

BAR capability enhancement training held



BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy opens the activity with a message on the importance of team in building a strong organization.

A capability enhancement training for Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) key officials and staff was held on 8-9 May 2008 at Loreland Farm Resort in Antipolo City.

BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy, in his opening message, expounded on the meaning of the word "team." He explained it using the definition "Together Everyone Achieves More."

Dr. Solsoloy added that unity and cooperation are the key to an effective organization. He also stated that an effective organization is, in general, one where communication flows up, down, and across the organization. He concluded by expressing that BAR officials and employees should consistently observe unity and cooperation within the bureau.

Dr. Hamlet T. Dala, coordinator for administrative matters, and master of ceremony, gave a lecture on the characteristics of the Filipinos. He enumerated the leading Filipino traits such as love for the family, love of country, having great belief and faith in God Almighty, hospitality and being always joyful.

On the other hand, he also cited the weaknesses of the Filipinos that deter learning and how to overcome them to improve their working behavior.

He pointed out that Filipinos still can't get rid of the notion "Filipino time," a commonly observed habitual malfunction to lots of Filipinos. According to Dr. Dala, Filipinos are known for always being late, that is why some foreign countries seem to be somewhat hesitant in hiring a Filipino national and would opt to employ people of different nationality.

He emphasized that self-

was done. This was also facilitated by Dr. Dala.

The key officials and staff first pulled out a piece of paper from the collection composed of various kinds of animals (dog, cat, pig, horse, cow, goat, chicken, and frog). They were then tasked with looking for their groupmates or companions by imitating the sound made by the animal they selected. Afterwards, as the groupings were finally created, each group were asked to think of its group name, make a cheer, and discuss with one another each member's shining moment by taking into account the inspiration they had during that situation, as well as the values learned.

The group presentation concerning each member's shining moment followed.

The Administrative Unit of BAR coordinated the activity with the objective of providing a venue for relaxation and recreation to key officials and staff while at the same time strengthening the relationships and bonding of the staff as a team. *(Christmas B. de Guzman)*

discipline, as the answer to the chronic "Filipino time" phenomenon, can be practiced by being punctual at all times. This would be equivalent to an individual who is not wasting the time of other people or his or her colleagues by simply being on time.

This reinforces the old saying that "Time is gold." As a matter of fact, time and attention are finite resources, two of the most precious resources that human beings have.

As a learning experience, an exhilarating activity related to the lecture



BAR staff put into action the meaning of team effort during one of the group activities.



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Prepare the way to young graduates who want a shot at agribusiness – SACY



Department of Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap delivers his message during the DA-SUC Consultation Meeting held at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel.

Thus, suggested Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap to 78 state universities and colleges (SUCs) present at the "DA-SUC Collaborative Extension Service Consultation" held at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel on 21 May 2008.

Yap said that to change the flavor and look of agriculture, there is a need to attract young students to appreciate agriculture, particularly the lack of management and business systems in this field.

"We must prepare the way to young students who want a shot at agribusiness," he stressed.

To do this, Yap suggested that SUCs to support agribusiness programs for students, specifically by creating a curriculum that would enable students to understand the business side of agriculture. He tapped

National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) President Emil Q. Javier and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, who were both present at the consultation, to lead in this endeavor.

Yap also said that the Department of Agriculture (DA), in collaboration with SUCs, will create a recognition program specifically to highlight the importance of value-adding in agriculture products.

With BAR leading this activity, Yap said that the national consultation on collaborative extension service is crucial in hastening the transfer of technologies and in educating the farmers through more effective access and cost-effective use of information.

"But this consultation meeting is not just about addressing rice production and food sufficiency," Yap stressed. "After all, the Philippines is not all rice although it is the most important issue right now given the needs for security and stability measures on our end at the Department."

The Agriculture Secretary urged DA to look into the bigger framework and contribute to the profitability of farmers not only by increasing yield production but more on increasing value addition through supply chain access. Specifically, he cited profitability in terms of value-adding, marketing, and logistics. *(Rita T. dela Cruz)*

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Secretary Yap gives instructions to NAST President Emil Q. Javier (right) and BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar (left) during the DA-SUC consultation meeting.

photo by MEHERNANDEZ



DA, LGUs, SUCs partner for collaborative extension service

DA-SUC Collaborative Extension Service will be a subset of the national agricultural extension system in the country."

This was stressed by University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Chancellor Luis Rey I. Velasco at a consultative meeting on *DA-LGU-SUC Partnership: Focusing on Increasing Provincial Rice Productivity* on 13 May 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel, in Malate, Manila.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), local government units (LGUs), and the state universities and colleges (SUCs)

prepared a Collaborative Extension Service (CES) proposal in support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's *FIELDS* Program and the National Rice Security Program of the Department.

