

Unleashing...from page 10

ornamental farm also in Varamin province.

The Laleh Behesht Production Cooperative is located south of Tehran. The cooperative was established in 1996 with the aim of combating arable lands and converting them into productive farm lands through pistachio production. A total of 28 cooperatives with more than 480 members are working collaboratively with the assistance of the Iranian government.

The farm has been identified as a HACCP pilot site as well as a demonstration site to expedite the transfer of research findings on pistachio farming. The technology adopted by the cooperative covers three major areas such as soil and water management, pest management, and production and marketing management.

Since the site is in the desert, the system of water management got the interest of the participants. It was shared by the cooperative manager that they dig around 200 meters below the ground to get good water for irrigation.

At the start of their farming operation, they flush the farm site to wash away the salt content of the soil. When the soil is ready, the cooperative members plant pistachio seedlings. The farm is irrigated by flush irrigation once a month for three days.

All other production management practices are employed in the farms which are provided by the agricultural technicians of the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture (MOJA) and the local farmers with their own farming experiences. The sharing of experiences of farmers is the most common and effective way to obtain information for better crop production especially, on marketing activities.

Another interesting farm visited was the cooperative's Ostrich project, which is one among the agro-tourism projects located in Varamin province. Operated by young professional graduates of agriculture the project has proven the commercial viability of the ostrich farm. The farm is solely for breeding and stock development. The birds are slaughtered for meat which demands higher price over other meat.

In addition, the feathers are gathered and sold every six months for decorations and arts. Also, unhatched eggs are crafted to produce other forms of home decors which are exported.

The Integrated Pest Management – Farmer Field School (IPM-FFS) in Tarand is one of the successful projects in the province of



Mr. Hajibabaie, owner of the Modern Ornamental Production Facility, briefs the participants on farm operations in Varamin Province, Iran.

Tehran. The IPM-FFS project is implemented by the Integrated Green Rural Advancement (IGRA), a local NGO, which aims to promote sustainable agriculture practices in arid and semi-arid areas. It is funded by the UNDP/GEF/SGP & managed by the village people, particularly the men and women in Tarand.

The project's main focus is producing safe crops such as vegetables, mushroom, and wheat and to empower the farmers to make the right decision for better crop production management. It is evident that information is shared through experiences and provision of information by agricultural technical from the MOJA.

One unique feature of the project is that the local farmers are considered experts, enhancing support activities through on-farm activities such as on-farm training, dissemination of technologies, and demonstrations coupled with lectures and field work. One of the innovative activities of the IGRA is the processing of mushroom into jelly and jams which is now locally marketed.

Iranian agriculture would be incomplete without a well-established and managed protective agriculture. The application of such innovation is seen in a fully computerized and operated ornamental farm.

The farm specializes on anthurium, roses, lishanthus, and daisies. The farm operates 24/7 from sowing of

seeds to marketing. It utilizes modern production technologies from the Netherlands which also provides the technical expertise for modern ornamental production management system.

The farm has established markets in Dubai, other Asian markets (Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, and Taipei) and European countries. The farm serves as an ideal extension model for the dissemination of modern technologies of different varieties and types of flowers to all producers, horticultural students, and agriculture graduates in Iran.

Implications to agricultural development

It was proven through the shared country reports that knowledge management plays an important role in agricultural development. The transfer of technology and continuous sharing of technical experiences by key players and stakeholders are the key factors of sustainability. These are supported by approaches and tools which enhance the utilization and application of the methodology to increase production and profit of those utilizing modern and state-of-the-art agricultural technologies. Knowledge management, therefore, must be participatory in nature in order that localized application is attained for effectiveness and efficiency in agricultural production.



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NARS leaders and senior managers discuss ICT/ICM sensitization for agri development



Participants of the ICT/ICM Sensitization Workshop held at PCARRD, Los Baños, Laguna. Representatives from BAR were: Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino (back row, 4th from right), Mr. Victoriano B. Guiam (2nd row, left), Ms. Julia A. Lapitan (2nd row, third from left), and Ms. Rueth T. Cabral (2nd row, 2nd from left).

The new direction of agricultural development focuses on and emphasizes the utilization and application of information identified, created, developed, and disseminated by key players and stakeholders. In order

that this will be attuned to the emerging trends and needs of agricultural development, members of the Asia Pacific Association of Agriculture Research Institutes (APAARI), particularly leaders from the national

agricultural research system (NARS) and senior managers of information and communication technology and management (ICT/ICM), gathered and discussed how agricultural information and knowledge are used and sensitized for maximum use in the Asia-Pacific region's productivity and sustainability aspects. The workshop was held on 30 August 2007 at PCARRD, Los Baños, Laguna

Eight country representatives from Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines discussed in detail their experiences and status of ICT/ICM in relation to agricultural research and development (R&D).

