



BAR

Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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1-15 October 2000

BAR Celebrates R&D Week

The crucial role played by research and development (R&D) in modernizing the agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country is once again highlighted with the annual celebration of the National Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Week.

Symposium, an annual event held by BAR, gathers scientists and researchers involved



DA Assistant Secretary Ma. Theresa Capellan and Dr. Ponce opening the poster exhibit.

On 3-6 October, the Bureau of Agricultural Research celebrated simultaneously three events, namely the 12th National Research Symposium (NRS); the 13th BAR Anniversary; and the National/Regional RDE Network Meeting and Seminar.

The 12th National Research

in the national agriculture and fisheries R&D system. This year's event, with a theme "Harnessing New Science in Attaining Food Security and Global Competitiveness", showcased a poster exhibit and technical paper presentations. Different research organizations and institutions from all over the country participated in the poster exhibit. The technical paper presentation was divided into two categories - published and unpublished. The R&D papers presented included upstream and

presentations. Different research organizations and institutions from all over the country participated in the poster exhibit. The technical paper presentation was divided into two categories - published and unpublished. The R&D papers presented included upstream and

See R&D Week, page 3

R&D Priority Projects for 2000-01 to be Identified

Heralding the start of yet another fiscal year, a deadline has been set for the submission of the national and regional priority projects.

In its latest meeting, the national and regional team leaders (NTL) decided the list of Priority Projects for the Year 2000-01 of the National and Regional Integrated RDE Programs (N/RIRDEP) should be submitted by Oct 15, 2000.

The review of CY 2000 Projects will be concluded on October 30, while the review of CY 2001 Projects will start on December and end on January 1.

The Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC) shall conduct the initial review of the national programs/projects. To determine the appropriateness of the methodology and budgets, peers shall review the said proposals.

Regional proposals shall be
See Priority, page 2

Grains Sector Development Program

Latest Developments: Structure, Protocol Drafted

As part of preparations prior to the full-blast implementation of the Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP), a national implementers' planning workshop was held on 4-5 October.

Foremost in the meeting's agenda was the drafting of GSDP's implementation protocol, addressing the level-off issues concerning implementing units, and fine-tuning of the work and financial plans. All these to ensure the smooth implementation of all GSDP investment sub-components.

During this meeting, the proposed organizational structures of the following were reviewed: GSDP Project Management Office (PMO); the Corn Research under BAR, and the Integrated Crop Management under ATI.

The rehabilitation work to be conducted by BSWM on soil laboratories and the capacity of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) were likewise discussed. The roles and responsibilities of the implementing units were also identified.

The different agencies participating in the project drafted their respective budgetary requirements based on the P527-million budget approved by the government.

The GSDP-PMO shall consolidate all the work and financial plans into one global work plan.

The inception meeting of the GSDP Investment Component with ADB will be held on 10-12 October.

See Grains, page 2

Multiyear Budget, Science Fund Needed - Ponce

Director Eliseo Ponce has forwarded a proposal for a multiyear budget policy for research and the creation of a science fund that will support the Human Resource Development projects for R&D.

This developed during a budget dialogue with Milagros J. Lopez, Department of Budget and Management operations director on 6 October.

Multi-year Budget Allocation

Under Rule 83.1, Section 83 of the 1998 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) (DA AO 6) of AFMA, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is mandated to introduce a system of multiyear grants to finance agricultural and fisheries research, development and extension projects. Provision (a) of section 83 of the IRR defines multiyear budgets as research and development grants. This covers maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and capital outlays (CO) of all agencies.

R&D institutions are the recipients of this multiyear budget. This provision allows continuous implementation and execution of research projects.

Priority...

subjected to two levels of review. The first level entails a validation by the NTL of the capsule proposal based on its relevance, coherence to the NIRDEP and its feasibility. In the second level, a detailed proposal shall be analyzed in terms of its methodology and budget.

