



BAR

Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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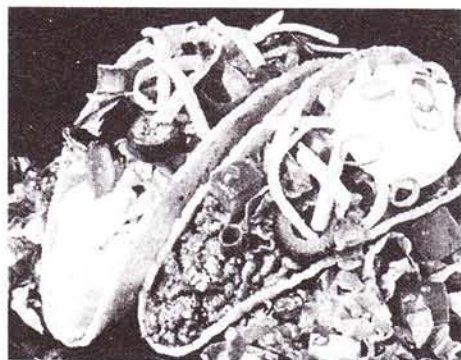
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Know Your "Genetically Modified" Foods

While biotechnology is proving to be one important tool in increasing farm productivity, its image is also continuously being marred by a lot of negative publicity and controversies. The public, therefore, needs to be properly educated on the benefits rather than the unlikely risks of this technology.



Ingredients of a regular beef taco contain genetically modified products.

BAR, in cooperation with the Asian Food Information Centre (AFIC), has sponsored a seminar entitled "Know Your GM Foods" on 15 November 2000 at the BSWM Convention Hall in Quezon City.

The event was highlighted by plenary paper presentations of Dr. Saturnina Halos, a BAR Senior Project Development Adviser (*Food Biotechnology: What are GM Foods?*), Dr. Nina Barzaga, director of the UP Manila National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (*GM Food Regulation*) and Dr. Julie Howden, AFIC Executive Director (*Food and the Asian Consumers*). DA Undersecretary Arsenio Balisacan delivered the message for this activity.

According to Dr. Halos, there is a lot of confusion and misconception surrounding the term "biotechnology". These are

borne of misinformation and speculation deliberately spread by certain groups about biotechnology products, particularly genetically modified

organisms (GMOs).

With this seminar, BAR and AFIC hope to make the public understand the regulatory framework for biotechnology food products as well as to disseminate information on how consumers decide food purchases.

Representatives from the food sector which include food chain operators, food manufacturers, livestock and poultry raisers, science and biology high school teachers and members of the academe from Metro Manila and nearby provinces, representatives from DA staff bureaus and attached agencies participated in the said seminar. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)

Nat'l R&D Center for Tropical Fruits to Rise

The country's active participation in the world market for tropical fruit is hinged on a multi-commodity approach to fruit tree farming. An increase in production area and the development of an effective R&D system are also needed in order for the country's tropical fruits - such as banana, pineapple, durian and mango to compete in the world arena.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) has acknowledged this fact as it has allotted an initial budget of P10 million for the conversion of BPI-Davao National R&D Center into the National Research and Development Center for Tropical Fruits (NRDCTF).

The 135-hectare property in Bago Oshiro, Davao City will become a National Center equipped with commodity-specific laboratories and strategically located research satellite stations representing an ecological zone ideal for fruit growing and fruit varietal improvement. The Center will be the main site for conducting basic and applied researches on tropical fruits parallel to crop improvement, protecting the environment and saving biodiversity.

It is worthy to note that Mindanao is ideal as the Center's site as the area is "typhoon-free" and therefore suitable for fruit growing.

See IARC, page 2

CGIAR Int'l Centers Week

Consultative Group on Int'l Agricultural Research: A "New Age" Institution

The battle against poverty and hunger continues to this day. There have been numerous significant developmental changes, yet challenges still abound.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has geared its organization for these challenges, while acknowledging that organizational and structural changes must be made in order to fulfill the new CGIAR vision and to ensure the effectiveness of all components of the CGIAR System.

On 23-27 October, the CGIAR held its International Centers Week (ICW 2000) in Washington, D.C., with the theme "Charting the CGIAR's Future - Reshaping CGIAR's Organization."

The event was lead by CGIAR Chairman and World Bank Vice-President Dr. Ian Johnson. Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research, attended the event.

Dr Johnson outlined the key challenges facing CGIAR stakeholders, namely: 1) maintaining science and research at the centers at the highest levels, 2) transforming the CGIAR into a "new age" institution characterized by lightness, agility, responsiveness and cost-efficiency, 3) strengthening the CGIAR's position as a producer of global public goods, 4) redefining a framework for partnerships, 5) keeping CGIAR funding stable and secure, and 6) devising the most effective means of linking CGIAR research with national development programs.