Majority of the presenters pointed out that the use of ICT in enhancing development is anchored on R&D breakthroughs and innovations relevant to globalization and competitiveness which make the region productive.

In addition, ICT is a vehicle that drives all NARS to establish linkages and networks for effective partnership and information sharing between and among members of APAARI.

In doing so, the sensitization of ICT/ICM creates learning opportunities for NARS members to help transform R&D outputs into relevant and appropriate programs and activities for the country and its people.

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BAR sponsors 2 training-workshops on GOPP

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) facilitated two training-workshops on "Goal Oriented Project Planning Focusing on Logical Framework for R&D Projects" on 16-20 and 23-27 July 2007 at the DA-BAR Network Building, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), College, Laguna.

Dr. Enrico P. Supangco, UPLB vice-chancellor for Research and Extension, welcomed the participants. Profs. Wilfredo B. Carada and Nelson Jose Vincent B. Querijero of the Institute of Development Management and Governance of

College of Public Affairs (IDMG-CPAf) were resource speakers for the activity. They discussed the valuable points in Goal Oriented Project Planning (GOPP).

Dr. Jaine C. Reyes of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE) discussed and presented monitoring and evaluation using project planning matrix/logical framework (PPM/LF) concept. She was also the overall organizer of the social night and campus tour joined by participants.

The five-day training-

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This publication provides regular updates on BAR's activities as the country's national coordinator for agriculture and fisheries R&D; and highlights features and news articles concerning NaRDSAF-member institutions.

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BAR and OptiServe implement e-Pinoy Farms program in Region V

photos by rueth t. cabral



Courtesy call of the BAR and OptiServe team at the office of Ocampo Mayor Fidel C. Carido (right).

Representatives from OptiServe briefs the members of LGU, BIARC, and farmers about the e-Pinoy Farms program.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) with OptiServe Technologies, Inc. (OptiServe) began the initial implementation of e-Pinoy Farms in different Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) sites in the Bicol Region on 21-23 August 2007.

The e-Pinoy Farms program is a unified database designed to support and enhance the decision-making process of specific community-based activities and to enable farmers' organization, cooperatives, and agribusiness enterprises to record their transactions and operations.

Data that will be infused within the database program of the e-Pinoy Farms are activities documented from the CPAR program of BAR.

A team composed of staff from BAR: Mr. Tito Arevalo, head of the Research Coordination Division (RCD), Ms. Julia Lapitan, assistant head of the Management Information and Systems Division (MISD), and Ms. Rueth Cabral, programmer of MISD; together with Ms. Eduviges Angeles and Mr. John Michael Vincent Radoc of OptiServe, visited the Bicol Integrated Agricultural Research Center (BIARC) on the first day of the activity for a courtesy call on Dr. Elena Santos, manager of BIARC. A computer unit that will house the e-Pinoy Farms Systems was installed at the BIARC office.

Accompanied by some staff

members from the local government unit of Bicol and BIARC, the provinces of Camarines Sur and Sorsogon were visited by the team on the second day and third day respectively, for the gathering of information that will be stored in the e-Pinoy Farms System.

In Camarines Norte, the production technology for *tilapia* and *ulang* (fresh water prawn) practiced at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources- Regional Freshwater Fisheries Center (BFAR-RFFC) was documented.

Likewise, a successful CPAR project in Ocampo, Camarines Sur was visited for documentation. The project, which is managed by farmer-partner, Engr. Wilfredo Lanusga, is part of the "Diversified Farming Systems Agribusiness Development Project in Bicol Region," and involves production of salted eggs and *balut*.

Meanwhile, the team also visited the seaweed farm of Mr. Ramiro Panganiban in Sorsogon to document his methods in the production of seaweeds. The BFAR V Regional Seaweed Nursery and Techno Demo Farm and the BFAR National Seaweed Technology Development Center in Sorsogon City were likewise visited to gather more information on the production of seaweeds and to document the machines and greenhouses used for the drying and processing of seaweeds. (Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala)

The e-Pinoy Farms Program is a unified database designed to support and enhance decision-making process of specific community-based activities...

photo courtesy of bernie s. manuel



Participants of the 2nd Annual Workshop of the LEARN-IT project held in Hanoi, Vietnam with Mr. Bernardo S. Manuel of BAR (2nd from left).

LEARN-IT: Making rice info technology available in real time

RITA T. DELA CRUZ

The ability of the extension service to provide timely feedback to research and the ability of the research system to transfer new knowledge to the extension system greatly depend on research-extension linkage.

Thus, extension system becomes effective only if the information and technologies generated by research have quickly reached a great number of farmers.

