



BAR crafts strategic plan for 2002



Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce (inset) sets the tone for the BAR Strategic Planning Workshop held in San Fabian, Pangasinan, while Dr. Johnny Sangalang (standing) suggests strategic areas for implementation.

To look for strategic areas where BAR can make a difference is the main premise of Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce's message for the staff as they geared on for their first strategic planning workshop for the year. The planning workshop was held at San Fabian Resort in Pangasinan, 2-4 February 2002. This is a follow-up to the October planning workshop held last year at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

He said that, as the Bureau plays a very important role in leading the R&D system of the country, there is a tremendous request for BAR to commit and attend to various issues and problems straight away. Given the possible impact of the unstable global economy and the new priorities of the government, immediate response is inevitable. And there's no better way to start than by looking into the strategic areas where the Bureau can make a

difference within the framework of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) to make the system more efficient and relevant to our clients. He further said that, strategic planning can only come about with a good policy framework that involves precision of statement and appropriateness of target. A good policy framework makes up a well-defined strategic plan which in the end, makes a well-crafted operational plan.

Having this basic premise laid out, the participants reflected on the Bureau's mandate, vision, and mission to be able to identify courses of action and strategies that would conform to its goals and objectives. The output during the October workshop was reviewed and served as take-off point for the second workshop. Also, it was further reviewed and discussed to guide in crafting the performance measures for FY 2002 along with the approved vision, mission, and goals.

To enjoin wide participation

among staff, the workshop made use of participatory approach using group discussion, open-forum, workshop, and plenary sessions. Facilitating the discussion was Dr. Jesus C. Fernandez of the SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA). This activity was headed by the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) of BAR.

Highlights of the workshop

Some refinements and improvements

One of the tasks was to review and refine the future challenges and opportunities that serve as the framework for the strategic planning.

see BAR crafts, page 5

INSIDE. ➡

National Team Leaders plan for their network...page 3

LSU experts lecture on OFR for EV aggie researchers...page 4

BAR aids CENVIARC renovate its research facilities...page 4

BAR, ICLARM to explore new fishery projects...page 6

DA biotech committee tackles agenda...page 6

Rural Diversification Program provides new opportunities in agriculture...page 7

BAR has new organizational set-up for 2002...page 8

Strategic planning: A fulfilling mental exercise

Strategic planning is hot. Hot, in the sense that it is the "in" thing among institutions as they go about charting what they want to do for the year, or for the next two to five years. Before, when we planned for a period longer than two years, we called it a medium term or long range plan. Of course, it describes the time frame and not the process nor the type of plan being made. The term 'strategic' connotes a position of advantage where the details are set, such that one can not go wrong in attaining a goal.

Dan Looker, an American business editor, defines strategic planning as a powerful remedy that could keep a business from slipping into a deadly decline. It is an invigorating challenge. It is an organized way of looking at the competitiveness of the business and the direction the institution is going.

I taught this course for two semesters but teaching and actually doing the planning are two different things. There are nuances that come to full meaning as soon as you dip your fingers into the activity itself. After having been involved in BAR's strategic planning exercise, I can now appreciate the concepts of bottom-up approach, internalization and sense of ownership which were just vague principles in my management classes. They have become vivid

and alive as if to tell me that what we did gave the concepts flesh and substance so that next time I teach the course, I could be more down-to-earth. Added to that is the unity or oneness of diverse personalities and specializations working toward one common goal, disagreements to final agreements, and the strategic mindset of a leader who has the vision and who knows what he wants. He is firm and unwavering.

Complementing the strategic planning exercise is strategic leadership where the man at the helm has a clear vision for the institution, appropriates and utilizes efficiently and effectively its resources and attains the goals set within the specified period of time. Goals are not static. They can be changed if there is a need for it.

BAR has had two strategic planning exercises, the first one at PhilRice, Nueva Ecija with the Director steering and facilitating the activity. It was just the start and we already know that it was really a difficult activity. Something must be squeezed out from the brain to be expressed in a precise language to leave no room for any other interpretation. From that workshop, I learned the wisdom of conducting an out-of-town workshop where there are no disturbances from phones, guests, etc. And if some expected a respite from the drab office work, then they were frustrated for it was work, work, and work.

The second exercise was conducted in a beach resort at San Fabian, Pangasinan. The beach resort thing was a

euphemistic way of defining a mind jogging exercise. With a facilitator from SEARCA and the Director serving as severe critic to every idea or sentence, the groups worked feverishly to catch up with the output presentation. It was marathon work yet with a satisfactory output which is not yet final! The mind was so tired that it substituted **harmoniously** with **hormoneously** and the tongue too twisted to pronounce **consexual** instead of **contextual**.

If one is not brainy enough for such an exercise, how can the group come out with an output under time pressure? My mind wanders to the government agencies that hire staff on the basis of recommendations from prominent figures. And this leads me to think further that for a government agency to deliver, it must have the right people and enough budget for it to be able to do the things it is mandated to do.

When all is said and done, we can heave a sigh of relief (in the meantime) and say we have done the right thing besides doing things right ■ (VAD)

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National Programs

National Team Leaders plan for their network

(first of five parts)

The 21 RDE networks are organized into discipline-based and commodity based categories. There are research networks for major agricultural commodities: rice, corn, coconut, fruits, vegetable, ornamentals, legumes, plantation crops, rootcrops, fiber, capture fisheries, aquaculture, and livestock and poultry. There are also networks for disciplines that cut across these commodities. The discipline-based networks are: biotechnology; postharvest, food science and nutrition; soil and water; irrigation and drainage; agricultural engineering; social science and policy; and crop protection.

Providing leadership in planning and orchestrating of research programs, and delegating and monitoring research efforts and functions are the team leaders for each network, who are called NTLs or National Team Leaders.

The NTLs are known for their involvement in various researches—both in the implementation and management aspects—and for their outstanding accomplishments in their field of expertise.

These qualifications are necessary because managing a network is a big responsibility. As network leaders, they guide the implementation and direction of research and development efforts in specific crops and disciplines in agriculture and fisheries—never forgetting that the most important component of agricultural research is the people. The crops, the technologies are but ways and means for farmers to improve their lives.

Three years after the grueling work of networking and putting the pieces of agricultural research together, we asked the NTLs what their plans are, what goals they hope to achieve and what they think are the challenges that lie ahead. Here are what they have to say:

Dr. Rodel Maghirang
NTL for Vegetable RDE Network

We will draft the Strategic Plan for Vegetable National R&D for 2010-2020 and ensure that the priorities,

programs, opportunities and threats we have identified reflect the real situation of the vegetable farmers and the vegetable industry. With this, we will make consultation with vegetable farmers a regular activity so that we can constantly check whether our programs are appropriate and if we have neglected some areas.

This year, our researches will be on vegetable crops where the private sector has less involvement to balance the researches being conducted. We will also strive to make our programs complementary.

On the average, the vegetable network has 30 projects. We hope our funds will allow us to visit all of these at least twice a year so that we keep track of the problematic aspects of the industry and what we can do to help. We also hope to widen and strengthen our collaboration with international agriculture centers involved in vegetable research.

I hope researchers will be trained on research management because researchers are not automatically research managers. Funds are all right but a little flexibility would help because there are some equipment that need to be bought and travel that need to be done but we were not able to include these in our budget.

