



Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Research

Vol. 2 No. 9

BAR Chronicle

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

A bi-monthly publication

1-15 May 2001

Farmers, private sector renew ties with BAR



FIAC members pose for a souvenir photo after the annual planning workshop

Stakeholders in the agriculture and fisheries industry renewed their commitment to support the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in its effort to improve the country's R&D coordination and management. This commitment is strengthened by the launching of new initiatives for private sector participation as well as projects for

farmers and other industry players.

The launching of new projects was held during the 2001 Annual Farmers/Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee-National Team Leaders' (FIAC-NTL) Planning-Workshop held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Visayas Avenue, Quezon City on May 16.

According to BAR's top officials, the activity firmly establishes the role of the private sector in RDE planning and implementation. It is hoped that through their participation, BAR can develop programs and projects specifically suited to the needs and priorities of the industry.

The participants were updated on the status of the Research, Development, and Extension (RDE) programs on high impact projects. They also finalized the FIAC and network plan of activities, redefined the FIAC's roles and responsibilities and formulated new FIAC R&D partnership modalities.

Aside from key figures in major private firms, other participants included national network team leaders, university presidents, directors of research institutions, members of the Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC), and DA Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor who was the guest of honor.

The participation of the private sector in the planning, review, and implementation of R&D programs was institutionalized through the creation of the FIAC. As FIAC members, they participate in drafting the National Integrated RDE Agenda and Programs (NIRDEAPs) by reviewing the network's program before it is submitted to the SSAC for technical evaluation.

See Private, page 2

PhilCorn institutional plan developed

The Institutional Development Division (IDD) and the Project Development Unit (PDU) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) organized a planning-workshop to prepare the institutional development plan for the establishment of the Philippine Corn Research Institute (PhilCorn). The activity was held at the ATI-NTC (Agriculture Training Institute-National Training Center) at the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) on 30 April 2001.

Participants in the workshop were planning experts and scientists from UPLB, University of Southern Mindanao (USM), Central Mindanao University (CMU), Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA), Department of Agriculture (DA)-Iligan Experiment Station, and BAR.

The workshop commenced with individual briefings from the participants on the current RDE developments in corn in their respective experimental stations or institutions. Plenary sessions followed

where the participants were divided into three groups to discuss the three major aspects essential to the organization of PhilCorn. These were: Organizational Structure and Manpower, Programs, and Management.

On Organizational Structure and Manpower, the group presented the organizational set-up of the PhilCorn Network System and the PhilCorn Central Experiment Station. The group also drafted the roles of the institution at

See PhilCorn, page 2

BAR tech'l expert proposes scheme for public-private sector partnership



Dr. Obien

" I n meeting the challenge of the future global food security, new partnership between the public and private sectors is imperative to

catalyze development in the agricultural research system. This partnership will serve to optimize and integrate the respective comparative advantages of partners in their quest to achieve mutual objectives."

Thus, emphasized by Dr. Santiago R. Obien, institutional development consultant of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and former executive director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), in one of the plenary sessions of the Asian Agriculture Congress held at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila recently.

He noted that the promotion of agricultural research is the noble goal of the public-private sectors partnership to help the country meet its ultimate goal of providing food security to its growing population.

Dr. Obien, while presenting the public sector perspective, accounted the slow growth performance of Philippine

agriculture to inadequacy of R&D funds for public sector in meeting the requirements of building institutions, training scientists, and extension specialists and providing support services to enable farmers adopt modern technologies. Also, the financial funds coming from international research institutions such as Rockefeller Foundation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), World Bank etc., to support national research systems have been declining in the recent years.

To address this concern, he proposed a framework or basic approach to establish sustainable partnership between the private and public sectors. These are: determine the need, opportunities and nature of partnership; identify potential partners and know their R&D capabilities and assess their roles in adaptive research; develop agreement on resource mobilization, sharing, allocation procedures and management; and jointly develop guidelines and procedures for managing resources and research activities.

Dr. Obien reiterated the pivotal role of the private sector in providing funds and services for agricultural research by empowering the producers (through training), facilitating the commercialization of agricultural technologies, and assisting in the

development of the agribusiness sector.

To ensure an effective synergy between the private and public sectors, their partnership should be consistent with the national and the sectors' development thrusts and their activities should be of national significance particularly in economic development and S&T promotion.

The new partnership scheme targets to increase agricultural productivity and profitability, ensure food security, reduce poverty and ensure equity and environmental protection, achieve global competitiveness, and strengthen research system.

Aside from private-public sector partnership, other major themes highlighted during the Congress were food security challenges, environment management and biodiversity, and future technologies.

The Asian Agriculture Congress was participated in by top agriculture scientists from all over Asia. It was a venue for disseminating information on technological advances, share solutions to common crop production constraints, forge scientific cooperation, and foster friendship among scientists to promote human welfare. (*Mary Charlotte O. Fresco*)

Private...

The NIRDEAP is a five-year RDE program of a specific commodity or discipline, which is duly approved by the Council for Extension, Research and Development for Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) for adoption by the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAP).

Specifically, the FIAC performs the following duties: assist the national RDE networks in determining the programs and projects for agriculture and fisheries; review and evaluate the relevance of the formulated NIRDEAPs to farming and fishing communities; endorse the NIRDEAPs to the SSAC for further review; and conduct a mid-year review of the NIRDEAPs to gauge its impact and determine if there is a need to refocus. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan*)

PhilCorn...



various levels. For instance, the Central Experiment Station shall provide leadership in the conceptualization, planning, and implementation of RDE activities while RDE Research Centers shall provide the leadership in the implementation of programs addressing the needs of the service area.

The group established a set of criteria for selecting the experimental stations. These are: existing facilities for corn research, existing

expertise for corn research, importance of corn in the area, type of growing environment represented, and institutional leadership. They also identified the basic research facilities of the partner institutions and the required technical expertise for the Central Experiment Station and the RDE Research Centers.

As for manpower, it was suggested that qualifications of the 40 Cotton Development Administration (CODA) staff be reviewed and that technical training be conducted for them. Based on E.O. 338, the CODA staff shall form the core personnel of PhilCorn in the meantime while waiting for the approval of the organizational structure. (*Junelyn S. dela Rosa*)

Feature Story

A second look at biotechnology

Biotechnology in Philippine agriculture has a lot of potentials as well as issues to face. To shed light on these issues, Dr. Agnes Chupungco of the Institute of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies of UP Los Baños (UPLB) assessed the socio-economic environment of biotechnology products already available in the market such as BIO-N and BIO-GREEN. The study evaluated the effects of using these bio-organic fertilizers in the farm and community levels and the delivery system involved in the commercialization and adoption of the technology.