Dr. Johnson emphasized that changes be made on a holistic

approach as all organizational components are interconnected.

Included in the Synthesis Group's proposals was a consensus that CGIAR be re-launched, building on the existing strengths of the System. The Group agreed on two action points - actions that will provide quick wins and, actions with a medium- or long-term perspective.

In drafting CGIAR's 2001 Financing Plan, the Group adopted the Finance Committee's recommendations on the financing plan for the 2000 research agenda. Center financing plans were endorsed at identified levels and an overall CGIAR financing plan of \$340 million was approved.

Also, the CGIAR created the King Baudouin Award to acknowledge and encourage agricultural research activities as well as to recognize achievements stemming from a Center's work. This award was given to WARDA for developing "New Rice for Africa" (NERICA), a high-yielding, disease-resistant and drought-tolerant upland rice variety suitable to growing conditions in West and Central Africa. The Chairman also presented five Chairman's Excellence in Science Awards in recognition of the outstanding scientific achievements by CGIAR scientists and support staff.

A Global Public Goods seminar was also held, with World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn opening the event. He emphasized the need for international cooperation to catalyze development in the new



millennium and highlighted CGIAR's unique role as a producer of global public goods in the fights against poverty, hunger and environmental degradation. "The Bank is pleased to be a strong supporter of the CGIAR whose efforts are central to rural and agricultural issues. The CGIAR is an important element in the global equation relating to global poverty," he said.

CGIAR is the world's largest agricultural research network, with 16 international research centers and 10,000 scientists and scientific support staff in more than 100 countries. *(Junelyn S. de la Rosa)*

Fruits...

According to Dr. Samuel Mancebo, assistant team leader of NRDCTF Project Formulation Team, the center's research philosophy revolves around combining research with practices in the areas of germplasm improvement of early-bearing, high-yielding fruit trees, high-quality cultivation technology and fruit tree bio-engineering. The Center will also develop underutilized Philippine fruits which exhibit strong export potentials.

Furthermore, the Center will develop institutional linkages with other funding agencies.

Specifically, the center focuses on the following functions:

See Fruits, page 3

RFUs, RIARCs Train on AFMA Implementation

The proper implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) by the Department of Agriculture is the impetus for a modernized Philippine agriculture. To achieve this, a highly competitive and capable manpower, is essential.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducted a "Field Training in Regional Capacity Building to Strengthen AFMA Implementation" last October for Regional Field Unit (RFU) directors and Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Center (RIARC) managers. This is the second of three batches, the first batch of which was held in October last year. The training is part of BAR's capacity-building program which aims to expose key players in RDE implementation to "progressive and successful R&D management systems of leading agricultural R&D institutions in the Asia Pacific region."

Several experts in the field of management facilitated the event, namely Prof. Mario Antonio G. Lopez of the Philippine Shell Corporation and AIM, Dr. Samuel Mancebo of the UPLB College of Public Affairs and, Ms. Susan Fernandez of SEARCA.

The 10-day seminar/workshop involved field visits and trainings in Korea, Thailand and the Philippines. Participants visited the Rural Development Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Korea, the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Thailand and SEARCA in the Philippines. The visits served to broaden the participants' network of foreign linkages in their respective field of responsibilities.

As an output, the participants drafted an integrated action plan on

upstream and midstream research and R&D management systems by region. The facilitators made several recommendations to these drafts. For example, Dr. Mancebo recommended that the formula for the budgetary allocations for the first three years of RIARCs operations be as follows: 30% for agri-science and biotech R&D (midstream level); 30% for production technology, processing and packaging; 30% for Information technology to be utilized in disseminating and promoting existing technologies; and 10% for special projects that cater to national priorities or other promising local commodities.

"By having these guidelines on research funding allocations, we can focus the outputs of RIARCs particularly addressing the need to develop technologies designed for smallholder agriculture which is the foundation of AFMA. The need to make available all existing technologies to clients in the Internet and other forms of electronic media would help popularize the use of technologies to enhance the growth of agriculture in the country," Dr. Mancebo said.

It is worthy to note that Korea's and Thailand's R&D thrusts are well-focused and defined. This is attributed to the strong participation of scientists in determining the R&D agenda based on national priorities.