FIELDS stands for **F**armers, **I**rrigation, **E**ducation and training of farmers and fisherfolk, **L**oans, **D**ryers and other postharvest facilities, and **S**eeds of high-yielding hybrid varieties.

"Agricultural extension is a shared responsibility by all and not only by the LGU," Chancellor Velasco also emphasized.

On the current situation of the

In his Collaborative Extension Service proposal, UPLB Chancellor Luis Rey I. Velasco presents that the collaborative extension service will be a subset of the national agricultural extension system in the country. DA, LGUs, and SUCs prepared CES proposals in support to President Arroyo's *FIELDS* Program and DA's National Rice Security Program.

Philippine Agricultural Extension Services, the DA-Regional Field Units (RFUs), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), and SUCs provide technical expertise, extension training, and trainers' technology training respectively, to the LGU agriculture extension who provide beneficial tool to farmers. This boils down to issues on manpower supply, funding support, technical expertise, and support services.

Based on the proposed framework, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will serve as the lead agency for R&D and together with ATI, will be the coordinating body at the national level, and the DA-RFUs and the ATI regional offices at the regional level.

SUCs will be tapped to establish and/or utilize their extension offices and staff to assist the DA in providing technical assistance, training, and other extension services in their respective clusters or coverage areas. Selected SUCs will be assigned special commodity and thematic assignments based on their strengths and capabilities.

In particular, the UPLB extension program will assist the rice-producing provinces of Regions IV and V, provide UPLB technical staff to provinces, put back the "On-the-Air" DZLB Ag School Radio Program, and conduct farmer-scientist training. "This is to considerably achieve higher yield levels, reduce cost of production, and reduce postharvest losses," Chancellor Velasco said.

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BAR Chronicle is the monthly publication of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), which is mandated to ensure that all agricultural researches are coordinated and undertaken for maximum utility to agriculture. This publication provides regular updates on BAR's activities as the country's national coordinator for agriculture and fisheries R&D. It also highlights features and news articles concerning NaRDSAF-member institutions.

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Cashew is not just about the nuts

by Rita T. dela Cruz

Most people, when they talk about cashew, refer only to the nuts. And with the growing popularity of cashew nuts as a snack food, it is considered to be the most important product from cashew, putting the fruits to waste. Palawan, considered as the cashew capital of the country is supplying 90 percent of the nut requirement.

Owing to the high astringency of cashew apples, they are seldom eaten fresh, thus completely neglected. Imagine how much of these fruits go to waste just so the country can achieve the cashew nut requirement in a commercial scale.

Concerned with the scenario, the Research Department of the Western Philippines University (WPU) in Aborlan, Palawan led by Estrella B. Equiña, thought of how the unconsumed cashew apple could gain economic value for the Palawenos farmers. The group of Equiña, in collaboration with the Food Processing Center of WPU, developed a village-level processing to utilize the cashew apple. The group used the cashew apple as raw materials for producing profitable food products such as wine and prunes.

New product lines from cashew apple

The technology uses the fruits of the cashew as raw materials in the production of new line of products: *wine* and *prune*. The technology involved the natural extraction of the juice from the

cashew apple through osmotic process wherein the natural fibers and membranes of the pulp filter the undesirable organic components that are responsible for the astringent and acrid taste of the juice. The extracted juice is now the material use to produce wine while the remaining pulp is use to make prune.

The wine is sparkling yellowish-brown when fermented from the juice extract of the cashew apple and becomes reddish-brown upon aging for more than a year. The developed technology for wine contains 10-12 percent of ethyl alcohol.

Meanwhile, the prune which comes from the pulp of the cashew fruit is brownish-black, plummy and sweet-sour in taste. The cashew prune is synonymous to the raisins, dates, and plums which can be eaten as snack food or dessert.

The cashew wine is being sold at 200 pesos a bottle while the prunes cost 110 a kilo.

Putting the technology into action

To put into operation the village-level cashew apple processing, the Turbudan Food Processor, registered business base in WPU, adopted the technology to commercialize the production of cashew wine and prunes.