Further, the study determined the factors that affect the social acceptability and marketability of genetically engineered corn and papaya and the policy environment affecting their commercialization.

Effects of utilization in the farm and community level

BIO-GREEN became commercially available in 1993 and BIO-N in 1996. The technology transfer was through farmers' training and seminars, demonstration farms in strategic places, and multimedia advertisements. This was undertaken after ensuring that these biofertilizers cause no adverse effects to the environment or the health of end-users.

The study identified 128 users of BIO-N and BIO-GREEN as respondents. They are from Cebu, Laguna, Nueva Ecija and Oriental Mindoro, the areas that have the highest number of BIO-N and BIO-GREEN users in the country. BIO-N became known in Cebu through the farmer-scientists program of Dr. Romulo Davide, a professor in UPLB, which he initiated in 1997. The Municipal Agricultural Officers (MAOs) of Argao and Sibonga, Cebu also took part in the transfer of technology. MAOs in Calamba, Sta. Cruz, Bay, Calauan and Liliw initiated the dissemination of BIO-N in Laguna a year later. Officials of Gratia Plena Social Action Center heard of BIO-GREEN during the early 90's and started producing it in Nueva Ecija after attending foras. The Matungao Agricultural Multipurpose Cooperative brought BIO-GREEN to Oriental Mindoro in 1999.

The respondents admitted that they were initially reluctant to try the fertilizers claiming that fertilizers are one and the same or the new ones are too complicated for them. But after seeing for themselves the benefits of the new

fertilizers, they tried them. The fertilizers reduced their production costs, increased their farm yield at an average of 32.5 per cent, and lowered the incidence of pest and diseases. Farmers from Laguna added that the rice plants grew faster and had larger, fuller and heavier grains. The only problem they encountered is the unavailability of the fertilizers in the market especially BIO-N which can only be bought at BIOTECH, UPLB. Moreover, entrepreneurs would not commercialize biofertilizers due to high cost of registration imposed by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) and what is regarded as "commercializable" technologies is not regarded as such by private sectors.

Delivery system involved in commercialization and adoption of technology

The participation of farmers' organizations, NGOs and cooperatives in conferences and seminars facilitated the transfer of technology which was initiated by the municipal agriculturists and extension workers. However, entrepreneurs defer from commercializing biofertilizers due to the high costs of registration imposed by the FPA.

The study recommends that these problems be reconciled since biotechnology does not only depend on research and development, but also on the dissemination and marketing of the developed technology. Not to be ignored is the role of local agencies in addressing the lack of farm to market roads and irrigation facilities that make the transport of products more difficult and expensive.

Factors that affect the social acceptability and marketability of GE corn and papaya

Forty percent of the 140 respondents in the study have heard about the term biotechnology. Their most common perception of this technology is that it is a new technique that increases crop production, improve the quality of crops and help solve food shortage. However, 14 percent of the 44 corn farmers believe that Bt corn is harmful to

□ by: Maria Rowena SA. Briones



humans and animals and the papaya growers disclosed that they do not know anything about genetically modified papaya. Nevertheless, the respondents expressed they would adopt GE crops if it would indeed lower their production cost and improve their yield.

The study had shown that facts and information are important for the GE crops to be adopted by farmers, traders and consumers. The Department of Agriculture is perceived as the most credible source of these information according to 40 percent of the respondents.

Policy environment affecting the promotion of genetically engineered crops

Biotechnology needs full support from government agencies especially in creating a favorable environment for its research, development, and marketing. In the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997, P80 million was allotted to support the Biotechnology Program. However, more than budget allocation, the study suggested that the government should have clear guidelines on patenting and an effective Plant Variety Protection law to encourage plant breeders and farmers to accept the crops.

There is a need for dialogues and studies that aim to improve biotechnology in our country to minimize the possibilities of harm and ensure that the stakeholders do not lose sight of the end goal for everybody and better lives for the farmers.

(Source: Chupungco, Agnes et al. Biotechnologies in Agriculture: Production and Market Potentials, Socio-Economic Evaluation and Policy Analysis. This project is funded by DA-BAR through PCARRD-DOST)



CGIAR

redefines role for 21st Century

□ by: *Junelyn S. de la Rosa*

In a strong move to redefine and reposition itself for the 21st century, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) launched a change design and management initiative during the International Centers Week (ICW 2000). The initiative consists of three over-arching goals: 1) to strengthen and improve the CGIAR's relevance and impact, 2) to sharpen internal efficiency and 3) to stabilize long-term financing.

Composed of 16 international centers and 58 members, the CGIAR has excellent resources, an impressive accomplishment and a long list of continuing successes spanning three decades. Much of CGIAR's success could be attributed to its policy of continuing efforts at self-improvement.

CGIAR Chair Dr. Ian Johnson said that the proposed change on structure and governance is deemed appropriate due to the growing concern that the research output of CGIAR's 16 independent centers are fragmented. In addition, there is a growing concern regarding duplication and systemwide inefficiency. Some CGIAR members have also tagged the unnecessary expense incurred by too frequent meetings of too many people and perhaps too many Centers, and the system has a confusing public persona complicating public awareness programs.

ICW 2000 was preceded by a number of preparatory events including the formulation of a new vision by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), consultations among shareholders and stakeholders, proposals from Center Directors and Center Board Chairs, and an open electronic discussion on the possible direction and form of change.

To move the change process forward after ICW 2000, Dr. Ian Johnson set up a Change Design and Management Team (CDMT), guided by an *ad hoc* Steering Group (SG) of stakeholders. Dr. Johnson heads the Steering Group while Dr. Margaret-Catley-Carlson, former president of CIDA, chairs the CDMT.

The CDMT proposed changes were based on the principles agreed at ICW 2000. It was the SG that guided the CDMT in formulating its views and in crafting recommendations for action drawing on the many excellent studies done in the CGIAR System.

Since then, CDMT has had three meetings with the Steering Group, received many suggestions and comments from around the world in response to Web posting, and produced, discussed and revised three interim papers. This has made the

year-long discussion a highly participatory process.

The final paper entitled: "Designing and Managing Change in the CGIAR" will be discussed by CGIAR stakeholders at the Mid-Term Meeting (MTM'01) on May 21-25, 2001 at the Royal Hall in Durban, South Africa. Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director and Steering Group Member, Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce, will represent the Philippines in this meeting.

