



Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Research

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BAR Chronicle

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1-15 June 2001

BAR programs Ph29M for NaRDSAF scholars

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) has allocated a total of Ph29M for its Scholarship Program (degree). This is to strengthen the R&D capacities of the national and regional institutions belonging to the National Research Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF). Improving the manpower development program for R&D staff and researchers, (as stipulated in Executive Order 338 series of 2000) is anchored on the Bureau's mandate.

A total of 15 qualified NaRDSAF members was awarded with scholarship grants for doctoral and masteral degrees for year 2000-2001. The seven scholarship grantees for Ph.D are Miguela Sarcos Anabesa (Agronomy-University of Southern Mindanao (USM)), Josephine T. Garcia (Horticulture-UP Los Baños (UPLB)), Francisco B. Genomo (Animal Science-UPLB), Virgilio M. Gonzalez (Horticulture-UPLB), Purisima G. Pajaro (Soil Science-UPLB), Susan T. Razo (Extension Education-USM), and Lorna Prejas Vilbar (Agricultural Science-USM). There are eight scholarship grantees for MS degrees: Bienvenido D. Acabal, Jr. (Plant Pathology-Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA)), Gracia Bajit Amar (Plant Pathology-UPLB), Jesusa M. Cabling (Agricultural Economics-UPLB), Flordeliza C. Hidalgo (Economics-UP Diliman), Melchor E. Monreal, Jr. (Agricultural Economics-UPLB), Samuel A. Ordonez (Plant Breeding-UPLB), Herminigildo S.

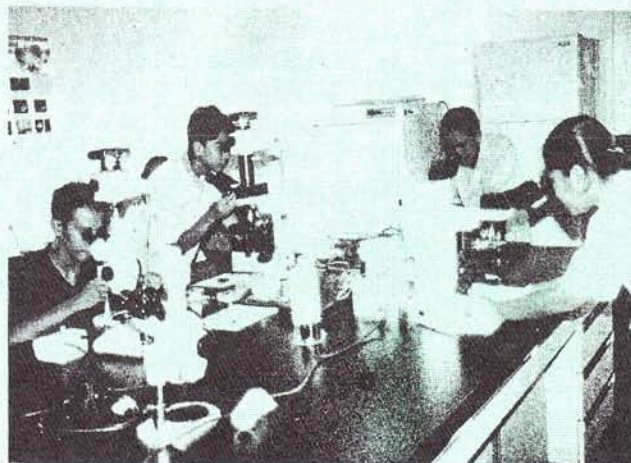
Quibuyen (Information Technology-De La Salle University (DLSU)), and Danilo B. Tamayo (Public Affairs-UPLB).

On the other hand, 25 qualified NaRDSAF members were awarded with scholarship grants for the year 2001-2002. Of this number, 14 are Ph.D and 11 are MS grantees. Among the Ph.D grantees are Virgilia G. Armendi-Aberin

(Soil Science-UPLB), Aileen Alvarez (Plant Pathology-ViSCA), Miguel O. Baay (Fisheries-UP Visayas), Melchor L. Da Jose (Crop Science-Central Luzon State University (CLSU)), Ma. Wencisa B. Egama (Agricultural Economics-UPLB), Silvestre C. Escueta (Environmental Science-UPLB), Francisco Gil N. Garcia

See BAR page 2

DA upgrades lab services



The Department of Agriculture, through the Pacific Rim Foundation for Advanced Technology Transfers, Inc. (PRFATT), recently forged partnership with the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) to update technical expertise of DA employees in using modern biotech techniques in analytical

services related to regulation of agricultural commodities and products available in the market. The program is made possible through the congressional initiative of Sen. John Osmeña. Seven million pesos is allotted for the training of qualified DA technical staff and scientists who were screened by PRFATT. As part of initial preparations for this Technology Transfer Program, Dr. Samuel Bernal, a professor from UCLA, met representatives of the Bureau of Animal Industry to identify their training and equipment needs.

The head of the Programs Implementation Unit of the National Biotechnology Program for Agriculture and Fisheries, Alicia Ilagan, was also present. The National Biotech Program made the commitment to update the laboratory service facilities of DA so that these laboratories will be more equipped in ensuring public and environmental safety (*Maria Rowena S.A. Briones*).

DA reorientation, all set for phase 3

The implementation of the reorientation process is ready for phase 3, concluded the Change Management Team (CMT) after officially closing phase 2 of the reorientation process or Improving Governance of the Agricultural Bureaucracy (IGAB) on 1 June 2001.

The CMT is composed of representatives from all units of the Department of Agriculture (DA). The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) is represented by Ms Aurora Pecson, head of the Administration Division.

The IGAB dialogue was highlighted by presentations from the members, who were divided into four clusters respectively: planning, project development and monitoring and evaluation (cluster A); agribusiness and extension support (cluster B); regulations (cluster C); and support systems (cluster D). Each cluster presented its observation and recommendations on the problems encountered in the structure, systems and procedures of the agricultural bureaucracy. The dialogue was presided over by Mr. Tony Mercader, chairman of the CMT.

The assessment of the existing structures, systems and procedures of the agricultural bureaucracy was conducted against those set by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) and the Local Government Code (LGC).

