



Senator Magsaysay underscores BAR's role in poverty alleviation

Senator Ramon Magsaysay, in his keynote address during the awarding ceremonies of the National Research Symposium (NRS) in the Research and Development Management Information Center (RDMIC) Lobby, October 5, once again underscored the crucial role the Bureau of Agricultural Research must play in poverty alleviation. He said it is imperative to deliver timely, reliable, and comprehensive information to the farming sector.

"This way, research and development thrusts are methodically considered in the formulation of policies, plans, and programs," he says.

This was the third time that Senator Magsaysay became a key guest in the NRS.

He further pointed out the importance of remuneration farming, where farmers, through their products and market skills, are able to transform their lives from subsistence farming to agri-entrepreneurship. He says this can only be achieved by introducing new farming technologies.

"The value of research can be measured by the change it can generate in the people you serve. We must equip them with the knowledge and technology to cope with a globalizing economy."

He remarked that as farming needs evolve, so must the response from the R&D sector. Although he lamented the decreasing

trend of public investment on agriculture and fisheries research and development, he acknowledged that it is up to us to ensure that the policy-makers be kept abreast of R&D's contribution to the advancement of the economy.

The senator, true to the 'tradition' he started in 2003 of giving additional incentives to researchers, pledged an additional amount for the cash incentives of the winning paper in the NRS. Senator Magsaysay also assisted BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar in the awarding of trophies to the winners of the R&D Paper Award, and those under the four paper categories. (Maria Lizbeth J. Baroña)

Outstanding researchers awarded in 17th NRS

The Bureau of Agricultural Research gave recognition to the country's research and development community during its 17th National Research Symposium held from October 3 to 7.

The Symposium is one of the Bureau's major annual events. Aside

from the presentation of the researches conducted during the year, incentives were also given to outstanding researchers in agriculture and fisheries. Thirty papers that scored 80% or above by the evaluation team won the National R&D Paper Awards. Each winning researcher received a P5000 cash incentive.

The papers submitted in this year's symposium were divided into four categories: basic research, applied research or technology generation,

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Ms. Flordeliza H. Bordey of the Philippine Rice Research Institute, winner of National R&D Best Paper Award (socio-economic category) receiving her award from (L-R) BAR Dir. Nicomedes Eleazar, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., USec Segfredo Serrano, and ASec Salvador Salacup.

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NOTES

The catalytic role of R&D

Alvin Bernardo V. Divinagracia, Ph.D.



I remember 5 years ago when I was preparing the draft of a Presidential Proclamation that would launch the celebration of a "National Agriculture and Fisheries R and D Week", there was a feeling of uneasiness as people were assimilating the new law on agricultural modernization. On top of this, there were days, weeks, or monthlong celebrations on the various facets of our national life. All but agricultural development.

R and D, we believe, is instrumental in producing the technologies that make possible the advancement of the agriculture and fisheries sector. There is no doubt that R and D has averted food shortages in

the past with the technologies that propelled the "Green" revolution for farmlands or the "Blue" revolution for aquaculture. However, it makes one wonder why it took so long to honor and recognize the catalytic role of R and D in our country's development, not until that very last week of September 2000. Back then, we were quite apprehensive as we submitted the document two months back. We thought we lost the effort until a call from Malacanang informed us that the President has signed Proclamation No. 382, making the first week of October as the National Agriculture and Fisheries R and D Week. And as they say, the rest is history.

Although the hallmark of our National Agriculture and Fisheries R and

D Week is the National Research Symposium and the Techno Forum, each year's celebration is evolving into something more intricate. For this year, our celebration practically extended to the whole month of October. The R and D week has become a precursor to the celebration of the World Food Day for which BAR organized a symposium anchored on the theme, "Agriculture and Intercultural Dialogue" that gave attention to the contribution of culture to agriculture. Then came a series of international conferences and workshops, which BAR co-hosted, on Banana Uses and Enterprises, Banana Asia-Pacific Network, and the Southeast Asia Regional Research Needs Assessment.

As I look back, I am encouraged by the thought that indeed R and D had come a long way. What began as a week ended as a month long way to celebrate R and D. Perhaps, next time, a month may not be enough to present the accomplishments and successes of the agriculture and fisheries R and D system. By then, we could publish a book to chronicle the various activities. ■

Philippines hosts 1st int'l banana workshop

The Philippines served as host to the 1st Global Banana Uses Enterprise Workshop and Techno Fair participated in by representatives from India, Malaysia, Thailand, Costa Rica, South Africa, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Cameroon to develop effective mechanisms in the promotion of banana processing technologies and strengthen international networks.