Dr. Artemio Salazar
NTL for Corn RDE Network

For 2002, we intend to download all technologies generated by the network for the last three years. We can say with confidence that these technologies are specific to the place where it will be used and the people who will use them. In fact, through our Farmer-Scientist Program we were able to discover that we can teach the farmers how to help themselves and that they are effective transmitters of new technologies.

Related to this is our view that we can mobilize the stakeholders in solving problems that they encounter. Thus, we looked at the community as a whole and have involved the LGU in clarifying both the problems and solutions of the corn farmers. We were able to do this in Mindoro and Ilocos Norte and we hope we can do this in



Clockwise: Drs. Rodel Maghirang, Eliseo Cadapan, Artemio Salazar and Enrico Supangco

other corn-producing communities.

We will finish our high impact projects, improve our technology dissemination mechanisms and start 18 new projects. Our long term goal is to improve and develop our technologies. This is the only way we can produce corn at six tons per hectare and earn P6,000 instead of just three tons per hectare for P3,000. We want the farmers to be productive not only in terms of yield, but also in terms of profit.

Right now, the R&D capability is very lopsided, in favor only to very few SUCs because these are where the experts are based. Thus, we need to build capabilities along with our efforts to improve the corn industry and involve the corn-farmers in doing this.

In administrative matters, I hope we can minimize, if not avoid, delayed release of funds because it is important for RDE networks to mean what they say because we are dealing with a lot of people.

We still have a long way to go. There is a need for a cohesive policy for the different components of agriculture. It is difficult to improve the whole agriculture situation if everybody is doing his own thing.

Dr. Enrico Supangco
NTL for Livestock and Poultry

Our goal is to develop a competitive and sustainable livestock and poultry industries by improving

see National, page 4

LSU experts lecture on OFR for EV aggie researchers

As part of Leyte State University's (LSU) commitment to the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), LSU fielded some of its experts as lecturers in the training on "On-Farm Research (OFR) Implementation" held at the Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Center (RIARC) in Balinsasayao, Abuyog, Leyte. More than 20 agricultural researchers from the six provinces of Eastern Visayas participated in the 2-week training-workshop.

OFR is an applied research used and promoted by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in its development program entitled "Accelerating Technology Transfer in Agriculture and Fisheries". It is conducted in farmers' field and

managed by the farmers themselves for them to compare their practices with new technologies. It aims to develop practical solutions that are responsive to the needs of the users, accelerate technology transfer from research station to farming/fishing communities, shorten the time from technology development to technology adoption, and provide mechanism for effective interface between research and extension.

With support from BAR, the training was conceptualised in consonance with Section 92 of AFMA's implementing rules and regulations (IRR), which mandates the DA to assist the local government units (LGUs) in improving effectiveness in their agricultural endeavors. The training was made possible through the concerted efforts of the LGUs, DA-

RIARCs, and the Provincial Technological Institutes for Agriculture and Fisheries (PTIAF), which include the state colleges and universities (SCUs).

During the opening program, Mr. Rufino Ayaso III, manager of Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (EVIARC), revealed that the training sought to equip the researchers with OFR concepts and principles as operationalized in the field, and orient them on the new modality in conducting R&D/E. Meanwhile, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, LSU director of research, reiterated the University's commitment to support DA-RFU and LGUs in implementing OFR. He said that LSU, as the regional SCU for Region 8, is very much willing to extend technical assistance to this kind of training. Likewise, he shared with the participants some of the strengths and weaknesses of participatory rural appraisal (PRA), which he considers an important tool in conducting OFR. He said, "PRA is an approach which is handy and easy to implement, yet its utilization and effectiveness largely depends on the researchers." He also urged the researchers to immerse themselves in the community for them to understand what is really happening in the area. Dr. Bacusmo expressed optimism for the program's success because of his confidence in the participant's skills, experience, and dedication in the conduct of PRA.

In his message, Dr. Cirilio R. Balagapo Jr., DA-RFU 8 regional technical director for Policy, Planning and R&D, explained the concepts of total technology, total farm, total family, and total community in conducting OFR.

The resource persons for the training came from LSU, EVIARC, LGU-Leyte, and the Farming Systems Research and Resources Institute (FSSRI) of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB).
(contributed by Jesus Freddy M. Baldos, writer, PICRO-LSU)

NTLs...

productivity, production efficiency and product quality through basic and applied research and extension strategies.

How do we plan to achieve these?

We have about eight high-impact projects that started two years ago dealing with reproductive technologies, strategic feeding for beef-cattle, biotechnology researches on feed supplements, and probiotics.

For this year, we only have two new projects that deal with policy on livestock breeding and implications of goat and sheep production. We hope we can fund the evaluation of different cross breeds across species so we will have the basis for coming up with a Philippine breed. We are also planning to produce herbal medicines for livestock to substitute the imported ones that we use.

We will synchronize all the researches on livestock industry. For the next five years, we focus on health, breeding and management aspects of the industry. The industry needs a lot of support so that it can realize its potentials.

Dr. Eliseo Cadapan

NTL for Crop Protection

This year is slated for evaluation of all on-going projects and completion of a five-year strategic plan for the Crop Protection RDE Network. We also plan to do commercial feasibility studies on all the technologies that we have generated. We hope to form partnerships with private sectors to do the studies. We are also working on interphasing with other networks so that our projects are integrated and complementary.

We want to minimize the time lag between the generation of technologies and the dissemination of these to farmers. To do this, we hope we can take part in the implementation of regional projects so that some of our basic researches are conducted in the farms already. We also plan to work closely with provincial government units, local government units, municipal agriculturists, farmer-cooperatives and organizations for a more efficient diffusion of information, "*para yung kailangang gamitin, magamit na, yung kailangang matesting, matesting na.*" (Ma. Rowena S.A. Briones)

(To be continued next issue)

BAR crafts...

Among the challenges and opportunities identified are: population and food security, productivity and income, environmental quality, globalization, technology and discovery, education and information, and water.

Realizing these challenges, the participants identified the general guiding principles that help the organization build their core values. Six guiding principles were identified: customer service, teamwork, work excellence, fiscal responsibility, resource stewardship, and innovation. Through a long course of discussion, participants defined two types of vision: a shared vision with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the other is specific to the Bureau. The new shared vision for DA reads, "A transformed technology-based rural economy characterized by empowered rural communities, high productivity and income, global competitiveness, sustainable development, and social equity." Meanwhile, the participants settled to retain the Bureau's vision, which is, "An assured future for the Filipino people through research excellence in agriculture and fisheries."

To provide specific direction and focus, the participants felt the need to refine the mission. They agreed that the mission must be brief but encompasses the whole function and role of BAR in R&D. The new mission statement reads, "Our business is agriculture and fisheries research and development. We coordinate, fund, and catalyze research, develop partnerships and institutional capabilities, manage knowledge and information, and advocate policies towards improved governance and progressive agriculture and fisheries."

Five goals were identified, each representing the important task of the Bureau in the system. These are: 1) Consolidating and strengthening the R&D system; 2) Fund management; 3) Strengthened capacity towards responsive R&D; 4) Increased access to knowledge in R&D; and 5) Dynamic formulation and efficient implementation of an integrated agenda and program for

agriculture and fisheries at both the national and regional levels.

Divisional/Unit performance measures

Another major task during the workshop was the evaluation and review of the performance measures for 2002.