The repositioned CGIAR is characterized as a system that will focus a major part of its efforts on Global Challenge Programs (GCPs) or large multi-institutional research programs that address specific problem areas using the expertise and competence of existing and new Center and other partners.

Also, most research programs will be identified through a process that incorporates suggestions of the on-the-ground partners and potential new allies. The approach to problems is defined within a vision of how the best science coupled with other knowledge, can address the most urgent issues of reducing and promoting development.

Another significant initiative will be that the work of the Centers whether in large GCPs or in their regular programs should be well coordinated and managed in a manner that it provides for economy of scale, coherence of approach to systemic issues, and a comprehensible dynamic public image.

Finally, the new CGIAR System's decision-making shall support the work of the Centers, including their work in the global programs, and the investors and stakeholders. The CGIAR System will be able to make decisions when they are needed, and have provisions for implementation and follow through and for organizing its work and planning processes. The CGIAR will attract new funding for its vital work.

The first order changes are: the adoption of the programmatic approach, the revitalization and redefinition of the role of TAC to become a Science Council, a determined fund-raising canvas of potential donors, the creation of an Executive Council, and a Systems Office with the Centers determining among themselves how they wish to improve the organization of services.

Dr. Margaret Catley-Carlson said, "the activity has revealed both apprehension about change, and excitement about potentially new ways of intervening to promote concerted and decisive interventions on crucial issues".



3 nat'l network team leaders take posts



New team leaders for three national RDE networks were inducted to their posts in a recognition and turnover ceremony during the Farmers/Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC)-National Team Leader (NTL) annual conference and planning-workshop this May.

Drs. Enrico Supangco, Domingo Angeles, and Teresita Espino took their posts as team leader of the National RDE Network on Livestock and Poultry, Ornamentals, and Biotechnology, succeeding Dr. Alberto Robles, Prof. Tito Rimando, and Dr. Reynaldo dela Cruz, respectively.

Appointments are made upon the recommendation of the networks' lead institution-University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and are subject to review by BAR after two years. As team leaders, the new appointees are responsible for providing the overall leadership in planning and implementing their respective network's RDE programs. The new team leaders are also tasked to lead in the formulation of rational allocation of resources, technical monitoring, review and evaluation, identification and packaging of technology for dissemination, and establishment/maintenance of linkages

with national and international institutions.

Dr. Supangco is an assistant professor and the research and extension coordinator of the Institute of Animal Science (IAS) at UPLB. He has a Ph.D. in Range Science from the Texas A&M University. His specialization includes beef cattle production, range and pasture management and integrated crop-livestock farming systems. He is a consultant of several foreign-assisted projects, and is a member of recognized national and international professional animal science and socio-cultural societies.

On the other hand, Dr. Angeles is the associate dean and professor at the College of Agriculture in UPLB. He has a postdoctoral degree from the University of Georgia, Athens. Among his most notable accomplishments are the establishment of the nutrient norms for banana, coffee, citrus, tomato, and pineapple, and the protocol for the diagnosis of nitrogen requirements of papaya and pineapple using the rapid tissue test.

Dr. Espino is the director of the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), and professor at UPLB. She obtained her doctorate degree from the North Carolina University, and has since specialized on molecular biology and biotechnology. She is a dedicated and committed scientist continuously working to develop and improve enzyme biotechnology, bioprocessing of major commodities and develop control measures for major viral, fungal, and bacterial diseases through monoclonal antibody diagnostic technology. She is a recipient of various awards such as the Balik Scientist Award, 1996 Gawad Saka Outstanding Agricultural Scientist, and the Presidential Award Rizal Pro Patria. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan*)

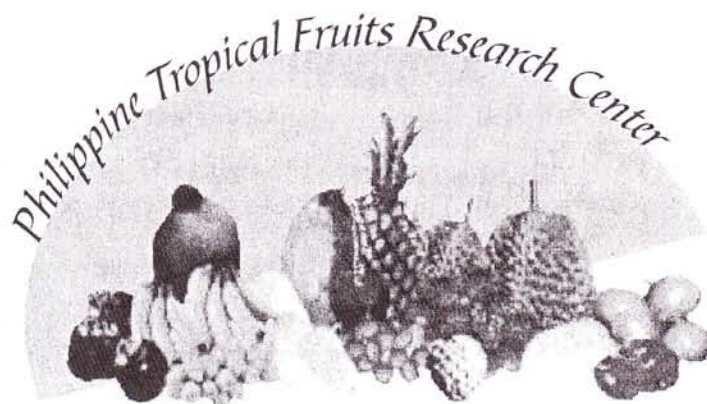
Philfruits...

other R&D institutions. He further argued that, there are other government institutions/agencies and private companies that deal with fruits i.e., PCARRD, DA-BAR, Dole, Del Monte, hence the Formulation Team must emphasize on the importance of "leadership" in making PhilFruits stand up among existing institution. "One compelling reason is a strong, sustainable, and long-term leadership which is unlikely of the private industry that mainly favors its own interest... public goods should be handled by the public sector itself like the DA," he said.

Dir. Blo Umpar Adiong suggested a review of existing laws to clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of PhilFruits apart from other institutions that are working along the same crop. Likewise, he reiterated the issue of the autonomy of PhilFruits as a Center. According to Dir. Adiong, it must be clear whether the Center will be a part/under the orchestration of BPI, or shall exist as another unit with a high degree of autonomy.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ponce, emphasized the importance of a clear and well-stated vision and mission of the Institute. Likewise, Dr. Bernardo suggested that the leading functions of the Center be "strong", showing an established leadership in strategic research.

Coordination comes later according to him. It is not appropriate that the institution provide the data, instead it should undertake policy and advocacy studies. The Center's function will improve if it highlights manpower development to strengthen research capability, not only in training, but also in providing support and sustaining human resource on fruit crop research and development. (*Rita T. dela Cruz*)



PhilFruits establishment plan reviewed

Tofu: An African hunger fighter
(<http://www.futureharvest.org>)

Biotech corn found in variety of foods
(<http://washingtonpost.com>)

Celebrate Earth Day with Future Harvest
(<http://www.futureharvest.org>)

Fertilizer micro-dosing boosts crop production in the Sahel
(<http://www.futureharvest.org>)

Field of genes making sense of biotechnology in agriculture
(<http://www.fourthcouncil.edu>)

Groundnut mystery disease identified
(<http://www.satrends@cgiar.org>)

Dodging drought in Kenya
(<http://www.satrends@cgiar.org>)

Sugar rules defy free-trade logic
(<http://www.nytimes.com>)

Rice research: Feeding the world, protecting the planet
(<http://www.cgiar.org/irri>)

USDA announces prevailing world market prices and loan deficiency payment rates for rice
(<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>)

The External Review Team (ERT) met recently with the Philippine Tropical Fruits Research Center (PhilFruits) Advisory Board to review the establishment plan of the Center. They also evaluated the concept paper prepared by the Project Formulation Team prior to its presentation to the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary for approval, first week of June 2001.