In terms of farming technology, it was found that both these two countries already utilize state-of-the-art facilities such as robotics, GIS-controlled tractors and precision farming equipment. In Korea, every center from the national to the county level has an Agricultural Exhibition Hall. Information technology is also widely used, linking local farm units internationally. Furthermore, Thailand has organized the

Agricultural Product Export Promotion Center (APEPC) which is responsible for promoting production technologies for better yield quality. And with APEPC, Thai products conforming to international standards are guaranteed, giving these an edge in the world market. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)

(Additional information culled from Dr. Samuel Mancebo's paper entitled "Field Training in Regional Capacity Building to Strengthen AFMA Implementation: Observations, Insights and Recommendations")

Fruits...

1. Identification, collection, maintenance and utilization of germplasm and genetic resources;
2. Selection, breeding and gene mapping of new early-bearing, high-yielding and wind-resistant varieties;
3. Application of new pomological technologies (multi-commodity approach) with some focus on small farm technologies;
4. Adoption of the best practices on production, conservation, processing, postharvest and waste management; and
5. Initiate regular academic exchange and cooperation with other research institutes/centers and universities at home and abroad.

The proposed development of NRDCTF comes in two phases: project formulation which includes Project Formulation Team Activities, Research Agenda Formulation and consultative workshops among stakeholders, and; Improvement of Project Operation Center.

The Project Operation Center Plan also involves the construction of an administration building, and an information technology library to ensure continuous interaction with other institutions involved in fruit improvement and management.

Project funding is provided by the Bureau through its Institutional Development Grant system. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

webNEWS

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

Effective sustainable land management can be traced to ancient Baures people's farming system

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/NATURE/11/10/fish.weirs.enn/index.html>

A natural, ecologically safe bio-pesticide vs. locusts and grasshoppers

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/NATURE/10/23/locust.pesticide.enn/>

Transmission of mad cow disease via blood transfusion or red meat studied

[http://www.reuters.com/news.jhtml;sessionid\\$1U5IOGQAADZMKCRBADLSFEYKEEANMIV2?type=science](http://www.reuters.com/news.jhtml;sessionid$1U5IOGQAADZMKCRBADLSFEYKEEANMIV2?type=science)

BAR Chief is New Acting R&D Coordinator

Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), was recently appointed as Acting Coordinator of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for Research and Development (R&D), as stated by Special Order No. 621 Series of 2000 issued last 23 October. The post is appointed by the DA Secretary on a concurrent basis.

As the Acting Coordinator for R&D, Dr. Ponce shall be responsible for coordinating the functions of R&D across all agencies, offices, and units of the DA. This is, of course, in addition to his core functions as the director of BAR, the overall coordinating agency for R&D.

The parameters of this new role shall conform with the provisions of RA 8435 (1997) or the Agriculture and Fisheries

2001 MakaMASA Funding

Regional RDE Priority Programs and Projects Reviewed

Research, Development and Extension (RDE) projects and programs per region were recently reviewed and validated for funding from various *MakaMASA* banner programs under the Department of Agriculture.

A National Consultation Workshop, conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) through the Regional Programs Division (RPD), was held on 6-8 November 2000 to come up with a consolidated list of regional priority RDE programs and projects by commodity. The event also served as the venue for the integration of commodity programs by agro-ecological zone using the farming systems approach.

The Regional Integrated Research & Development/Extension Agenda and Program (RIRDEAP) were reviewed and validated for conformity to the National Integrated Research & Development Agenda and Program (NIRDEAP). The latter was reviewed and approved by the Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC). The National Team Leaders/Core Technical Teams and the respective Regional Commodity Teams of each region validated the regional RDE programs and priority projects of regional priority commodities.

The national consultation

Modernization Act (AFMA) and the consequent Implementing Rules and Regulations. AFMA prescribes urgent measures to modernize the agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country in order to enhance these sectors' profitability and responsiveness to the challenges of globalization. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

workshop forms part of the continuing review process of the recently concluded National/Regional Interface Workshop for Agriculture and Fisheries, which aims to ensure coherence between the national and regional agenda and programs. Projects approved for funding will be implemented in collaboration with different DA units and attached agencies with regional operations, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and other research institutions.