For the National Programs Division (NPD), among the issues and concerns that need to be addressed are: 1) bring the budget to the 1999 level and shift the amount to other divisions like the Regional Programs Division (RPD) and the Institutional Development Division (IDD); 2) lay down the per diem policy for BAR in consultation with Financial Management Division (FMD); 3) review the terms of reference of the National Team Leaders and the necessity of drafting a Memorandum of Agreement that deals on this matter; 4) make an inventory of budget allocated to different networks from 1999 to the latest as part of an investment report; and 5) draft a letter that requests SCUs and DOST to locate their expenditures within the context of NIRDEAP since 1999 as part of the government investment report to be submitted to CERDAF.

Meanwhile, RPD was to prioritize the operation of the zonal centers and allot more money for on-farm programs as well as delineate budget allocation for agriculture and fisheries activities that conform with policy pronouncement. Another important aspect discussed was to plan the budget according to the commodity priorities of the regions to be able to organize and plan activities of the concerned sectors at the regional level.

IDD needs to immediately address the following: 1) generate a manual that contains a standard format or guidelines on strategic planning; 2) review the priority regions for facilities development; and 3) draft a working paper that stipulates allocation of yearly grant to conferred DA-scientists including other benefits and their corresponding salary increment.

see BAR crafts, page 8

Institutional Development

BAR aids CENVIARC renovate its research facilities

Cognizant of the importance of a conducive atmosphere in research, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) recently awarded a P200,000 Institutional Development Grant (IDG) to the Central Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CENVIARC) to renovate its research farmhouse at the Mompeller Farmer-Scientist Research Center in Argao, Cebu.

The grant will be used to convert the seven-year-old research farmhouse made of nipa and bamboo into a concrete one-story building with functional lecture room and small storage facility.

Upon its construction in 1994, the research farmhouse has been used to house technical training and research for our marginalized corn farmers. According to CENVIARC Manager Tomasita Cadungog, there is an urgency to improve the existing condition of the farmhouse as this can no longer be used as "functional" training center. Also, the number of corn farmers who want to be engaged in corn research is remarkably increasing.

The research farmhouse is supposed to serve as the "power center" of the Corn-based Farmer-Scientists Training Program (FSTP). The program was designed to increase the annual average yield of corn by developing and applying modern methods of corn farming, thus increasing the income of corn farmers.

At present, the FSTP farmers who were trained on new corn farming methods are now producing 3-6 tons of corn per hectare in one cropping season. Since the program posed a remarkable progress, regional extension personnel are planning to expand the program in other corn-growing areas of Bicol, Leyte, Cotabato, and Davao. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

BAR, ICLARM to explore new fishery projects

The recent visit of International Center for Living and Aquatic Resources and Management (ICLARM) Director General Meryl J. Williams to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) sparked hope for the country's diminishing fishery and aquatic resources.

"Now is high time for us to cooperate in exploring new fishery projects that will focus on technology development and saving biodiversity," emphasized Director General Meryl J. Williams in a two-hour briefing held at CERDAF

Boardroom, ATI Bldg., Quezon City.

BAR Director Eliseo R. Ponce took the challenge by proposing that BAR and ICLARM work together and start a small fishery project in support to this year's R&D theme which is "New Science for Food and Poverty Alleviation." He added that ICLARM can perform a strong role by providing technical support and expertise in terms of project formulation and helping in the identification of priority areas in fishery research.

"It is important that all the

key players in fishery research under the Department of Agriculture come together for the immediate establishment of the project," he stressed.

Dr. Ponce proposed that the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), spearhead the implementation of the project. Being a newly created research body, Dr. Ponce advised that NFRDI seek technical assistance from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in terms of protocols used in project planning and formulation. He underscored the need to strengthen the Institute's manpower capabilities to ensure the smooth operationalization of the project.

Since the forthcoming project would entail a lot of cooperative efforts, Ms. Williams suggested that BAR organize a consultative workshop among representatives from ICLARM and other national agencies involved in fishery research.

To date, the ICLARM is actively working with other national research centers such as the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCMARD) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It has six on-going fishery research projects, most of which are based in the Southern part of the country.

The ICLARM, a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), is mandated to conduct, stimulate and accelerate research on all aspects of fisheries and other living aquatic resources. The Institute's major goal is to conduct cooperative research with institutions in developing countries in areas of inland aquatic and marine systems.

Ms. Williams was accompanied by Dr. Modadugu V. Guptha, ICLARM director for International Relations, Research and Coordination.

Also present during the briefing were: National Programs Division (NPD) Head Dr. Teodoro Solsoloy, NPD Assistant Head Agnes Sastrillo, and the Bureau's Regional Technical Advisers. (Mary Charlotte O. Fresco)

DA biotech committee tackles agenda

Not dampened by recent anti-Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) rallies of farmer organizations and religious groups in several parts of the country, the Philippine Agricultural and Fisheries Biotechnology Program (DA Biotech Program) Steering Committee presented a bold biotech agenda for 2002 to 2006 on 01 February 2002 at the Lecture Room of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The Committee discussed five key areas in the biotech agenda: policy, applied biotechnology research, institutional capacity enhancement, information, education and communication, and its five-year budget.

For the first agendum, the Committee plan to develop a sound policy framework, guidelines, systems and procedures for agribiotechnology research, testing, and commercialization in consultation with local consumers,

scientists/researchers, policy makers, local government, businessmen and farmers/fisherfolk.

Next on its agenda is strengthening the capacity of government institutions involved in risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication of agribiotechnologies and their products. The targets include: modern biotech laboratories, a manual on systems, procedures and standards for international accreditation, and technical training on risk assessment, risk management and risk communication of agribiotechnology for regulatory agency personnel, policy makers and members of the national biotech network.

Third is support to applied biotech R and D projects that can improve agriculture and fisheries productivity. Researches on BT corn, DNA vaccine on classical swine fever, transgenic rice, antifungal banana, seed GMO testing, and gene testing will be validated and tested again in the laboratories and in farmers' fields.

To create public awareness and acceptance of

see DA, page 7

Rural Diversification Program provides new opportunities in agriculture

Mang Peping hopes that there are still extra bananas left for the family. He visited the two *saba* plants he planted a year ago to see if he can already harvest their fruits. Mang Peping is a subsistence farmer who lives in the upland area. His primary source of income is backyard farming, and his small farm consists of 12 banana trees. He has chosen to cultivate bananas because it is "plant, forget and harvest" crop. It also provides food for his family in times of typhoons and droughts.

Meanwhile, tilapia farming is the source of livelihood for Manang Minda since 1996. She distributes live tilapia to the local vendors in the nearby market. Manang Minda is a medium scale, progressive farmer who owns and operates a 700-square meter tilapia farm. Sales and profits from the tilapia business has been fluctuating over the last three months. Manang Minda's entrepreneurial instincts told her to improve her production and marketing strategies.

The cases of Mang Peping, the subsistence farmer and Manang Minda, the progressive farmer clearly illustrate the challenges our farmers face today - low income due to poor farm yields, weak marketing strategies, and lack of technical know-how in product processing. Thus, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) initiated a program that aims to address the problems of our local farmers in production, marketing, and value adding activities such as processing.

The **Rural Diversification Program** aims to introduce and improve diversified farming systems in regions where poverty is widespread. To diversify is to discover or identify new and exciting opportunities in agriculture. A coconut farmer may opt for

intercropping - that means planting other crops under the coconut trees in the farm, and raise a few chickens and ducks at the same time. Similarly, a rice farmer can put up a small pond in his farm where he can grow tilapia.

