



BAR

Chronicle

DA-BAR E-MAIL

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Volume No.1 Issue No.17

1-15 September 2000

FIAC Nat'l Coordinating Council Elects Officers

The newly established Farmer/Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC) National Coordinating Council has elected its officers on the occasion of the 1st annual meeting of the FIAC heads on 8 September.

The new set of officers are as follows: Chair: Dr. Edgardo Layug; Vice Chair: Ms. Dawn Jamandre; Secretary: Mr. Felix Pocong; Sector Representatives: Mr. Abner Villahermosa (Crops and Livestock), Mr. Maximo Ricohermoso (Fisheries) and Mr. Roberto Sebastian (Discipline); Zonal Representatives: Mr. Isidro Acosta (Luzon), Dr. Pedro Aquino (Visayas), and Dr. Warlito Laquihon (Mindanao).

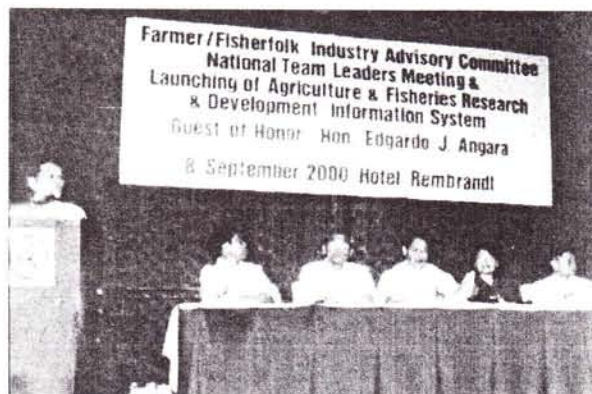
The nominees for the posts included current FIAC chairs of the

commodity, discipline and regional R&D networks.

The FIAC NCC will represent the farmers/fisherfolk industry in the national-level R&D review process. It will also help BAR review for relevance the researches undertaken by the networks and research institutions. Moreover, the NCC is tasked to help strengthen public-NGO partnerships in R&D.

The Sectoral representatives are tasked with updating the committee on current industry trends. They shall make appropriate recommendations to further improve the industry's competitiveness.

On the other hand, the Zonal



representatives shall be the medium for airing the needs of the various regions in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Their assessments and recommendations would be incorporated in policy-making initiatives. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan*)

National Research Symposium

Preliminary Evaluation of Research Papers Underway

The evaluation and judging of research papers competing in the National Research Symposium have begun. On 11-12 September 2000, a panel of judges evaluated 104 papers. This year's entries were grouped into the following categories: Socio-economics, Physical Science, Biological Science-Fisheries, Biological Science-Animal, Biological Science-Plants (Upstream) and Bioloal Science Plants (Midstream/Downstream).

Working around the theme "Harnessing New Science in Attaining

Sustainable Food Security and Global Competitiveness," this year's entries primarily deal with developing new sciences to acquire cost-effective, efficient and environment-safe agricultural systems.

The entries were judged based on the following criteria: Scientific Significance (findings and new theories/techniques generated), 35%; Relevance to AFMA, 30%; Methodology/Technique, 20%; and Presentation (Cogency and logic, Literature Citation and Clarity), 15%.

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Agriculture and Fisheries R&D

AFRDIS Information System Launched

On 8 September, the Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS) was formally launched. Presidents of USM, VISCA and CLSU, directors of BPRE, PCC and PHILRICE and representatives of MMSU, DA Regional Field Units 1, 7 and 8 with their respective IT counterpart teams participated in the event.

Secretary Eduardo J. Angara was the guest speaker.

AFRDIS is a comprehensive information system for R&D in

See AFRDIS, page 3

BAR, IBSRAM to embark on P9.65-M Land Management Project

In its continuing bid to improve the lives of the Filipino farmer, the Bureau will embark on a project that aims to devise strategies on land management.

The Bureau has announced that it will co-sponsor one of the International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM) projects on land management. IBSRAM is a Thailand-based international, non-profit organization involved in collaborative research for land management.