On 6-7 November 2000, regional proposals will be validated by the NTL for CY 2001 funding. Regional participants will include RIARCs, Commodity Team Leaders of the top five commodities, and the RCPC Head. All proposals, which do not make it to the 2000 list, would be included instead in the 2001 Budget List. BAR will endorse proposals which pass the review to the MAKAMASA Program Directors for funding. The MAKAMASA R&D Fund or the BAR Grants shall cover direct research costs. *(Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)*

But in August 2000, Malacañang passed Circular No. 2000-13 called "Availability for MOOE and CO". The Circular ruled that MOOEs and COs are valid for only one fiscal year upon issuance. Section 2.0 stated that MOOEs, COs and Notice of Cash Allocation (NCAs) shall be valid for release and obligation until December 31, 2000 only.

According to Dr. Ponce, this new ruling presents a big constraint to the conduct of R&D activities and projects. As the duration of R&D projects normally take at least 2-5 years, one fiscal year would not suffice for its execution and implementation. Consequently, he continued, DBM should exempt R&D institutions from this ruling to ensure the continuance of R&D projects.

In response, Ms. Lopez advised BAR to draft a letter of request to DA Secretary Edgardo Angara asking Secretary Benjamin Diokno to exempt the R&D budget from this provision. Ms Lopez said BAR would have her support.

Science Fund

Dr. Ponce also cited the need for a science fund that will be utilized

for the Human Resource Development program of R&D personnel.

According to Dr. Ponce, AFMA mandates the appropriation of a science fund, as stated in item D of Sec 83 of the IRR: *a science fund shall be established from which the scientific community in agriculture and fisheries will draw its financial resource for sustained career development.* Moreover, the IRR allows the establishment of the Agriculture and Fisheries Science Fund Task Force (AFSF) which will be chaired by the DA Undersecretary, with BAR as Secretariat. The Chair and Secretariat shall formulate the design, financing sources and modes of operating guidelines. The AFSF shall be dissolved upon the presentation, approval and operationalization of their proposals in January 1999.

However, the President's budget for 1999 did not include any provision for the science fund. Ms. Lopez advised BAR to request Secretary Diokno to allocate an initial amount for the Science fund this coming FY 2002. *(Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)*

PhilRice...

Network (SeedNet); and

* Strengthen Rice R&D manpower

As PhilRice spearheads the country's rice R&D program, its fundamentals must be sound and strong. He revealed the factors that enabled PhilRice to contribute to the creation of strong R&D network and ultimately become a model R&D institution.

These factors are: effective programs; appropriate technologies and outputs; strong manpower complement; strong linkages with national and international institutions; effective planning and monitoring and evaluation system; adequate funding, facilities, and infrastructure; and effective leadership and organization.

Given the distinction accorded to the institution over the years,

PhilRice continues to strive to meet challenges of the rice industry and become more responsive to the needs of its clientele. Dr. Sebastian said the institution is committed to its clientele - the Filipinos - as it will endeavor to make breakthroughs for tomorrow, build a stronger network, and provide leadership.

Also present in the seminar were the Network Team Leaders of the different RDE Networks. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*

Grains...

The DA-PMS coordinated the workshop, with Ms. Zeny Villegas as facilitator. Dr. Art Salazar, the designated project leader for the R&D Programs, Mr. Tito Arevalo and Ms. Cecilia Baquiereza represented BAR. *(Cecilia J. Baquiereza)*

R&D Week...



Top: Poster exhibit featuring entries from the Mindanao region

midstream/downstream researches in the field of Biological Sciences (Crop Science; Animal Science; Fisheries and Marine

Sciences); Physical Sciences; and Socio-Economic Sciences.

Hon. Florencio Abad, chair of the Sub-Committee on Agriculture, was the special guest.