Dr. Eliseo Ponce led the activity, while the workshop activities were coordinated by Dr. Resty David. In attendance were the National Team Leaders/Core Technical Teams, RIARC managers, Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) chiefs and, Regional Commodity Team Leaders (RCTLs). Staff members of the National and Regional Programs Divisions of BAR facilitated the event. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

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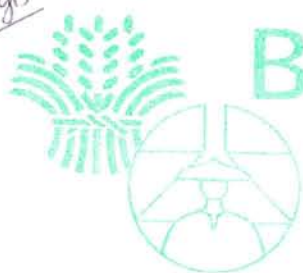
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Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA)

Implementing Rules and Regulations Revisited



Usec. Arsenio Balisacan (inset) addresses participants in the AFMA IRR Review. The participants include among others (clockwise) Cesario Umali (PATAAS), Dr. Rogelio Concepcion (Director, BSWM) and Alberto Maningding (Asst. Director, ATI). (Photo courtesy of Diosy Arida, NAFC)

pre-workshop meetings and consultations with other offices, the private sector and experts.

On 22 November 2000, eight chapter committees presented the proposed revisions to the IRR Management Committee which was chaired by Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Arsenio Balisacan. The chapter committees were the following:

- Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones
- Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plans
- Credit
- Irrigation
- Information and Marketing Support Services
- Product Standardization and Consumer Safe

See IRR, page 3

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) are currently being reviewed to rectify the conditions hampering the implementation of some AFMA provisions - particularly those that concern cooperating agencies. This, with the end-view of fine-tuning the current IRR to make it closer to the spirit and intent of the law.

It has been two years since the AFMA and IRR were implemented. Under the Law, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is tasked to hold the reins and direct its staff bureaus and attached agencies toward modernization.

To mobilize the DA's resources and staff, several directives on more effective service and governance have been issued.

Mandated agencies have cited the need of these same directives to be included in the IRR, as well as the lack of some provisions in the Law as the reasons for a review of the prevailing IRR of the AFMA.

Thus, the DA issued Special Order No. 479 on 5 September 2000 to strengthen the implementation of the Law. Technical committees were formed to review and draft revisions in individual chapters as proposed during

CERDAF to Convene for the First Time

At the core of the proper implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) is a need for policy guidance and direction of all R&D endeavors.

The Council for Extension and Research and Development for Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) is tasked to provide this guidance, according to Executive Order no. 127.

On 28 November, the CERDAF will convene for the first time this year.

The event will be a gathering of all CERDAF members, National Team Leaders, and staff members of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR). It will serve as the venue for the review of the terms of reference of the CERDAF, presentation of BAR's

See CERDAF, page 3

19th Governing Board Session in Indonesia

CGPRT: The Year in Review, Mapping for 2001 and Beyond

The Governing Board of the Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT) convened recently its 19th session to review its accomplishments in 2000, as well as to map strategies and plans for the coming year.

Held on 22-23 November in Bogor, Indonesia, the meeting brought together representatives from Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Philippines. Members of the Board of Representatives from the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the International Potato Center (CIP) and the Centre for International Cooperation in Agriculture Research and Development (CIRAD) also attended the session as observers.

Asst. Director Jovita M. Corpuz of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) was the Philippine representative.

Several reports were presented during the meeting, including reports on the programme of work for 2001 and beyond, management report of the Centre, and a draft report on the CGPRT Centre.

Mr. Pantjar Simatupang, the R&D programme leader, highlighted the thematic orientation of the R&D programme and gave a brief overview of various projects - both completed and ongoing - in 2000, and those proposed for 2001 and beyond.

Two projects were completed in 2000:

- Effects of trade liberalization on agriculture in selected Asian countries with special focus on CGPRT crops (TradeLib); and
- Avenues for agro-industrial development in Southeast Asia (AGRIND).

The following projects were implemented in 2000:

- Economic and policy analysis for the eco-regional approach in Southeast Asia (ECOPOL);
- Food security strategies for selected South Pacific Island Countries (SouthPIC); and
- Stabilization of upland agriculture and rural development in El Niño-vulnerable countries (ELNINO).

Furthermore, two projects were proposed for 2001 and beyond:

- Prospect of feed crops in South Asia (FEED); and
- Human resources development to enhance sustainability of upland agriculture in selected Southeast Asian countries (SUASA-3).

The following are ideas on future projects:

- Pre-conditioning for agricultural modernization in selected Asian developing countries with special focus on upland farming (AgriModern);
- Management of Agricultural Policies for Sustainable Development (MAPSUD).