The weeklong activity was held in two locations in Cavite, at the Manila Southwoods Manor in Carmona and Cavite State University (CavSU) in Indang, Cavite on 10-13 October 2005.

The International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP), Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), and the Philippine Council for Agriculture,

Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) sponsored this event. The activities focused on the commodity's value adding processing businesses and its contributions to rural development.

The delegates, composed of food technologists, enterprise specialists, and production specialists presented studies conducted in their countries regarding the high value banana crop. These studies served as bases for identifying critical factors in developing project mechanisms and strategies in the promotion of banana processing technologies and

in the enhancement of business support environment.

The Philippines emphasized the
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Agri and fisheries techno forum winds up

The National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) held its third and last agriculture and fisheries technology forum for this year on 4-5 October 2005 during the celebration of the National Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Week at BAR-RDMIC Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City.

Scientists and researchers from the Department of Agriculture's (DA) attached bureaus and agencies, and state colleges and universities (SCUs) presented 10 technologies during the two-day forum. The technologies presented include: (1) Tubular polyethylene digester by Mr. Hernando Avilla of the Bureau of Animal Industry; (2) Production of high genetics water buffaloes through the use of the recent reproductive biotechniques by Ms. Danilda Hufana-Duran of the Philippine Carabao Center; (3) Ornamental freshwater fish breeding technology by Dr. Aida Palma of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; (4) Biopesticide from *Jatropha* for cotton and other major crops by Dr. Aida Solsoloy of the Cotton Development Authority;

(5) Small hybrid seed cleaner technology by Dr. Eulito Bautista of the Philippine Rice Research Institute; (6) Soil less production of high value commercial crops under greenhouse conditions Ms. Lorna Javier of the Bureau of Plant Industry; (7) Multi-commodity solar tunnel dryer by Ms. Helen Martinez of the Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension; (8) Multi-fiber extraction machine by Ms. Aurora Peralta and Engr. Adriano Valenzuela of the Fiber Industry Development Authority; and (9) Production of quality coconut coir dust-based bioorganic fertilizer through window composting by Ms. Marianita Eroy of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

An added feature of the forum was a paper on the Formulation and Investment Policy Report and Indicative Investment Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Research Development and Extension for 2005-2020 presented by Dr. Ponciano Intal, an economist from the De La Salle University

In the study, the agricultural RDE investment framework, long term RDE strategy, modernization and competitiveness, investment level, and a framework for government-private

partnership in funding and directing agriculture R&D were extensively presented.

In the open forum that followed, the representatives of Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs) reacted positively on the institutional option to make agricultural RD&E investments more effective through restructuring the RIARCs into semi-commercial operative units that introduce, produce, and sell high yielding planting materials.

Majority of the guests and participants in the forum were scientists and researchers from state colleges and universities (SCUs), RIARCs, Rural Fisheries Research and Development Centers (RFRDCs), and DA's attached agencies and bureaus.

During the first techno forum held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Convention Hall, Quezon City on 18 May 2005, eight technologies on crop, livestock, and fisheries were presented. During the second forum, another eight were presented in celebration of the Bureau of Agricultural Research's (BAR) 18th anniversary. (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica)

BAPNET Committee agrees on criteria for *Musa* collection

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) headed by Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar and Executive Director Patricio S. Faylon, respectively, hosted this year's 4th Banana Asia Pacific Network (BAPNET) Steering Committee meeting on 14-15 October 2005, Manila Southwoods Manor, Carmona, Cavite. BAPNET is one of the four regional banana research networks in Asia Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, West and Central Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa.

The Committee members consisted of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS)-member countries, namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Two institutions, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Taiwan Banana Research Institute, were also represented in the Committee.

The meeting aimed to formulate strategies and programs toward the sustainable development of banana and plantain in the region. Presented during the meeting were outputs and recommendations in the global study to

analyze banana processing business and their support environment. Among the participating countries during the global study were India, Malaysia, and the Philippines—together with countries from Africa and Latin America.

A special topic on global *Musa* conservation strategy and global crop diversity trust was discussed following the presentations of different country representatives regarding the status of their project on *Musa* conservation. The output of this discussion served as an input to the proposal to be submitted for funding by the Global Genetic Conservation Trust Fund.