But real life situation shows that there has been a gap in this linkage. There is a need therefore, for a systematic effort to accelerate the transfer and use of research outputs to where they are needed the most.

This was the hub of the topic at the recently concluded "2nd Learning Extension and Research Needs through Information Technology (LEARN-IT) Annual Project Workshop" on 22-23 August 2007 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

First, you have to LEARN-IT

LEARN-IT is a regional technical assistance project that makes use of information and communication technology (ICT) as a tool to support extension and training in agriculture. Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam are the three pilot countries for the project, which runs for three years.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the executing agency with major national organization from each country implementing the project. The project is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Japan Fund for Information and Communication Technology (JFICT).

The project aims to build national capacity through the use of ICT and in the form of the Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB) as

a source to develop and disseminate extension and training information. The idea is to have all these materials from RKB ready for dissemination which will be translated into local languages for easy information dissemination. Coordinators from each country are trained in preparing and updating of information for the RKB.

This year's workshop was attended by 21 participants from seven countries namely: Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, China RKB, Nepal, Philippines, and Lao PDR.

Participants included 16 project participants from three the pilot countries and three invited speakers who shared their experiences lessons learned on Knowledge Bank outside their assigned project countries.

Dr. Noel P. Magor, head of IRRI's Training Center and LEARN-IT project director, presented the overview of the project including its goals, partners, project structure, and target project outputs. Leveling of expectations, workshop orientation and operating guidelines, and expected outputs were discussed by Dr. Mark Bell, M&E consultant and chief facilitator of the LEARN-IT project.

This year, five non-LEARN-IT participants were invited as guests to provide valuable insights for the workshop participants on Knowledge Banking experiences. They came from China, Nepal, the Philippines and LAO PDR—most of whom are management top officials and/or ICT practitioners. The lessons learned session provided valuable exchange of ideas and suggestions.

Mr. Bernardo S. Manuel of the Bureau of Agricultural Research's (BAR) Information and Communication Technology

Section (ICTS) was invited to represent the Philippines.

Other guests were Mr. Pan Xiaofang of the China National Rice Research Institute (CNRI), China RKB; Dr. Bhaba Prasad Tripathi of the IRRI Nepal Office, Nepal; Mr. Bandith Ramangkoun and Mr. Virachith Phommasack of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR.

Highlights of the workshop

The workshop in sessions covered the following topics: status, accomplishments, lessons learned, and plans for the next period of pilot countries; monitoring and evaluation of the project; and best practices and work planning of the project.

Three project logical framework outputs were identified.

First was localizing RKB to address the knowledge needs of the farmers from each pilot country. Second was on integrating RKB into key farmer intermediaries to address rice-related issues encountered by poor farmers. Last was strengthening network by creating and strengthening agricultural extension practitioners within and across the target countries.

The workshop provided venue in sharing Knowledge Bank experiences and lessons learned from the three pilot countries. There were four non-LEARN-IT participants from China, Nepal, Philippines, and Lao PDR.

Each pilot country presented its revised work plans and assessed them based on the project log frame. The revised workplan becomes the updated project monitoring tool for each country. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plans based on their workplans were also presented to identify common elements for M&E.

Unleashing Knowledge Management in agriculture

MARLOWE U. AQUINO, PHD



Participants of the Study Meeting on Knowledge Management Tools in Strengthening Agriculture Research and Extension Systems in Tehran, Iran with representatives from BAR: Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino (4th from left, back row) and Ms. Salvacion M. Ritual (2nd from left, front row).

What comes to mind when the concept “knowledge management” is presented, seen, discussed or read in literatures, researches or feature articles?

I believe, it is something new, an emerging concept and a by-word in development. To some, it was a challenge posted to three Filipino participants in the recent Asian Productivity Organization (APO)-sponsored activity on “Study Meeting on Knowledge Management Tools in Strengthening Agriculture Research and Extension (ARE) Systems” on 4-9 August at the Grand Tehran Hotel in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Filipino participants included Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino, head of the Management Information Systems Division (MISD) and Ms. Salvacion M. Ritual, assistant head of the Programs Development Division (PDD) of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR); and Mr. Ronan G. Zagado, project coordinator for Content Development of the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (OpAPA) coordinated by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

Their participation signaled the kick-off of knowledge management as a new trend in improving the agriculture

research and extension systems of DA's priority programs for effectiveness and efficiency in information and knowledge exchange between and among key players and stakeholders.

Study meeting highlights

The study meeting is the first of its kind organized by APO which deal on agriculture research and extension using knowledge management tools in the Asian Region. The activity was participated in by 11 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Iran, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines.