Moreover, the evaluation of the existing operations was done through fact-finding procedures and accepted tools for social R&D. The observations and recommendations presented during the dialogue revolved around important elements that comprise the institution. These cover the organization, the network of organizations within the agricultural bureaucracy, with special focus on the DA network. The capacities and suitability of various units within the DA network in consonance with the goals and objectives of AFMA were discussed.

Prior to IGAB was the Agriculture Bureaucracy Restructuring Plan (ABRP), created through Special Order (S.O.) 619 series of 1999 to prepare the organizational reorientation and restructuring initiatives of the DA. Likewise, the ABRP evaluated the recommendations of the Restructuring Review Body and Staffing Pattern Committee by creating a Technical Working Group (TWG) to assist the ABRP Task Force.

ABRP is phase 1 of the reorientation process. As stated by Executive Order (EO) 162 series of 1999, this task force aimed to reorient the functions and operations of DA, and to streamline its bureaucracy to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in its operations. (*Rita T. dela Cruz*)

BAR...

(Agricultural Economics-UPLB), Norma U. Gomez (Agricultural Economics-UPLB), Zenaida C. Gonzaga (Horticulture-UPLB), Virgilio Julius P. Manzano (Agricultural Engineering-UPLB), Erwin C. Mituda (Agriculture-UPLB), Allan T. Poquita (Environmental Science-UPLB), Consolacion E. Satorre (Soil Science-UPLB) and Jonar Ingan Yago (Plant Pathology-UPLB). The grantees for MS degree are Nathaniel R. Alibuyog (Soil and Water Management Resource Engineering-UPLB), Artemio T. Almoroto (Animal Science-UPLB), Lourdes M. Calleja (Entomology-UPLB), Marianito M. Doydora (Animal Science-UPLB), Grace Palmejar Gutierrez (Agricultural Economics-ViSCA), Sorhaila Lomondot Latip (Development Communication-UPLB), Arnolfo M. Monleon (Animal Science-UPLB), Jane G. Payumo (Technology Management-UP Diliman), Susan M. Rivera (Agricultural Economics-UPLB), Juvy S. Salazar (Crop Protection-ViSCA), and Frenciso L. Varquez (Soil Science-UPLB).

The recipients of the grant are entitled to monthly stipend, matriculation and other school fees, thesis and dissertation support, book allowance, graduation fee, relocation allowance, salary retention, and other benefits extended by their respective mother agencies.

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

AFRDIS holds second of 2001 seminar series

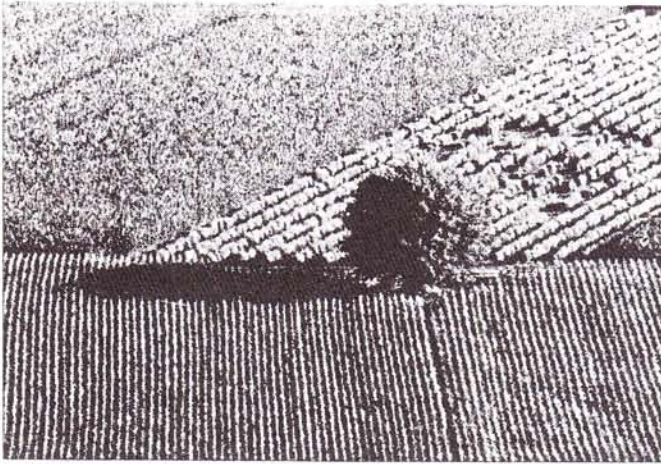
Staff of the Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) attended an in-house seminar on Visual Basic: Overview and Applications. The event was held at the ICTD quarters, 5 June 2001 with Mr. Rommel Palacpac, programmer, as resource speaker.

Second in a series organized by the ICTD, the seminar is part of the Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS). The first

AFRDIS seminar for the year was on the local area network documentation of the Bureau.

AFRDIS is a network composed of state colleges and universities, regional field units, and attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA). AFRDIS aims at establishing local area networks within the partner-institutions, then interconnecting them via wide area network to facilitate a more interactive and proactive information exchange. (*Laarni C. Anenias*)

Philippines hosts upland dev't confab



The Philippines hosted the recently concluded conference on "Sustaining Upland Development in Southeast Asia: Issues, Tools and Institutions for Local Natural Resource Management." Prominent international and local experts attended the three-day activity held at the Asian Institute of Management Center for Continuing Executive Education (ACEED) Conference Center, Legaspi Village in Makati.

The conference provided a venue for high-level discussions on research that relates to the challenge of sustainable upland development in

Southeast Asia. Specifically, it aimed to document methods, outcomes, and impacts of these researches to natural resource management (NRM); and to encourage the development of new research and policy initiatives.

Speakers and participants were welcomed by Sustainable

Agriculture and Natural Resource Management-Collaborative Research Support Program (SANREM-CRSP) Director Carlos Perez, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) Executive Director Patricio Faylon, and Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) President Mario Lamberte.

Highlighting the first day was the presentation of plenary and session papers on three main themes, namely: the implications of decentralization for natural resource management; the stakeholder participation and institution

building; local and national policy issues, decision support tools and analyses; and the development, testing and dissemination of natural resource management methods and technologies.

The second day was a continuation of the concurrent sessions, with presentations by speakers from local and international institutions.

The third day included concurrent symposia and workshops that focused on:

- modelling issues at a watershed scale initiatives to amend the Philippine's local government code for sustainable environment management
- process issues: participation and group formation for local NRM
- implications for design of research and development projects: donor and national agency perspective.