The Committee members
see BAR, PCARRD...page 4

Eleazar chairs ProMusa INIBAP Group

In line with the celebration of *Musa* diversity, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar attended a symposium on the "Conservation and Use of *Musa* Biodiversity for Improving Livelihoods" held in Leuven, Belgium on 18 October 2005. Sponsored by the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) and the Division of Plant Crop Biotechnics, and Katholieke University (KU) Leuven, the activity showcased an exhibit titled, "No End to Banana". It featured INIBAP's accomplishments in the last 20 years.

The symposium aimed to investigate the state-of-the-art technologies and future prospects for the conservation of banana. It also looked into the use of latest techniques to understand the banana genome and genetic diversity as well as examine the pathway by which an impact can be made on the production of banana and livelihood of smallholders who produce them.



BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar chats with Ambassador Deo Rwabita of Uganda.

International Plant Genetic Institute (IPGR) Director General Emile Frison, who oversees the INIBAP programme, welcomed the participants. In the meeting, a series of dialogues was carried out, with topics on 1) "Conservation of the diversity of banana and plantain for future generation," 2)

"Unlocking the secrets of the banana genome," 3) "Improving bananas for the benefit of farmers and consumers," and 4) "Management of banana diversity in sustainable production systems to improve livelihoods."

During the symposium, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed to recognize Katholieke University (KU) Leuven, a Belgian university, as the "Global Center of Excellence on Plant Cryobiology", stressing its pre-eminent role in the use of very low temperature (cryopreservation) to store plant samples.

IPGR Director General Frison explained that the MOA is a "significant step forward in our efforts to conserve agricultural diversity." Leuven was chosen as the banana capital of the world 20 years ago when INIBAP, which was just starting then, wanted to establish a global banana gene bank.

Meanwhile, BAR Dir. Eleazar was elected chairman of the ProMusa INIBAP Support Group for this year. During this meeting, ProMusa INIBAP Director Richard Markham briefed the participants on the Network's progress while special presentations discussed global strategy for *Musa* diversity conservation and new structure and work plan for ProMusa Support Group. (Angela E. Obnial)

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unanimously agreed to adopt the criteria for prioritizing *Musa* collections. These include: (1) collections in public domain, (2) distinct collections (landraces, land cultivars), (3) collections under threat including those with no safety duplication, (4) collections with special threats, (5) collections from special areas, (6) collections with ecological representation, (7) size of rationalized public domain collections, (8) collections from institutions where there are active regional/international collaborations, (9) collections with minimum passport data, (10) actively eliminating duplicates and synonyms, (11) In situ collections where diversity

is rich, and (12) high government priority on banana.

Meanwhile, another discussion was made on the proposed *Fusarium* wilt regional project, which aims to address the occurrence of *Fusarium* wilt in Asia Pacific and the possible threat it poses to other countries.

Attending the Steering Committee meeting were Dr. Charles Staver and Ms Charlotte Lusty of the INIBAP Main Headquarters, Dr. Luis Pocasangre of INIBAP-Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Ekow Akyeampong of INIBAP-West and Central Africa, and Dr. Eldad Karamura of INIBAP-Eastern and Southern Africa. (Mariko M. Ramos)

BAR staff attend international training on geoinformatics and veggie growing

a) On geoinformatics in India



Participants during the international training course on "Geoinformatics for Sustainable Agriculture" at the IIRS Campus, India. Mr. Ric Castro is second from right, front row.

DA-BAR's Regional Coordinator and GIS technical staff, Mr. Ricarte Castro, attended the international training course on "Geoinformatics for Sustainable Agriculture," 15 August-10 September 2005 at the Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) at the India Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) Campus, Dehradun, India.

A technology integrating different disciplines dealing with spatial information that is applied to agriculture is seen as the next "It" thing in geospatial technology. The training, participated in by 13 Asian neighboring countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, India, Iran, and the Philippines, stressed the importance and potential of Remote Sensing (RS) and Geoinformatics Science (GIS) to agriculture and fisheries, from the design, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation to decision making and policy recommendation.

In the training, three modules were explored, namely: a) Fundamentals of Remote Sensing (RS); b) Introduction to Geoinformatics

Science (GIS); and c) Geoinformatics for Sustainable Agriculture.

