



## Rubber production to expand; Training of trainers is first step



Participants of the rubber production and management training pose for a group photo; with them is Dr. Lorna G. Valdez (left, first row), USM professor and one of the resource speakers during the training.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and the Philippine Rubber Board, Inc. (PRBI) in coordination with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) conducted a "National Training of Trainers on Rubber Production and Management," 13-23 June 2006, DA-ATI XII Satellite Center, University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato.

The training is in line with the government's effort to expand the area for rubber production and the development of the rubber industry. Currently, there is an urgent need for manpower support and the expansion of rubber plantation outside of Mindanao.

According to Dr. Eugenio A. Alcalá, executive director of PRBI, the key is to train more people in rubber production and management who in turn will share their knowledge to other rubber farmers and hopefully encourage them to increase the production. This is the only way the country can keep up with other rubber producing countries like India, China, and Thailand. The Philippines has a long way to go, but it can be started now since there is a growing interest and demand for rubber in the global market.

Specifically, the national training expects the participants to be more knowledgeable on rubber and the industry,

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## Malaysian shares expertise at BAR seminar

The Bureau of Agricultural Research, through the Management Information Systems Division conducted a seminar on "Rubber Production and Management" at the Research and Development Management Information Center Lobby, 9 June 2006.

The seminar is one of the activities the Bureau has been undertaking to promote the production and development of the Philippine rubber industry.

Mr. Tajuddin Ismail, a Malaysian expert on rubber production and utilization, was the seminar's resource person. He lectured on "Planting Material Production and Nursery Practices" and "Increasing Rubber Productivity through Appropriate Stimulation Techniques".

He is currently the director in Marketing and Business Development of Greenyard Malaysia. He is also rubber consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and has done consultancy

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## BAR Chronicle

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RITA T. DELA CRUZ  
*Managing Editor/Layout*

MARIA LIZBETH SEVERA J. BAROÑA  
RITA T. DELA CRUZ  
MIKO JAZMINE J. MOJICA  
*Staff Writers*

MARLOWE U. AQUINO, Ph.D.  
*Contributing Writer*

RICARDO G. BERNARDO  
*Print Manager*

JULIA A. LAPITAN  
VICTORIA G. RAMOS  
*Circulation*

VIRGINIA A. DULDULAO, Ph.D.  
*Editorial Consultant*

RODOLFO L. GALANG  
*OIC, MISD*

NICOMEDES P. ELEAZAR, CESO IV  
*Adviser*

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It provides regular updates on the activities on BAR's activities as R&D coordinator and news and features concerning NaRDSAF-member institutions.

For subscription and questions, please contact:  
**Applied Communication Section**  
Management Information Systems Division (MISD)  
Bureau of Agricultural Research  
Department of Agriculture  
3/F RDMIC Bldg., Visayas Ave.,  
cor. Elliptical Rd., Diliman  
Quezon City 1104

Tel. nos. 928-8505 local 2043-2044  
Fax: 927-5791 or 927-0227  
E-mail: misd-ac@bar.gov.ph

Articles are also available online. Visit  
BAR Online at: <http://www.bar.gov.ph>

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# Pampanga farmers' capability on community development enhanced



Farmer-participants gather for their souvenir photo during the training on NTCP.

"Make it responsive and participative" was the remark of Ms. Zenaida Gerochi, branch manager of MDC ComVal Foundation, Inc. during the recent farmers' training on the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) implementation on 19-23 June 2006 at the MDC ComVal Farmer's Training Center in Sta. Rita, Pampanga.

The training was conducted to enhance the farmer's capability on community development which included community mobilization and organization, enterprise development and management, community planning, and programming and the utilization of community-based strategies and approaches like participation, collaboration, networking, and linkage.

The participants were farmer-leaders from the province of Pampanga who signified their full support in the implementation of the

NTCP in the area. More specifically, they want to commercialize their agricultural products particularly the pesticide-free and organically grown lowland vegetables such as string beans, leafy vegetables, tomatoes, eggplants, and rice.

The technical experts included Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino, head of the Technology Commercialization Unit (TCU) of BAR and Dr. Liza G. Battad of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC). They shared their experiences in community development, livelihood and enterprise development, program planning and programming. The resource persons are part of the technical experts of the NTCP for regional coordination, management, and implementation.