The project was operated and managed by 17 personnel. For two months, the group was able to process

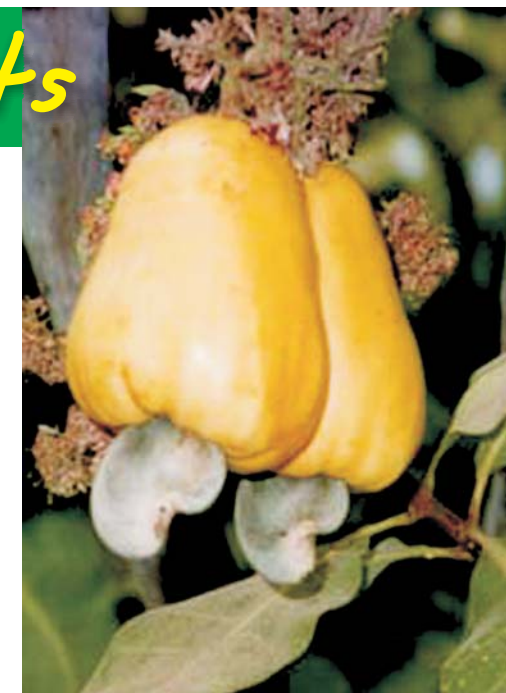


photo courtesy of wikimedia.org

300 kgs of cashew apple in a day. In the report of Equiña, she cited that "the production output is 30% recovery yield for wine and 25% for the prunes which is equivalent to an annual production of 8,353 bottles of wine and 3,264 kgs of prunes." She also reported that the total project cost amounted to P 1,339,611 covering fixed capital investment of P 403,390 and P 936,221 working capital for two months.

The project is funded by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and WPU. The Return on Investment (ROI) is 63.84% with a payback period of 1.52 years.

Instead of being a complete waste, the cashew farmers in Palawan are gaining profit from cashew apple. According to the report of Equiña, cashew apple is gradually gaining economic value of more than four times the value of the nuts. It also contributed to the creation of jobs in the countryside because more than half a million salary compensation has been flown into the economic stream of the community.

Since the inception of the project in 1990, this technology has been adopted by various Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs) around the country. Among them were RIC in Bataan, Cagayan de Oro, Roxas, Palawan, and Zambales along with other small-scale food processors.

For more information about this technology, please contact Estrella Equiña of the Western Philippines University, Aborlan, Palawan Campus. You may contact her at 0906-8360101 or email at: spcpweb@yahoo.com



photo courtesy of <http://whenny/soupcanative.blogspot.com>

Cashew apples without the seeds/nuts.

CSSP holds 38th Annual Scientific Conference in Iloilo



photo by MMOJICA

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas delivers his message during the opening ceremony of the 38th CSSP Scientific Conference. Sitting from left were incoming CSSP President Rhodora Aldemita; OIC RTD of DA-RFU VI Joyce Wendam, and outgoing CSSP President Jose Hernandez.

The Crop Science Society of the Philippines (CSSP) celebrated its 38th Anniversary by holding its Annual Scientific Conference at the Iloilo Grand Hotel in Iloilo City on 12-16 May 2008.

In 1970, Dr. Emil Q. Javier, now president of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), founded CSSP “to promote human welfare through discovery and dissemination of knowledge concerning the nature, utilization, improvement, and interrelationships of plants and their environment, and ... the people.”

The 38th CSSP anniversary had “Environmental Sustainability for Global Competitiveness through Crop Science” for its theme. The theme focused on the central concern of the upstream, downstream, and technology adoption researches conducted by crop scientists in the country.

The event was highlighted by plenary sessions, scientific paper presentations held in concurrent sessions, farmers' forum, scientific posters exhibit, presentation of finalists in the Best Paper Competition, induction of CSSP officers for 2008-2009, and the Awards Night.

The 245 participants included scientists, researchers, students, and policymakers from the academe, government, and research institutions, as well as representatives from the private sector and local government units led by Iloilo Governor Neil Tupas and Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas.

During the Awards Night, the 2008 CSSP Achievement Awards were bestowed on the following: Dr. Rita P.

Laude (University of the Philippines Los Baños) for teaching; Dr. Rolando T. Cruz (Philippine Rice Research Institute) for research; Dr. Aladino L. Leccio (Capiz State University) for extension; Dr. Alvaro M. Pamplona (International Rice Research Institute) and Ms. Flora A. Jarilla (Bureau of Plant Industry) for technology development; Dr. Manuel G. Gaspar (IRRI), recipient of the Sant S. Virmani Hybrid Rice Award; and Dr. Sosimo Ma. Pablo, recipient of the Special Citation for Agricultural Journalism.