CSSTEAP aims to increase knowledge and understanding in space science, technology and application, build and enhance national and regional capacity; and engage itself in educational and training program application activities, research and pilot projects, data management, extension activities and awareness programs.

According to Mr. Castro, "The next important steps for BAR are the acquisition of satellite data product, maps and RS and GIS software, and more people to be trained to use these tools."

ICRISAT and NARS visit

Mr. Castro also visited the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and other member organizations of the National Agriculture Research System (NARS) in Hyderabad, India from 11-16 September 2005.

In this visit, he toured ICRISAT's Agri-Science Park which is a convergence of agricultural innovations, partnerships, and products. Through the Agri-Science Park, ICRISAT commercializes technologies to help farmers through

partnership with public and private sectors.

Castro also paid a visit to India's National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Agricultural Research Systems Management and Policies Division (ARSMPD) and observed the importance of the academy to India's NARS member institutions. Its main role is to enhance the performance of the NARS by strengthening capacity building in research, education, policy, planning, and management.

This exposure made Castro mull over the Philippines R&D information systems. Informally, he recommended that improvement of the library and other services which would cater to researchers and other RDE stakeholders can be the next step for BAR.

"The establishment of map and image library which will serve as the warehouse of spatial information required for project work and research is very important. However, allocation of funds to regularly upgrade the Bureau's software and hardware plays a big part in the planning of our information systems," he added.

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b) On vegetable growing in Taiwan

DA-BAR's National Technology Commercialization Program technical staff, Ms. Digna Sandoval attended a two-week training workshop on "Conducting Trials of Promising Vegetable Varieties" on 25 September-7 October 2005 at the Asian Vegetable Research Development Center (AVRDC)-The World Vegetable Center in Shanhua, Tainan, Taiwan.

Ms. Sandoval and participants from Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Caucasus who were under the supervision of AVRDC's Plant Physiologist and Director for International Cooperation, Dr. George Kuo were invited to attend the training workshop to primarily establish partnership in vegetable growing within the Asian region.

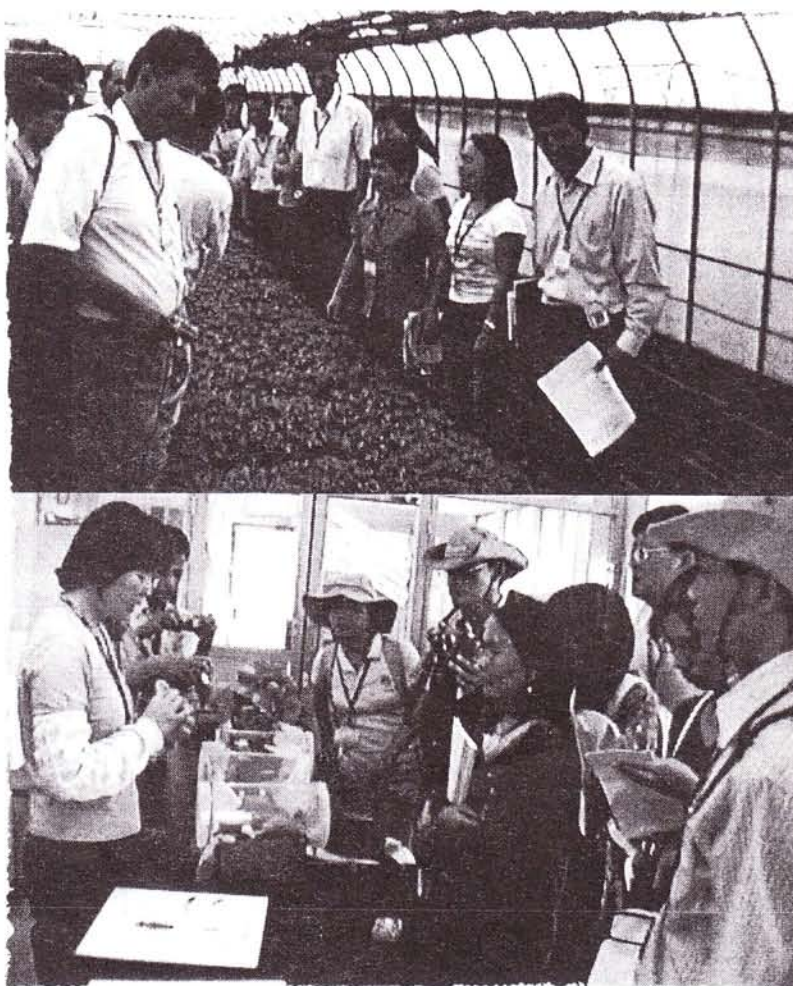
The AVRDC introduced promising vegetable varieties on tomato, eggplant, lettuce and pepper (hot and sweet) as well as conducted workshops and hands on trainings in different production management systems of vegetable crops such as seedling preparation in the nursery, fertilization, staking of eggplant and tomato, mulching, staking, harvesting of soybeans and data gathering. The participants were expected to conduct trials in their own countries.