The training included modules or simplified and practical tools for technology commercialization at the local level including marketing. The lectures were supported by field immersion and exercises that enhanced the capabilities of the farmers. A follow-up training will be conducted on other fields for better implementation. (Marlowe U. Aquino, Ph.D.)



# National scientist launches book on rice



Dr. Gelia T. Castillo, the author

**N**ational scientist and outstanding rural sociologist, Dr. Gelia T. Castillo, launched her book, *"Rice in our Life: A Review of Philippine*

*Studies"*, at the North Wing of Marilen Gaerlan Conservatory, LS Main Building, De La Salle University (DLSU), Taft Ave., Manila on 27 June 2006.

The Philippine Rice Institute (PhilRice) co-published the book with the DLSU-Angelo King Institute (AKI) for Economic and Business Studies which sponsored its launching. The book critically analyzes the importance and influence of rice in Philippine culture, economy, society, and polity and the changing landscape of rice farming and rice farmer households during the last three decades.

According to Dr. Ponciano S. Intal Jr., professor of economics and concurrent executive director of DLSU-AKI, the book gives inspiration and is a major reference not only to social scientists and development specialists but also to policymakers, and civic and business leaders. The book is valuable, he says, for raising awareness and formulating policies that will promote the interests of the farmers and the

entire nation toward its staple commodity that is rice.

Dr. Castillo is recognized both locally and internationally as a rural sociologist for her commendable achievements in agricultural research and development evaluation and impact assessment. Her publications are highly praised for influencing agricultural and rural development in the country. Among the most acclaimed is her book, *"All in a Grain of Rice"*, which the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) recognizes as the first book written by a Filipino about the Filipino farmer's response to new technology. *"Beyond Manila"*, a book she also authored was cited as an "in-depth and analytical study of the actual problems and needs of the rural areas in relation to countryside development". In 1999, she was conferred the national scientist award in the field of social science, one of the eight women out of 29 national scientists honored by NAST from 1978-2005. (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica)

## Luzon group trained on effective journalism

**S**ponsored by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), a training-workshop on R&D news and features writing for the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) for the Luzon group was held at the Benguet State University (BSU), La Trinidad, Benguet, 13-15 June 2006.

Spearheaded by the Applied Communication Section (ACS) of BAR's Management Information Systems Division, the training was attended by 29 participants composed of researchers and information officers from government agriculture R&D institutions from CAR and

Regions 1 to 5. Ms. Julia Lapitan, ACS head, organized the training and tapped Mr. Rodolfo Fernandez (reporter, Philippine Star), Mr. Delfin Laforteza (freelance photographer), and Mr. Philip Daffon (producer, *Mag-agri Tayo* at NBN 4) as resource speakers.

Mr. Fernandez served as the main facilitator of the training. He lectured on the fundamentals of R&D news and feature writing; clear and effective writing; and editing/sharpening the written news. "My very good friends, Maximo Soliven (Philippine Star publisher) and Julie Yap Daza (well-known writer and television host), are some of the

respected journalists who have worked their ways well in effective journalism. You should learn from their craft," advised Fernandez. He also emphasized that maintaining a favorable relationship with the media works to the advantage of the institutions.

Mr. Laforteza, on the other hand, captivated the participants, who are mostly beginners in the field of photography, through his lecture on basic photography. He gave practical techniques appropriate for shooting/documenting R&D-related subjects and some useful tips on improving the layout of a publication to get across the

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# Workshop for Mindanao research stations planning and topo survey mapping held

**I**t was Mindanao's turn to plan and conduct topographic survey and mapping. The meeting was participated in by Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs) and Regional Fisheries Research Development Centers (RFRDCs) in Mindanao and was held at the Paterno's Haus, Davao City, June 5-6, 2006.

Representatives from the RIARCs and RFRDCs across Mindanao learned from experts on Geographic Information System (GIS) from BAR who discussed the background and requirements in the creation of topographic maps. These topographic maps reveal their

respective station's profile through GIS. GIS is a planning tool in agriculture and fisheries in redefining the ways local agricultural programs are handled and resources are allocated.

BAR has been an active advocate of the use of GIS in agriculture as a precise tool for planning, stipulating that GIS will improve the management of resources by being able to precisely show areas and points of interest in local agriculture and fishery.

The participants, using data requirements from their respective stations, were given time to create their own maps, and presented their outputs to the experts.