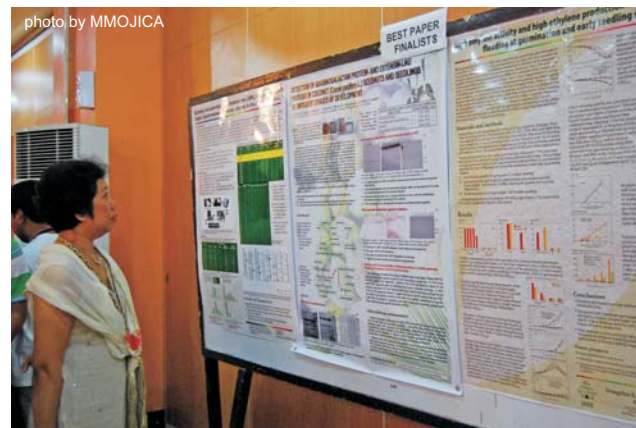
The newly elected CSSP president, Rhodora Aldemita, PhD, and outgoing president Jose Hernandez, PhD, led the conferment of awards for the Best Poster and Best Paper under different categories as follows:

For the Best Poster Competition, the poster, *A Feasibility Study on Establishing a Virus-Free Banana Seedling Propagation Facility in Bay, Masaya, Laguna* (FP Rodriguez, MB Panabang, et al.) won in the socio-economics category; *Congressional Initiatives for Sustainable*

and Productive Rice Farming in the 4th District of Nueva Ecija: The Pilot Site Experience (OC Malonzo, RW Antonino, et al.), technology adoption category; *Conversion of Rice Mega Varieties to Submergence Tolerance with the Sub1 Locus* (DL Sanchez, AM Pamplona, et. al.), downstream category; and *CO2 Compensation Point in the Wild Species of Rice* (MA Dionara, PP Pablo, et al.), upstream category.

For the Best Paper competition, *Improving Farmer's Lives through Partnership: The Nueva Ecija Experience* (RB Miranda and CG Abadilla) won in the technology adoption category; *Dynamics of Fruit Fly and Borer Infestations in Relation to their Biological Control Agents and Host Jackfruit Phenology* (CS de la Cruz, CS Cotillas, et al.), downstream category; and *High Amylase Activity and High Ethylene Production in Rice Tolerant of Flooding at Germination and Early Seedling Stage* (ES Ella, GV Vergara, and AM Ismail), upstream category.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) sponsored the event together with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit VI (DA-RFU VI), National Mango Research and Development Center, Aklan State University, Central Philippine University, Farmers Community Development Foundation, City Government of Iloilo, Provincial Government of Iloilo, Provincial Government of Guimaras, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, and the Provincial Tourism Office. (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica)



Incoming CSSP President Rhodora Aldemita looks on at the Best Paper Finalists displayed at the exhibit hall.

Zubiri launches Laguna Biofuel Program



photo by SALBAO

Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri (right) and Laguna Representative Edgardo San Luis (left) lead the planting ceremony of *jatropha* at the launch of the Laguna Biofuel Development Program.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, principal author of the Biofuel Act of 2006 (RA 9367), led the launch of the Laguna Biofuel Development Program at Ananias Lico Memorial Elementary School in Magdalena, Laguna on 22 May 2008.

The launch of the project which is organized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), which has an ongoing R&D program on *jatropha* was led by Dr. Virgilio Villancio. During the

event, he presented a background on the National Biofuel Development Program.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) led by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) is spearheading the feedstock development of the program and has tapped UPLB to collaborate on its R&D component

Prior to the launch, the First Laguna Biofuel Development Orientation and Planning Workshop was held at

UPLB. The 16 towns in the fourth district of Laguna were organized into four clusters as follows: Mabitac, Sta. Maria, Famy, and Siniloan (Cluster 1); Pangil, Pakil, Paete, and Kalayaan (Cluster 2); Lumban, Cavinti, Luisiana, and Pagsanjan (Cluster 3); and Majayjay, Magdalena, Pila, and Sta. Cruz (Cluster 4).

A re-echo seminar to present the *Jatropha curcas* production technology and the particulars of the Laguna Biofuel Development Program is scheduled for each cluster after the launch. Dr. Villancio said each town, through the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist and partner organization or cooperative, is expected to develop its Municipal Biofuel Development Program.

“Initial activities include identifying 10 farmers with at least 10 hectares per municipality who are interested in planting *jatropha* even without financial support. They will be provided with free seedlings of about 1,600 seedlings per hectare as a start-up activity committed by Senator Zubiri,” said Villancio.

In addition to the distribution of seedlings, Senator Zubiri said during the launch that he is willing to support a *jatropha* oil extraction facility for the province.

Also present to show their support were Laguna Representative Edgardo San Luis and Magdalena Mayor David O. Aventurado Jr. (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica)

DA, LGUs...from page 2



photo by MEHERNANDEZ

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap (third from left) poses with SUC presidents during the culminating activity of the DA-LGU Partnership Meeting, namely: (L-R) Ruben Sevilleja (CLSU), Philip Ibarra (TCA), Romeo Quilang (ISU), and Honorio Soriano, Jr. (PAC). With them are BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar (right) and BAR s Program Development Division Head Carmencita V. Kagaoan (2nd from right).