The conference was concluded with a short synthesis and open discussion of findings and implications. Winners were selected for the best paper and best poster category during the closing program.

The activity was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the SANREM-Collaborative Research Program Southeast Asia, co-sponsored by PCARRD and PIDS. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*

NTLs...

- bi-annual discipline-based cross consultations to look at systems integration, knowledge management and identification of network needs
- inter-network projects
- participation of discipline-based network leaders to commodity conferences, seminars etc.
- participation of discipline-based networks Core Technical Team during interfacing discussions/consultations on quarterly meetings

It was proposed that BAR

should provide funding for these interfacing activities. To sustain the human resource development program of the DA and continuously encourage research and development participation, network leaders also discussed the need to draft specific strategies, policies and guidelines for scholarship grants and other incentives that can be availed of by DA agencies and staff bureau members. These include provisions for promotions, retirement package, and grants to students interested in pursuing network-related activities.

In relation to this, participants also agreed to the need of providing

travel grants to network leaders to support their participation in local and international scientific meetings. Applicants will undergo regular evaluation by the network committee.

Lastly, network leaders agreed to launch a web page in October this year to highlight partial/full results of researches undertaken by their respective networks since 1999. The web page will be updated by the networks themselves and will be made available to stakeholders and other R&D clientele. *(Thea Kristina M. Pabuyayon)*

Ponce represents southern countries in CGIAR meeting



Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Eliseo R. Ponce represented the Southern Countries during the 2001 Mid-Term Meeting (MTM2001) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in Durban, South Africa on 23-25 May 2001.

The meeting was part of South Africa's Agricultural Research Week and was presided by CGIAR Chair Dr. Ian Johnson.

In the meeting, Dr. Margaret Catley-Carlson, chair of the Change and Design Management Team (CDMT) presented four major policy decisions that redefines CGIAR's role for the 21st Century.

The first proposed change was for CGIAR to incorporate a programmatic approach to research planning and funding to complement existing approaches and initiate the formulation and implementation of Challenge Programs.

Secondly, it was proposed that CGIAR has to meet once a year instead of three times a year which is the usual. Likewise, CGIAR was asked to create an Executive Council, which will report and carry out responsibilities that are delegated by the group. The Interim Executive Council will consist of the co-

sponsors, the CGIAR director, members of the current Oversight and Finance Committees, and the Committee of Board Chairs (CBC), Center Directors Committee (CDC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Non-Government Organization Committee (NGOC), Private Sector Committee (PSC), and Global Forum on

Agricultural Research (GFAR).

The Interim Executive Council is to function from May to October 2001 and to be dissolved upon the appointment of the Executive Council during the 2001 Annual General Meeting.

Third, the TAC is to be transformed into a Science Council and fourth is for CGIAR to establish a System Office. The System Office, various Centers and Future Harvest should develop a single, integrated communication strategy for coherent communication and fund raising.

The Interim Executive Council held its first meeting during the last day of MTM 2001. The members agreed that the Council will present proposals for approval by the CGIAR at its annual general meeting in October 2001. The proposal will focus on the composition of the Executive Council and its working procedures; the process of development, preparation and implementation of Challenge Programs; the creation of a Science Council, based on the recommendations of a task force established by the Interim Executive Council; and the functions and modalities of the System Office.

The group also tackled research agenda and funding. It approved the extension of the 2001-2003 Medium Term Plans to 2004. On funding, the

group decided that the financial planning target for 2002 should be set at \$340 million and the 2001 CGIAR financing plan should be confirmed at the approved level of \$340 million.

There were also program presentations and panel discussions on climate change, water management and impact of disease on livestock production and trade. Updates from Future Harvest (by Geoff Hawtin and Hubert Zandstra), Genetic Resources Policy Committee (by Geoff Hawtin), Global Forum on Agricultural Research (by Raj Paroda), Integrated Natural Resources Management (by Joachim Voss), Millennium Ecosystem Project (by Merry Williams) and Regional Priority Setting (by Emil Javier and Raj Paroda) were also emphasized during the three-day activity. Dr. Emil Javier, one time University of the Philippines president is Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee of CGIAR and member of the Interim Executive Council.

In a brief farewell ceremony, Dr. Ian Johnson presented a scroll to Dr. Guido Gryseels, executive secretary of the impact assessment evaluation group, to express CGIAR's appreciation of his contributions to TAC and Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA). (*Junelyn S. de la Rosa*)

Congratulations to the first batch of BAR staff going on study leave!

Marlowe Aquino-NPD
(UP Los Banos)
Cecilia Baquiereza-KPSD
(Oklahoma State University)
Alvin Bernardo Divinagracia-PIRD
(La Salle)
Carmencita Kagaoan-NPD
(UP Los Banos)
Hermingildo Quibuyen-ICTD
(La Salle)
Melissa Resma-ICTD
(La Salle)

NTLs hold 2nd quarter meeting

National team leaders (NTLs) of various commodity and discipline-based networks convened for their 2nd quarter meeting on 4-5 June 2001 in Iloilo City.

To date, there are 22 existing networks made up of national research institutions, state colleges and universities (SCUs) and, DA staff bureaus and attached agencies that provide leadership in the planning, orchestration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of identified program areas.