The participating countries prepared their respective country papers and reports which included tools used in information and knowledge exchange, experiences on management and implementation of agriculture research and extension, and the challenges, opportunities, and recommendations to address the productivity and profitability in agriculture within the Asian Region.

An overview of the knowledge management including concepts and perspectives was discussed through the resource papers highlighting the basic understanding of KM using the Nonaka (1994) concept for business organizations vis-à-vis its utilization, application, and adoption in agriculture. This led to the

leveling of understanding and expectations by the participants and the resource speakers.

It was noted that knowledge management could be applied in agriculture provided that this is embedded in the Socialization, Externalization, Combination, and Internalization (SECI) aspects of the KM model proposed by Nonaka. The SECI Model is the basis for the operationalization and institutionalization of the KM in agriculture.

More important, these should be within the organizational, practitioners and user's level for better appreciation and implementation of the KM as a methodology for agriculture and sustainable development.

A continuous exchange of information and knowledge is expected among the participants in order that the gains in agricultural productivity and profitability will be achieved through effective and efficient research and extension systems. In support of this, a resource book was developed by the participants for distribution and circulation to interested institutions and organizations, as well as stakeholders of information and knowledge management.

Discovering Iranian agriculture

Making sense of knowledge management is one of the objectives of the study meeting. To fully appreciate the different tools used by different countries, a counter learning and field visit was conducted particularly on Iranian agriculture. Highlighting the visit is an exposure of the latest and state-of-the-art technologies of crop production management.

The field visits were carried out to provide an opportunity to gather insights on how Iran organizes its communities and cooperatives for the purpose of empowering people to action towards the practice of promising and environmentally safe technologies for the production of safe and exportable agricultural crops. It also aimed to get insights on how knowledge management is practiced in agricultural research and extension in Iran.

Three uniquely successful farms were visited by the participants, specifically the Laleh Behesht Production Cooperative Pistachio and Ostrich Farms, IPM/FFS Vegetable and Mushroom Projects in Tarand, and the productive

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SACY to BAR: Unlock technologies to address rural poverty



“It is possibly good for BAR to rethink its goal what it is going to do after its 20th anniversary to address the critical concerns of our society. BAR has to give attention as to how it is going to maximize and unlock the technologies and bring it down to as many people as possible that can benefit can use those technologies. The technologies, having them locked up in BAR, is useless.”

Joining the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in the celebration of its 20th anniversary, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Arthur C. Yap stressed this as he keynoted the event on 7 August 2007 at the RDMIC Building, Visayas Avenue, corner Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Trailing off from the invention of the glider by the Wright Brothers to the rapid development of telecommunications, Yap recognized the fast-paced advancement of technology nowadays. However, despite the advancements in agriculture and other fields of science, he stated that Filipinos still live in a very perilous and critical time.

“Take note that as these advances are taking place, our country is still grappling with a very high incidence of rural poverty,” Yap pointed out. Moreover, he also referred to the depleting conditions of the environment caused by the waste products resulting from technological developments and advancements.

Thus, the Agriculture Secretary asserted that BAR must find ways on how to harness the gifts of technology and its fast advancement, and how to bring these technologies down to the marginalized sectors of society.

At the same time, Yap asked BAR to “rethink” of its goals as it

continues to pursue its mandate and how will the bureau act to address the critical concerns of society, which are poverty and food scarcity.

He also called for a greater cooperation with the state colleges and universities (SCUs) and centers of excellence (COE) in the country, which he dubbed as the “oasis of technologies” to continuously conduct researches and develop technologies that can irrigate a dry countryside.

Yap also addressed the role of commercialization, saying: “The only way to sustain a technology is through commercialization.” Moreover, he



(L-R) BAR Asst. Dir. Teodoro S. Solsolay, DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap, and BAR Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar.



photos by Rita L. dela Cruz

recognized the importance of the private sector who will invest in those technologies.

The DA official stressed the importance of information communication technology (ICT) in helping the farmers to improve the research-extension-farmer linkage. By fully maximizing the opportunities of ICT, the farmers can benefit by communicating relevant information that is useful to their farming activities such as the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (OpAPA) in which BAR is among its implementing institutions.

In closing, Yap recognized the efforts done by the BAR in the past 20 years of its existence and likewise congratulated the bureau's staff for choosing to stay and serve the government. (Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala)

photo by judyann h.guevarra



Asec Salacup keynotes tech forum for Mindanao cluster

As part of the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) initiatives to transfer technologies to intended beneficiaries in the regions, the Technology Commercialization Unit (TCU) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) facilitated the conduct of the 2007 Mindanao Cluster Regional Technology Forum on 30 August 2007 at the Grand Caprice Restaurant, Cagayan de Oro City.