Also, the participants, with experts from AVRDC, visited the biggest seed company in Taiwan, the Known-You Seed Co., and research stations such as Fengshan Tropical Horticultural Experiment Station, and Agricultural Research and Extension Station in Tainan District. To look into vegetable production sites and supply chains, the participants also went to Hsilo Farmers Association and Han-kuan Fruit and Vegetable Production Cooperative. They also had a field day for indigenous vegetables during the training.

Along with field visits, the training workshop included lectures on integrated crop management,

economics of maximum yield production, seedling and land preparation, diagnoses and control of major insect pests, fungal diseases, and bacterial diseases and composting. Data collection and analysis and report writing for regional trials on vegetable were also done.

According to Sandoval, the training workshop serves as an instrument to increase knowledge know-how for the Philippines to conduct field trials of promising vegetables that are high yielding and disease-resistant.



Above photo: Dr. Jen-Tzi Chen explains the importance of confining the diseased plants in a protected structure to control the spread in the area. Ms. Digna Sandoval is second from right.

Bottom photo: Ms. T. Wang (left), plant pathologist, explains the mass rearing of the different biological control agents which AVRDC utilizes for release in their vegetable areas.

The training workshop was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROC (Taiwan), Council of Agriculture, ROC (Taiwan) and AVRDC. Participants included researchers and R&D technical staff from South East Asia - Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam; from Central Asia - DPR Korea; from Caucasus - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. (Angela E. Obnial)

SEA regional R&D priorities identified; Director Eleazar co-represents RP

Representatives of Southeast Asian countries converged at the International Rice Research Institute's Harrar Hall to identify the region's research priorities in agriculture, October 27 to 28.

Sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Philippine Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), the workshop's objectives were to validate and identify research needs based on gap analysis of national programs of the participating Southeast Asian nations; synthesize regional needs and priorities of the region; and develop recommendations in research priorities of APAARI members for partnership and complementation.

The participating countries were Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Representatives from these countries presented their respective national programs in research and development.

Members of the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) also presented their respective center's agricultural research priorities and issues.

The participants were divided into two groups for the workshop proper. Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines comprised the first group while Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam, the other group.

All countries cited food security as an imperative where they could conduct a converged effort in research and development. Other issues discussed were management and conservation of natural resources, market and export competitiveness, institutional development and capability building, monitoring and

evaluation of research results, and increasing farmers' income and poverty alleviation.

The issue on the rising and most often ill-informed opposition to the use of genetically modified organism was also discussed. The participants suggested that the science community be more accessible to farmers and fisherfolk to provide more information on GMOs to counter those provided by the non-science community as these sow fear and doubt over the benefits of the technology.

Representatives were Dr. Men Sarom, director of the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute; Dr. Suyanto Hardjosuwiryo, director of the Indonesian Center for Food Crops Research and Development; Dr. Manivong Thephavanh of the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute; Dr. U Hla Tin of the Myanmar Department of Agricultural Research; Mr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, director of the Philippines' Bureau of Agricultural Research; and Dr. Danilo Cardenas of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development; Dr. Philip Chew Hong of Singapore's Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority; Dr. Manoch Thongjiem of Thailand's Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Ta Minh Son of the Vietnam Agricultural Science Institute.

The IARC members represented were the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre, International Center for Research in Agriculture and Forestry, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Livestock Research Institute, International Plant Genetics Resources Institute, and the International Rice Research Institute.



(L-R) IRRI's Dr. William Padolina, APAARI's Dr. Beatriz del Rosario, BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar, and PCARRD's Dr. Danilo Cardenas. Dir. Eleazar and Dr. Cardenas are the Philippine representatives to the workshop.

International partners in research represented such as Australian Center for International Agricultural Research, Food and Agriculture Organization. And SEAMEO Southeast Asia Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, also sent representatives.