Subsistence and progressive farmers are the main beneficiaries of the diversification program. Subsistence farmers will be supported based on their technology needs in farming activities. Assistance, in the form of technology intervention, will be continuously given to them until they are ready to take-off from the subsistence level. On the other hand, progressive farmers will be encouraged in their marketing and processing ventures by providing them access to capital through micro financing.

Selected areas in Regions 6, 8, and 10 are the proposed pilot sites for the program. The areas will be selected based on their major



cropping patterns and exposure to adverse weather conditions such as drought and typhoons. Interventions in these areas will be based primarily on the immediate needs of the farmers.

The Rural Diversification Program is an additional effort of the Department of Agriculture to fight poverty in the rural areas. It shall complement other on-going projects in the target regions. The program teaches the farmers to identify profitable opportunities in diversification and enhance the skills of progressive farmers to go into other entrepreneurial activities. (*Carmela B. Brion*)

DA...

agribiotechnologies, the Committee plans to launch a DA biotech website, establish a Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Biotech Information and Communication Office, conduct information campaigns, knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) studies, and conduct seminars or fora.

The DA Biotech Committee is composed of: Dr. Eliseo Ponce (Bureau of Agricultural Research), Dr. Saturnina Halos (Bureau of

Agricultural Research), Dr. Patricio Faylon (PCARRD), Dr. Herminia Francisco, Dr. Mae Mendoza, Fr. Noli Alparce, Dr. Perla Santos-Ocampo (NAST), Dr. Wilfredo David (UP Los Baños), Dr. Emerlindo Roman (UP Diliman), Dr. Benigno Pecson (BAPI), Dr. Rafael Guerrero (PCAMRRD), Ms. Dahlia Non (farmer representative), Mr. Nicanor Mangiduyos (farmer representative), and DA Undersecretary for Policy Planning, Research and Regulation Segfredo Serrano (Chair). (*Junelyn S. de la Rosa*)

DA bares solution to flood problem in Davao, Agusan
<http://www.da.gov.ph>

Women farmers help scientists increase Mali's groundnut crop
<http://www.futureharvest.org>

RP inks P1.75-B Ilocos irrigation project with China
<http://www.da.gov.ph>

Cadang-cadang contamination in unprocessed coconut export products determined
<http://www.pcarrd.dost.gov.ph>

Long shelf-life papaya to increase RP's exports
<http://www.pcarrd.dost.gov.ph>

BAR crafts...

For the Knowledge Products and Services Division (KPSD), a review of the list of scientific societies is needed for the granting of scientific publication grants and assistance for meetings, choosing only those that are relevant to the Bureau. Also, to provide the zonals (i.e. Regions 2, 8 and 10) with basic reference materials in building and enhancing their knowledge management capability.

There is an urgent need for the Information Communication and Technology Division (ICTD) to aggressively market BAR's website for the Bureau to be known not only in the country but abroad as well. To complement this, the Public Affairs, International Relations and Communications Division (PAIRCD) must provide a total image building plan for BAR. On the other hand, the Governance and Impact Evaluation Division (GIED) was tasked to process and provide standard output indicators for meetings, seminars and workshops. For the Project Development Unit (PDU) it must ensure that commissioned studies are implemented by accredited consulting firm, universities or agencies and not just by NGOs. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

BAR has new org'l set-up for 2002

The year 2002 is a period of change for the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR). Given the rapidly evolving agriculture and fishery environment and the challenge posed to it by globalization, productivity and sustainability, BAR is constantly improving its structure to make its service more efficient and relevant to farmers, fishers and researchers around the country.

This year, BAR has redefined and realigned its functional organization with the employment of additional personnel from premiere state colleges and universities (SCUs) in the country, particularly the University of the Philippines, and other agencies, and staff reassignment. Likewise, BAR has renamed some of its existing units as well as added new ones.

BAR Administrative Head Hamlet Dala justifies the need for the restructuring, saying that for a dynamic organization such as BAR, periodic staff reassignments and organizational changes are inevitable. According to Mr. Dala, this will prevent boredom and stagnation that often results from being assigned to a particular job for a long period of time. "This is a general principle in human resource development...it is always good that you are able to at least expose your people to other fields apart from those that they are already exercising," he added.

Two divisions that underwent major changes are the Public and International Relations and Communications Division (PIRCD) and the Governance, Impact and Evaluation Division (GIED). Formerly Public and International Relations

Division, PIRCD now has the important mandate of communication. "Every modern organization has a soul, and that soul is communication," Mr. Dala explains. Likewise, GIED which was formerly Impact Evaluation and Policy Division, also has the additional mandate of governance. "When you talk about impact evaluation of our projects and activities, you talk about governance. It (governance) encompasses everything," Mr. Dala says.

According to Mr. Dala, the organizational restructuring is a result of a rigorous process of analyzing the current set-up. "This was supposed to be implemented as early as December last year, but because of certain developments and the intent of really getting the best people to handle the organization's units, it really took time for the management to finalize the assignments," Mr. Dala adds.

The following are the heads of BAR's divisions and units: Nicomedes Eleazar (Asst. Director for Research Support Services), Reynaldo Comia (PIRCD), Lina Dimal (Budgeting Unit), Julieta Yonson (Internal Control Unit), Braulio Tamayo (Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Unit), Winston Tabada (Information, Communication and Technology Division), Imelda Balano (Program Development Unit), Teodoro Solsoloy (National Programs Division), Rustico David (Regional Programs Division), Juanito Sangalang (GIED), Rolando Labios (Institutional Development Division), Hospicio Natural, Jr. (Knowledge Products and Services Division), Josefina Lantican (Accounting Division), and Hamlet Dala (Administrative Division). (Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)

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BAR focuses on on-farm-research

With the Bureau of Agricultural Research focus on on-farm research (OFR), the farmers will soon have more access to modern agriculture and fisheries technologies and other benefits of research.

According to Dr. Rustico David, regional programs division head, all regions have started the first and most critical activity of the OFR Program which is the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to assess the actual technological needs and priorities of farming and fishing communities.

"In fact, some regions particularly Regions V, VII and X, to name a few, have already submitted their PRA reports including sites where the OFR are to be piloted," Dr. David elaborates. "These reports are critical inputs in drafting the OFR technical and operational plan," he adds.

Ultimately, the OFR Program is expected to hasten the total farm



productivity and income of farmers in the 15 regions, thus accelerating the promotion of technology to farming and fishing communities. "It (OFR) will basically showcase the generated technologies in the farmers' fields, in cooperation with the local government units (LGUs)," Dr. David explains.

Dr. David emphasized the important role that LGUs play in the OFR program implementation. "LGUs are the frontliners in terms of project implementation. The Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs) provide technical support or assistance with the help of the Regional Technical Advisers, and BAR provides the funds and the technical experts to advise the regions," Dr. David further explains.

For this year, each RIARC will be given a budget of P1 million except for Regions II and VI with P1.5 million each. Dr. David pointed out that the RIARCs are given the flexibility to program the additional amount for OFR out of their total grant for institutional development. This is to fulfil their commitments to LGUs since the available resources cannot support the establishment and implementation of the OFR program in every congressional district of the concerned regions.

Aside from the 15 RIARCs, two Regional Integrated Fisheries Research Centers (RIFRCs), specifically Region VI and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will also be involved in the OFR.

A total of P33.893 million was allocated for the implementation of the OFR Program. Out of this amount, P17.893 and P12.5 million were granted for CY 2001 and 2002, respectively, to the DA-Regional Field Units and LGUs.