The Regional Field Unit (RFU) 10 served as this year's host attended by around 500 participants.

This year, the region showcased 14 technologies ready for commercialization.

These were: 1) Sweet potato (PSB SP-16): Potential for tubers and chips; 2) Promising cassava varieties for chips; 3) Green *Muscardine* fungus for the control of coconut beetle; 4) Brandy wine production using coconut water; 5) Low intensity tapping technology in rubber; 6) Storage temperature for minimally processed durian; 7) Village level banana chip processor; and 8) Backyard vegetable seed production in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

For the fisheries/livestock/postharvest session, six technologies were presented: 1) Floating rope method for seaweed culture; 2) GET Excel tilapia for export fillet market; 3) Tilapia-shrimp nuggets; 4) Low-cost feed stuff for freshwater shrimp culture in the ARMM; 5) Hand-driven

mechanical forage cutter; and 6) Modified atmosphere packaging for broccoli.

Researchers and scientists came from the DA-Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), state colleges and universities (SCUs), and private cooperatives.

With this year's theme "Stronger Technology-Investment Linkage for Competitive Agriculture and Fisheries," DA Assistant Secretary and Agribusiness and Marketing and Goal 2 Focal Person Salvador S. Salacup, delivered the keynote address in behalf of Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

Salacup mentioned that this year's theme suggests technology commercialization as an inevitable solution on how to go about and disseminate every investment that the government puts in R&D.

He stressed the importance of enough investments and strong linkages in bringing forth technologies for a competitive agriculture and fisheries sector. "Research must be at the forefront of technology innovations. It must be committed to the generation of technologies that will create new market opportunities," he said.

Salacup also led the ribbon cutting ceremony which officially started the event. Assisting him were OIC-Regional Executive Director Lealyn A. Ramos, OIC-Regional Technical Director Constancio C. Maghanoy Jr., and BFAR 10 Director

Arlene B. Pantanosas.

On the same day, the guests, together with TCU Coordinator Ms. Digna L. Sandoval welcomed queries from media people during a press conference.

Salacup encouraged a strong partnership between the private sector and government institutions as well as with the local government units (LGUs).

The conduct of technology forums is in support of one the DA's thrust to provide adequate food sold at affordable prices (*pagkaing sapat sa presyong abot kaya*).

One question asked was on BAR's mandate and its role in the conduct of technology forum. "As one of the staff bureaus of DA, we coordinate, monitor, and evaluate R&D activities and provide support as we strengthen linkages with the RIARCs and RFRDCs," Sandoval answered.

Salacup added that the measure of technology success lies in the acceptability of technology in a location-specific consideration.

Important highlights mentioned during the press-conference were to: 1) bring back profitability to farm level; 2) disseminate technologies to improve the quality of life for an income-generating venture; 3) facilitate product enhancement, market access, credit support, logistics, and information, education campaign; and 4) encourage more participation from farmers and fisherfolk. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)

Conserving and utilizing tropical fruits diversity to ensure food security

RITA T. DELA CRUZ

Agricultural biodiversity plays an important role in ensuring food security and substantial income for small farmers. The diversity of plant species continuously sustain and provide the country's growing demand for food. But with the increasing population and the inability of farmers to produce more food, the per capita food production continues to decrease.

Maintaining a diversity of both our flora and fauna is the key to survival for millions of our small farmers worldwide. To increase the productivity of our crops and their reliability and nutritional quality—which is the life-line of our food producers—there is a need to make full use of the genetic diversity of the world's major food crops. Finding practical means to conserve and use this genetic diversity is the only way to guarantee that the coming generations will still have enough food to eat and enough natural resources to enjoy.

A project on conserving and utilizing tropical fruits

The Bioversity International, formerly known as the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), has been working closely with its local partners, including the Philippines to improve the conservation and use of tropical fruit species. It's a nonprofit international research organization dedicated solely to the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity.

Since very few tropical fruits are cultivated on a plantation scale and most are grown in small-scale (as home gardens and small plots), valuable diversity that is represented by the collected varieties needs are rarely conserved and utilized. Thus, a project, "Conservation and Use of Tropical Fruits Diversity in the Philippines," was proposed to systematically conserve and utilize the tropical fruit species diversity in the country.

Specifically, the three-year project hopes to: 1) strategically identify priority fruit species for collecting, characterization, evaluation, conservation, documentation and

utilization; 2) develop appropriate databases and document all the information available on the collections of different fruit genetic resources in various parts of the country; 3) develop and use appropriate techniques to characterize and evaluate the available fruit genetic resources; 4) suggest methods for using the evaluated genetic resources for crop improvement either through direct planting of elite materials or through breeding; and 5) strengthen capabilities of institutions to undertake sustained conservation and management of priority germplasm.