Non-government organizations also took part in the deliberations on research needs. These organizations were the Asian NGO Coalition and the Angat Laguna Movement. (Maria Lizbeth J. Baroña)

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adaptive or technology adaptation, and socio-economics. Papers adjudged as best during the presentation received P20,000 cash incentive. The 1st and 2nd runners-up received P15,000 and P10,000, respectively.

The winning paper for basic research category was the study, *Biological Resource Assessment – Samar Island Natural Park's Floral Resources* by Manolito D. Ragub of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. *Thin-Layer Drying of Cassava Grates* by Daniel Leslie Ta, Jonathan Perez, and Lemuel Diamante of Philroot Crops' was second place,

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Philippines hosts...from page 2

support services for small and medium enterprises (SME) which are currently among the government's top priorities to foster rural development.

An interesting highlight of the workshop was the discussion on the role of rural women in the banana processing business and which particular country do they get a strong support.

Speakers from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) talked on action strategies to strengthen the processing business and methods for market studies.

Science and Technology Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro was the keynote speaker at the Manila Southwoods while Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban was the guest speaker during the Techno Fair at CavSU.

In his speech, Secretary Panganiban emphasized that research

and development is "the answer for competitive and long-term economic development of the agriculture sector". He mentioned BAR as the lead agency in the Department of Agriculture that oversees the national agriculture R&D concerning banana through its Fruits RDE Network.

A technology forum highlighted the activities during the fair on banana enterprise. Five countries presented their technologies which included the Philippines (Banana fiber for textiles), South Africa (Banana juice and wine), Malaysia (Food products from banana),



Banana products displayed during the techno fair.

India (Banana fiber products), and Thailand (One Tambon One Product).

A product exhibit by each participating country gave the delegates the chance to showcase a variety of banana products such as beverages, snacks, food supplements, accessories, and beauty products. (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica)

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followed by *Etiology and Spatial Dynamics of Nutrient Imbalance in Paddy Rice Soils in the Philippines* by Victorcito V. Babiera of the Bureau of Soil and Water Management.

The paper *Development of Synthetic Variety of Coconut: PCA Syn Var 001* by Ramon L. Rivera, Gerardo Santos, S. Rivera, and G. Baylon of Philippine Coconut Authority – Zamboanga was best paper in the applied research category. This was followed, as ranked, by *Development of Multi-Stranded Yarning Machine for Abaca Fiber* by Feliciano Sinon and Macauin Delantar of Leyte State University (LSU), and *Growth, Mortality, Recruitment, and Other Fish Parameters of the Blue Crab Portunus pelagicus, in Different Fishing Grounds in Leyte, Samar*; also of LSU, for 2nd and 3rd places.

The best paper in the adaptive category was *Rice Minicombine Harvester for Filipino Farmers* by Eulito U. Bautista, Arnold S. Julianio,

and Leo B. Moliñawe of the Philippine Rice Research Institute. In second place was *Development of a Village-level Sago Starch Grater Machine* by Alan B. Loreto, Marcelo A. Quevedo, Algerico M. Mariscal, Masanori Okasaki, and Koki Toyota of LSU. Third place was the *Management of Potato Cyst Nematode in the Potato Growing Areas in the Highlands* by Teresita K. Mangili, Rhonda M. Oloan, and Helen B. Castillo of Bureau of Plant Industry's Baguio National Crop Research and Development Center.

The paper *Socio-Economic Impacts of Hybrid Rice Commercialization Program in the Philippines* by Flordeliza H. Bordey, Leonardo A. Gonzales, Leocadio S. Sebastian, Cheryll B. Casiwan, Jesusa C. Beltran, Alice B. Mataia, Rowena G. Manalili, and Guadalupe O. Redondo of PhilRice was best paper in the socio-economic category. *The Effects of Trade Policies on the Philippines Fish Markets* by U-Primo E. Rodriguez and Yolanda T. Garcia of the University of the Philippines Los Baños won second place

with *Dynamics of the Philippine Feedmill Industry: An Assessment* by Elmer R. Esplana and Cyril L. Soliaban of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the National Agriculture and Fisheries Council as third.

