

BAR, WorldFish seal agreement to implement R&D project on aquaculture and fisheries

CDEGUZMAN



Maripaz L. Perez, WorldFish Center Regional Director for East and Southeast Asia

Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy and Program Development Division (PDD) Head Carmencita V. Kagaoan signed the MOA for BAR counterparting that of WorldFish Center Regional Director for East and Southeast Asia Maripaz L. Perez.

Also present during the MOA signing were PDD Assistant Head Salvacion Ritual, WorldFish Center East and Southeast Asia Coordinator Len Garces, WorldFish Center Finance and Administrative Manager Irene Robel, and WorldFish Center Administrative Coordinator Aisa Santos.

Prior to the signing, Perez presented the results of a recently-concluded regional workshop on “Value

Chain Analysis for Fisheries and Fisheries based Product”. According to her, value chain analysis is an innovative tool that developing countries should consider. “Value chain analysis is an innovative, sector-based approach to competitiveness focuses on getting more value from goods and services produced for export. It is a strategy that can help developing countries make the most of their exports,” she explained.

The WorldFish Center is one of the 15-member centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) with a mission of reducing poverty and hunger through research-for-development initiatives to improve the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sector. (Christmas B. de Guzman)

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the WorldFish Center to implement the project titled “*Strengthening Partnerships in Aquaculture and Fisheries Research in the Philippines*” on 30 September 2008 at BAR Conference Hall, RDMIC Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The agreement aims to strengthen partnerships among Philippine-based researchers and scientists from WorldFish Center in the areas of sustainable aquaculture and smallscale fisheries.

Specifically, the project hopes to strengthen the competence of the aquaculture and fisheries R&D system in understanding the state-of-the-art technologies and strategies for improved resource management. It also intends to develop a common agenda for the Philippines by tapping progress of research work and lessons learned by the center in other research areas, and strengthen linkages among its national research partners.



(L-R, front row) BAR Asst. Dir. Teodoro S. Solsoloy, WorldFish Center Regional Director Maripaz L. Perez, and BAR-PDD Head Carmencita V. Kagaoan. Witnessing the MOA signing are (L-R, back row) PDD Asst. Head Salvacion Ritual, Len Garces, and Irene Robel of The WorldFish Center.



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BAR increases cash incentives for 2008 AFMA Best R&D Paper

To encourage participation of researchers in the fields of agriculture and fisheries, we will increase the cash incentives for this year's winners of the National Research Symposium (NRS),” announced Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) during the recent NRS Working Committee Meeting held at the bureau on 16 September 2008.

Yearly, BAR holds the NRS wherein various researchers and scientists from state universities and colleges (SUCs), attached agencies and staff bureaus of the Department of Agriculture (DA), and local government units (LGUs) gather to present recent researches in the field and compete for the title of AFMA Best R&D Paper.

R&D papers will compete based on the following categories: *basic research*, *applied research* (technology/information generated-agriculture), *applied research* (technology/information generated-fisheries), *applied research* (technology adaptation/verification-agriculture), *applied research* (technology

adaptation/verification-fisheries), *socio-economics, development research* (agriculture), and *development research* (fisheries).

Dr. Carmencita V. Kagaoan, head of the Program Development Division (PDD) of BAR and chair of the Symposium Paper Committee, said cash incentives for this year have increased by more than 100 percent from their original rates.

From last year's P20,000 prize, the 2008 AFMA Best R&D Paper will take home P50,000 and a trophy. The first and second runners-up will receive P30,000 and P20,000, respectively, which is 100 percent higher than last year's cash prizes.

“We'd like to embolden the spirits of our researchers/scientists in the field and encourage them not only to conduct more relevant studies that will generate new

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Rep. Escudero and Sec. Yap grace 20th NRS awarding



Carrying this year's theme, “*Mula sa sakahan patungong hapagkainan: Bringing the benefits of agricultural R&D closer to the people*,” the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) will hold the 20th National Research Symposium (NRS) on 2-3 October 2008.