The P9.65-M project, entitled Management of Soil Erosion Consortium (MSEC), will develop new approaches to land management, and consequently devise strategies in solving problems on soil erosion. The project will also study the socio-economic impact, utilization and management of resources.

This project is a collaborative

effort of IBSRAM and the Philippines through the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD). The implementing institutions/agencies are the following: Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), DA-Region X, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Central Mindanao University (CMU), non-government organizations (NGOs), and local government units (LGUs) of Lantapan, Bukidnon.

The project is simultaneously conducted in several countries.

In late 1998, the project was approved with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DA, which committed a yearly contribution of US\$50-thousand for the next three years. The Asian Development Bank is also one of the fund contributors. (*Rita T. dela Cruz*)

Agriculture (SEARCA) participated in the event

Lectures, inter-active discussions, and demonstrations were held during the seminar. Discussions on International Relations, Economic Diplomacy, and Protocol were likewise conducted.

The discussion on International Relations focused mainly on its foundation - its historical perspectives and specific events. Discussions on Economic Diplomacy highlighted diplomacy as the tool to achieve the government's thrusts of championing its economic goals. The lecture on Protocol named internationally accepted norms of behavior and the practical requirements in conducting meetings, hosting social functions and receiving foreign officials.

The DA deems the skills to be learned from the seminar would aid its personnel in their role as official delegates in different meetings and conferences on bilateral and multilateral cooperation. (*Rita T. dela Cruz*)

1st National Conference on HABs Held

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) have wreaked havoc in virtually all coastal regions of the Philippines. Records show the country has been subject to an unprecedented variety and frequency of HABs outbreaks.

This reality is a cause for alarm.

According to ECOHAB (USA), proper management of HABs is critical in building a viable and valuable fisheries sector and protecting threatened and endangered species. Proper management of coastal resources also call for the proper control of HABs.

In a bid to arrest the continuance and spread of HABs, the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines-Diliman gathered marine experts/ scientists from different regions and colleges/ universities in the first national conference on HAB held on 24 August.

The workshop focused on developing and implementing a national program to control HABs.

The seminar was divided into several topics; 1) Overview on HABs, 2) Research status and needs on the Biology/Ecology of harmful algal bloom organism, 3) Research status and needs on Geological Oceanography in relation to Harmful Algal Bloom, 4) Research status and needs on Chemical Oceanography in relation to Harmful Algal Bloom, 5) Research status and needs on Toxicology of harmful algal bloom organism, 6) Monitoring-culture and harvest sites for HAB sites in the Philippines, 7) Management and control of harvest and sale in relation to HAB in the Philippines, 8) Health issues and concerns in relation to Toxic Red Tides in the Philippines, and 9) public education and Information in relation to HAB.

A workshop on monitoring of sites and Research issues on Toxicology, Biology and Physical/

See HABs, page 3

DA-Sponsored Diplomacy, Protocol Seminar Held

Participation in multilateral and bilateral cooperations is not mere politicking. Productive cooperations are a convergence of political skills, press relations and diplomacy.

As the world enters an era of open economies and interrelations, the Department of Agriculture endeavors to equip its personnel with the skills relevant and crucial in forging new partnerships beyond its realm.

Personnel of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who are involved in economic and technical cooperation with different countries and international organizations recently attended a three-day seminar on international diplomacy and skills in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, protocol and social graces. Representatives from DA-central office, attached agencies, staff bureaus, and SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in

NRS...

However, the judges shall allow flexibility in terms of points given under the Scientific Significance and Relevance to AFMA criteria.

There will be two winners of the AFMA Outstanding Paper Award, under the upstream and midstream categories. Excluding the Socio-economics and Fisheries Papers, there were already nine and 16 finalists in the upstream and downstream categories, respectively.

Thirty-four papers were given 75-80 passing mark by the evaluators. The shortlist of finalists will be presented on 3 October. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon*)

Update...