The meeting focused on the presentation of recommendations and policy guidelines on the following concerns:

- Fostering public and private sector partnership
- Program review as an interfacing mechanism
- Interfacing activities between

commodity and discipline-based networks

- Human resource development
- Web page development and management
- Printed information materials
- Funding support for participation in local and international scientific meetings
- R & D grants for the national team leaders

According to the network leaders, there is a need to harmonize the review and evaluation process of the proposals of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), state colleges and universities (SCUs), and research agencies. SCUs should focus on the technical evaluation of proposals since they have the capability and expertise, while prioritization should be the responsibility of the Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC),

Farmers/Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC), networks, and researchers.

The NTLs observed that there is low private sector participation in agricultural R&D due to lack of incentives/investments, guidelines on licensing and Intellectual Property Rights, and other strategies that may benefit the private sector. A committee that will carefully look into these issues and make useful strategies for public-private sector participation was created. This is composed of Drs. Rene Espino, Victor Ella, Enrico Supangco, Arlene Inocencio, and Atty. Carmen Reyes.

To ensure system linkages, interfacing and collaboration mechanisms for commodity and discipline-based networks were recommended by the members. These are:

- program review of discipline-

See NTLs, page 3

Announcement

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will hold its 3rd National Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Week on 1-5 October 2001. The celebration will feature two main events, namely, the 14th BAR Anniversary and the 13th National Research Symposium (NRS).

All interested National Research and Development for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) members are now enjoined to submit their entries for the following categories:

- *AFMA Best R&D Paper for Biological, Physical and Social Sciences*
- *Outstanding R&D Manager*
- *Outstanding National Technology*

Other special awards to be given include *The DA Secretary's Award* and *The BAR Director's Award*. The BAR Director's Award shall be conferred to each of the selected papers published in a local refereed scientific journal and shall consist of a cash prize and certificate of recognition. On the other hand, the DA Secretary's Award shall be conferred to each of the selected papers published in ISI-CC journals and shall consist of a cash prize and a plaque.

The amount of cash prize to be given in this category will be determined in consideration of the other awards being given by other institutions such as the University of the Philippines and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

Interested parties may send their entries on or before 31 July 2001 to:

*The Symposium Papers Committee
c/o Impact Evaluation and Policy
Division
Bureau of Agricultural Research
3rd Flr. ATI Bldg, Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City*

Winners in all categories will be awarded on 5 October 2001 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The NRS is an annual event intended to promote excellence in research. Farmer organizations and research institutions such as SCUs will be recognized for their notable accomplishments in the different categories of agricultural and fisheries technology research.

Rice science that can freely serve the poor
<http://www.cgiar.org/irri>

An Italian initiative to promote rural innovation
<http://www.egfar.org>

Seafood farms spawn profits and controversy
<http://www.cnn.com/science>

Georgia fish farmer sees future in frogs
<http://cnn.com/science>

Building up of a Mediterranean agricultural research area
<http://www.egfar.org>

"Friendly wasps" fight leafminers in the Cordilleras
<http://www.da.gov.ph>

Farmers call for moratorium on cutting coconut trees
<http://www.da.gov.ph>

DA advises to eat more oily fish
<http://www.da.gov.ph>

IPGRI and BAR join hands to save Philippine fruits

Dr. Percy Sajise, regional officer of Malaysia-based International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) visited the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) on 23 May 2001 to be updated on the developments of the IPGRI proposal on "Conservation and Use of Tropical Fruit Species Diversity in the Philippines".

The proposal was formulated to save the fruit species in the Philippines and develop appropriate databases and document available information on the collection of fruit genetic resources in various parts of the country.

The three-year study aims to develop and use relevant techniques to characterize and evaluate the available fruit genetic resources, and recommend methods that can be used to improve the genetic resources of the tropical fruit species either through direct planting of elite material or breeding.

The expected outputs are a national fruit species collection database, accessions of different tropical fruit species with desirable traits for utilization, and a framework plan for the improvement of tropical fruit species. The IPGRI and the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) have also drafted a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that specifies their roles in the implementation of the project. IPGRI shall provide technical backstopping, training assistance, sourcing of experts and technologies, equipment and literature, development of project proposals and workplans, and provide funding based on some funds availability. IPGRI will collaborate with the National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL), the University of the Philippines, Los Baños (UPLB), the DA and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

The DA will provide funding and personnel, and institutional arrangements needed to implement the project. The estimated budget for this project is US\$227,000. (Junelyn S. de la Rosa)

Obien is PhilCorn Interim Exec Officer

Dr. Santiago R. Obien, institutional development adviser of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), was appointed Interim Executive Officer of the Philippine Corn Research Center (PhilCorn). As stated in Special Order (S.O.) No. 216 issued on 18 May 2001, the appointment was made to expedite the establishment of the Center.

As Interim Executive Officer, Dr. Obien is tasked to fast track the preparations of development plans, which include physical and architectural designs of the proposed buildings and facilities of the Center. This is considered crucial since one of the project's implementation strategies is the renovation and augmentation of research facilities and other infrastructure.

Dr. Obien is in-charge of the

preparation of necessary documents and arrangements from the launching up to the actual establishment of the Center. This is in preparation of the Center's transition to an institute.