Among the expected outputs of this project are a national fruit species collection database, accessions of different tropical fruit species with desirable traits for utilization, and a framework plan for improvement of tropical fruit species.

The project is coordinated and funded by the Bureau of the Agricultural Research (BAR) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), and implemented by University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Western Philippines University (WPU), Department of Agriculture-Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (DA-EVIARC), Bureau of Plant Industry-Davao National Crops Research and Development Center (BPI-DNCRDC), DA-Albay Experiment Station (AES) Region V, and National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL).

2nd Project review

With the project now on its third year of implementation, PCARRD, in coordination with BAR and implementing agencies conducted its "Year 2 Annual Project Review" on 23 August 2007 at the Bureau of Plant Industry-Davao National Crop Research



photo from www.elyunquehotels.com

and Development Center (BPI-DNCRDC), Davao City.

The activity kicked off with the brief welcome remarks from Ms. Lorna Herradura of BPI-DNCRDC and opening message from Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio, director of the Crops Research Division-PCARRD.

Detailed presentations on methodologies, activities, and accomplishments of the different implementing agencies were presented according to their focus fruit species being studied.

Presentations included: 1) Ms. Bernardita Orbase of DA-AES (pili); 2) Dr. Francisco Dayap of DA-EVIARC (jackfruit and other *Artocarpus* species); 3) Mr. Romeo Lerom of WPU (mangosteen and other *Garcinia* species); and Mr. Alfredo Corpuz of BPI-DNCRDC (durian and mangosteen). Discussions and recommendations followed after each presentation.

Project evaluators for the review were Prof. Teresita H. Borromeo and Dr. Felipe S. dela Cruz, Jr. both from UPLB and Ms. Brenda Y. Bautista of DA-BAR.

Administrative and other issues and concerns were discussed after the presentation as well as the year 3 plans of the project. The group also agreed to have a standard template in cataloguing the fruit species.

Capping the activity was a synthesis from Dr. Jocelyn E. Eusebio of PCARRD.





Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD

The need to be competitive and to continue playing its fundamental role as the foundation for the country's economic development are the two critical interrelated challenges faced by Philippine agriculture today. With its relatively large contribution to the national output, and the large number of people who are economically dependent on it, most of whom are poor, agriculture deserves continued support and appropriate attention.

Making sense is all that matters for agriculture. From strategic planning, implementation, and policy advocacy, agriculture can leap from a mere commodity producer to a dynamic sector incorporating all dimensions of development from socio-cultural, ecological, economic, and political interventions. Given the chronic shortage of financial resources of government agencies and active involvement of non-government organizations (NGOs) for agriculture programs, efforts to develop the sector must be strategic to be effective.

The partnership of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and the Fullbright Philippine Agriculture Alumni Association (FPAAA) is one of the most thought strategies wherein up-to-date agricultural information and technologies are shared to various sectors of development.

BAR established a system that would integrate all agricultural information for wider dissemination and application. FPAAA on the other hand, institutionalized an exchange mechanism for information,



photo by nicanor b. del rosario III

Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino (left) of BAR hands over the cheque to Dr. Liborio S. Cabanilla, president of FPAAA and dean of the UPLB-CEM. The cheque which amounts to Php142,000 is part of BAR's support to FPAAA under the Scientific Publication Grant (SPG).

communication, and education initiatives within the reach of agricultural development stakeholders and players. These two approaches are attuned to competitiveness and dynamic developments in agriculture.

Specifically, research outputs of Fullbright-sponsored researchers, the challenge to address innovative and responsive research areas are being emphasized. These include agricultural policies on important commodities such as livestock and fisheries, social impacts

of commodity industries with relevance to people's participation and innovation, and improvement of biotechnology researches. All researches undertaken by Fullbright-sponsored researchers contribute to a holistic agricultural development, including support services of BAR through scientific conferences, forums, and seminars, as well as information and communication technology (ICT) – based initiatives for better technology transfer and information dissemination. 🌱

information nodal point (NINP) of APAARI members.

The NINP plays a critical role in ensuring that such arrangements will be beneficial to all key players in agricultural development in the region.

If things work well, only then can the Asia-Pacific region guarantee that its agricultural productivity and sustainability will be at par with those of other continents and regions around the world. (Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)

ICT/ICM sensitization will be further discussed with the presentations of the framework, collaboration and cooperation initiatives, and agricultural development platform during the next meeting of the heads and senior technical staff of NARS and international organizations in October 2007 in India.

To date, it is a working arrangement to exchange pertinent agricultural R&D information among NARS through the national

NARS leaders...from page 1

Specifically, APAARI's role in this sensitization activity is to develop a culture of information exchange within the region, facilitate the transfer of technologies for global competitiveness, and standardization of ICT/ICM initiatives in terms of technical requirements, capability building, and policy advocacy activities.