Mindanao is a collaborative effort of the BPI, PhilRice, ARMMIARC, DA-Region 12 and Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi.

As early as February this year, a number of consultations were conducted with the RIARC managers and station superintendents of the said regions together with the Presidents of USM and MSU (Marawi), representatives from the LGUs and the Bureau of Plant Industry.

A Steering Committee, Technical Working Group, Project Formulation Team and Secretariat were created by a special order signed by DA Sec. Angara. These groups are tasked to oversee the conduct of R&D activities on ground.. (*Cecilia J. Baquiereza*)

P33M...

will draft proposals complementary to the project's objective. The institutional development for the two projects will commence once the proposals are submitted.

To ensure the success of the two special projects, concerned DA agencies and partner institutions like SUCs and RIARCs will discuss institutional arrangements. A strengthened partnership among the implementing institutions will aid Mindanao's recovery in the wake of war and enable the region to live up to its full potential. (*Carmela B. Brion*)

Crawford...

responsive to the needs of the system. The proposal of the Crawford Fund is to conduct a two-week training for research managers but Dr. Ponce remarked that the said duration might be too long for research managers at the top level management that includes the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture. Thus, Dr. Ponce suggested that three curricula should be developed for the Philippines. One for the top research managers in the department level, one for the Directors of the DA units and one for the research managers of DA RIARCs (Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers). For top-level research managers (department level and directors), a one-week training would be sufficient while two weeks would be needed for the RIARC Managers.

The training is being proposed for conduct in Australia targeting ten participants each from the Philippines and Indonesia. Dr. Bruce Holloway reiterated that the impact of the first class would be evaluated and there would be repeat classes with modifications over several

AFRDIS...

agriculture and fisheries that shall strengthen the knowledge management capabilities and capacities of the NaRDSAF. This information system was created in support to the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) or RA 8435 Section 41 and Section 85. Director Eliseo R. Ponce presented the overview of the project.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) that spells out the roles and obligations of BAR and partner institutions was signed by Agriculture Secretary Angara and the heads of R&D Institutions, and witnessed by Dr. Ponce and the IT heads of the counterpart teams. This office and its partners will work towards the realization of the objectives of AFRDIS to enhance the information sharing.

The symbolic turnover of basic institutional development grants to partner institutions highlighted the affair. These institutions will receive grants from BAR in contingent with their counterpart fund that will be used solely to facilitate the

years to maximize the impact of this initiative on these two countries.

The Crawford Fund is a component of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and its core funding comes from the Australian Government. Dr. Bruce Holloway is the Coordinator of the Crawford Fund Master Classes in Research Management.

Dr. Saturnina Halos, Mr. Rolando Labios, and Ms. Cecilia Baquiereza were also in attendance. (*Cecilia J. Baquiereza*)

HABS...

Geological and Health/Public Education/Information was also conducted.

The DA-BAR and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (DOST-PCAMRD) extended support for the said event. (*Junelyn S. de la Rosa*)

operations of this system. Moreover, the IBM RS 6000 were handed over in symbolic turnover ceremonies to the Central Luzon State University, Visayas State College of Agriculture and University of Southern Mindanao by the Information Technology Center for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Department of Agriculture headed by its director Mr. Robert Villa.

In addition, Certificates of Donation were awarded to CLSU, ViSCA and USM for The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL).

In his remarks after the signing and the symbolic turn-over of checks to AFRDIS Members, Sec. Angara said that the private sectors should be involved as they are already experts in this kind of project. He also stressed that the full implementation of AFRDIS should not be taken within three years but in six months as technology changes very fast.

Dr. Rodolfo C. Undan, president of CLSU also spoke in behalf of the AFRDIS recipients. (*Lalaine Perlawan*)

BAR, Crawford Fund in HRD Collaboration

Dr. Bruce Holloway of the Crawford fund met with Dr. Eliseo Ponce of BAR to discuss possible collaboration in developing the course content of the Master Classes in Research Management. This specialized training is intended for Filipino and Indonesian research managers.

