentatively set to be held in the Philippines in 2002. (*Rita T. dela Cruz*)



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R&D Jumps Into Information Technology Bandwagon

As part of the BAR's plan to modernize the acquisition and dissemination of agricultural information through inter-linked networks, the Information Technology Division (ITD) facilitated the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the R&D National Information Network (NIN).

The signing was done on 19 May 2000 at the BAR-CERDAF Conference Room in Quezon City.



MOU signing

The gathering of regional directors from various R&D institutions, presidents/representatives from partner state colleges and universities (SUCs) and information technology consultants, served as the venue for the launch of the R&D Information Network framework. The proposal, detailing as well the inherent institutional responsibilities of stakeholders, was presented to possible partner institutions in the building of IT infrastructure. The participants drafted a framework of partnership, which includes scope, financing scheme and

appointment of IT counterpart teams. Furthermore, the proposal serves as a tool for unifying institutional commitments by promoting efficient and effective inter-institutional collaboration on R&D knowledge procurement.

The conceptualized state-of-the-art information infrastructure is an Internet-based system that will serve as a "powerhouse" of information exchange

and access among partner institutions. The BAR on the other hand will serve as the gateway or the national reference center that will link the user to proper institutions or data sources.

BAR Director Eliseo Ponce emphasized that the sharing and "interconnecting" of knowledge sources among and within institutions will help facilitate the procurement of R&D information, thus, hastening technology transfer down to end-user. "Since the

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Guidelines...

launching/testing of the idea and the actual utilization or application of idea.

Dr. Ponce reiterated that a distinction should be made between work that is still in the research phase and work that is already in utilization by the applicant's agency or by farmers to avoid duplication of points. When it comes to scientific publications like research journal, it is agreed that the scientist must submit the copy of the journal that includes the edited or refereed versions, and the names of the editors to help the SCEC members distinguish an edited or refereed journal from a non-refereed one.

Another issue raised during the meeting is the giving of credit to the scientist's winning work or experiment. Members stressed that credit would only be given to work that has received awards from the highest award-giving organization or body. Furthermore, appropriate points must be given for the scientist's membership and position in a scientific organization. The higher the position, the higher the point.

The SCEC also suggested that applicant's credentials be presented in matrix form to track articles with multiple citations. This will help the committee assign comments like "no point" or "repeated citation."

Another suggestion made by the committee deals on the "career pathing" of the applicant to further investigate his

educational background at the time of evaluation. Moreover, several suggestions were made with regard to the modifications in the "MS and Ph.D. required number of years" rule. "However, the DA must have ... autonomy with regard to applying this rule," according to the Chairman of the committee.

Committee members were Dr. Santiago Obien (Philrice), Dr. Rodel Maghirang and Dr. Rafael Espino (UPLB), Mr. Rolly Labios (BAR), Dr. Concepcion Lizada (BAFPS) and Dr. Edwin Acoba (ATT).

Since the adoption of the Scientific Career System in 1991, the System has conferred 16 appointments for the ranks as Scientist I, II, III and IV. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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