PhilCorn will be based in a 60-hectare experimental area within the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabacan, North Cotabato. The Center shall institutionalize a sustainable corn Research, Development and Extension (RDE) system that will develop technologies to ensure a stable

supply of affordable and high quality white corn, yellow corn and special corn types for various industries. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

Chronicle

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Montemayor underscores three strategies against poverty



True to his strategy of empowering the poor, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor emphasized three major strategies against one of the most prevalent problems of our nation which is poverty. This was his message to heads and staff of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), DA-Regional Field Unit (RFU) IV, and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) during a briefing on 18 June 2001 at the ATI-JICA Room, Quezon City.

Secretary Montemayor believes that attaining food security, empowering people, and ensuring active participation of all important stakeholders in agriculture in the

drafting of policies and programs could mitigate the poverty situation in the country.

The country's food security is very much affected by the performance of the agricultural sector. Underdevelopment of the agricultural sector and the rural areas significantly affect the production of food and other agricultural commodities, he said.

Secretary Montemayor remarked that to attain food security, programs should be well-aligned to this thrust and make results of R&D available to the farmers so they could use them. He added that the challenge is how to manage these interventions given the limited resources we have.

A peasant champion through and through, Secretary Montemayor believes that it is only by giving to the poor the capacity to take charge of their lives that they will have the chance to improve their place in society. Since the country's farmers and fisherfolk find livelihood in land and water resources, having full access to these resources through grants and full ownership would provide them security.

It is necessary that farmers, fisherfolk and other important

FIAC initiates R&D project for corn, legume farmers

To improve planting practices for corn and peanut, the Farmers and Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC) will pilot a project to determine which farming method is the most efficient and yields the highest level of productivity. The project will compare the net returns of monoculture production of corn and peanut with integrated corn and peanut production system to come up with a set of practices most beneficial to corn and legumes farmers.

Initially, the partner private sector represented by Dr. Manuel Avanceña, will provide initial farm inputs and operations. Technical assistance to the farmer-partners will be sourced from the experts from the Corn and Legumes Research, Development and Extension Networks. The Php7.5 million budget of the project is yet to be sourced. The MakaMASA funds or a loan from the Quedancor and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR) upon the endorsement of the DA secretary, are being considered as source of funds.

Dr. Artemio Salazar will lead the project's rapid appraisal in Claveria, Misamis Oriental on 4-6 July 2001 (*Maria Rowena Briones*).

Develop a culture of excellence - Ponce

If Filipinos are talented people and blessed with natural resources, why do we remain poor? Why are we a troubled land despite our strong adherence to religious beliefs?

Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Eliseo R. Ponce posed these questions when he keynoted the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Annual R&D Review held at the National Seed Quality Control Services Auditorium, Diliman, Quezon City on 21 June 2001.

"It is because in our country, while we are gifted with creative talents, we have weak institutions. While we are good in planning, our ability to implement plans and follow it through, and our ability to weather the storms of change is really very weak. Many of our government agencies opt for short-term goals to win political points instead of tackling the more intractable issues that can sustain our growth and development."

It is necessary, Dr. Ponce averred, that each individual and institution develop a scientific culture; and in BPI, develop "a scientific culture as foundation for institutional excellence."

What are the challenges for BPI in developing a scientific culture? Dr. Ponce said that this would entail more human resource development efforts to produce better educated staff and a paradigm shift in the way they come up with decisions. With this, he meant a need for a decision-making process based on the scientific process.



"One must look at the problem, define the problem, then state an educated guess to the solution or the hypothesis, test the hypothesis, look at the results, and from there make a generalization or a conclusion."

So what is Dr. Ponce's challenge to BPI?

"Make your work stand the scrutiny of experts. Look at it as part of a constructive process. I look to the future when BPI staff can go to the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) and act as evaluators in presentations of scientific results."

When will that happen?

"Perhaps not in the immediate future. But let us have a vision that you can go to UPLB with your heads high. You can sit down in the review panel, comfortable with the thought that you carry with you a solid scientific achievement that can stand the scrutiny of the world of scholars. And when that time comes, then we could really say that BPI has become a center of excellence."

(Laarni C. Anenias)

PinoyFarmer...

profile and commodities with good market potentials. The information collected will be made available to farmers to update them on market information such as quality, quantity and production availability of various commodities.

Likewise, the project will be implemented using the strategy of participatory extension and research. The role of the provincial offices and local government units (LGUs) is crucial in piloting market-driven farm innovations. The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) regional office was tasked to conduct a two-week training course for the extension workers who shall serve as temporary managers for the Business Centers.

Mr. Inocencio Bolo, Winrock International (WI) country director suggested that DA-RFU 2 researchers collect all information on matured or developed technologies of commodities for posting on the newly launched PinoyFarmer Website.

The *PinoyFarmer* Business Development Program is a joint undertaking of DA-BAR, WI and other collaborating agencies such as DA-Information Technology Center for Agriculture and Fisheries (ITCAF), ATI, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Agricultural Marketing and Agribusiness Services (AMAS) and RFUs.

It aims to assist the disadvantaged Pinoy farmer in developing his own business enterprise by providing market-driven support services through information technology and extension services. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

BAR sends off 1st batch of graduate scholars



Kagaoan



Aquino



Resma

In a bid to enhance the career growth and development of its staff, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) gave full scholarships to three of its staff to pursue graduate studies this semester at prestigious universities in the country. They are: Carmencita Kagaoan, Melissa Resma, and Marlowe Aquino.