The 13th *BAR Anniversary* was highlighted by the awarding of the winners in the *AFMA R&D Paper Awards*, *AFMA Best R&D Paper Awards*, *AFMA Outstanding R&D Paper Awards* for the Unpublished Category and the *BAR Director's Award* and *DA Secretary's Award* for the Published Category. The *Best*



Mr. Conrado H. Balatero, AFMA Outstanding R&D Awardee receives plaque from Usec Cristino Collado while Usec Arsenio Balisacan and Dr. Ponce look on.

Poster Paper Awards were also given.

For the *AFMA R&D Paper Awards*, P25,000 cash and plaques were awarded each to Crop Science Upstream and Crop Science Downstream, and P20,000 and plaques for Physical Science Downstream.

For the *AFMA Best R&D Paper Awards*, P60,000 cash and plaques for Physical Science Downstream, P40,000 cash and plaques for Crop Science Upstream and Fisheries and Marine Science Upstream; P30,000 cash and plaques for Crop Science Downstream; P20,000 cash and plaques for Fisheries and Marine Science Downstream and Animal Science Downstream; P10,000 cash and plaque for Physical Science Upstream and Socio Economics were given.

For the *AFMA Outstanding R&D Paper Awards*, P20,000 cash and trophies for Crop Science Upstream and Downstream, Fisheries and Marine Science Upstream and Downstream and Physical Science; and P10,000 cash and trophy for Animal Science Downstream and

Socio-Economics were given.

Under the Published Category, winners of the *BAR Director's Awards* received a total amount of P40,000 cash and plaques for their R&D paper published in local refereed scientific journals and P30,000 and plaque for the R&D paper published in international refereed scientific journals. The *DA Secretary's Awards* given to work of UP authors published in the Institute of Science Information-Current Content Journal, were awarded P20,000 and plaques, while non-UP authors were awarded P250,000 and plaques.

Winners of the Best Poster Paper Awards each received a total of P15,000 and plaques. Awardees came from DA-RFU II, BPRE and PhilRice.

National team leaders and Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs) and Regional Integrated Fisheries Research Centers (RFRCs) attended the *National/Regional RDE Networks Meeting*. Included in the meeting agenda were sources of funds and funding mechanisms of different RDE programs from 2001; planning for regional priority programs, and a technical review of priority regional RDE programs. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Budget...

Authority (FIDA), Cotton Development Authority (CODA), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Livestock Development Council, National Dairy Authority (NDA), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC), National Tobacco Administration (NTA), Bureau of Post-Harvest for Research Extension (BPRE), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Fertilizer & Pesticide Authority, and National Nutrition Council (NNC).

Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Rodolfo Biazon presided over the meeting. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Pinoy...

carrying out the project, BAR will extend a "quick response fund" to the RIARC offices in Regions 1, 2, 6, and 10. This fund will be tapped to support pre-production verification trials, pilot production, post-harvest handling and marketing services of farmers and fishermen. BAR will also provide information technology support such as computers for use by experts assigned with developing coursewares and packaging the best agricultural and fisheries practices.

On the other hand, the Winrock International will provide technical assistance in designing, organizing and implementing an innovative and market-driven business development and information technology support system.

Extension agents such as LGUs will also take part in the project. They shall assist farmers in obtaining information on prices of agricultural produce, buyers, new agriculture and fisheries technologies from the *PinoyFarmer* website.

A work plan detailing the three-year project implementation was also organized.

The P21.5-million project targets poor smallholders of the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Capiz, Iloilo, Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental. The project is aimed at transforming the disadvantaged Pinoy farmer into a globally competitive entrepreneur by creating new agribusiness opportunities and providing market-driven services using Information Communication Technology. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

BAR 2001 Budget Presented to Senate

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) presented recently its 2001 budget during a Senate Budget Hearing. Attached agencies and staff bureaus under the Department of Agriculture also presented their respective budget proposals.

For CY 2001, the President's Budget amounts to P666.220 million broken down as follows: Regular Funds, P23.404 million; and AFMA Grants, P642.816 million.

The Regular Fund will be distributed to the Personnel Service (PS), the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) and Capital Outlay (CO).