The Master class program identifies new areas of knowledge that have potential for changing the way agricultural research is conducted, particularly in developing countries. The Master Classes for Research Management is a new initiative of the Crawford Fund aimed at addressing management issues. Among the content of the course are managing people, money, infrastructure, relations with stakeholders, identifying research priorities, key outputs, outcomes for institutions and disseminating information on improved management practices.

The primary intention of the meeting was to exchange insights with BAR in coming up with a suitable approach and course content for the Master Classes in research management. Dr. Ponce emphasized the unique setting of R&D system in the Philippines hence, the curriculum for the Master Classes in Research Management should be

See Crawford, page 3

R&D Program for Muslim Mindanao: An Update

The reconstruction of Mindanao requires the government's as well as the private sector's support specifically the agriculture sector. To jump-start the R&D Program in Muslim Mindanao, BAR will provide a P10-million grant.

The budget will be divided among the identified recipients, namely Maranao, Maguindanao and Sulu. The budget would be used for the construction of an R&D building in Lanao del Norte, a training center for rice, a 285-hectare experiment station in Maridagao, and a tissue culture laboratory in Mindanao State University in Marawi. The tissue culture laboratory will be used for the program on germplasm collection and conservation of indigenous crop species. The Maridagao Station in Maguindanao will be improved in partnership with the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ARMMIARC). A project in Sulu focusing on germplasm collection and maintenance and the development

of its indigenous crops will also receive financial support.

The Project Formulation Team (PFT) was the assigned body to conduct consultations with different stakeholders in order to identify and draft proposals on appropriate R&D projects. However, the trip of the PFT to these areas was cancelled due to the worsening peace and order situation in the region.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is currently studying the feasibility of sending the PFT later this year. The R&D component of the Program in Muslim Mindanao is set for 2001-2004, after the PFT has conducted its mission.

The R&D Program for Muslim Mindanao is a project that targets the conservation of plant and fisheries genetic resources in Regions 9, 12, and the ARMM. The project is an affirmation of the government's intent to reverse the neglect accorded to these flora- and fauna-rich areas. The R&D Program for Muslim

See Update, page 3

P33M Earmarked for Mindanao Special R&D Projects

The government is bullish about the potentials of Mindanao. The Bureau of Agricultural Research has earmarked P33.4 M for the soon-to-be-implemented special R&D projects in the area, namely the *R&D Program in Muslim Mindanao* and the *Mindanao-wide Interregional Strengthening of R&D*. Last September 14-15, RIARC managers of Regions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 (CARAGA), and ARMM were invited to discuss the said support. The allotted amount of P33 M will fund infrastructure development activities of the identified regions.

The R&D Programs in Muslim Mindanao covering Regions 9, 12 and ARMM, will receive a fund of P10 million while the remaining P23.4 million is allocated for the *Mindanao-wide Interregional Strengthening of R&D* that cover the six regions in Mindanao (Regions IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA and ARMM). This project aims to improve selected A/F R&D laboratories and facilities in the six regions, including the CARAGA Central Experiment Station. The RIARC Managers in the six regions

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BAR

Chronicle

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Volume No. 1 Issue No. 18

16-30 September 2000

Thai DOA, BAR conclude first joint planning workshop

The first Biennial Joint Planning Workshop was held recently, heralding the start of cooperation on Agricultural R&D between Thailand and the Philippines.

On 26-30 September 2000, delegates from the Thailand Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducted the first in a series of biennial workshops. This initial workshop focused on

identifying the areas of cooperation on agricultural R&D which shall form the backbone of succeeding workshops

The Thai delegation, composed of 11 senior Thai scientists and agricultural experts, was headed by Thai DOA Deputy Director-General Chakarn Saengraksawong. Together with the network team leaders and other



Dr. Ponce and DOA Deputy Director-General Saengraksawong during the MOU signing

See Thai DOA, page 2

AFRDIS Planning Workshop Held

"This workshop has been a good learning experience for all the participating institutions. Almost all of our expected outputs were achieved. I hope that the insights that we've learned in this workshop will guide us in the proper implementation of the second phase of this project."