Ms Kagaoan, head of the National Programs Division (NPD) of BAR will pursue a doctorate on Environmental Science at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), College, Laguna. As NPD head, Ms Kagaoan supervises the provision of technical support to 22 national RDE networks, three

independent sub-networks, and four special programs. The NPD is tasked to review and evaluate R&D proposals and monitor on-going BAR-funded projects.

As a division head, Ms Kagaoan is interested in the sustainability of agricultural programs and in promoting environmental management as a priority concern in formulating programs in research and development. She believes that a PhD in Environmental Science and Management will give her a more wholistic understanding of the interplay of factors within the agricultural ecosystem.

Ms Melissa Resma will pursue her Master's degree in Information Technology at the De La Salle University, Manila. She is the hardware specialist of the Information Communication and Technology Division (ICTD) at BAR. Her work

involves refurbishing pulled-out workstations and configuring newly acquired workstations and peripherals, and deploying them to various divisions of the Bureau or to different regions.

Another scholar is Mr. Marlowe Aquino of the National Programs Division (NPD). He will be pursuing a doctoral degree in Community Development at UPLB. As the person in-charge of the national rice and corn RDE networks, he conducts regular monitoring, coordination, and evaluation of the activities of the two networks. His areas of expertise are: agricultural education, extension, and rural development.

The scholars are entitled to receive their salaries, free tuition fees, a monthly stipend, a relocation allowance, computerization allowance, book allowance and dissertation support. *(Junelyn S. de la Rosa)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will conduct two seminars this July 2001.

The first seminar entitled "Frames of Public Discourse on Agricultural Biotechnology," will be held on 11 July 2001, 10 a.m.-12 nn. at the BAR Conference Room. Guest speaker will be Dr. Napoleon K. Juanillo, Jr., assistant professor at the Department of Human and Community Development, College of Agricultural Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This seminar aims to inform stakeholders, researchers, and the general public in generating support and appropriate action on current or emerging issues/concerns affecting the agriculture and fisheries sectors.

The second seminar entitled "PROSEA: Its Program and Future Directions" will be held on 13 July 2001, 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the BAR Conference Room. This is in cooperation with the Plant Resources of South-East Asia (PROSEA), an international program involved in the documentation and dissemination of information on plant species in the region. The seminar aims to hasten faster information exchange between DA agencies and R&D allied institutions.

JICA experts visit BAR for possible link-up

Experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) based in the Philippines visited the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) for a 2-hour briefing on the R&D sector of the country at the CERDAF Boardroom, 29 June 2001.

The meeting is an offshoot of JICA's intent to know what's going on in R&D in the Philippines, particularly the accomplishments, initiatives, activities, and future directions which may lead to a possible link-up with the Bureau.

JICA is a governmental agency of Japan, which is responsible for the technical cooperation of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) programs. It has about 1,200 staff members working in Japan and its

more than 50 overseas offices, including the Philippines.

JICA Philippine Office plays a vital and active role in the Philippine agriculture and fishery R&D for its programs in the country which include technical training, dispatch of experts, provision of equipment, project-type technical cooperation, development study, dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, researches, promotion, and follow-up activities for Grant Aid Projects, development investment and financing, and disaster relief.

The Philippines is one of the largest recipients of the technical cooperation programs provided by JICA who have been working as an active partner in the pursuit of sustainable development in the Philippines. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*

BPI...

delivered the message while Dr. Anastacia M. Gochangco, chief of the Crop Research Division of BPI gave the rationale and mechanics of the review.

Among the 15 completed studies, the panel selected three papers for the Best Paper Awards. The winning papers were: a) "Culture and Management of Exportable Forage Crops" (First Prize) by Herminigilda Gabertan and Amelia Nicdao of the National Crop Research and Development Center (NCRDC), Los Baños b) "New Technologies for Off-Season Leafy Vegetables and Tomato Production" (Second Prize) by Adoracion Virtucio of NCRDC, Los Baños, and c) "Design and Development of Mango Picker" (Third Prize) by Gilda Rodavia, Hilario Maglinao, Jose Nino, Mr. Romansito Guerrero, Corazon Orcullo and Teresita Silva of BPI- Central Office. *(Junelyn S. de la Rosa)*

ADVISORY

Anyone can now buy vegetables, meat and poultry products 20-30 percent lower than its market price.

Thus the teaser of the new project of the Department of Agriculture-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (DA-AMAS) as they launched the "Presyong Masa" Market Day on 29 June 2001.

The products are not only cheap, they are fresh and safe, said AMAS Director and head of the project Salvador Salacup. Furthermore, this serves as a venue for linking directly with the producers of agricultural products.

Located at the Liwasang Aurora of the Quezon Memorial Circle every Friday from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday at 6:00 am to 12:00 nn, consumers can now avail of this offer which will run for four weeks.

The project is also in collaboration with the Bukidnon Vegetable Producers Cooperative (BVPC), and United Broiler Raisers Association.

(For more information, please contact Engie Santos of DA-AMAS at telephone numbers (02) 920-2216 or 920-4072)



BAR grants Php5M to establish DA-RFRDC Region 6

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) recently awarded the DA-Regional Fisheries Research and Development Center (RFRDC) in Region 6 a total of Php5M as institutional development support. The support aims to accelerate the establishment and development of the new research center in Pototan, Iloilo. The grant also covers the procurement of research facilities and equipment to hasten the implementation of R&D projects and activities in the region.