Present during the meeting were Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Eliseo Ponce, Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Director Blo Umpar Adiong, Fruits RDE Network Team Leader Hernani Golez, National Plant Genetics Resources for Food & Agriculture Program Network Team Leader Ceferino Baniqued, UPLB Professor Tito Contado, and Senior Scientist Advisory Committee (SSAC) Chairman Fernando Bernardo.

Presenting the concept paper was Dr. Ernesto Lozada, team leader of the Project Formulation Team. Assisting him were Dr. Samuel Mancebo, assistant team leader and Dr. Rey Velasco, team member.

The discussions revolved around the proposed revisions on the PhilFruits establishment plan that would create strong support to its existence. Among these are the following: how the Center could provide a better edge in fruits R&D; improvement and modification of the underlying principle of the Center; inclusion of pertinent data and statistics on fruit crop research that can strengthen and better justify the existence of the Center; and revision on the current existing law delineating roles and responsibilities of people and institutions involved.

PhilFruits was established by

Administrative Order (AO) No. 4 Series of 2001 on 11 January. This was authorized by former DA Secretary Domingo Panganiban as a Center under the premises set forth by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) and Executive Order 162. Specifically stated the AO is the establishment of the Center as a semi-autonomous unit of BPI; putting up of the Center at the BPI-Davao National Research and Development Center (NCRDC) in Bago Oshiro; and the transfer of its facilities, experimental areas, and personnel to the Center.

Along with the establishment of the Center is the creation of an Advisory Board to provide guidance in the full development of the Center.

According to Dr. Bernardo, the existence of the Center may be justified by its distinct responsibilities from that of

See PhilFruits, page 5

ANNOUNCEMENT

ENCON is inviting all interested parties to sign up for their regularly held training program *Establishment of Certified Organic Management Systems of Production, Processing and Marketing*.

The course, scheduled from 10-19 September 2001, is specifically designed to enhance the capability of new organic producers, processors and marketers to reach global organic markets through the production, processing and marketing of certified organic products. A maximum of 20 participants will be selected to attend the course. Participants must belong to senior or middle level management of production or processing units who intend to produce, process or market organic products.

The training is conducted in collaboration with the Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD), a premier rural development organization, which has continued to be a leader in the organic movement in Asia.

ENCON is an active member of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) engaged in the promotion of organic agriculture in Asia.

For more information, please contact ENCON Director Selvam Daniel at Kanchan Nager, Nakshetravadi, Aurangabad, Maharashtra State 431002 India or call at tel.no. +91-240-376336 and 376828 or fax at +91-240-376866 or e-mail at danielav@md3.vsnl.net.in or visit their website at <http://business.vsnl.com>.

Chronicle

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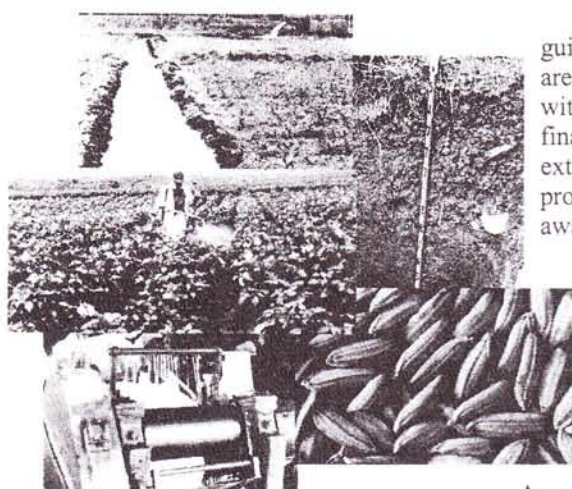
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CERDAF defers approval of resolutions; approves five NIRDEAPs



The Council for Extension, Research and Development for Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) on May 28 deferred the approval of four resolutions and four guidelines made during their first meeting last 28 November 2000. However, five network agenda and programs were approved for immediate implementation.

According to Department of Agriculture (DA) Sec. Leonardo Q. Montemayor, the resolutions and guidelines need tightening and proper citation of the proponents. The documents are further evaluated by the Council members for comments and final approval.

The four resolutions include recommendations on: the provision of funds from the coconut levy fund for the project "sequence of genes expressed during coconut endosperm development"; the approval of the process adopted in the planning and formulation of National Integrated Research and Development, Extension Agenda and Programs (NIRDEAPs); the approval of the NIRDEAPs as presented during the first CERDAF meeting; and the use of biotechnology to enhance agricultural R&D and the industry.

On the other hand, the four guidelines whose approval was deferred are as follow: co-financing agreements with local government units on the financing of agriculture and fisheries extension programs; national merit and promotion including incentives and award systems for all extension personnel; preparation of collaborative extension programs of state universities and colleges; and accreditation of private sector institutions/providers of extension services.

Several comments were also made regarding the guidelines. According to one of the participants, co-financing agreements should be limited to provinces, with the province as the basic unit for operation. This will align the extension efforts of State Colleges and Universities (SCUs) with the provincial efforts. With regard to the guidelines of

private sector accreditation/extension service providers, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Assistant Director Alberto Maningding asked for the involvement of the private sector and a need to focus on the market as a driving force for extension.

Montemayor, on the other hand, asked the Council members to integrate the guidelines on the co-financing schemes with SCUs, provinces, and the private sector for more coherence. Lastly, Montemayor asked the CERDAF to resolve the issue on the guidelines on the merit and promotion for extension workers. According to the Secretary, each local government unit (LGU) has its own merit and promotion system. The challenge therefore, despite this condition, is to ensure that equal opportunities for promotion and merit,

See CERDAF, page 3

GSDP aims for sustainable growth

by: Carmela B. Brion

For a more productive and competitive grains industry in the Philippines, the Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP) was conceptualized to attain a sustainable growth in grains productivity, improve the economic well-being of the rural poor and attain a cost-effective/ resource efficient food security.