Thus concluded Mr. Ray Gonzaga, Project Coordinator of the *Strengthening of the Knowledge Management Capability of BAR*, during the wrap-up session of the *Planning Workshop of the Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS)*. The workshop was held at Anne Racquel's Resort in Olongapo City on 20-23 September 2000. Participated in by 28 representatives from 11 partner-institutions from Central Luzon, North and Central Visayas, and the Mindanao region, this workshop aimed to assess the activities of the institutions from the time the IT specifications were being prepared, until the signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) held on 8 September 2000 at Hotel Rembrandt in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Revisit of pre-MOA activities

Concerns on IT staff assignments were particularly aired during the revisit of pre-MOA activities. A number of participants said that there was a lack of qualified and competent information technology (IT) staff in their respective institutions. Moreover, the lack of permanent staff working on the project and the instability of tenure of staff to

Grains Sector Development Program

Pre-implementation Activities Kick Off

... as ADB announces effectivity of loan

Two short months after the approval of the program, proponent agencies of the Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP) have put on-stream initiatives to ensure the smooth operationalization of the program.

This developed as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also announced the effectivity of the loan for GSDP a program that aims to sustain the growth of the grains sector.

The GSDP, a brainchild of the Department of Agriculture (DA), is one of the tools that will institute

reforms as well as attain sustained productivity growth in the grains sector. Through this program, the DA hopes to ultimately increase the income of farmers and ease rural poverty in the country.

Among the pre-implementation activities started are the completion of the Forward Obligational Authority, formation of various groups and the initiation of start-up activities at the Department level such as the detailing of staff to the Project Management Office (PMO) for GSDP from the different

See GSDP, page 2

See AFRDIS, page 3

Thai DOA...

agriculture scientists and experts associated with the Bureau, they identified the areas of cooperation between the two agencies, with the end-view of promoting technology and information exchange between the two countries.

In May, Thailand and the Philippines signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation on agricultural research and development. It contained the general framework for cooperation as well as the activities to be conducted which are mutually beneficial to both countries.

The participants in the workshop identified the following modalities of cooperation:

* Exchange of scientific, technical information

A database containing journals, indexes of journal articles and abstracts, researchers' directory, germplasm collection centers directory, microbial collection centers' directory and a current research list will be provided to

researchers from both countries.

* Exchange of plant germplasm and breeding materials

This will allow the free



Thai delegates during the workshop

exchange of new germplasm and breeding materials between the two countries, thereby improving their respective germplasm collections.

* Exchange visits, trainings

These will be held on an annual basis. This would also promote information exchange.

* Joint planning, implementation of

collaborative research

Both parties shall determine areas for collaborative R&D researches. All results and technical outputs shall be jointly owned.

* Joint symposia

These would be held every two years, with the Philippines and Thailand alternating as the venue. The 2nd Joint Planning Workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held in August 2002 in Thailand.

* Conduct of electronic fora

The two countries would utilize the Internet as the medium for continuous exchange of information between scientists and researchers.

These modalities will be implemented on specific commodities and areas of discipline, namely rice, sugarcane, farm mechanization, crop protection/botanical pesticides, plantation crops such as rubber, biotechnology, plant quarantine, export promotion, and horticulture such as fruits and ornamentals. *(Thea Kristina M. Pabuayan)*

GSDP...

proponent agencies, and the designation of Asst. Secretary Edmund Sana as interim project director.

Furthermore, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was created to assist the Pre-qualification, Evaluation and Awards Committee (PEAC) as well as screen consultancy firms interested in the project.

In a related development, Mr. Sana convened on September 20 the PMO staff and the TWG members to discuss the details of the Sector Investment Component of GSDP. On 5-6 October, a leveling-off seminar/workshop will be held 2000 at the ATI National Training Center in UPLB. This seminar/workshop will create common understanding about GSDP among the proponents.