Dr. Haruo Inagaki, director of the CGPRT Centre, said it is important to stabilize the financial and staff strength

in order to meet the increasing and diverse needs of the region and member countries.

The representatives of Indonesia and Japan assured continued financial support for the Centre's projects. However, they reiterated that other member countries, benefactors and other agents, such as ADB, must be tapped for both institutional and programme resources.

Ms Jovita Corpuz further proposed that concerned countries discuss the improvement of the project formulation and prioritization process as well as cost sharing scheme.

The Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre) was established in 1981 as a subsidiary of UN/ESCAP. In cooperation with ESCAP member countries, the Centre initiates and promotes research, training and dissemination of information on socio-economic and related aspects of CGPRT crops in Asia and the Pacific. The Centre aims to meet the needs of institutions concerned with planning, research, extension and development in relation to CGPRT crop production, marketing and use. (*Joell H. Lales*)

Republic Act 8976: Food Fortification Law

The average Filipino diet lacks in micronutrients. Vitamin A and iodine deficiencies and anemia are some of the most common diseases among Filipinos due to low levels of Vitamin A, iron and iodine in staple foods.

The government has made moves to alleviate this problem with the signing of a new bill, the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000.

President Joseph Ejercito Estrada recently signed Republic Act 8976, a law that requires the mandatory fortification of staple foods such as rice, cooking oil, refined sugar and wheat flour, and the voluntary fortification of processed food or food products with Vitamin A, iron and iodine.

The bill also supports the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 1999-2004. PPAN, the country's masterplan for nutrition improvement, aims to lower the incidences of Vitamin A- and iodine-related diseases and reduce by 20% the occurrence of anemia among the general public.

The National Nutrition Council (NNC), a multisectoral policy-making and coordinating body, drafted the PPAN.

Authored by Senators Juan M. Flavio and Teresa Aquino-Oreta and House of Representatives Alfredo G. Maraon, Michael Defensor, Alex G. Buscag and Vida V. Espinosa, RA 8976 was the first nutrition passed during the 11th session of Congress.

IDP Proposals of Regional SCUs, PTIAFs Evaluated

Institutional Development Program (IDP) proposals from regional State Colleges and Universities (SCUs) and Provincial Technological Institutes in Agriculture and Fisheries (PTIAFs) recently underwent an evaluation conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Facilitated by the Institutional Development Division (IDD) of BAR, the evaluation process is a prerequisite to the availing of Institutional Development Grants (IDG) by member agencies of the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF).

Seven proposals from regional SCUs and PTIAFs were evaluated by the Regional External Review Team (RERT) of IDD.

Proposals came from Aurora State College (ASC), Camarines Sur State Agricultural College (CSSAC), Central Mindanao University (CMU), Isabela State University (ISU), Bicol University College of Fishery (BU-CF), and Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU). These regional SCUs are mandated to undertake midstream researches.

On the other hand, the Aurora State College of Technology (ASCOT) and Misamis Oriental State College of Technology (MOSCOT) are PTIAFs tasked to undertake downstream researches.

The respective presidents, administrators and research directors presented the IDP proposals to effectively address the details of their respective projects.

The projects highlighted in the IDP proposals involve the improvement of analytical laboratories, acquisition of research equipment, upgrading of experimental stations for the development of crops and livestock, and Information Technology facilities.

The proposals were evaluated on the following criteria:

- adherence to the AFMA thrusts and themes
- relevance of the requested equipment / facilities to the regional R&D programs and agenda
- reasonability of the budget request
- performance of relevant achievements of the agencies
- manpower and institutional capability

Several issues and concerns were also raised during the evaluation process, such as the impact and stability of the proposed projects as well as the urgency to implement such projects to the respective regions.

The results of the evaluation process would undergo further scrutiny and study by members of RERT. *(Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)*

APAARI...

together with representatives from eight associate members of APAARI, namely: the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) of Thailand, Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) of Taiwan, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) of Mexico, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) of India, International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) of the Philippines, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) of Italy, and International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) of Syria.

Dr. Richard Juanillo of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and Mr. Alvin Bernardo Divinagracia of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) formed the Philippine contingent. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*

IRR...

- Research and Development
- Extension Services

The five remaining chapter committees are scheduled to present on 4 December. A second draft of the revised IRR shall be prepared based on the outputs of the November 22nd workshop. This will then be presented to other government agencies and the private sector for final validation. *(Emily Mateo)*

CERDAF...