GSDP is divided into two components: policy and investment. The policy component calls for a liberalized and more cost-effective grain pricing and import policies. This policy also aims to restructure the National Food Authority (NFA) from a marketing monopoly to a public regulatory agency. On the other

hand, the investment component seeks to improve the irrigation infrastructures in grains production, strengthen the generation, as well as the dissemination of grains technology and enhance the capacity building in the Department of Agriculture (DA). The investment component also covers the establishment of the GSDP - Project Management Office (PMO).

Program implementation is about to start. Project officers at the national and provincial levels have been designated and these people have started working on the program. The PMO has been established, with a full

See GSDP, page 4

6th NAFC Meeting

ERP presents R&D accomplishments under AFMA

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), as the lead agency under the R&D component of AFMA, aims to transform the resource-based agriculture and fisheries sectors into one that is technology-based to be able to help Filipino farmers and fishermen through technologies extended to them.

This was the main point of BAR Director Eliseo R. Ponce when he presented the accomplishments of BAR during the 6th National Agriculture and Fisheries Council Meeting (NAFC). Organized by NAFC, the council meeting was held at the Apacible Conference Room, DA Building, Quezon City on 18 May 2001.

NAFC is the advisory body of the Department of Agriculture (DA). It assists the Department in monitoring and coordinating in the modernization process. Likewise, it ensures the inter-agency and inter-sectoral nature of collaboration among the DA units.

Presented during the meeting were the status of current R&D projects and accomplishments for six months, based on the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) namely, improved R&D governance (section 81); increased research excellence and productivity (section 82); increased budget for agriculture and fisheries R&D; improved R&D accountability (section 84); and improved access to

R&D information/technologies (section 85).

Some of the notable accomplishments of the R&D components include:

Improved R&D governance

- integration of the one-system, one program approach
- system's definition and MOU signing with other R&D agencies (PCARRD, PCAMRD, SCUs, etc.)
- delineation of functions according to AFMA
- development of national RDE networks (national and regional)
- organization of Farmers/Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee (national and regional)
- organization of Council for Extension, Research and Development for Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF)
- institutionalization of the peer review process
- organization of the Senior Scientists Advisory Committee (SSAC)
- peer review of proposed and on-going projects

Increased research excellence and productivity

- drafting the guidelines on planning and implementation of

See ERP, page 7

RDE Network...

members suggested a more visible involvement of the private sector, stronger linkage between research and extension, organized marketing system and an effective information dissemination and communication campaign.

Fisheries sector

In addition to the existing 13 HIPs for the fisheries sector, 16 new projects are scheduled for implementation for the period 2000-01 (six for aquaculture, four for capture fisheries, and six for fisheries postharvest and marketing).

FIAC members called for an enhanced information dissemination and intensified private sector participation to improve the networks' project implementation. Moreover, it was agreed that priority research must be conducted on the following areas: reduction of aqua feed cost, lead content standards for fishery products, problems of coral bleaching, and assessment of abalone depletion.

Discipline-based networks

In biotechnology, a number of HIPs are showing positive results: the development of the DNA vaccine for hog cholera; the field trials of diagnostic kits for plant viruses which are ready for commercialization, the field trials of vaccines for fowl cholera, infectious coryza and hemorrhagic septicemia, and the field trials of Nuclear Polyhydrosis Virus against (NPV) *Spodoptera litura*. However, the growing concern regarding the safety of biotechnology and processed products was

See RDE network, page 3

DA...

considerations in drafting a cohesive program and defined framework for extension; and addressing the needs of farmers.

Several suggestions to further improve the cooperation among the extension work units of the Department were made during the meeting. It was suggested that there should be an aggressive campaign to fully promote agricultural technology; establishment of a national system that would manage the extension activities; and a strong move to further strengthen the human resources development program for extension personnel.

The group agreed that ATI would coordinate all the extension activities at the national level, organizing meetings with the national government agencies (NGAs) and the regional offices to address extension issues.

The DA extension group will have its third meeting on June 20 to finalize its recommendations to DA Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor. (Rita T. dela Cruz)



CLSU researchers lecture on El Nino, La Nina



Dr. Danilo Vargas (inset) talks on how farmers could cope with La Nina and El Nino during the presentation of his study

Researchers from the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) conducted a half-day seminar on El Nino and La Nina at the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Conference Room, 28 May 2001. The group, led by Dr. Danilo Vargas, presented the results of their recently-concluded study on Farmers' Coping Mechanisms on El Nino and La Nina. Two of the research proponents, Prof. Marietta

Mangalindan and Ms. Ma. Corazon Vera Cruz, were likewise present.

Participants of the seminar included representatives from the various DA-attached agencies. A study funded by BAR, it presented a profile of the farmers affected by El Nino and La Nina in Regions 1-4. The study likewise determined the farmers' level of awareness on government initiatives to combat these crises. These initiatives are soft loans, massive information campaign, allocation of vaccines, maintenance of feed security, replenishment of feedstocks, and provision of mechanical fee/grain dryer. Moreover, the study identified communication channels or sources of information on El Nino and La Nina. Study results indicated that broadcast media like radio and television were the farmers' major sources of information on El Nino and La Nina.

The seminar is the second of the Bureau's R&D seminar series for 2001, which features notable research findings of various BAR-funded projects. (*Laarni C. Anenias*)

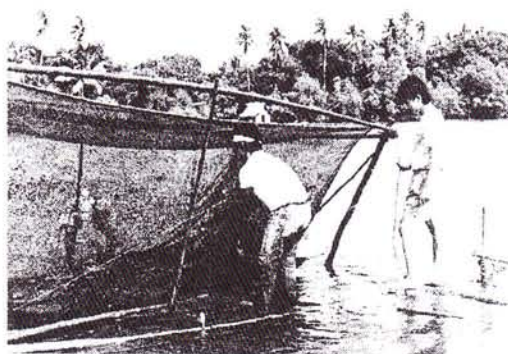
RDE network...

also raised, prompting questions from the participants if there is a formal body that monitors the safety of these products. It was however mentioned, that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Foods and Drugs (BFAD), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and other government agencies were mandated to perform this task. Participants also mentioned that effective information campaign should be promoted to at least provide the consumers a choice in the utilization of genetically modified organism (GMO) products.