Last year, the P9.893 million OFR budget for 10 corn-growing regions was sourced out from the *Ginintuang Masaganang Ani* Corn Program and was sourced through BAR. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuyan)

Grant establishes Cordillera agri'l techno center

Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Eliseo Ponce recently met with key officials of the Cordillera Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CIARC) and the Benguet State University (BSU) to discuss major investment projects in the region. The meeting was held at Reneca Hotel, Baguio City, 21 February 2002.

BSU President Cipriano Consolacion, CIARC Manager Magdalena Wanawan, DA Regional Executive Director Elizabeth Verzola, and BAR-Institutional Development

Division (IDD) Head Rolando Labios, and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) OIC Evelyn Esquejo were among those present in the meeting.

The participants discussed the Bureau's P4.5 million grant to establish the Cordillera Agricultural Technology Center.

The Center is a multi-purpose facility housing a knowledge center, scientific library, laboratories, and audio-visual facilities. It will showcase relevant agricultural

see Grant, page 8

INSIDE... ↗

NTLs start 1st quarter mtg for 2002...page 3

NTLs plan for the network...page 3

CPAR takes centerstage ...page 4

E.O. No. 36 reorganizes admin ...page 4

DA tries 50:50 scheme for seeds...page 5

DA lifts ban on UK pork imports...page 5

10 ASEAN NARS decide ...page 6

Bait traps to control mango fruitfly ...page 7

Some dynamics of agricultural research

The term research conjures up a highly specialized activity done by specially-trained individuals possessing characteristics uncommon to everyone, even among professionals. There is the stoic discipline that goes with accuracy, truth, precision, persistence, honesty, and even patience. Researchers and scientists are made of this stuff. Sometimes these characteristics extend to their personal life.

I remember the first time I joined a research institution with very young, intelligent, and idealistic researchers, fresh from college (the premier university in the country) and wanting to make a name or really to help the small farmers, who are considered disadvantaged in society. During pay days, we, from the training/communication department and those from the administrative, would line up at the cashier's booth, breezily get our pay envelopes, some not even counting what is inside, say our thanks, and out. If there was a mistake in the amount, a 10 or 25 centavos, we did not care and said, it was okay, smiling. But if there were researchers ahead of us, then we had to wait for they meticulously counted their money and grumbled if there was a mistake, as if the mistake had been intentional. Some were too rigid and needed humanizing. But all together we saluted them for their precision and accuracy.

Researchers can't go wrong with numbers. There is no room for error and the level of significance must be high. Or else, they have to do their work again. Their hypotheses have to be proven. Their findings may either be positive or negative, but they have to make a conclusion based on hard facts and evidences. Research is a rigorous undertaking.

One can imagine how scientists and researchers many decades ago work on their data minus the calculators and computers we

have today. And how did they generate their data without the facilities, equipment, processes, and new methodologies?

To them, there is no night or day. If it is at midnight that data are to be gathered, then the researcher has to go to his lab. When I was working for my graduate programs, I envied my housemates everytime they get out at night to gather data in their labs and not coming home anymore till morning. I thought it was a respite for them from classroom work and reports. But feeling refreshed from a restful night, I was thankful that I am in the social sciences and there was no need for me to get out at night or to sleep somewhere else.

Our researchers, who studied the curing of tobacco, had to sleep beside the curing barn to monitor the barn's temperature the whole night. Those who studied the nocturnal behavior of insects had to be at the field at night crouching among plants, while those studying agronomic characteristics of plants were under the scorching glare of the sun, suffocated by the pungent smell of loose earth and brushed by gummy and dusty leaves. All for research's sake. Yet they seemed to enjoy their work.

One researcher who had won awards for her studies sums up her affinity with her work. She says that doing research makes her alive, proving her theories and discovering, and can not think of doing any other thing in her life. What makes it more exciting are the serendipities in science.

The people in science make up just one of the dynamics. How about those whom science is for? Of course, the world is the playing field and humanity is the ultimate beneficiary. But there are specific beneficiaries of the fruits of science. Is it the rice farmer? The coconut farmer, the poultry raiser, the prawn farmer, or the tilapia grower? Each one is uniquely different from the other and this uniqueness is a consideration as the researcher conceptualizes a study that would try to answer the needs and problems of that particular client. A customized solution? But that is easier said than done. (to be continued) ■ VAD

NTLs...

quality and marketability of the products.

These plans are based on our network's thrusts: to achieve food security; improve the quality of our products; open new market; introduce novel products and technologies; and promote our ethnic products. The novel technologies have to go from local, all the way to the international market.

We want to realize our vision of having adequate, safe and nutritious food at all times, for all people. This commitment is coupled with creating marketing opportunities for our producers. But before we can achieve this, we face the daunting task of encouraging our scientists to look into the more basic aspects of research such as technology development—those scientific endeavors that are innovative and creative.

We have to force the issue of complementation among us and across institutions-- that we really have to work harder and work together. One network or one institution cannot do it alone.

We have to come up with a system that goes beyond individual programs. We should have an overarching system or mechanism within the network for complementation and synergy. We have to interact and go beyond politics, prejudices and personalities.

Dr. Arsenio Resurreccion

Agricultural Engineering RDE Network

We are preparing the output

see NTLs, page 6

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National Programs

National team leaders plan for the RDE network

(second of a series)

The team leaders of research, development and extension (RDE) networks for each commodity and discipline plan and orchestrate research programs, and delegate and monitor research efforts and functions.

This is the second of a five-part article on the plans, goals and challenges faced by the national team leaders of the 21 RDE networks. This article is culled from my interviews with them.

Dr. Concepcion Lizada

Postharvest, Food Science and Nutrition RDE Network

I had divided the network into

three institution-based groups: postharvest, based at the Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension; food science at UP Diliman; and nutrition at the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

These clusters will facilitate the institutionalization of a formal mechanism for peer review and consultation with the industry. Reviews and consultations will ensure that our projects are strategic and streamlined in view of our limited funds and the need of the agricultural industry to sustain marketing opportunities.

We will work hard to realize the rationalization and

complementation of the projects so that they will have strong impact and we can save a lot resources. We hope we can facilitate the complementation of projects across networks and we can create an environment for healthy competition in coming up with projects that will be funded. It has to start with us before we can ask other institutions to join us in our efforts to have excellent and synchronized programs.

The network will focus on projects on secondary processing and product diversification. Since we are competing head on with foreign producers, we have to widen the range of consumers that our agricultural products can target and lengthen the market period of these products. We have to address the issue of a corresponding market for our products in the future.

In the case of mango, planters in Mindanao worry that in five to ten years, they will produce more than the market demand. We are not certain if the market potential for mango will be realized.

We will also have projects on the nutritional content of our agricultural products, such as their antioxidant properties, because this is a very good marketing tool. We want to lessen, if not eliminate, pesticide residues and microorganism contamination to assure consumers that our agricultural products are safe, thus, encourage them to buy more and buy more often.

This has implication to our relationship with other networks. We have to inter-phase with commodity networks and encourage them to focus on secondary processing and marketing aspects of the commodity. There should be a very strong linkage between production and marketing to assure the

see NTLs, page 2



LIZADA



RESURRECCION



ENICOLA

NTLs hold 1st quarter meeting for 2002

Team leaders of the 21 national RDE networks will hold their 1st quarter meeting for 2002 on March 7-8 at Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite to facilitate proper coordination and management of national R&D programs and networking activities.