The output of the workshop will be presented during the inception meeting with ADB on 10-12 October.

Other matters discussed include the budgetary requirements of the project - especially for the conduct of meetings and consultations with partner agencies in the regions - the headquarters of the PMO, the need to identify a component coordinator for the Sector Investment Component, and the identification of staff by the agencies. *(Cecilia J. Baquiereza)*

Overview...

in the draft guidelines on promotion are also being finalized. These revisions are envisioned to create a more fair and output-oriented promotion system. Also in the pipeline are the granting of academic freedom to R&D institutions, and the transformation of some DA Research Outreach Stations in the regions into Agribusiness Demonstration Projects

(ADPs).

Information is power. And as the world enters the era of the Internet, the Bureau has made moves to introduce its partners to this medium by launching the Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Information System (AFRDIS) in early-September.

All these accomplishments notwithstanding, the Bureau admits to encountering obstacles such as the lack of resources, conflict with DBM rules and regulations, and reorientation of the DA.

Also in the meeting were Policy and Planning Undersecretary Arsenio Balisacan, Operations Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, and Policy & Planning Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano. The heads of selected agency-components of AFMA were also present. *(Paolo Navata)*

DA-Winrock Project: Pinoy Farmer, Smallholder to Go High-Tech



A Filipino smallfarmer selling his mangoes in the US over the Internet. A farmer using wireless application protocol (WAP) to know the best practices in asparagus production.

All these a vision - for now. But it may all

become reality soon

An P18.5-million project of the Department of Agriculture and Winrock International has set its sights on empowering the Pinoy smallfarmer by providing him with an integrated, market-driven support service.

The *PinoyFarmer Business Development* is a project conceived by the DA and Winrock International. Since March 2, Winrock officials led by Country Director Inocencio Bolo has been collaborating with BAR Director Eliseo Ponce and selected division heads to come up with a project that will improve the economic well-being of the Pinoy smallholders.

The *PinoyFarmer Business Development* project aims to bring the Filipino farmer to the information superhighway. In the past five months, it has been undergoing fine-tuning and modifications.

On September 13, the heads of ATI, BAS, AMAS and ITCAF, together with DA Undersecretary Arsenio Balisacan underscored the prerequisites to launch the project.

They concurred that farmers must be provided the appropriate decision support tools for managing changes in farming and fishing.

Smallfarmers will also be provided access to relevant market

information and mentoring services. The best site-specific technologies in agriculture and fisheries, combined with linkage to local and foreign buyers, are also included in the project's plan.

Farmers as well as extension workers will be provided with this kind of support.

Different DA agencies will also help farmers and fisherfolk undertake major farm innovations that will transform farming into a globally competitive business.

This project will be initiated in eight pilot provinces in Regions I, II, VI and X.

Further arrangements are currently being conducted to launch the project by the fourth quarter of this year. (Carmela B. Brion)



AFRDIS...

be hired will also pose a problem.

Planning for Installation of IT facility

This activity was done to come up with a generalized procedure of IT installation among all the partner-institutions. A series of institutional expertise sharing and an overview of existing systems of BAR were presented to the participants.

Mr. Gene Daluz of the Department of Agriculture-National Information Network (DA-NIN), lectured on the NIN Backbone. Mr. Jun Oliva of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), presented on their internet service provider (ISP) set-up. Mr. Lester Cauilan and Mr. Alvin Mauricio, both of BAR's Information Technology Division (ITD), likewise presented on local area network (LAN) and network management, respectively.

Mr. Winston Tabada, Mr. Percy Gealone, and Ms. Lalaine Perlawan, all of ITD, presented on BAR's R&D information systems,

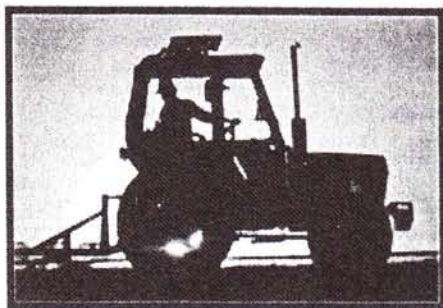
administrative information systems, and web development, respectively. Mr. Lito Circa of the Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE) likewise shared on his institution's information system.