Moreover, the group discussed the



establishment of a plant genetic resources (PGR) network to conduct the survey, inventory and documentation of PGR for genebank management and enhanced utilization of conserved PGR. For soil and water resources HIPs, the following significant outputs are expected: a GIA-based soil erosion model for resource management, economic viability of a land use management system, integrated soil-plant nutrition system, SPCC maps for corn, identified nutrient-limiting factors of corn; and for postharvest, food science and nutrition HIPs – diagnostic kits, and microorganism profiles in processed fruits and vegetables will be generated □



KPSD...

and explained to ensure full understanding by all staff members.

The KPSD is tasked to oversee the transfer of knowledge resource to BAR's clients. The division generates different multi-media R&D for information and facilitates the conduct of seminars, symposia and conferences for R&D institutions and organizations.

On the other hand, the NPD is one of the technical divisions under the Office of the Director for RDE Programs. It is tasked to implement the following Key Result Areas (KRAs): national RDE networking, formulation of NIRDEAPs, implementation of NIRDEAPs, monitoring of national RDE programs/projects, and development/improvement of RDE program systems, procedures and linkages. (*Junelyn S. de la Rosa*)

CERDAF...

and merit, and a fair set of criteria for evaluation is created and maintained.

Five NIRDEAPs Approved

Five national RDE networks will begin implementing their five-year agenda and programs following their approval by the CERDAF. Network Team Leaders Rogelio Concepcion (Soil and Water Resources), Arsenio Resurreccion (Agricultural Engineering), Eliseo Cadapan (Crop Protection), Wilfredo David (Irrigation and Drainage), and Ricardo Cachuela (Grains Postharvest) presented their respective National Integrated RDE Agenda/Programs (NIRDEAPs). The NIRDEAPs embody the integrated thrusts and directions of each network for RDE, specifically containing programs and activities for specific commodities.

Prior to the approval by the Council, the NIRDEAPs underwent the regular review process by the Farmer/Fisherfolk-Industry Advisory Committee and the Senior Scientist Advisory Committee. (*Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon*)

Scientists tackle pressing soil and water issues

The Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) hosted the annual International Symposium on Sustainable Soil and Water Resources Management at the BSWM Convention Hall, Quezon City, on 30-31 May 2001.

Prominent international and local soil experts tackled topics on: Soil Survey and Classification, Soil Physics, Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy, Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition, Soil Microbiology, Soil and Water Conservation, Land Use Planning and Landscape Ecology, Soil Mapping, Geo-Statistics and Cartography and Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS).

The symposium is held to provide a venue for soil scientists to tackle pressing soil and water issues affecting their countries and the world. Specifically, the objectives of the symposium were to strengthen the emphasis on ecological dimensions on sustainability of soil and water resources management technologies; promote stronger involvement of national and international agencies in action programs and policies to sustain soil and water resources management technologies; and promote the effective exchange of experiences among scientists and other stakeholders in maintaining sustainable soil and water resources management.

The symposium coincided with BSWM's golden anniversary and had the theme: "An ounce of soil and water saved, a golden opportunity for the millennium".

Executive Director Patricio S. Faylon of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Assistant Director Jovita M. Corpuz delivered inspirational messages while Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor gave the keynote speech during the opening ceremony.

Secretary Montemayor said; "Soil scientists should not only respond to present issues but meet the challenges ahead". He quoted the difference between the clever and the wise: "Clever men extricate themselves from situations that the wise would have avoided in the first place". He added that if we are to sustain soil and water resources then it is imperative that we act wisely and address today and tomorrow's soil and water problems.

Speakers were from Tokyo Institute of Technology (TITECH),



(L-R, first row) FIDA Administrator Cecilia Soriano, BAR Asst. Dir Jovita Corpuz, BSWM Dir Rogelio Concepcion, DA Sec Leonardo Montemayor, and PCARRD Exec. Dir Patricio Faylon with the local and international participants during the symposium

University of West Sydney, International Center for Research on Agroforestry (ICRAF), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Ibaraki University, Department of Land Development, Bangkok, Thailand, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Asia Soil Conservation Network-World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (ASOCON-WOCAT).

Other participants were from the

Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), UPLB, Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Bulacan State College (BSC), Bicol University, Cavite State University (CaVSU), Benguet State University (BSU) and other DA-attached agencies. A total of 160 participants attended the symposium.

The two-day activity was sponsored by the BSWM, PCARRD, JICA, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Philippine Society of Soil Science and Technology, DA *Ginintuang Masaganang Ani-High Value Commercial Crops* (GMA-HVCC) and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR). (Junelyn S. de la Rosa)

GSDP...

time Project Director and a detailed core of support staff from the DA's attached agencies. The Steering Committee and Investment Sub-Steering Committee have already conducted meetings. Both the work and financial plans of the implementing agencies have been reviewed and finalized. The only problem is, the GSDP has to wait for the Philippine government to release its counterpart funds before the program can start. This is the recent conclusion of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mission on the current status of the GSDP implementation in the country.

Backgrounder

Policy component. The policy loan did not require government counterpart funds, however, certain conditions must be satisfied first before the fund is disbursed to the implementors. These conditions are on policy reforms related to National Food Authority (NFA), corn tariff and R&D/public sector investments. The loan, worth \$100 million, will be disbursed in three installments within a period of 24 months. Thirty million dollars was disbursed to the first tranche on August 2000.

Investment component. A counterpart fund from the Philippine government is required in the investment loan worth \$75 million. If the government cannot provide its counterpart fund of \$45 million, the loan remains untouched; and whether or not this loan is disbursed, the government will still pay for the interest or capital amounting to \$43,389. The investment loan is necessary for the

RDE network accomplishments and projects: an update

by: Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon



FIAC and NTL members discuss the status of HIPs funded by BAR

This year's Farmers/Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee-National Team Leader (FIAC-NTL) meeting was successfully held as it reviewed the status of various RDE networks' agenda and program implementation and progress of the High Impact Projects (HIPs) funded by BAR. The National Team Leaders presented the update to the members of the Farmer/Fisherfolk Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC). The FIAC members assessed the extent of the National Integrated Research Development Extension Agenda and Program (NIRDEAP) formulation and accomplishments of approved projects, and provided suggestions and recommendations to further ensure relevance of the programs and projects to the industry needs. They also suggested other strategies to further strengthen the partnership between the Department of Agriculture (DA) as a whole and the private sector and farmers in agricultural development.