Experts from BAR were Ricarte Castro, regional coordinator from the Research Coordination Division, Herminigildo Quibuyen, of the Information Communication Section, and Joel Abunda, of BAR's Spatial Analysis and Information Laboratory.

The workshop was facilitated by BAR's Management Information Systems Division. A zonal workshop for Luzon was held May 23-34, and for Visayas, June 8-9. The Southern Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (SMIARC) in Davao City, headed by Mr. Alfredo Cayabyab hosted the workshop. *(Maria Lizbeth J. Barona)*

## Malaysian shares...from page 1



*Malaysian resource speaker, Mr. Tajuddin Ismail accepts the plaque of appreciation from BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar during the rubber seminar.*

missions to Guatemala, Ghana, Guinea, and the Philippines.

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, in a message, hopes that the seminar will encourage partners both from the public and private sectors to invest more in rubber production.

"Most, if not all, of our rubber

plantations in the country are located in Mindanao, the country's food basket. Plantation area devoted to rubber is about 92,067 ha, 50% of which is located in Western Mindanao, followed by Central Mindanao with 24% share," Director Eleazar remarked.

"This statistics is good, but they can be made better if the two

other islands, Luzon, and Visayas could also go into rubber production. There are about 31,215 rubber growers classified as small or large scale growers, generating for the industry P4.5B in 1995. It is an industry working silently but effectively, giving our rubber farmers and communities a source of livelihood", he

went on to pay tribute to the rubber farmers in the country.

Mr. Ismail, having been in the country and around Asia as an expert on rubber, gave some reasons why the Philippines must expand its existing rubber industry. These are: 1) rubber price is lucrative compared to other crops; 2) a vast land area is available for rubber planting; 3) the country's climate is suitable for good rubber growth and production; 4) there is available labor for the rubber plantations; 5) rubber is a familiar crop, especially in Mindanao; 6) there is high income and effort potential for rubber farmers; and 7) rubber is relatively easy to market.

After making it clear why we should expand our rubber industry, the resource speaker cited strategies such as: a) identification of a lead institution on

*see next page*



# GIS zonal meeting concludes in the Visayas

After the two consecutive meetings held in Luzon and Mindanao, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) through its Management Information Systems Division (MISD) concluded its last "Zonal Meeting on Planning and Conduct of Topographic Survey and Mapping of RIARC Stations" on 8-9 June 2006 at the EVIARC Conference Room, Babatngon, Leyte.

Hosting the Visayas meeting was the Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (EVIARC) headed by its manager, Dr. Rufino Ayaso III. Participants included GIS personnel and representatives from the RIARCs and RFRDCs across the Visayas, particularly Regions 7 and 8.

Regional Executive Director Leo P. Caneda, CESO III, provided the inspirational message during the opening ceremony. In his message, he reiterated the importance of the Geographic Information System (GIS) in the establishment of R&D projects to ensure successful implementation and optimal use for the benefit of the people. He stressed that, "information

is there but maximum utilization is much to be desired."

Highlights of the meeting included lectures and discussions on GIS and topographic map requirements presented by Mr. Herminigildo Quibuyen and Mr. Joel Abunda, GIS staff of the Management Information Systems Division (MISD); the modification of station profile database discussed by Mr. Jerson Cruz, MISD programmer.

The participants had hands-on activities on creating, planning, and preparing topographic maps for their regions. There were also discussions and review of their station's profile through GIS, wherein EVIARC was set as an example for the initial demonstration.

As part of the meeting, BAR encouraged its partner institutions in the regions to use GIS and related spatial technologies such as Global Positioning System (GPS) and remote sensing as integral tools in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of CPAR prospects. Processes such as identification of project sites based on bio-physical and socio-economic



GIS experts from BAR shows participants how topographic maps are done.

variables and progress monitoring can be justified and presented through data and maps.

BAR officials hope that after this activity, the RIARCs in the Visayas are able to prepare a GIS compatible topographic map and develop their station profile database template for R&D. This station profile database will be linked to all the topographic maps prepared in the regions. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

rubber; b) procurement of funds from investors or funding agencies; c) establishment of model farms to showcase the latest technologies; d) training of extension workers and farmers and, e) establishment of nurseries for massive planting material production.