In closing, he emphasized that “research and extension must be complementary and must be farmer need-driven and location specific-oriented.” Also, the DA-LGU-SUC partnership aims to focus on Farmer-Scientist, Farmer Field School, and DA-BAR On-Farm Research.

SUC presidents present in the event were Drs. Miriam Pascua (Mariano Marcos State University), Romeo Quilang (Isabela State University), Ruben Sevilleja (Central Luzon State University), Honorio Soriano (Pampanga Agricultural College), Philip Ibarra (Tarlac College of Agriculture), Marito Bernales (Camarines Sur State Agricultural College), Virgilio Oliva (University of Southern Mindanao). Also present were vice presidents, Drs. Rogelio Matalang (Cagayan State University) and Anthony Penaso (Central Mindanao State University).

These are some of the 78 SUCs identified as potential partners in the R&D component of the FIELDS program to provide farmers with education and training to further increase their yields and lower their production costs. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)

BAR orients LGUs and NGOs on availing themselves of research grants



photo by ENAGPALA

With its mandate to coordinate and fund agricultural research and development activities and develop partnerships with local and international research organizations, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducted an orientation on its Competitive Research Grant Manual (CRGM) on 29 May 2008 at the Palazzo de Laoag Hotel in Laoag City.

The orientation was intended for the local government unit (LGU) and non-government organizations (NGOs) in Region 1 after the Bureau has expanded the implementation of its Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) activities to the LGUs.

BAR Assistant Director Teodoro Solsoloy, in his opening at the meeting, stressed the importance of research and development (R&D) activities in the

modernization of the agriculture and fisheries sector.

Ms. Salve Ritual and Ms. Elvie Rapada of BAR's Program Development Division (PDD) led the orientation and discussed the overview of the CRGM; the RDE grant system along with its implementing guidelines; specific guidelines for the private sector and NGO, format on the preparation of proposals; and the monitoring and evaluation guidelines. Also discussed was the revised set of guidelines on how NGOs and LGUs can avail themselves of the CPAR.

The CRGM is a component of the Diversified Farm Income and Market Development Project (DFIMDP), which aims to stimulate rural growth and farmers' income by enhancing the competitiveness of Philippine agriculture and fisheries.

In accordance with the unified

R&D implementation specified in the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), CRGM was designed by BAR to strengthen the system of coordination and monitoring of projects in agriculture and fisheries. It provides the guidelines, rules and procedures to access use and implement R&D projects. The manual likewise complements and enhances the processes, procedures, and operational systems in agenda setting, proposal preparation and submission, evaluation, review, and monitoring of projects under the National R&D System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF).

The orientation of CRGM for the LGUs and NGOs kicked off in November last year in Legazpi City. Early this year, another CRGM orientation was conducted for Region 9 in Zamboanga City. (Ellaine Grace L. Nagbala)



Ref. Gen. Marcelo Blando, chair of the RAFC raises his query on availing research grants for the private sector.



The participants pose for their group photo.

photos by ENAGPALA

DA Fruit-Bearing Tree Planting Program launched



photo courtesy of RLBIOS

The Department of Agriculture's (DA) Fruit-Bearing Program was launched on 21 May 2008 at the DA Southern Tagalog Integrated Agricultural Research Center (STIARC) in Tanay, Rizal.

The program's objective is to conduct fruit-bearing tree planting activities annually starting this year as a major activity in celebration of the Farmers' and Fisherfolk Month (May), particularly in the week of the Feast of St. Isidore (May 15-21), considered the patron saint of farmers. The activity will also help DA ensure food security, minimize poverty rate, and accelerate provision of food with proper nutrition.

This is line with the Green Philippines Program (GPP), a directive from the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which points toward minimizing the impacts of global warming, adopting a planting site for development, care and maintenance, and protection of the environment; assist the advocacy campaign to ensure awareness, appreciation and

participation by all related sectors, and provide other support that may be needed by the program.

GPP started in December of 2007. In terms of participation and specificity of function, GPP includes collaboration

Division (RCD). He is also the GPP focal person and the Technical Working Group (TWG) committee chair of the program.

Quoting DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap, he said that "this program aims to plant and maintain at least 10 thousand fruit-bearing trees per year."

BAR participants in the program launch led by Mr. Labios were Lorenzo Manuel, Ronnie Rosales, Venencio Almoile, Robert Navarro, Ernesto Cruz Jr., and Jovanni Lipogpog.