Simultaneous sessions were conducted for the presentation of updates on Grains, Livestock and Poultry, High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC), Fisheries, and Discipline-based Networks. Present were DA Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, Undersecretary for Operations Ernesto Ordoñez, UPLB Chancellor Wilfredo David, Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA) President Paciencia Milan, BAR Director Eliseo Ponce, industry representatives, network members, and other guests from state universities and colleges.

Grains sector

HIPs for grains are now testing the production of white, yellow, and special corn types. These were planted to various areas in Cagayan Valley, Cebu, Bukidnon, and Cotabato. Moreover, two tons of these seeds were distributed to Molongan, Sarangani and Anahan Valley. In Central Mindanao University (CMU) two open-pollinated corn varieties (white corn) were already developed and produced, with import volume reaching a total of 90,000 tons. Similarly, the HIPs yielded a new technology on the use of bio-control-based integrated pest management system against Asian corn borer. Likewise, a number of new projects were also launched in the provinces of Mindoro, Bohol, Cotabato, Bicol, Isabela, Cotabato, Ilocos Norte, and Cagayan Valley: adaptation and utilization of location-specific corn-based technology in major corn growing areas; training program on corn-based production systems; and stakeholders empowerment and communication support for sustainable development.

High Value Commercial Crops

A total budget of Php22.9 million was allotted for the implementation of HIPs for high value crops such as fruits, coconut, fiber crops, rootcrops, plantation crops, sugarcane, vegetables, and ornamentals. These HIPs are on-going and are expected for completion in 2002-03. To further improve the implementation of projects, FIAC

See RDE network, page 2

GSDP...

establishment of irrigation infrastructures, conduct of grains R&D, upgrading of laboratories and training centers at the regional/provincial levels, and improving the capacity of various DA agencies for policy analysis. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) and Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) are the implementing agencies of the investment loan components.

Investment loan: what now?

Initially, ADB made an advance deposit of \$ 902, 927 for NIA and the PMO (Project Management Office). The amount released to NIA was \$850,000 and the PMO, \$52,927. This could have been for the benefit of the implementors, unfortunately, the government was delayed in releasing the counterpart funds.

The delay in the release of counterpart funds was due to the Philippine budget cycle. The cycle started in March or April, and the loan became effective only in August. Obviously, no budget was allocated to the program for year 2001. To address this serious concern, Project Director Francisco Ramos III disclosed that DA requested the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in April 2001 to issue a special budget of P250 million to start the project. In a meeting with ADB Mission Leader Yuen Loh Yee on May 21, the mission found that the project structure was established on time but the construction and rehabilitation of agricultural facilities, and the procurement of office equipment

See GSDP, page 7

BAR non-degree scholar awarded best presenter in Venezuela

The Filipino's ingenuity and excellence in the field of research and development was once again recognized.

This time, a member of the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) received the Best Research Presentation Award during the American Conference on Lyophilization 2001 Training-Workshop in Barquisimeto, Estado Lara, Venezuela. The conference was sponsored by Planesco C.A., a Venezuelan company involved in freeze-drying technology and chemical engineering services.

Mr. Otero A. Capariño presented an innovative study entitled "Mango Powder Production by Freeze-Drying Process." His study proves that freeze drying is effective in producing high-quality mango puree powder. His findings showed that the freeze-drying technique has comparative advantages in terms of drying time and quality of final product over using liquid nitrogen. With freeze-drying technique, the resulting cake showed a homogenous appearance, leaving no crust or glaze on the surface, as compared to a

fractured cake that resulted from liquid nitrogen utilization technique. The inherent desirable qualities such as taste, color, and nutritive value of the end product were also retained.

Aside from the presentation of research papers, study visits to Venezuela's agencies/organizations undertaking research activities on freeze-drying technology were conducted.

According to Capariño, one of the most fruitful accomplishments of the Conference was the formation of a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of freeze-drying technology - the International Society on Lyophilization-Freeze Drying.

Mr. Capariño was elected treasurer for the said international organization.

A report on Mr. Capariño's participation in this international training was submitted to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), which sponsored his round trip airfare. The



Capariño (second to the left) poses with his fellow participants during the training-workshop

support, under the DA-BAR non-degree assistance program, is awarded to qualified members of NaRDSAF to strengthen their R&D capabilities in agriculture and fisheries.

Mr. Capariño is a supervising science research specialist of the Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE). His research on freeze-drying technology also received the AFMA Research Paper Award during the DA-BAR 12th National Research symposium in 1999. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

KPSD and NPD hold planning workshop

To continually improve and assess the performance of its various divisions, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducts yearly planning workshops for every division. The first two divisions that conducted separate strategic planning workshops were the Knowledge Products and Services Division (KPSD) and the National Programs Division (NPD).

The NPD held its strategic planning workshop at the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Benguet State University (BSU), Benguet on 5-7 April 2001 while the KPSD conducted its planning workshop at the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Training Center, La Trinidad, Benguet on 17-19 May 2001.

This annual activity is held to evaluate the division's performance during the first six

months of the year and draft strategic plans and mechanisms to optimize its performance in the next six months.

Specifically, the KPSD aimed to: review and assess the staff's accomplishments from January to May 2001; identify both the positive and the negative factors that affected staff performance; prepare the individual and divisional work and financial plan from June to December 2001; devise a strategic plan for implementation from June to December 2001; and develop camaraderie and teamwork.

On the other hand, the NPD aimed to review the division's key result areas (KRAs), present individual accomplishments and targets; identify their strengths and weaknesses; identify the new assignments and tasks of each staff vis-à-vis the new staffing pattern to be adopted in NPD; flesh out the Division's strategic plan for Year 2001;

and develop camaraderie and teamwork

KPSD's three-day planning workshop consisted of a levelling-off activity, assessment of the division output (January-May 2001), preparation and discussion of the KPSD workplan, presentation of output and a final synthesis of the planning-workshop while NPD's two-day planning workshop consisted of a review of the division's workplan and accomplishments, task distribution, re-organization of the NPD and CY 2001 planning workshop.