Specific details on the

photos by marlowe u. aquino



Mr. Julian A. Lapitan, IRRI project coordinator, presents the accomplishments and status of the cyber communities.

Farmers and stakeholders listen attentively on the discussions and observations made by the technical evaluators during their field visit in Bay, Laguna.

Reflect and think of agricultural innovation without modern technologies and information to support it – the result, no room for expansion and replication.

This was the initial observation made by BAR staff and technical evaluators during the project review of the ICT-based project on cyber communities implemented by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Laguna and Quezon and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) in selected PhilRice research station service provinces on 29-30 August 2007.

The project review included a technical evaluation for accomplishments

ICT-based projects take center stage in agriculture

and status of the project and the field validation. IRRI sites for the pilot villages were evaluated first and new schedule for PhilRice pilot municipalities is scheduled for the second round sometime in October 2007.

Information and communication technology (ICT) - based projects are now in the limelight of agricultural development simply because research institutions, as well as extension and development-oriented

organizations, are viewing ICT as a tool to improve research and development. Through ICT, several activities could be done specifically on latest agricultural information, breakthroughs, and innovations.

In the case of IRRI and PhilRice ICT-based projects, the rice knowledge bank is utilized as a vehicle to share experiences and enhance technology transfer to rice farmers. It also provides a collective mechanism for farmers' classes and demonstrations of the latest technologies through the Internet and other multimedia.

The farmers are organized as a community with a common vision, objective, and programs for improved rice and other agricultural commodities. These organized communities are now termed as "cyber communities" because of their utilization, application, and appreciation of ICT-based strategies such as internet, CD, computer-based initiatives, and connectivity.

With this new development, it is envisioned that these cyber communities will support other farmers who are not yet hooked up in the cyber communication or e-agriculture information. When this modality becomes part of the mainstream agriculture development, we can be sure that our farmers will be well-informed utilizing up-to-date and state-of-the-art technologies to be globally competitive and modernized. (Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)

BAR sponsors...from page 1

workshop enabled participants to construct a logical framework or logframe for their identified R&D projects. The logframe subsequently serves as aid to construct the workplan using objective-oriented and participative situational analysis in formulating a program/project matrix and system for monitoring and evaluation.

The activity was attended by personnel from the Department of Agriculture (DA) who are particularly involved in R&D, community-based, environment, and development works.

Those without experience in research and project planning were also encouraged to participate. They were given a chance to learn the participatory approach with innovative planning

techniques.

Participants were grouped into three clusters (Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao).

Each group identified a core problem faced in their R&D. From the problem analysis, the objectives, alternative and participation analysis followed. Highlight of the workshop focused on formulating a logical framework. The logframe approach (LFA) is an analytical, presentational, and management tool developed to improve project planning. A PPM/LF should cover the project strategy, objectively verifiable indicators, means of verification and assumptions. Logframe is a required attachment of a project proposal if a researcher is planning to submit one to any funding agency like BAR. (Ma. Eloisa E.

BAR awards 8 outstanding employees for 2007

MA. ELOISA E. HERNANDEZ

photos by nicanor b. del rosario III

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) honored this year's Most Outstanding Employees during the celebration of the bureau's 20th anniversary on 9 August 2007 at the RDMIC Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Eight BAR staff members received the award while seven got citations from different categories.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Arthur C. Yap personally handed the plaques assisted by BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar. The awardees also received cash prizes and training abroad.

Members of the Board of Judges included Dr. Hamlet T. Dala, Dr. Manuel F. Bonifacio, Dr. Santiago R. Obien, and Ms. Josefina M. Lantican. BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy was chairman of the Board.

Criteria were: For the division/unit heads, significant contribution (50%), leadership (20%), analytic and creative capability (5%), initiative and resourcefulness (5%), time and resource management (5%), fairness and consistency (5%), credibility and integrity (5%), and concern for people (5%).

For the supervisory category, the criteria were: leadership (25%), significant contribution/accomplishment (25%), performance/attitude towards work (25%), and job knowledge (25%).

The same criteria applied for the non-supervisory category except for those in the leadership category: significant contribution (40%), performance (30%), and job knowledge (30%). Based on the eight categories, the awardees were:



Division Head:

Dr. *Carmencita U. Kagaan* or "Amy" was among the pioneer staff members of BAR, having served the Bureau since its creation. She has been a recipient of the award thrice. She heads the Program Development Division (PDD), quite a big task, since the division handles major programs of the Bureau formerly handled by several units (e.g., National Programs Division (NPD) / Regional Programs Division (RPD), Institutional Development Division (IDD) and Project Development Unit (PDU)). She emphasizes the practice of "respect for each person" and "professionalism" as two of the most important things that make her an effective supervisor. According to her, "I am very lucky that my former mentors have taught me that, 'with proper guidance and

encouragement, we can bring out the best in our people, this belief, I now apply as division head." No wonder, despite the tremendous assignments and responsibilities that PDD handles, the staff maintains a pleasant and close-knit relationship with her.