Based on the site development plan, the grant shall cover the construction of an administrative building, dormitory,

recreational area, motor pool, treatment plant, perimeter fence and lighting, landscaping, power house, and quarters.

The equipment and facilities necessary for the operationalization of the center include office facilities (fax machine, computers, projectors, etc.), dissolve oxygen meter, refractometer, 0.75 Hp pressure tank with motor, and radio communication equipment.

The Center needs to upgrade its technical capability to effectively undertake various R&D programs, technical training, information, and support services to its clientele particularly the fisherfolk. The Center will undertake technology-generation

projects to develop technologies that are sustainable and environmentally sound to address the long-standing problems in the fishery industry.

The research center's integrated regional R&D program aims to modernize three fisheries sub-sectors namely: Aquaculture (development of sustainable aquaculture); Capture Fisheries (integrated fishery resource management of Panay gulf); and Post harvest and Marketing (integrated and diversified processing of small pelagics, mussels, oysters and seaweeds).
(Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

ERP...

to mobilize all these efforts. More intensive extension activities such as techno-demos, training, information communication campaigns, and more sound credit and regulation mechanisms will be needed to make the farmers more aware and responsive to the opportunities that are available to them.

In closing, Dr. Ponce cited the South African government as an example in formulating programs, wherein the various ministries and their departments have their respective programs response to the Presidential initiatives. In these concerted effort, one sees unity, unity in a country's effort to move towards development. This, according to him, sets a good example for all our government agencies to follow and FIDA could take the lead.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Ernesto Ordonez and other members of the private sector, were also present during the five-day planning exercise. (Laarni C. Anenias)

Montemayor...

stakeholders in the agriculture sectors be given the chance to fully participate and be involved in drafting policies and programs.

As a final note, Secretary Montemayor called on the audience to always be mindful of these three indicators. "At the end, when each of you come to me and report about your agency's accomplishments, I want you to be mindful of these strategies..."

Present during this activity were DA Undersecretary for Operations Ernesto Ordonez, ATI Director Edwin Acoba, Regional Executive Director for Region IV Dennis Araullo, BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, BAR Institutional Adviser Santiago Obien, and other staff of ATI, DA-RFU IV and BAR. (Rita T. dela Cruz)



News Feature

Balanced Fertilization Strategy found profitable

by: Junelyn S. de la Rosa



Farmer-cooperator Ernesto Duldulao (left) in front of his farm that forms part of the BFS 2-hectare techno-demo project in Tawagan Norte, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

In 1997, the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) launched the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS). It aims to develop location-specific recommendations that could potentially reduce the effects of variations in soil and climatic conditions in various rice-producing regions in the Philippines.

Balanced fertilization is an optimum combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers. Organic fertilizers include commercial products and locally available farm manure and compost. This combination is called a "soil fertilizer group". There are seven soil fertilizer groups used in irrigated ricelands.

Initially, the BFS project was implemented on 141 demonstration sites in the first cropping season and on 131 sites in the second cropping season (1997-1998). Each site was about 0.5 ha

The promising results from these sites led to the implementation of this technology on compact farms

of 10 and then 20 hectares.

A comparative cost and return analysis was done using the BFS and the conventional method. The economic contribution of this approach at the farm, community and national level was evaluated.

The agronomic results of irrigated rice production in five fertilizer groups were classified into three categories: low, medium, and high yield. The average national data for each fertilizer group was used in this study as the basis for economic evaluation of the impact of balanced fertilization.

On the farm level, the balanced fertilization strategy gave yields of at least 5 to 6 mt/ha from the demonstration sites in each of the five fertilizer groups. This represents an additional yield of about 0.39 to 1.47 mt/ha over the conventional practices.

Farming communities from the demonstration sites realized aggregate additional farm earnings of Php 756,522 from the additional yield of 118 mt of unpolished rice. The urban community benefitted from the

extra rice supply, which was equivalent to a year consumption for 746 persons.

On the national level, the BFS demonstration sites covered a total area of 136 ha which contributed Php 949,065 worth of rice.

Results showed that the BFS demonstration project is economically viable. On a per site basis, it was found that the fertilizer group 4 brought the greatest benefit to the farmers, in terms of rice yield and its corresponding monetary value.

However, there is a declining net benefit per peso investment in fertilizer group 4 (consisting of 79.5 kg/ha N, 24 kg/ha P_2O_5 and 14 kg/ha of K_2O). Researchers say that these results are not discouraging if the environmental results of the BFS technology are also considered. A comparison of the changes in the soil organic matter content before and after implementing the BFS in the first cropping season showed an increase in organic matter content in some sites.

Since the study was implemented, the fertilizer recommendation groups have steadily shown significant increase in yield and the sustained high yield over the traditional practice.

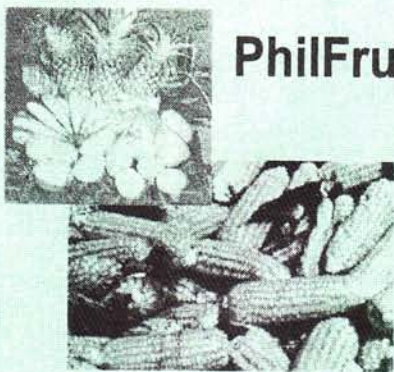
Initially, the BFS was supposed to be a three-year study but promising results encouraged researchers to widen the scope and time of the study. Today, the BFS is already implemented in all regions of the Philippines.