Medium-Term Plan for 2001, assessment of the status of the AFMA R&D and the presentation and approval of the various programs and agenda of all R&D networks.

The CERDAF is the body tasked to integrate all government efforts on agriculture and fisheries RDE. This involves implementing a more comprehensive and responsive R&D extension program, encouraging the participation of the private sector in the development of the RDE agenda, approving fund allocations for RDE programs/projects, and reviewing/approving the NaRDSAF/NESAF national RDE plans and programs.

The CERDAF will be chaired by DA Sec. Edgardo Angara and co-chaired by DOST Sec. Filemon Uriarte Jr.. Its members include officials and representatives from DENR, NEDA, DAR, CHED, League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, FARMC, PCARRD, PCAMRD, Chamber of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines, the academe, farmer/fisherfolk organizations, crops, livestock and processing sectors, and R&D experts. BAR will serve as R&D secretariat, while ATI is the Extension secretariat. *(Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)*

webNEWS

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

Biolog Inc. has launched a Filamentous Fungi database to work with other Biolog database on bacteria and yeast identification. A fungi identification system will help in minimizing cost of crop loss due to fungi.

<http://www.individual.com/network/headlines/StoryText.shtml?story=p1127075.600&date=20001128&level3=613&uid=Biopor3>

A probe is underway on the illegal imports of banned beef to Britain for sale to consumers.

<http://www.express.co.uk/00/12/01/news/n3320.shtml>

The US Food and Drug Administration has finalized safe handling information and refrigeration requirements concerning the marketing of shell eggs to prevent food-borne illnesses such as Salmonella Enteritidis.

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/NEW0074.html>

Information site of the Star Link Grower and Grain Handlers

<http://www.us.crops.cscience.aventis.com/AventisUS/CropScience/stage/html/varieties.htm>

R&D Proponents in Budget Talks

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) recently met with Department of Agriculture (DA) agencies involved in R&D to determine their budget allocation for CY 2001-2002.

In this annual activity, every agency under the DA presents its respective R&D budget proposal, which includes personnel services and capital outlay and expenses, for the succeeding year.

Research Directors, Planning Officers, and Budget Officers from nine agencies of the DA, namely Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Fiber Industry Development Authority (FIDA), Cotton Development Administration (CODA), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and National Crop Protection Center (NCPC).

BAR Director Eliseo Ponce presided over the meeting, assisted by



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

Vision 2025: Strengthening Agricultural Research Dev't in Asia-Pacific Region

Established a decade ago, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) continues to serve as a conduit for the development of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in the Asia-Pacific region. The organization promotes intra-regional and inter-institutional cooperation through the exchange of scientific and technical information, collaborative research, human resource development, linkages and networking among its member countries.

APAARI, with its chairman

Ms. Lina Dimal, and Mr. Braulio Tamayo, Finance Management Division Head and Planning and Monitoring Evaluation Division Head, respectively, of BAR.

The results of the dialogue would be included in the draft commitment targets and the work and financial plan for the CY 2001 to be submitted to the DA-Office of the Secretary and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), respectively.

The said budget dialogue is also a requirement prior to deliberations by the Oversight Committee or the Senate Committee on Finance. This process would ensure the non-duplication of R&D funding.

According to Memorandum No. 90 series of 2000 issued by DBM, the DA shall endorse the agriculture and fisheries R&D budget proposals of the NaRDSAF (National Research and Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries) member agencies, with BAR spearheading the orchestration of the national R&D system in agriculture and fisheries and consolidating all R&D efforts to achieve great efficiency in the allocation of scarce resources. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Dr. Ian Belverge at the helm, endeavors to pursue this mission well into the future.

In its 6th General Assembly held on 8-10 November in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the APAARI presented Vision 2025 with the theme "Strengthening Agricultural Research Development in the Asia-Pacific Region." Simultaneously, an expert consultation among the participating countries was held to map strategies for implementing the said vision.

Seven strategies and action plans identified:

- * Regional collaboration network on priority programmes
- * information network of centres of excellence
- * developing human resources
- * policy advocacy
- * promoting technology transfer
- * resource generation
- * publication enhancement

Representatives from 17 countries participated in the event,

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