She is very happy and thankful for the recognition given to her but also recognizes the challenge that this award brings. She is pleased that the BAR management has reinstituted the award system because it inspires the staff to keep on doing their best.

Mr. *Roberto S. Zuing* of the Finance Unit is the runner-up for this category.

Unit Head:

Mr. *Joell H. Lales* of the Planning Unit (PU) is the concurrent senior executive assistant to the director.

Fresh from college, he applied at BAR and immediately got the job. He gained the trust of several directors of the Bureau. Handling two positions at a time is not a laughing matter for him. When asked how he handles pressure, he said: "Thinking the other way around; how pressure handles me. Work is not the end of it all; there is life outside of the workplace; there are lots of reasons not to be pressured." The Planning boss likewise encourages a jolly working environment with his staff.

Ms. *Julia A. Lapitan* of MISD and Dr. *Marlowe U. Aquino* of TCU garnered the first and second runner-up positions, respectively.

Section Head:

Despite the insufficient manpower at the Institutional Development Section (IDS), Ms.

Huminada M. Ching continues to deliver the services expected of her. Serving 19 years in the Bureau is something to be recognized. One of her colleagues said Ms. Ching's responsibility for the HR development of the Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development system is huge but still she manages to keep things on track. Winning the award did not make her feel that she is excellent but humbly she said that she was just being an "instrument". Her work involves the upgrading and development of the Bureau but also tremendously working for the R&D staff of the Department, including the Gawad Saka Search for Outstanding Achievers in Agriculture and Fisheries under the agricultural scientist category.

Also from PDD, Ms. *Leancia B. del Mar* bagged the first runner-up followed by Dr. *Rolando U. Kintana* of the Research Coordination Division (RCD).

Non-Technical, Supervisory:

Be it for supplies request, meals, vehicles, and other administrative matters; you will hear the name of Ms. *Rosalie G. Maranan*. "Ms. Rose," as she is fondly called by colleagues, has been patiently accommodating requests of every divisions and units. "Never say it cannot be done" is always inside her head whenever there are immediate needs requiring immediate solutions. Formerly a technical staff at the Governance, Impact Evaluation and Policy Division (GIEPD),

she now serves as Property and Supply Section head, concurrent administrative head.

Ms. *Judith A. Maghanoy* (Budget) got the runner-up prize.

Technical, Non-supervisory:

The cliché "small but terrible" indeed applies to Ms. *Digna L. Sandoval*, coordinator of the Technology Commercialization Unit (TCU). One should never underestimate her physique as she is one the busiest ladies of BAR responsible for the conduct of National and Regional Technology Forum of the Department. Once a section head of the Technology Commercialization Section, she now serves as one of the staff members that spearheads the formulation of the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP). With limited staff-workers of TCU, she is glad to have performed tasks as expected. This she attributes to good rapport even with the junior staff-members.

BAR's head writer, *Rita T. dela Cruz*, is this year's runner-up for the category.

Non-technical, Non-supervisory:

Accommodating, friendly, and trustworthy are the traits that would best describe Mr. *Bernardo S. Manuel* or simply "Bernie" by his colleagues. But more than that, is a great dedication to his work reflected by his accomplishments and contributions to the Division, more

so to the Bureau. A well-rounded person, he manages ICT aspects, particularly the internet from physical to budgetary. No doubt for the second year, he garnered the outstanding employee award for this category. He has been with the Management Information Systems Division (MISD) staff since he started working with the Bureau in 1994.

Technical, Project-based:

Ms. *Connie R. Fernando* left a permanent position in a leading bank five years ago. But certainly she has no regrets in choosing a project-based status now at BAR. Ms. Fernando not only thinks of her contribution alone but the Bureau's to so many people. "It feels good that people appreciate what your organization as a government agency is collectively doing, to be of service to your target clients without thinking of profit." Now, she enjoys her work at the Project Packaging Section as a technical staff member.

Non-Technical, Project-based:

An on-the-job trainee at the Management Information Systems Division in 2000, Mr. *Danilo C. Santos* was hired as hardware maintenance staff under the Information and Communication Technology Section (ICTS) of BAR. He has a helping hand and sharp mind for troubleshooting and technical assistance on workstations. He has been responsible for maintaining the internet and intranet services of the Bureau.