The seminar included an open forum where participants inquired on how to finance initial efforts for production, which they feel, is a farmer's concern as well. Attending the seminar were representatives of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) attached agencies and staff bureaus who are working on rubber, staff from Land Bank of the Philippines, DA operations, High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC), and private sector. (Maria Lizbeth J. Barona)

## Luzon group...from page 3

message of the photos that accompany an article.

For the audio-visual media, Mr. Daffon allowed the participants to discover their hidden talents in broadcasting by providing a short workshop on television reporting. He also lectured on the process of video production and writing scripts for television.

During the closing program, the participants were given a chance to reflect on what they have learned by sharing their thoughts about the training. "I appreciate the broad

coverage of the training. I am a former mass communications student but I learned helpful lessons here that I did not learn in college", said Philip Spencer Olayo of BFAR-CAR. Dr. Estela C. Taño, senior researcher from DA Region 4A, also shared some of her insights about the training. "When I go back to my station, I will re-echo what I learned here to my own staff. I realized that if one is able to translate scientific results in a way that ordinary people will understand, then the information will reach and help more people." (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica)



## Western Mindanao participates on NTCP briefing



**T**he National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) was presented and discussed through an orientation briefing of the technical personnel of the Western Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (WESMIARC) on 14-17 June 2006, Sanito, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay. The orientation briefing was participated in by the WESMIARC technical staff and those from the different Research Outreach Stations (ROS) including satellite station superintendents.

The activity included field visitation to different ROS to observe and understand the regional R&D operations and management. Researches monitored the Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) projects on rubber-based farming system, coconut-based farming system, adaptability trials of different open pollinated corn varieties, and on-farm research trials on tomato, bell pepper and chili, cabbage, lettuce,

string beans, and cassava.

During the orientation, the WESMIARC staff headed by Dr. Frank Geromo, inquired on how the NTCP would address the different regionally developed and generated technologies for commercialization. The technology commercialization framework was described in detail alongside the roles of agriculture and fisheries R&D.

Identification of mature technologies was done including those of the rubber-based farming systems (rubber plantation intercropped with banana, durian and mangosteen, and integrated with upgraded native chicken), and range-type upgraded native chicken. Based on earlier discussions with Ms. Frosie Maldan of DA-BFAR IX in Zamboanga City, fishery technologies were identified including seaweed triangular method production, polyculture, aquaculture and mariculture technologies of mangrove crabs, lobsters, blue crab, and other fishes. WESMIARC and

the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources IX (BFAR IX) requested the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to assist in documentation and technology validation, synthesis, and integration activities to make the technologies available to the end-users.

WESMIARC signified its full support to the program and will ensure that their technologies will be appropriately commercialized provided they will be given enough technical and financial support to implement at the regional level. As part of their commitment, they will establish strong partnership with the local government units (LGUs), identify and establish markets that boost their agricultural products, and develop small enterprises that will apply and adopt the different technologies for increased productivity and profitability of key players and stakeholders. (Marlowe U. Aquino, Ph.D)



# Bringing the best of Pinoy agri products to the heart of metro

by: MIKO JAZMINE J. MOJICA

For five years now, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) have been participating in this major gathering of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to display and sell products derived from agricultural lands across the country. These products include food items, textile, handicrafts, and medicines. Organized by the Department of Agrarian Reform - Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (DAR-BARBD) in partnership with the Philippine Fruit and Vegetable Industries Inc. (PFVII), the event was held on 7-11 June 2006 at the MegaTrade Hall 1, 5<sup>th</sup> Level, Bldg. B, SM Megamall.

The trade fair is awaited yearly by the agriculture, fisheries, and private sector in the country's 15 regions. These are the interested in small and medium enterprises interested to highlight their best and quality products that have big market potential. This year's theme, "Market opportunities toward globalization" was held in celebration of the 18<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) Anniversary.

This year, BAR featured its major programs, the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) and Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) program in its exhibit. For the NTCP, the technologies on sweet sorghum, pigeonpea, sweet tamarind, coconut sugar production, and postharvest handling technologies were introduced while success stories of farmer-cooperators on diversified farming systems and seaweed farming were highlighted for CPAR. On the



other hand, the products derived from the utilization of postharvest technologies such as the queen pineapple and mango; and the coconut sugar and other by-products from coconut were displayed in BAR's booth. These displays attracted a considerable number of exhibitors and exhibit-goers who noted the good quality of the pineapple, mango, and coconut by-products displayed.