The output of both strategic workshops was separate divisional and individual workplan and targets for the next six months. In addition, NPD revised its organizational structure to even out the distribution of tasks among the staff and facilitate easy consolidation of reports. Divisional plans and individual commitments were discussed

BAR hosts first AFRDIS seminar for 2001



The event is the first of the Agriculture Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS) seminar series for 2001 featuring IT developments among the partner-institutions. AFRDIS is composed of the following clusters:

- Northern Luzon: Mariano Marcos State University and Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center
- Central Luzon: Philippine Rice Research Institute, Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension, and Central Luzon State University
- Visayas: Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center, Visayas State College of Agriculture, and Central Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center
- Mindanao: University of Southern Mindanao and Central Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center

AFRDIS aims to provide an interactive and proactive information exchange among the participating institutions. One of the major tasks of AFRDIS is to establish a LAN in each partner-institution. These institutions will then be interconnected through a wide area network. This is to facilitate the efficient R&D information exchange among them. *(Laarni C. Anenias)*

Representatives from attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National R&D System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) attended the seminar on BAR Local Area Network (LAN): Its Evolution and Future Direction, organized by the Bureau's Information Communication and Technology Division (ICTD). The event was held at the BAR Conference Room, on 30 May 2001. LAN Administrator Alvin Mauricio served as the resource speaker.

The seminar featured the documentation of the Bureau's LAN – from its beginning with stand-alone computers, to peer-to-peer set-up, until its present LAN set-up. The seminar aimed at providing a venue for an interactive sharing of IT knowledge.

GSDP...

were suspended.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Yuen Loh Yee and Ms. Cynthia Carreon, the assistant project analyst, conferred with the officials of the DA, its staff bureaus and attached agencies involved in the program on 2-5 May regarding the details and progress of the GSDP.

The program was approved on 24 April 2000 and became effective on 11 August the same year. It is an integrated package of policy reforms and sectoral investments made possible through policy and investment loans, in cooperation with the ADB. □

Pinoyfarmer...

BAR will be posted in the web and they will serve as the clearinghouse of information.

Drs. Benjamin Ronduen and Silvino Tejada, RIARC manager and regional Technical Director (RTD), respectively, of the pilot Department of Agriculture (DA)-RFUs, welcomed the visit agreeing that they appreciate initiatives such as PinoyFarmer to invigorate agricultural extension in their region. Dr. Tejada added that, through PinoyFarmer, Region 2 can now have support on its bid to market their high-value commercial crops such as banana, mango and citrus.

Winrock International Country Director, Mr. Bong Bolo looks forward to the implementation of the project, saying that it can help the PinoyFarmer face the challenges of the new century. *(Maria Rowena S.A. Briones)*

ERP...

A/F research

- drafting the guidelines on autonomy and academic freedom of R&D institutions
- drafting the guidelines on harmonized merit and output-oriented promotion system for technical and scientific personnel
- drafting the guidelines on salary and fringe benefit system for R&D personnel

Increased budget for agriculture and fisheries R&D

- allocation of a multi-year budget treated as R&D grants
- allocation of at least 1% of the GVA of the budget for A/F R&D
- a science fund to sustain career development of A/F community
- revenue raising measures to finance expenditures in R&D

Improved R&D accountability

- well defined outputs/log frame
- preparation of programs, parameters and guidelines to evaluate A/F R&D

To improve the productivity and efficiency of the whole R&D system, Dr. Ponce called on all R&D practitioners and stakeholders to work toward a common goal by enhancing its structure. Furthermore, he pledged to continue the Bureau's effort in providing leadership to the whole system as it continues to fund and administer Research, Development, and Extension (RDE) programs that benefit the population.

Also presented during the council meeting (aside from the R&D component) were the Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZ), Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan, Trade and Fiscal Incentives, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards, Basic Needs Program, Credit, Information Support Service, Marketing Support Service, Irrigation and other Infrastructure, Human Resource Development and Extension, and Appropriations. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*

Web NEWS

Biotech labeling requirements for processed food products
<http://www.fas.usda.gov>

Farmers enrich Malawi's soils
<http://www.icrisat.org>

Women farmers guide scientists in Namibia
<http://www.icrisat.org>

Scientists fight global warming with improved agriculture
<http://www.futureharvest.org>

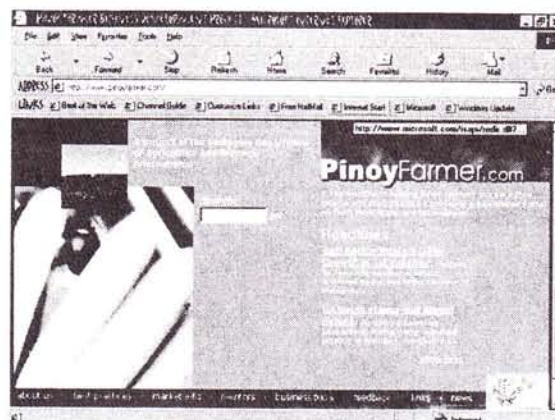
Rice scientist excited by tech-transfer trend
<http://www.cgiar.org/irri>

Agricultural detective work boosts South Asian production of protein-rich Lentils
<http://www.futureharvest.org>

PinoyFarmer launches website in Tuguegarao and San Fernando

The Technical Working Group headed by BAR Regional Programs Division Dr. Resty David will orient the Regional Field Units (RFUs) of Region I and II about the PinoyFarmer Business Development Project. The group will also facilitate institutional arrangements necessary for the establishment of a Business Center where a computer hooked up with the internet will be installed making it easy for extension workers, farmers and traders in the area to access the Pinoy Farmer website.

The website, a component of the PinoyFarmer project, is envisioned to guide the farmers in deciding what commodity to produce under prevailing agroclimatic and market conditions. It is in its trial run showcasing packages of best practices and latest farm innovations (pests and diseases management, best varieties of crops, breeds of animals, weeds and water management, etc.) and agroclimatic



the official website of the Pinoyfarmer. <http://www.pinoyfarmer.com> information (e.g. rainfall, typhoon frequency data, soils data) and market information (profile of traders, producers, product specifications, product standards etc.). The names of the national team leaders of various networks of

See Pinoyfarmer, page 7

DA develops framework for extension



To boost agricultural extension in the country, Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary for Operations Ernesto M. Ordoñez convened all agencies of DA providing extension services to farmers and fisherfolk recently to develop a framework in the delivery of its services.

Among the participants were heads/representatives from the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), the lead agency for disseminating research results/technologies to farmers; Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRES); Cotton

Development Administration (CODA); Fiber Industry Development Authority (FIDA); National Food Authority (NFA); National Irrigation Administration (NIA); National Tobacco Administration (NTA); Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA); Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA); and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

BAR Director Eliseo Ponce and Mr. Alvin Divinagracia, head of the Public and International Relations Division provided support to the extension group by sharing experiences in orchestrating the R&D efforts, since research is intertwined with the extension function.

The participants discussed five major points, namely: the DA's agenda for extension; weak points in the existing extension structure; important

Chronicle

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See extension, page 2