Mr. Labios said that full participation and support are expected from all the agencies involved since the program will contribute largely to the rehabilitation of the environment and prevent soil erosions through planting or reforestation.

It is, therefore, a commitment of all participating

agencies to: 1) look for a place that they can utilize and nurture; 2) prepare their planting sites and prepare their own materials; 3) monitor and maintain the sites; and 4) harvest when the right time comes and put the produce in good use.

Additionally, the fruit trees ought to be actually planted by the key officials and staff of the unit concerned, and shall be named after the authority who planted the tree if preferred.

Among the trees planted were cashew, jackfruit, citrus, *dubai*, *bignay*, and guyabano. Mango, though included in the list of fruit trees considered, was not yet planted during the activity. (Christmas B. de Guzman)

and extension work between the DA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). DENR takes the lead and undertakes the necessary coordination on the participation of various agencies.

All DA agencies and instrumentalities attended the launch of the DA Fruit-Bearing Tree Planting Program. Participating agencies include the Office of the Secretary, eight DA staff bureaus, 21 attached agencies and 16 Regional Field Units (RFUs).

Representing the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) was Mr. Rolando V. Labios, coordinator for research of the Research Coordination

BAR commissions PhilRice Impact Assessment

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), with mandate to continuously assist R&D institutions for the promotion and advancement of scientific technologies and breakthroughs in agriculture and fisheries, supports the External Review of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Impact Assessment.

Serving as easy reference materials for PhilRice Board of Trustees and its clientele, the publication was prepared in partnership with the Conservation and Development Specialists Foundation,

Inc. (CDSFI).

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, in his message, cited the publication as commendable effort because it presents a compilation of the comments and recommendations raised by external experts of PhilRice.

"This is aimed at attaining rice growth target and further improve PhilRice's research and development initiatives, mechanisms in its internal operations, collaborative works, and information and knowledge management and dissemination," Dir. Eleazar added.

In return, PhilRice Director

Leocadio S. Sebastian sees the review results as "congruent to the perceived directions, which are to enhance core competence in rice R&D, and the ability to connect with rice farmers and other stakeholders so that constraints to higher rice productivity and sustainability are best addressed by R&D thrusts."

This endeavor is attuned to the DA's Five Development Pillars for Agriculture and Fisheries. These include: 1) market access, 2) postharvest and storage, 3) credit facilitation, 4) technology and extension, and 5) irrigation. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)



BAR's IPRO holds IP Awareness Training Workshop in Marawi City

As a continuing advocacy to comply with the request of scientist-researchers and other agencies for Intellectual Property (IP) awareness training and policy formulation, the Intellectual Property Rights Office (IPRO) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) held a training workshop on 08 May 2008 in the Commission on Higher Education-Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (CHED-ARMM).

This was held at the Mamitua Saber Research Center of the Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City.

Dr. Carmencita B. Aquino, Chief of the Technical Services of CHED-ARMM and a former participant in the IP Awareness Seminar Workshop conducted for the Regional Research, Development and Extension Network (RRDEN) in the Department of Agriculture-Autonomous Region Muslim Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (DA-ARMMIARC) in Cotabato City in 2007, had earlier requested BAR to implement the IP awareness training workshop for all the colleges and schools in their regions.

The training workshop was aimed to give the participants an understanding of what IP is and its significance, which includes social, economic and institutional. BAR officials that facilitated the training workshop were Dr. Andrea B. Agillon, head of IPRO; Atty. James Dennis C. Gumpal, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and legal counsel; and Leilani D. Pelegrina,

IPRO technical staff.

Dr. Sitti-Ayesha Askalani, Commissioner II of CHED-ARMM, delivered the opening message. She represented the Regional Chairman of CHED-ARMM.

Dr. Agillon, as a resource person, discussed topics on IP management and its relevance to economic development, patents and utility model, patent document and prior art search. Atty. Gumpal talked about IP policy formulation, the laws governing IPR, and preparation of the draft IP Policy.

IP was described as the products of the mind. It can be ideas, images, inventions, symbols, designs, technologies, or literary and artistic works. IP management includes all activities that scientists and researchers do with IP.

Effective IP management reinforces research and development (R&D) system in promoting further creativity, facilitating transfer of technology, promoting business enterprises, encouraging market access, attracting foreign and local investments, and sustaining fund flow to R&D sector.

IPR has a vital role in ensuring that it is given proper protection through registration with the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) of the country. It provides a secure environment in which the general public could have access to high quality research without apprehension that the original work may not be acknowledged.