During the fair's opening ceremonies on 7 June, Ms. Aurita Carlos, chairperson of the PFVII, discussed their efforts in exploring the export market and enjoining the cooperation of the government, entrepreneurs, and especially ARBs to be part of the international trade. She said that they are currently in the process of negotiating with US and China for possible exportation of our

fruits and vegetables to these countries. DAR Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman emphasized, in his message, the contribution of DAR to the development of agrarian reform communities (ARCs) particularly in their productivity and adoption of improved technologies. He acknowledged the contribution of DA, PFVII, and the Department of Trade and Industry for the improvement of ARBs' livelihood.

Rep. Junie E. Cua from the lone district of Quirino province was the event's guest of honor and speaker. As chairman of the house committee on agrarian reform, he extolled their commitment in passing laws that empower ARCs and provide funds for their competitive enhancement. "Agrarian reform means developing in the ARCs the spirit of entrepreneurship so they can be ready for globalization. However, the need for better technologies, infrastructure, and lower capital should be made available and accessible to them so they can improve the quality of their products and be competitive in the international trade," said Congressman Cua.

The trade fair also served as venue for short seminars and workshops in food processing and relevant lectures on small and medium enterprises. BAR received a plaque of appreciation for sponsoring the event along with other government and private institutions such as SM Megamall, Landbank of the Philippines, Manila Bulletin, Philippine International Trade Inc., National Livelihood Support Fund, and the Philippine Australian Technical Support.



## Rubber production...from page 1



(Left photo) Participants take the post exam on rubber production and management.

(Right photo) Dr. Naomi Tangonan (extreme right with hat) lectures on control management of rubber diseases during one of their field visits in Cotabato.

the important cultural requirements and management including strategies and effective means to disseminate knowledge and information to farmer-clienteles.

The two-week training gathered 32 participants from the country representing key provinces in the regions and government agencies nationwide. Representative provinces were chosen based on climatic conditions and wind speed of the place. Participants included representatives from the Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs), Local Government Units (LGUs), State Colleges and Universities (SCUs), Regional Field Units, and key staff from BAR.

Resource persons for the training mainly came from USM, where the Philrubber Research Center is based. Among the topics discussed and lectured on and the discussants include: 1) status and prospects of the Philippine natural rubber industry (Dr. Tenny B. Alcalá); 2) recommended rubber clones in the Philippines and establishment of rubber wood garden/source bush (Dr. Romulo L. Cena); 3) rubber nursery establishment and management (Prof.

Anita M. Testado); 4) rubber propagation techniques on budpatch extraction (Prof. Anita M. Testado); 6) establishment of rubber plantation and management; 7) tapping systems and management; 8) updates on rubber exploitation and management with simulation (Dr. Eugenio A. Alcalá); 9) rubber-based farming system (Dr. Eugenio A. Alcalá); 10) crop nutrition (nursery, immature and mature rubber) (Dr. Adeflor G. Garcia); 11) control management of rubber diseases (Dr. Naomi G. Tangonan); and 12) economics of production and marketing of natural rubber (Dr. Lorna G. Valdez).

Aside from lectures were actual hands-on training and farm visits to different rubber projects in Cotabato province. Participants were also given written examinations and actual demonstrations on the field to test whether

they learned something.

As an output of the training, the participants prepared an action plan for future rubber projects and activities. Mr. Rodolfo L. Galang, officer-in-charge of the Management Information Systems Division (MISD) and assistant project officer of the national training management, lectured on how to prepare action plans. All action plans were submitted to BAR for review and evaluation. (Rita T. dela Cruz)



## Web news

**Institute of Plant Breeding of the University of the Philippines Los Baños releases new variety of corn, peanut**

<http://www.seedquest.com/News/Companies/Asia/seameosearca.htm>

**Institute of Plant Breeding of the University of the Philippines develops elite food crops, technologies**

<http://www.seedquest.com/News/Companies/Asia/seameosearca.htm>

**Cloned carabao, virus-resistant papaya, other 'Pinoy Biotek' products out soon**

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

**New Zealand donates US\$340,000 to bird flue protection program**

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

**Thailand to focus on export quality fragrant rice**

<http://Ricenews.irri.org/>

**Cultural values, food safety collide over rice cakes**

<http://Ricenews.irri.org/>

**Wild elephants rampage villages for rice beer**

<http://Ricenews.irri.org/>

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