All the 30 papers that won the National R&D Paper Award automatically became contenders for the best poster category. The study on *Morphology and Carageenan Properties of Soliera rodbusta (Greville) Kylin (Gigartinales, Rhodophyta) from the Philippines* by Wilson G. Mendoza, Edna T. Ganzon-Forbes, and Marco Nemesis E. Montaño of the University of the Philippines Diliman was the winner. The *Design and Development of a Golden Kuhol Grinder* by Engr. Marife L. Pesiño was second place. *Cyropreservation of Buffalo Ear Skin Cells and its Utilization in Enhancing the Propagation of Genetically-Superior Water Buffalo*, by Eufrocina P. Atabay, Edwin C. Atabay, Rodante V. de Vera, and Libertado C. Cruz was third. (Ma. Lizbeth J. Baroña)

by RITA T. DELA CRUZ

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BAR staff train on R&D news & feature writing



Mr. Toti Laforteza shows BAR staff the basics of photography. Other resource speakers for the training include: Mr. Rudy Fernandez of Philippine Star; Mr. Zac Sarian of Manila Bulletin; Mr. Philip Daffon of Mag-Agri Tayo, and Ms. Mely Tenorio of Radyo ng Bayan (inset, from left to right).

“For you to learn, you have to sit on it.”

This is an adage among students who have a difficult time with their study. It implies that the student must focus, learn, and identify where he or she could have gone wrong. This applied to the staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), when they were trained on R&D news and features writing, 19-21 October 2005, RDMIC Conference Room.

Although the main focus of the training is on writing for print, the three-day activity included short courses on writing for television, radio, and

photography. The resource speakers included known media practitioners in their specific fields. They include: Mr. Rudy Fernandez of the Philippine Star (*R&D Notes*), Mr. Zac Sarian of the Manila Bulletin (*Agriculture* column and editor of *The Philippine Agriculture* magazine), Mr. Philip Daffon of *Mag-Agri Tayo*, Ms.

Mely Tenorio of *Radyo ng Bayan*, and Mr. Toti Laforteza, a professional photographer and former faculty of the College of Development Communication, UPLB.

Attending the training are key technical staff of BAR. After the activity, they are expected to contribute and submit articles related to R&D activities for publication. This is in line with the Bureau's initiative to enhance the capability of staff in knowledge management and their skills in technical/science writing. Also featured in the activity are tips on getting R&D articles published in the mainstream media. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

endorsement to DBM, include: crops, livestock and poultry, fisheries and aquatic resources and products, resources and systems. The panels were composed of pool of experts from the academe, DA agencies and BAR staff noted for their expertise in the field. The programs/projects passed through a procedural evaluation by the experts using the following criteria: 1) relevance and usefulness to DA and AFMA goals, 2) urgency of the problem being addressed, 3) novelty, 4) magnitude of expected impact/benefit, 5) immediate utility of output, 6) preparedness of the proponent to implement, monitor and evaluate the program/project and, 7) no government regulatory obstacles.

Also discussed in the dialogue were policy guidelines and procedures in the preparation of the national government budget. All government agencies are required to prepare their respective annual operating budget using DBM prescribed forms as contained in the DBM National Budget Memorandum. In line with this requirement and as stated in item 6, paragraph 6.5 of the DBM National Budget Memorandum No. 98, dated 25 April 2005, “all R&D budget proposals of agencies involving agriculture and fisheries shall require the endorsement of the Department of Agriculture”.

The dialogue promoted awareness and understanding of the importance and benefits of having a strong and unified R&D planning and budgeting. Due to less investment in R&D, activities have to be refocused and streamlined to avoid possible duplication and ultimately assure efficient use of meager resources.

The activity was participated in by representatives from DA Regional Field Units, staff bureaus, attached agencies, and GMA Programs, and other members of the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF). Gracing the occasion was Hon. Asec. Evelyn V. Guererro of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). The DA through BAR invited RIARC/RFRDC managers, research chief/managers and planning officers of the various DA agencies for the said activity. (Ferdinand Dax C. Lorena)

R&D Week includes budget dialogue for better efficiency in A/F R&D

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), specifically its Planning Unit spearheaded the budget dialogue during the 6th National Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Week, 7 October 2005, RDMIC Lobby, Visayas Ave., Quezon City.

The dialogue aimed to review and consolidate R&D programs/projects to ensure that they are geared towards a unified direction and efficient use of R&D funds.

Presented during the dialogue were approved programs and projects conducted in 2005 and those planned for implementation in

FY 2006 and proposed programs and projects for FY 2007. Those presented to four sectoral panels for review and subsequent

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