On the issue of acquiring intellectual property rights, Dr. Agillon

emphasized that filing application for IPR does not negate the scientist from publishing their researches. However, since the rule in the Philippines is "first to file," just like most countries in the world except the United States, scientists can immediately publish their researches after filing for IPR. The underlying rule is "patent-protect-publish-profit," stated Dr. Agillon.

All the 55 participants in the training are senior administrators of CHED. Many are either the president of their college or the dean, while the rest hold senior positions.

Realizing the importance of IP management and the underlying IPR, the participants, in turn, gave a positive response in the exercise on IP Policy formulation.

IP Policy embodies the scope of IPR, the level of ownership, the relationship of scientists to the organization in terms of IPR, and the sharing schemes for the royalties and benefits.

"As a result of the training workshop, the participants signified their intention of doing the real IP Policy the moment they return to their respective educational institution, and they will be incorporating all the detailed requirements of a policy," Dr. Agillon said. "We assured the participants that further help in the refinements of their IP Policies is available if they wish more advice," she added.

Assistance in IP management is one of the services rendered by BAR IPRO. (Christmas B. de Guzman)

DA unveils rice self-sufficiency plan; taps LGU technicians

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap has unveiled the Department of Agriculture's rice self-sufficiency plan for 2009-2010 tapping the local government unit (LGU) technicians in the country.

This he made official through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the Detail of Extension Workers with the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) which was signed during a consultative meeting on DA-LGU Partnership: Focusing on Increasing Provincial Rice Productivity on 13 May 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel, in Malate, Manila.

The MOA states that "agricultural extension workers shall be detailed with the DA – Regional Field Units (RFUs) to undertake agricultural development of the province."

DA and LPP forged an agreement on detailing agricultural extension workers on a full-time basis to the DA-Regional Offices to intensify the palay-production program over the next five cropping seasons.

Secretary Yap considers the governors as the country's new "rice champions." They shall provide overall leadership in the development and



The activity was culminated with the signing of the MOA between DA and the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).

implementation of provincial self-sufficiency plan using the national rice program framework.

Under the MOA, the Department will provide the administrative, operational, and technical supervision over the detailed agricultural extension workers, including the approval of travel orders, daily time record and leave application, individual performance targets and ratings, and attendance to trainings, seminars, and meetings.

Also highlighting the event was the pronouncement of Executive Order (E.O.) 723 signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that monetizes the P12.5 billion in Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) funds to LGUs for the DA's Rice Self-Sufficiency Program. This represents the amount still unremitted in 2001 and 2004.

In return, governors pledged to utilize a part of the fund to acquire certified seeds, and fertilizers, and construct post-harvest facilities. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)

BAR conducts GIS-RS training for researchers

The utilization and application of the geographic information system and remote sensing (GIS-RS) is gaining momentum, especially in research and development. GIS-RS' application in the field of physical sciences has increased in scope -- covering agriculture and fisheries, environment and natural sciences, defense and security, and engineering and industry, etc. These areas are all supported and developed through the use of modern-day innovative and dynamic technologies to ensure effective and appropriate decision making.

GIS is a strategy designed to integrate information and helps in making decisions through the means of spatial references and data analysis. This is further complemented by geographic data which are translated information for interpretation, analysis and packaging.

On the other hand, remote sensing (RS) is the science and art of obtaining information about an object, area, or phenomenon through the analysis of data by a device that is not in contact with the object, area, or phenomenon under investigation.

Based on this, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) designed a series

of GIS-RS training program for agriculture and fishery researchers for its maximum utility.

The training series is a follow-up activity of BAR's previous capability building initiatives in support of the Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS) implemented in three major cluster throughout the country since 2003.

This year, the integration of GIS and RS is a welcome development. RS data becomes a regular component of geo database servers of the agriculture and fisheries GIS (AFGIS) which BAR intends to strengthen through the AFRDIS.

On the part of the regional integrated agriculture and fisheries research centers (RIARCs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs), remotely sensed data along with global positioning satellite (GPS) are valuable tools in the implementation of agricultural and fisheries projects. Site characterization coverage is designed to extrapolate research domain and acquire updated geographic data in a shortest span of time.

The training aims to enhance the capability of the RIARC and SUC staffs on GIS-RS on correct handling, processing and analysis of data necessary for agriculture and fisheries development. The training will have three batches representing the country's three major geographical zones – Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The first batch will be conducted on 19-23 May 2008 at the University of the Philippines Visayas in Miag-ao, Iloilo. This will be followed by the Luzon Cluster on 3-6 June 2008 at the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) Headquarters in the Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija; and the Mindanao Zone on 16-20 June at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

Participants are encouraged to prepare their respective research center topographic maps including the research sites of BAR-funded projects and a three-year AFGIS proposal to be included in the overall AFRDIS program being coordinated and managed by BAR.