This event is the first in a series of meetings sponsored by the Bureau of Agricultural Research every year. It is part of the continuous and regular consultation activities held with the different commodity- and discipline-based networks, Department of Agriculture bureaus and attached agencies, and state colleges and universities.

The participants will include in their agenda matters regarding the assessment of the various networks' performances, resources allocation and research prioritization of networks.

According to the National Programs Division (NPD) of BAR, several new propositions will be made to improve network performance.

Specifically, BAR will propose a set of minimum requirements that need to be met to ensure that the networks perform

according to their terms of references.

Likewise, a draft criteria for evaluating the networks' performances will be presented. The criteria will be the bases for selecting the best performing R&D network and team leader at the end of the year.

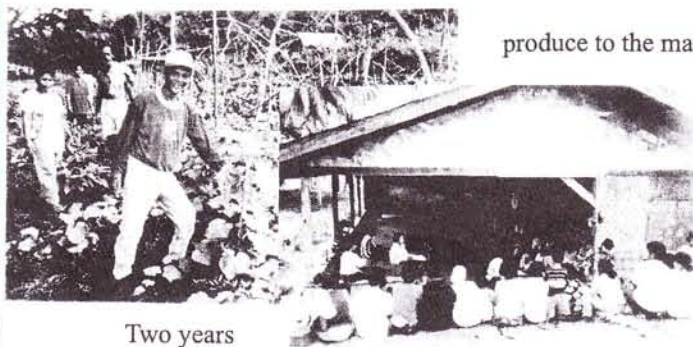
In addition, guidelines on termination of RDE projects will also be proposed. According to NPD, this will prevent the continuation of projects that have already stagnated and have not met their targeted set of outputs. With these guidelines, BAR can ensure its stakeholders that only performing and quality projects are undertaken, and allowed to continue.

A possible integration of several networks under specific sectors is also being considered. This will enable the networks to more effectively manage their budget, resources and manpower.

Other matters to be discussed include knowledge products and research and extension linkage, the networks' web status, and the National R&D System for Agriculture and Fisheries' online promotion. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayan)

CPAR takes centerstage; Bugwak moves forward

by Mary Charlotte O. Fresco



Two years ago, poverty and low farm productivity had been the distinguishing features of Brgy. Bugwak. But with the inception of the Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) in 1998, a program institutionalized by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), the standard of living of the community began to change.

Then

Located approximately 6.5 kms away from the center of Danggagan, Bukidnon, Barangay "Bugwak" is composed of 105 households whose lone source of income is corn and vegetables farming. Majority of the population were migrants from Cebu and Bohol. The area is characterized by flat, rolling, and hilly terrain, and has a clay loam type of soil. The area is called "Bugwak" (*bulwak* in Tagalog means gushes out) because it is blessed with abundant free flowing water that is available even during the dry season.

Since there were no research and extension services in the area, farmers were dependent on commercial traders for their farm inputs and other agricultural needs that normally commanded high price.

Considering the lack of public transport and poor road conditions, (as the area could only be reached through motorcycle and private haulers), bringing their farm

produce to the market was one of their major problems.

The entry of CPAR

Cognizant of the pivotal role of research, development and extension

(RDE) in the improvement of rural communities, BAR organized a CPAR in Region X in August 1998, with Brgy. Bugwak as the pilot area. The project was dubbed "Farmer-led Integrated Participatory R&D in Key Corn Areas."

With the assistance of the Local Government Unit (LGU) and the extension personnel, the community was able to craft its development plan. Farmers were involved in trainings on institutional development, crops and livestock production and management, and were provided with refresher course on coop pre-membership education seminar and values re-orientation for the purpose of revitalizing their existing cooperative.

Barangay residents identified and formulated various projects. Among the research projects they identified were corn techno demo project, improvement of livestock through artificial insemination and natural breeding.

With technical knowledge learned from research and extension personnel, farmers conducted trials on modern ways to raise swine, kabir chicken, and quails.

Farmers also attended the farmers' field school on vegetable production as this provided them substantial knowledge and experience to formulate new strategies for the implementation of these projects.

see CPAR, page 5

ANNOUNCEMENT

E.O. No. 36 reorganizes admin regions in Mindanao

To facilitate the easy supervision of local governments and the administration of the executive departments, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 36 for the reorganization of the administrative regions in Mindanao. The reorganization includes the Province of Basilan (excluding Isabela City) and the City of Marawi, which were voted to be part of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Five regions underwent reorganization, namely, Regions 9, 10, 11, 12 and ARMM.

Region IX is now known as the Zamboanga Peninsula and composed of three provinces and five cities. The three provinces include Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay, while the cities include Dapitan City, Dipolog City, Isabela City, Pagadian City, and Zamboanga City.

Region X is Northern Mindanao composed of four provinces and eight cities. The provinces include Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental and Misamis Oriental; cities include Cagayan de Oro City, Ginggoog City, Iligan City, Malaybalay City, Oroquieta City, Ozamis City, Tangub City, and Valencia City.

Region XI or the Davao Region is composed of four provinces namely, Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao Sur, and Davao Oriental and five cities, namely, Davao City, Digos City, Panabo City, Island Garden City of Samal, and Tagum City.

Region XII is now known as the SOCCSKSARGEN and is composed of four provinces: North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat; and five cities: Cotabato City, General Santos City, Kidapawan City, Koronadal City, and Tacurong City.

ARMM is composed of five provinces, Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, and the city of Marawi.

Government agencies are directed to supervise the abovementioned reorganization of the administrative regions in Mindanao and to circulate the new composition.

CPAR...

Now

After two years and four months of implementation, Barangay Bugwak showed remarkable economic and agricultural growth.

The farmers started the project through the technical and financial assistance provided by the DA-BAR and LGU. The farmers received cash advances to procure basic farm inputs like seeds and fertilizer. This spared them from the exorbitant interest rates charged by commercial traders.

Before CPAR implementation, the farmers had an average corn yield of 1.2 mt/ha/cropping season, but during the project implementation, their average corn yield reached 4.57 mt/ha. Likewise, the farmers' average income per hectare incredibly increased from P6,600 to P23,403.

To sustain the projects' input requirements, the farmers contributed little share from their profits and were able to generate a total seed money of P244,300 and was deposited in the bank.

In December 1998, the DA through its Barangay Livestock Breeder Loan Program (BLBLP) distributed 10 female cows and one bull to qualified farmers. The breeds were upgraded through artificial insemination and natural method. This project gained five offsprings, which were later dispersed to other interested and qualified farmers. Also, one carabull was provided to the community for breeding purposes. To date, the bull has already rendered 17 breeding services and four healthy offsprings were produced.

The people's "wait-and-see" attitude towards newly introduced technologies was also changed. Through information dissemination and technical training, many were encouraged to participate and had become enthusiastic in the formulation of new projects.

Indeed, the success of CPAR program in Brgy. Bugwak is not only the product of the integrated efforts undertaken by the community but also the result of opportunities opened to many.

As Center Manager Lealyn A. Ramos proudly expressed, "Barangay Bugwak is no longer what it is used to be. It has made its stand. It has learned to carve its own future." ■

DA lifts ban on UK pork imports

Department of Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor issued a memorandum order lifting the temporary ban on the importation of pork, semen, and pork by-products from the United Kingdom this February 2002.

Pigs, semen, and pork products from the United Kingdom can now be exported granting that farm sources of the products are free of diseases of any kind, and the animals are slaughtered in an approved slaughterhouse where proper inspections are conducted.