The AFMA Grants will be distributed to programs such as: the implementation of National Integrated RDE Agenda and Programs (NIRDEA/P); implementation of Regional Integrated RDE Agenda and Programs (RIRDEA/P); improving the quality of R&D governance: operation of National & Regional RDE Networks and R&D institutional development program; development of Knowledge

Products and Services; Agriculture & Fisheries R&D Information System (AFRDIS) Development; implementation of Monitoring, Evaluation (Impact) and Policy Programs; Public and International R&D Partnerships; and addressing special needs in Agriculture and Fisheries RDE.

BAR's President's Budget for CY 2001 is down by 8.04% compared to last year.

During an open forum, BAR Director Eliseo Ponce said the Bureau allocates its research funds using the "congruence ratio." The formula is: program area equals the percent of contribution of the sector/sub-sector to GVA plus the criteria for adjustment (its potential for increasing income, potential for development, global competitiveness, and private sector participation in R&D).

Also present during the hearing were the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Fiber Industry Development

See Budget, page 3

Sebastian Steers PhilRice into New Millennium

As part of its R&D Week celebrations, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) sponsored a seminar that highlighted one of the country's premier R&D institutions. Entitled "*PhilRice In The First Decade of the New Millennium*," the seminar served as the venue for the new director of Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) to present his visions and goals for the institution.

Dr. Leocadio Sebastian, the new executive director of PhilRice, was sworn into office on 28 July 2000 by President Joseph Estrada. He replaced Dr. Santiago Obien. Dr. Sebastian is also the concurrent

Network Team Leader of the Rice RDE Network.



Dr. Leocadio Sebastian, PhilRice Executive Director

While he acknowledged his predecessor's programs as his major take-off points, he nonetheless envisions PhilRice to continue making inroads under his leadership. He stressed the following as PhilRice's trusts:

- * Develop and strengthen regional rice growth centers;
- * Expand private sector participation in rice R&D;
- * Build the rice information system;
- * Empower farming communities and local government;
- * Strengthen the Rice Seed production

See PhilRice, page 2

Winrock, BAR ink Pinoy Farmer Project MOA

The Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), and Winrock International (WI) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement signaling the launch of the *Pinoy Farmer Business Development Project*.

On 5 October 2000, Arsenio Balisacan, the DA Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Eliseo Ponce, BAR director, Richard Brown and Inocencio Bolo, Winrock vice-president and country director, respectively, signed the MOA in the Bureau of Soils and Water Management in Quezon City.

The MOA encapsulates the duties and responsibilities of project proponents and collaborating agencies, the rationale of the project and the laws governing the funding and financial records, and reports.

As the lead coordinating agency, BAR, in collaboration with Winrock, will organize a "network of mentors" in agriculture and fisheries. An "on-line clinic" will be formed, comprised of experts and specialists from DA-affiliated research and educational institutions who shall provide farmers technical knowledge support in agriculture and fisheries.

As the direct involvement of the regional agencies is deemed crucial in

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IARC in CARAGA to Get P5-M Institutional Support

The DA-CARAGA Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CARAGA-IARC) will soon avail of a P5-million grant through the Bureau's Institutional Development Grant Program.

This developed as the Bureau has tapped CARAGA-IARC to become the center of R&D excellence in Region XIII. The center is actively engaged in R&D programs on rice, corn, plantation crops, fruit crops, abaca, rootcrops, poultry and livestock.

With this grant, the 20-hectare IARC located in Trento, Agusan del Sur will soon be fully equipped for the conduct of research and training support services to the Caraganons. To date, the center has been lagging behind its contemporaries in terms of development. This is largely due to poor road network in the area, which renders it impassable.

The development plan will involve converting the existing research building into a two-storey building which will house plant tissue and plant disease laboratories, a regional seed center and a common office for laboratory staff. Researches on virus-free banana and abaca plantlets shall be conducted in the plant tissue laboratory, while analysis of pest-infected plant samples shall be

See IARC, page 3

20 NaRDSAF Members Avail of Scholarship

*NaRDSAF Scholarship Committee Meeting*

Twenty applications from members of the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) passed recently the screening for scholarship grants.