With these in the pipeline, the use of GIS-RS handled by trained staff will surely contribute a lot in making agriculture and fisheries responsive to sustainable development with the latest information and communication technologies. (Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)



photo by JAPITAN

Contextualizing extension in support of agriculture and fishery R&D

by Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD

The recently concluded Department of Agriculture – State Universities and Colleges (DA-SUC) Collaborative Extension Service Consultation held on 21 May 2008 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City led to the new direction of Philippine agriculture and fisheries extension service with the strong support coming from the local government units at the provincial and municipal levels. Because of the pressing concern to improve the delivery of the service, the context of extension has been placed in question, including its discourse to incorporate ideas, trends, directions, lesson learned, and experiences of individuals and organizations involved.

What do we mean by contextualizing extension?

The concept of extension has two basic elements. First, extension is viewed simply to provide or extend assistance in the form of information, technology, or even product to improve an existing practice. However, this has been questioned when one considers the end-users of technologies and the people who provide them. Second, extension must be viewed according to the intended clientele

and outputs derived. This may be questioned again, especially when there are no changes happening around and to the clientele as results unfold within existing domain such as existing knowledge, enhanced skills, positive attitude, and improved behavior.

The two arguments are complementary. However, there seems to be a lot confusing when extension in its limited form does not go beyond scope and application.

This is the very reason why experts are now questioning the context of extension especially in the area of agriculture and fisheries development. Its context may be placed arbitrarily to test when there is a wider scope – that is, a community ably utilizing, organizing, and applying varied aspects of extension modalities. Furthermore, extension could be as complex or may be simple enough depending on what, how, and who manages the extension service for agriculture and fisheries development.

In essence, extension goes beyond delivery of technology, training of farmers or fisherfolk, coordination with key players and stakeholders. Extension now incorporates the aspect of research by looking at the changes happening to

the end-user of technology and its communities, management of information being shared and exchange to effect change and the proper management of resources. Extension could not only deal with the clientele alone but the interaction and relationships occurring, maintained and developed while resources are used and systems are in place. This could only be done if all actors are directly involved and participate in the delivery of information or technology to intended users.

Use and application of extension service

The best way to determine the type of extension modality in use is to examine whether the key players share a common vision and goal of service. They must understand the intricacies of management that involve the changes in KNOWLEDGE – SKILLS – ATTITUDES and ultimately – BEHAVIOR of the stakeholders.

Extension workers and development practitioners must now understand the process of delivery and how the delivered product—whether these are information, technology or process—is managed according to user's preference and requirements. Most often, it is always

one sided or singled out mechanism; meaning -- product delivery. As a result, there is no extension service which ultimately considers the client. Nowadays, two factors are incorporated in extension service management – the end-users and the process of management.

In order to have maximum utilization of extension service, actors must set the goal of service, processes to manage, and activities to implement. These would give a holistic and comprehensive program of extension service. Train people as needed and appropriate to their needs, provide avenues for improvement, ensure activities are well participated in and people are actively involved. Only then will you see that these interventions and innovations in agriculture and fisheries are done through effective and efficient

extension service, including its management.

In terms of application, extension service only becomes effective when tools, techniques, and strategies are used properly and timely. People engaged in the process must bear in mind that they cannot effectively perform their roles and responsibilities if these aspects are not incorporated in the whole concept of extension. Only appropriate and timely utilization and application of these factors will ensure extension service and management at their best.

Need for partnership in extension service

Effective mechanism or process in any development program requires teamwork and active involvement of key

players and stakeholders including provision of other support services. This particular strategy entails strong partnership between and among the actors. In so doing, two intertwined and interacting activities are done. These are linkage establishment and maintenance of networks that support the vision, goal, and programs and activities in development.

Through these activities, actors can now direct their programs, provide support, and enhance the capability-building activities of individuals involved in the process until such time that these are institutionalized. With the advent of strong partnership, collaboration and complementation of efforts, players respond to commitment, trust, accountability, and responsibility will be enhanced. ■

DA-SUC Collaborative Extension Service Consultation

photos by RDELACRUZ



Dr. Emil Q. Javier presents the framework of the DA-SUC Collaborative Extension Program.



DA Usec. Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras at the VIP table with BAR Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar and Dr. Javier during the opening program.



DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap gives instructions to SUCs while Dr. Javier and Dir. Eleazar listen in.



Participants during the DA-SUC consultation meeting.



Dir. Eleazar and PCARRD Executive Director Patricio S. Faylon.