The order came after the United Kingdom regained its FMD-free status without vaccination last January following an evaluation by the Office International Des Epizooties (OIE), a world organization for animal health.

The United Kingdom now joins the ranks of 51 other countries declared as FMD-free zones where vaccination is not practiced, including Choco Department in Colombia, Island of Cheju in Korea, Namibia, and Mindanao in the Philippines, to name a few.

In a related incident, the island provinces of Visayas, Masbate, and Palawan may also get its FMD-free certification from the OIE this May.

According to a DA report, "OIE Director General Vallat has concluded that the Philippine application has fulfilled all conditions to be considered free from FMD without vaccination in accordance with Article 2.1.1.4 of the OIE International Animal Health Code." Should the country's application be approved, meat producers will have the opportunity to export their products and compete in the world market. (Thea Kristina M. Pabuayon)

(Source: OIE to Give RP FMD-Free Certification for Visayas, Masbate and Palawan; Memorandum Order No. 1 Series of 2002 Subject: LIFTING THE TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE PIGS, SEMEN, PORK PRODUCTS AND BY PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM at www.da.gov.ph)

DA tries 50:50 scheme for seeds

What is the certified and hybrid seeds 50:50 scheme of the Department of Agriculture (DA)?

In April last year, the DA's Plant-Now-Pay-Later Programs- a project that allowed farmers to avail of certified and hybrid seeds on a loan basis was threatened by rapidly dwindling funds.

Only five percent or P11.5 million of the P233 million loan was paid by farmer-beneficiaries. With such a poor repayment record, the program was on the verge of bankruptcy with very little money left for the next three years.

To save the *Ginintuang Masaganang Ani* Rice Program, the DA stopped the loan program or the Plant-Now-Pay-Later Program and came up with the subsidy program or the 50:50 scheme.

The 50:50 scheme allows farmers to buy certified and hybrid seeds at half the price. The DA pays half of the price to the seed growers. By 2004, the DA hopes that the use of certified and hybrid seeds will increase from 15 to 80 percent. That is a tall order considering that almost 92% of the 250 million peso program fund has been spent on the loan program.

The DA signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National Food Authority (NFA) to implement the 50:50 scheme in hopes of replenishing the program coffers and continue promoting wider adoption of hybrid and certified seeds among rice farmers.

With the 50:50 scheme, the farmer-beneficiaries can only avail of the subsidy if they pay in cash when they get the seeds from the regional warehouses of the NFA.

In the last cropping season, the DA reported that the NFA distributed a total of 703,000 bags of rice seeds to farmers all over the Philippines. Each bag contains 40

see DA, page 8

10 ASEAN NARS decide on a SEAFAR

Recognizing the role of research in transforming agriculture and fishery in the Southeast Asian region, the SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research (SEARCA), the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) as the initiating National Agricultural Research System (NARS), and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) of Thailand as the host NARS, proposed the establishment of a Southeast Asian Forum on Agricultural Research (SEAFAR) in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-16 February 2002.

In his welcome remarks, BAR Director Eliseo Ponce who chaired the meeting, urged the NARS representatives and participants to support the creation of the ASEAN forum. He said, "SEAFAR shall enable us to pursue active partnership in the area of agricultural research for development across our borders".

"The synergy that shall be created will lead to the creation of new agricultural technology and

knowledge for our growing populations," Director Ponce added.

The meeting was attended by National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), non-government organizations (NGOs) and farmers organizations in the region.

After the presentation of the country reports from the NARC representatives, the participants tackled the creation of SEAFAR within the existing framework of ASEAN cooperation by discussing two resolutions entitled: 1) The establishment of a working group on research for development under the ASEAN ministers on agriculture and forestry and 2) Statement of common interest towards the establishment of a SEAFAR.

Finally, the participants drafted a Statement of Endorsement for the SEAFAR that will be

submitted to the Senior Officials Meeting – ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries (ASEAN SOM-AMAF) in April 2002. Considered strategic, the endorsement will provide a framework of collaboration among ASEAN countries in agricultural research for development.

The SEAFAR initiative is not a new idea. It was first discussed among ASEAN country delegates during the 1998 International Centers Week (ICW) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in Washington, DC. But it was two years later during another ICW week that a formal exploratory meeting on SEAFAR was organized where it was agreed that this initiative be initially supported by SEARCA, BAR and DOA-Thailand.

SEAFAR members will include the NARCs and other agricultural research stakeholders from the 10 ASEAN member countries. (*Junelyn S. de la Rosa*)

NTLs...

benchmarking of the agricultural mechanization needs of our farmers; and 2) development of agricultural engineering technical standards on production and post harvest machines, engineering materials and agricultural structures.

The projects will be the bases of our own agricultural engineering technical standards. We will know exactly what type of machines our farmers need because right now, we just adapt the machines and technical standards designed by other countries.

This is important because these will be the standards for the performance of machines. The farmers will have a way of knowing if

the machines that they will buy meet the standards of an excellent machine.

So far, 35 agricultural engineering technical standards have passed the evaluation of experts, agricultural engineers, and farmers. This year, we hope that the additional 25 standards will be approved. We have drafted an administrative order for the adoption of these standards by DA attached agencies and manufacturers to be signed by Sec. Leonardo Montemayor.

The Philippine Society of Agricultural Engineers had likewise submitted their resolution to the Professional Regulatory Commission to comply with these standards. The Agricultural Machinery Testing and

Evaluation Center- UP Los Baños will have the mandate in ensuring that these standards are followed.

The network will focus on researches on policies, design and development of big machines because these are more cost-effective. We will also work on projects that improve the performance of old machines. A core technical team is in place to look after the implementation of these projects.

We are just waiting for the release of funds from BAR. This is a perennial problem for us—we cannot move on unless we have money. Networks need sustained funds to function because we have to give the

see NTLs, page 7

Bait traps to control mango fruitfly

by Rita T. dela Cruz

Fruitfly infestation has caused great decline in the overall production of mangoes and has lessened the chance of Philippine fruits to penetrate the international market. For sometime, this infestation caused Philippine fruits to be banned in major importing countries.

The oriental fruitfly (*Bactosera philippinensis*) is a major concern in the Philippines, particularly in mango production. The country is producing thousands of metric tons of mango a year mostly fresh or processed. But out of this, only 8% of the total production is exported due to fruitfly infestation and the ineffective means of controlling them.

The infestation of fruitfly in mangoes is manifested by punctures in the flesh. Microorganisms penetrate into the flesh damaging the skin and causing the flesh to rot.

Researchers from the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) headed by Leticia A. Lutap, Salud F. Barroga and Marissa I. Atis conducted a field study on how to deliberately eliminate the fruitfly.

The study determined which particular seasons are the adult fruitfly abundant, the effects of the environmental factors to the fluctuation of the adult fruitfly, and the most effective time of controlling fruitfly.

Through the years, a lot of measures have been identified to control fruitfly infestation. For instance, the integrated control method, which was introduced in Taiwan since 1975 has been used in the country up to the 1980's to eradicate this pest. The method used sterile flies, male attractant and poisonous chemicals like methyl eugenol.

But the problem is on the application of the technologies. Farmers are not familiar on the best time to apply them. It is important to know the time and the extent of applying the control measure since fruitfly also infests other fruits in season such as guava, santol, jackfruit, papaya, siniguelas and avocado.