The researchers also believe that the positive results of the BFS and the many success stories they have documented provide sufficient basis for the formulation and implementation of an organic-based rice production program.

Finally, as an incentive to farmers to increase their income, the researchers introduced a value-added composting approach via biogas and mushroom production, compost making, and liquid fertilizer production. ■

For more information, contact:

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Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM),
Diliman, Quezon City



PhilFruits, PhilCorn establishment plan presented

After several meetings and consultations, proponents of the Philippine Tropical Fruits Research Center (PhilFruits) and the Philippine Corn Research Center (PhilCorn) finally presented the establishment plan to Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor. It was held at the OSEC Conference Room, DA Building, Quezon City on 25 June 2001.

Presenting the establishment plan of PhilFruits and PhilCorn were Dr. Rey Luis I. Velasco, dean of the University

of the Philippines at Los Banos-College of Agriculture (UPLB-CA) and Dr. Santiago R. Obien, institutional development adviser of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), respectively.

PhilFruits was established by Administrative Order (AO) No. 4 Series of 2001 on 11 January issued by former DA Secretary Domingo Panganiban. The establishment of the Center is in accordance with the premises set by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) and Executive Order 162.

Aside from the establishment of the Center as a semi-autonomous unit of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), the AO also provides for the establishment of the Center at the BPI-Davao National Research and Development Center (NRDC) in Bago Oshiro, Davao City and the transfer of facilities,

experimental areas and personnel to PhilFruits.

Similarly, PhilCorn was created to invigorate and give the local corn industry the much-needed boost. It is directly under the DA with the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) as the lead agency. The national government shall provide the budgetary allocation needed for its operations.

At the end of each presentation was an open forum to further clarify and discuss issues. BPI Director Blo Umpar Adiong (for PhilFruits) and National Corn RDE Network Adviser Emiliana N. Bernardo (for PhilCorn), acted as moderators. Meanwhile, BAR Director Eliseo Ponce provided the introduction and the synopsis for the meeting. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*

Transform FIDA into a modern-age organization - ERP

"Be bold in taking new modes to modernizing your institution because in a modern organization, only the bold can survive...and a modern institution is able to survive on the basis of its accomplishments."

Thus concluded Dr. Eliseo Ponce, director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) as he serves as one of the presentors during the Fiber Industry Development Agency's (FIDA) Corporate Planning Workshop. The workshop was held at the La Sallette Shrine, Silang, Cavite on 18 June 2001.

"In the efforts to accomplish your tasks, you must always think in

terms of improving the farmers' livelihoods. After all, they are the very reasons why our organizations have come into existence," he continued.

Dr. Ponce emphasized that, in order to modernize FIDA, it must focus on fiber crops that have potential for global competition and those that are important in the economy. It is also important, Dr. Ponce noted, that they find new uses for abaca. This will entail the development of the organization's R&D capacity, which could involve the development of tissue culture laboratories and re-training of personnel to complement these new tasks.

"Go into partnerships through the regions, and concentrate to those regions where your services are needed the most," Dr. Ponce further said. According to FIDA personnel, there are five regions in the country, including 10 provinces, where fiber crops are critical. To be more effective and efficient, FIDA could tap the local government units in these areas, which will then coordinate with non-government organizations (NGOs) and government organizations (GOs).

A modern information delivery system is likewise needed

Web NEWS

Hybrid cotton seen to boost lint production

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

BFAR puts up LAB to prevent shrimp virus outbreak

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

Matatag lines: Farmers' new allies against tungro

<http://www.philrice.net>

First PhilRice salt-tolerant line soon to be released

<http://www.philrice.net>

FDA alerts stores about GM white corn

<http://www.cnn.com/health>

Biotech panel worries about genetic testing

<http://www.cnn.com/health>

PinoyFarmer Business Development Program: an update

Pilot provinces in Region 2 identified

The Bureau of Agricultural Research-Regional Programs Division (BAR-RPD) recently conducted ocular visits to the three provinces of Region 2 where the PinoyFarmer Business Development Program will be initially implemented. The Technical Working Group (TWG) headed by Dr. Rustico David evaluated the feasibility of implementing this program in the pilot provinces namely: Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela.

Based on the TWG's findings, the three provinces already have established information facilities and infrastructure such as the Internet and

other communication network crucial to the establishment of business centers. The Business Center, under the Integrated Information and Communication Delivery System (one of the project's major components) shall serve as the access point for extension workers, Rural-Based Organizations (RBOs), and farmers for information on market and commodity trends. As agreed upon during the presentation of the program's framework, the Regional Field Unit (RFU) 2 shall conduct market research on traders'

See PinoyFarmers, page 2

BPI reviews 15 completed studies



BPI Director Blo Umpar Adiong delivering his message during the opening program of the BPI Annual R&D Review

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) held its national R&D review at the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) Building, BPI, Diliman, Quezon City on 21-22 June 2001.

A group of experts and scientists from the academe and various R&D networks of the

Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) reviewed a total of fifteen completed studies on varietal improvement, crop protection, cultural management, and urban agriculture.

BAR Director Eliseo R. Ponce gave the keynote speech, BPI Director Blo Umpar Adiong

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Chronicle

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