Applications from both the national and regional R&D institutions were screened by the DA-BAR NaRDSAF Scholarship Committee which is composed of experts and heads of DA national centers, staff bureaus and partner state universities and colleges.

The scholarship program, under the BAR-Institutional Development Division's program on Human Resources Development, covers the Master's degree (MS) and Doctorate degree (Ph.D.).

Nine Ph.D. and 11 MS scholarship grants were approved.

Six Ph.D scholarship grantees are from the DA-regional centers, namely Ms. Miguela Anabesa, Ms. Lorna Vilbar, Ms Susan Razo, Ms. Consolacion Satorre, Mr. Francisco

Geronimo and Mr. Miguel Baay. Ms Josephine Garcia and Ms. Purisima Pajaro came from DA-national centers, while Mr Virgilio Gonzales came from Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC).

Six MS grantees are from the DA-regional centers, namely Mr. Joel

Cantoneros, Mr. Melchor Monreal, Mr. Bienvenido Acabal, Mr. Danilo Tumamao, Mr. Artemio Almoroto, and Ms Lourdes Calleja. Ms Jesusa Cabling, Ms Flordeliza Hidalgo, Ms Grace Bajit Amar and Mr. Samuel Ordoñez are from PhilRice while Mr. Herminigildo Quibuyen is from BAR.

The scholars are entitled to a monthly stipend, matriculation and other school fees, thesis and dissertations support, book allowance, graduation fees and relocation allowance. The scholars will be provided also with full basic salary and other benefits by their respective mother agency for the duration of the grant.

The Human Resources Development Program is an initiative of BAR that aims to develop a pool of highly competent researchers and research technical staff equipped with a degree in agriculture, fisheries and other related fields relevant to the attainment of a more efficient and effective R&D system. (*Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)

Agricultural Engineering Agenda, Program Ok'd

The Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC) recently approved the National Integrated RDE Agenda and Programs (NIRDEA/P) of the Agricultural Engineering (AE) RDE Network.

The AE NIRDEA/P will anchor on implementing the National Agricultural Mechanization Plan to develop and promote appropriate agricultural engineering technologies. At present, the Philippines ranks among the countries in Asia with the lowest farm power utilization level. This factor results to the farm industry's low production level and high postharvest losses. With the Mechanization Plan, the network is now targeting to increase the current farm power level to 1.0 hp/ha in the short term, and 4.0 in the long term.

For 2001, the Bureau of Agricultural Research will provide P13 million in funds for the network. Projects will be based on the six subprograms of the AE RDE, namely Generation of Information as input to the AE Development Plan; Development/Adaptation of

Appropriate Agricultural Engineering Technologies for Machinery Pools and Rural-based Processing Plants; Piloting and Packaging of Agricultural Engineering Technologies; Development of Technical Standards and Procedures to ensure the Quality of Agricultural Engineering Technologies; Development of Trained Manpower for Agricultural Engineering Technologies; and the Establishment of a Centralized Information Service for Agricultural Engineering.

RDE Agenda

The AE RDE Agenda has eight main points:

- Strengthen the Agricultural Engineering RDE Network to tap the active participation of research institutions and the private sector;
- Conduct benchmark and needs surveys, policy and feasibility studies, and impact evaluation of the Mechanization Plan;
- Adapt available matured technologies from developed/developing countries to the country's own

institutions/industry;

- Develop medium- to large-scale and energy-efficient technologies for machinery pools and village-level processing plants;
- Develop technical standards to help ensure the quality of agricultural engineering technologies. This aims to establish a set of technical standards for all commercially accepted AE technologies;
- Pilot and package agricultural engineering technologies. This aims to facilitate the smooth flow of technology transfer and avoid the promotion of unsuitable technologies;
- Conduct training on agricultural engineering technologies for engineers, technicians, extension workers and farmers;
- Establish a centralized information service for agricultural engineering statistics and development. This aims to facilitate a comprehensive collection and retrieval system of AE information and technologies.

(Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)

Agricultural Research Profile Underway

The Bureau of Agricultural Research is now ready to start work on the development of the Agriculture Sector Research and Development Profile. This came after the Writer's Workshop for the Preparation of Agricultural Commodity Profiles concluded last 12-14 October 2000.

The Research Profile is part of the Research Development Plan that BAR has been tasked to prepare for inclusion in the whole Agricultural Development Plan. The Profile will include consolidated information on the overall performance of all agriculture R&D players, both in

the government and the private sector.

Basically, the research profile should answer three questions: Where is research now? How is it delivered? How should it be delivered?

The agreed outline containing the minimum information required for the research profile is composed of four parts: Situation, Problems & Constraints, Opportunities and Recommendation.

- The Situation section should include the definition and role of 'Research' in agriculture, recent trends and major developments for the past

three years, and the current state (year 2000) of research.

- The Problems and Constraints section should include the existing and foreseen major problems and constraints hindering the improvement/expansion of Research.
- Given the recent developments in the country's agriculture sector, the Opportunities section would include discussions on Research's prospects for improvement and expansion. This would also present how Research can be maximized for the benefit of the

Bagsakan Flower Market Center Opened

There is now a new central market for cutflowers and ornamental plants. The DA-National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC), in collaboration with the Society of Davao Development Cooperative, formally opened the "Cutflower Bagsakan Center" on 20 October 2000 at the Manila Seedling Bank Compound in Quezon City.



The project will promote an efficient and cost-effective marketing system to support the key players in cutflowers and ornamental industry in its bid to meet the country's increasing demand and boost the production of the industry. The center will serve as a "one-stop-shop", housing all horticulture needs and floral supplies to facilitate easier trade of these products all over

the country.

The opening of the center was a gathering of the country's top producers and traders of cutflowers and ornamentals. Department of Agriculture

Secretary Edgardo Angara was the guest speaker. He said a market center for retail and wholesale of cutflowers and ornamentals must be established in Manila because this is the center of trade. Under his administration, he promised to provide assistance for the improvement of the physical facilities of the site and the expansion of the center. He also encouraged the proponents of the project to conduct lectures on improving cutflower production.

The DA-NAFC and the Orchid Society of Davao Development Cooperative also signed an MOA during the event. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

Profile ...

agriculture sector.

- Lastly, a Recommendation section gives the necessary transition of the first three topics into the Sectoral Goals and Objectives. When the development plan is actually completed, this part will be incorporated in the Sectoral Goals and Objectives, where the gaps, possible interventions and targets that are agency specific will be specifically stated.

The first draft of the research profile is to be submitted on November 7, the second draft on November 14, and the third draft on November 21, 2000. Two weeks after, BAR will present this profile to a panel of experts to be identified by the Department of Agriculture. (Jennifer Farrales and Myra Pablo)

IARC...

conducted in the plant disease diagnostic laboratory. The regional seed center, with its modern chilling apparatus, will be ideal for storing grains and leguminous planting materials.

The grant shall be utilized to improve the skills and capabilities of both R&D personnel and farmers through hands-on trainings on the latest agricultural technologies. Convertible seminar/training rooms and a library shall also be built.

With the improvement of the DA-CARAGA IARC, farmers' productivity is projected to increase by 20% to 30% through the use of quality, high-yielding and readily available crop varieties and cost-effective crop protection strategies. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

Agriculture in Typhoon-Prone Visayas to be Promoted

The occurrence and frequency of typhoons in the country should not be hindrance to the promotion and development of agriculture. This natural phenomenon should instead be overcome. Strategic activities must be drafted and implemented to assuage the effects and lessen the impact of these natural disasters.

The Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (EVIARC) will spearhead a workshop that will endeavor to design a project proposal for the development of agriculture in the typhoon-prone areas of Eastern Visayas, one of the regions most hit by tropical depressions and storms that enter the country's area of responsibility.

The workshop will be held on 30-31 October at ViSCA.

Specifically, the planning workshop will involve the analysis of Eastern Visayas's typhoon tracts for the last 10-15 years, identification of the region's existing agricultural crops and practices, as well as the identification of researchable areas as basis for the development of R&D proposals.

Region VIII, situated along the country's eastern seaboard, have been hit by almost all typhoons that develop on the Pacific, according to monthly typhoon tracts from 1951 to 1985 by DOST-PAGASA. The Cagayan Valley and the Bicol region have also been identified as typhoon-prone areas in the country.

Asst. Director Jovy Corpuz, Resty David Regional Program Division Chief and Ricarte Castro o IEPD from the Bureau of Agricultural Research will join representatives from DA-RFU 8, DA-FIDA 8, DOST-PAGASA, ViSCA, and UPVTC-REIS. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)



Gawad Saka Awards 2000

Rillo, Abad DA Outstanding Employees for Research

From a shortlist of six finalists, two winners have emerged in this year's search for the Outstanding DA Employee for Research *Gawad Saka* awards.

Ms. Erlinda P. Rillo of the Philippine Coconut Authority-Albay Research Center and Ms. Melani Abad of the DA-RFU XI won in the basic/applied research and the adaptive research categories, respectively.

Ms. Rillo bested two other finalists considered in the basic/applied research category for her outstanding performance and accomplishments in the field of biotechnology. Among her significant researches is the *Clonal Propagation of Elite, Disease-resistant in Coconut through Somatic Embryogenesis*. She also conducted

research on the development of new *makapuno* types from high-yielding in-vitro cultured *makapuno* coconut.

Ms. Abad, an Agriculturist II, also bested two other finalists in her category. She pioneered the study on durian plant nutrition, identifying the major causes of fruit physiological disorders and its control. She also established the durian nutrient requirements during the productive stage and developed a standard leaf sampling method.

The awards include P20,000 cash, plus a research grant amounting to P1.5 million.

Ms. Antonieta Tumapon of the DA-Northern Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (NOMIARC) was given a citation

award of P10,000 for her outstanding accomplishments in researches on the improvement of white potato industry in Northern Mindanao region.

The National Technical Committee, created through Special Order 430, conducted the evaluation. The criteria for evaluation set by the committee include significance of research works, attitude, and personal interview.

The *Gawad Saka* search for Outstanding DA Employee for Research is a regular activity of the DA that gives due recognition to its personnel for their exemplary performance in service of its clientele in agriculture and fisheries. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

IT Infrastructure Management Training for AFRDIS Members

After identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each institution participating in the *Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System* (AFRDIS), the corresponding solutions and countermeasures are now underway. One such solution is educating the IT staff from the institutions on the different components of the information system.

The *Training on IT Infrastructure and Network Management* is the first of a series of activities identified during the AFRDIS Planning Workshop last September. The training aimed to fill in the information and skill gaps, with special concentration on IT infrastructure management.

Topics tackled include network management and administration. Discussions were conducted on the different platforms and servers available. Other activities like messaging, e-mail teleconferencing, and user management, and troubleshooting were likewise covered.

Twenty-five IT staff from AFRDIS-participating institutions attended the workshop which was held in the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

AFRDIS in-house experts formed the core of the training staff, with Mr. Billy Belonio of BPRE, Mr. Jun Oliva of USM, Mr. Philip Fulgencio of PCC, and Mr. Alvin Mauricio of ITD-BAR lecturing on the various aspects of LAN installation and network management. Experiential learning through hands-on activities at the IT Laboratory of USM was also conducted.

AFRDIS-member institutions that attended the workshop include the Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ILIARC), Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA), Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs) in Eastern

and Central Visayas, Central Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CEMIARC) and USM.

The SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) facilitated the event. (Laarni C. Anenias)

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