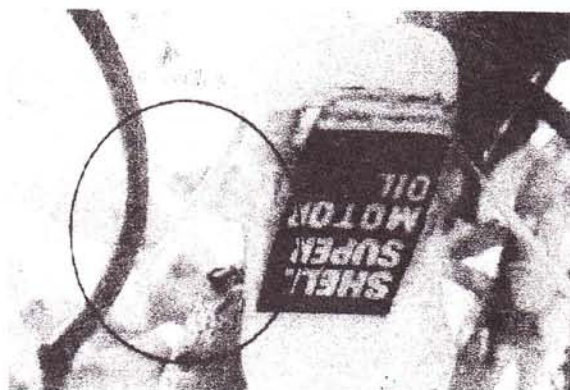
Fruitfly could reduce the yield

of mango by as much as 23 percent. To avoid this loss, researchers from MMSU were able to develop a bait trap that wipes out the insects.

The bait trap is made of a plastic container. Inside is a fireboard, about an inch, which is attached to the plastic container using a hook wire. To lure the fruitfly, methyl eugenol (PME) was used and poisoned with insecticide. Methyl eugenol is a hormone that attracts male fruitfly. The bait is soaked into the fireboard once in ten days and then installed on the mango trees.

After a year of investigation, results of the study showed that the fruitfly infestation was surely lessen. It reduced the fruitfly population to as much as 86%.

The researchers recommend the use of bait traps since this is not



tedious unlike other control measures. Mango is not a year round crop, so application should be done during January to July only when population of fruitfly is at its peak.

(Source: "Mango Fruitfly: Population Dynamics and Effectiveness of Bait Trap for its Control" by Leticia A. Lutap, Salud F. Barroga and Marissa I. Atis of Mariano Marcos State University, Batac 2906 Ilocos Norte. For more information, contact them at telephone nos. (077) 792-3131 or 792-3447 or e-mail at mmsuop@laoag.amanet.net or ilarrdec@laoag.amanet.net)

NLTs...

function because we have to give the member agencies reasons and results before they will participate.

Mr. Elmer Enicola

Legumes RDE Network

Our projects are focused on increasing productivity and improving the quality of seeds. We have problems getting started because our funds are released late. Our activities end up being delayed also.

Our priority area is Regions I and II because they have a high production of legumes. We hope we can help them organize a regional network for legumes, composed of regional DA agencies and state colleges, legumes producers, and representatives from the industry. This way, we have an efficient medium for transfer of technologies.

We have a problem mobilizing the network. We have so little to work on because the legumes market base is not that strong. The

agencies are also used to working on their own, they are hesitant to form linkages or at least coordinate with other agencies.

We need to do something with the legumes industry because if we do not have an industry, the RDE Network will not have any use. Given these limitations, we continue managing the network the best way we can. We will publish our newsletter and upgrade our web. We will focus our efforts in interphasing with regional, national and international networks or agencies involved in legumes research and in unifying everybody that are involved in the industry.

To encourage people to work with us, we have to give them incentives. These incentives come in the form of technologies that we generate from our researches. I am happy with my work when other people benefit from it. In our case, our research and development efforts go hand in hand with how the industry is faring. (Ma. Rowena S.A. Briones)

(To be continued)

DA...

kg. of certified seeds or hybrid seeds priced at P325.00- half of the original price of P650.

Using simple arithmetic, the DA got P228.5 million from the total cash payments for the 703,000 bags. That solves the problem of depleting funds and ensures not only the continuity but the viability of the 50:50 scheme.

That is good news for the rice farmers because it means that hybrid and certified seeds may still be subsidized in the next three years. (Junelyn S. de la Rosa)

Grant...

technologies in the region. The Center aims to serve as a venue for information exchange among farmers, technical personnel, and students. The facility will also allow BSU students to conduct experiments as well as on-the-job training.

Furthermore, Dr. Ponce announced the development of the Cordillera cluster of the Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Information System (AFRDIS) in 2003. The AFRDIS is a network of institutions with the goal of providing a coordinated and proactive environment of information exchange and dissemination on a global basis.

To achieve a participatory approach in decision-making, Dr. Ponce stressed that member-institutions should draft their own five-year plans within the year.

BAR requires member institutions to put up a counterpart fund so that, according to Dr. Ponce, cluster members will feel a sense of ownership of the project, thus, enhancing its sustainability. The cost-sharing ratio between the Bureau and the concerned institution is at 1:2.

Aside from financial support, the Bureau will also provide technical assistance in the establishment of the local area network and cluster connectivity and the development of information

ERP suggests new agr'l system for CAR

Grow something that the lowlands can never grow.

This, in summary was BAR Director, Eliseo R. Ponce's message to participants of the "Regional Ornamental Horticulture Technology Review and Workshop" at Hotel Reneca, Baguio City, 21 February 2002.

The Cordillera has a special climate that cannot be duplicated in the lowlands. This, according to Dr. Ponce, provides them the opportunity to grow crops only they can produce, unless the lowlands put these crops in air-conditioned greenhouses. This, he said, is moving toward a new system of agriculture production.

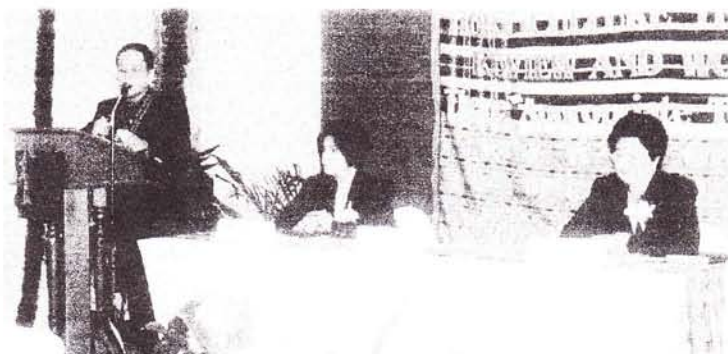
However, before shifting to this new system, he stressed the importance of looking at market opportunities and seeing what they offer. "Then, take advantage of the opportunities that you alone in the Cordilleras can be competitive," Dr. Ponce said.

"How about growing high-end vegetables the organic way?" he

suggested. There is a growing demand for organically-grown vegetables now that people are more aware of the amount and effects of pesticides used on vegetables sold in the market.

systems, among others. The Bureau, likewise, expects members to form their respective Information and Communication Technology (ICT) units, made up of at least five full-time ICT-proficient personnel.

To ensure the efficient sharing of information, members will be interconnected through the establishment of a nodal center. Plans are up to make the BSU as the cluster's nodal center. (Emmanuelle V. Garalde/Laarni C. Anenias)



Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce (extreme left) delivers his speech as Dr. Elizabeth A. Vertzola and Dr. Evelyn A. Esquejo listen on.

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Since farmers in the region can only cultivate limited lands, Dr. Ponce said that they can cultivate their farms like gardens to ensure quality of the products. Then, farmers can develop a crop production system where they have organic, high-end vegetables, and flowers if they want, so they can achieve maximum income even with small land.

To equip farmers in venturing into such initiatives, Dr. Ponce announced that BAR is sponsoring the establishment of the Agricultural Technology Center in CAR. This Center is a "one-stop-shop" that will provide farmers with various agricultural services and products. (related story, Grant establishes Cordillera agri'l techno center)

The workshop served as venue for farmers, academicians, researchers, research managers, and the private sector to interact and discuss new technology breakthroughs on ornamentals and cutflowers.

The CAR Regional Agricultural Research and Development Network organized this event. (Laarni C. Anenias)

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