Planning for training requirements

After assessing the partner-institutions' IT needs, the following areas were identified as the actual training requirements of the partner-institutions' IT staff:

- Network Design and Administration
- Customizing Existing Systems, SQL Administration/Management, and
- Visual Basic Data Standardization

The workshop was concluded by a wrap-up session, wherein Ms. Marina Viniegas of the Central Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CENVIARC), and moderators, Mr. Tabada, and Mr. Gonzaga, presented their insights and assessments on the workshop. (Laarni C. Anenias)



web NEWS

Visit the following sites for more information:

US farmers urged to sell Aventis biotech corn to govt
<http://biz.yahoo.com>

Eat Fish, Feel Better
<http://dailynews.yahoo.com>

FDA Widens Testing of Food for Biotech Corn
<http://dailynews.yahoo.com>

GM opponents struggle for dialogue at UK hearing
<http://biz.yahoo.com>

'99-'00 GAWAD SAKA Outstanding DA Employee in Research Nominees Evaluated

The search for the 1999-2000 GAWAD SAKA Outstanding DA Employees in Research has begun.

A technical evaluation committee, composed of members from various national R&D institutions and headed by BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, has begun evaluating the nominees in this year's GAWAD SAKA awards.

GAWAD SAKA is an annual activity of the Department of Agriculture that gives due recognition to its personnel for exemplary performance in the promotion and delivery of scientific services to DA clientele. The contest is open to all members of the National Research and Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF).

The top three nominees,

engaged in adaptive and applied type of research, are named during the evaluation process. The technical evaluation committee sets the basis for evaluation. Nominees are evaluated on performance for the year. This accounts for 55%. Their significant contribution or accomplishment accounts for 25%, while the personal interview accounts for 20%.

The technical committee shall conduct field validation of the research nominee's contribution to agricultural and rural development. This ocular inspection of the nominee's activities would validate the submitted documents.

The National Technical Committee shall then endorse a candidate for final judging.

The awarding ceremonies will be held on the third week of October. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

3rd NAFC Steering Committee Meeting

R&D Under AFMA in Year 2000: An Overview

As an integral part of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), R&D initiatives and activities must relentlessly continue to evolve and adapt to the needs of the Filipino. In the run-up to end-2000, the Bureau of Agricultural Research - the lead agency under the R&D component of the AFMA - endeavors to devise ways and implement measures to transform the resource-based agriculture and fisheries sectors into one that is technology-based. In so doing, BAR hopes to ultimately improve the lot of the Filipino farmer and fisherman.

Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, director of the Bureau, presented the Bureau's accomplishments on the occasion of the 3rd meeting of the National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC).

NAFC is the advisory body of the Department of Agriculture (DA). It assists the DA in monitoring and coordinating the modernization process of AFMA components.

Furthermore, it ensures the interagency and inter-sectoral nature of collaborations among the AFMA components.

The meeting served as the venue for the presentation of updates on selected AFMA components. The results of the nationwide consultation on the AFMA Plan and Budget for Year 2001 were also presented.

In its bid to improve the productivity and efficiency of the whole R&D system, BAR has called on all R&D players to work towards a common goal by fine-tuning its structure. It also continues to fund and administer R&D and Extension (RDE) programs. Furthermore, BAR recently adopted the R&D networking system of PhilRice. Plus, it developed a planning methodology that strengthens the participatory principle, collegial process of criticism, and strong participation of farmers, fisherfolk and industry players.

As the R&D community is made up of different players with

diverse needs, BAR endeavors to champion the promotion of players and supporters who make up the system. This year, BAR has allocated P20 million for HRD through a "Capacity Building Plan". Revisions

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