The opening program will be held at the 4/F RDMIC Building of BAR while the awarding ceremony will be conducted at the Fernando Lopez Hall of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The symposium will highlight important research results and technologies generated and conducted by researchers and

scientists in the fields of agriculture and fisheries.

NRS is an annual competition of agriculture and fisheries R&D papers conducted within the year by top scientists and researchers from state universities and colleges (SUCs), attached agencies and staff bureaus of DA, and local government units (LGUs).

R&D papers will compete based on the following categories: *basic research*, *applied research* (technology/information generated-agriculture), *applied research* (technology/information generated-fisheries), *applied research* (technology adaptation/verification-agriculture), *applied research* (technology adaptation/verification-

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Region I to cash in from goat production



BAR Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar (fourth from right) poses with RFU I RED Cipriano P. Santiago (fifth from right), ILIARC Manager Jovita M. Datuin (second from left), and CPAR Farmer-Cooperator Arnold Taipan (third from left). Also in the photo are BAR-TCU Head Anthony A. Obligado (right), representatives from the provincial government of Alaminos City, project researchers and coordinators of the CPAR-ADP on Goat Commercialization in Region I.

Up north, Region I is poised to earn big bucks from growing bucks. This is because the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Unit I (RFU I), in collaboration with the local government units (LGUs) and funding support coming from the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), has steered the involvement of farmer-cooperatives on its Goat Commercialization Project. The project was funded under the Community-based Participatory Action Research – Agribusiness Development Program (CPAR-ADP) of BAR.

According to the researchers of DA-RFU I, the production of goats in the region is constrained by several factors including the high cost of quality

breeder stocks, lack of sustainable source of feeds, high mortality rate at pre-weaning stage, susceptibility of goats to disease, and absence of a defined breeding program for goats.

The DA-RFU I is developing systems and strategies to make goat raising a profitable enterprise through the Integrated Goat Management Technology (IGMT) which is the main component of the project. Through IGMT, the DA-RFU I aims to achieve its two-pronged goals of developing an active agribusiness for small hold goat production, and establishing goat multiplier farms as sources of genetically-improved stocks by year 2010.

To enhance the capability of farmer-partners, trainings on IGMT, cross-visits to small ruminant farms, and Farmer

Livestock School (FLS) are conducted. To date, three CPAR goat sites in Alaminos and Sta. Maria in Pangasinan, and Candon City, Ilocos Sur were launched and established as multiplier farms. Other CPAR project sites include Mangatarem, Pangasinan; Tubao, La Union; and Pinili, Ilocos Norte.

On 31 July 2008, BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar visited Alaminos City, Pangasinan, one of the six sites for the project, to monitor its progress together with the full force of officials of the DA-RFU I, namely, Atty. Cipriano P. Santiago, regional executive director; Dr. Paz L. Mones, regional technical director; Dr. Jovita Datuin, manager, Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ILIARC); as well as Dr. Ronaldo B. Abarra, city

veterinarian; Mr. Ernesto S. de Leon, city agriculturist; and Col. Wilmer S. Panabang, city administrator.

The group visited two goat farms of CPAR farmer-partners in Alaminos, namely, Mr. Arnold Taipan of Brgy. Dulacac and Mr. Manuel Volante of Brgy. Tangarang.

The group likewise visited the City Abattoir which has been awarded the Best Meat Establishment, “Double A” accreditation for the LGU category, for three consecutive years. Dr. Abarra and Col. Panabang presented a brief background on the proposed on-site cold storage plant beside the abattoir. (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica, with reports from Ms. Ruth Menor and Dr. Enrique R. Serna Jr.)



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BAR participates in Agri-Tech Negosyo forum and exhibit



The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) participated in *Agri-Tech Negosyo* Forum and Exhibit, an activity hosted by the Fulbright Philippine Agriculture Alumni Association (FPAAA) which intends to disseminate information on local technologies (products, services, etc.) and link potential investors and entrepreneurs on agriculture-related businesses.

The FPAAA is composed of returned Fulbright scholars under the Fulbright-Philippine Agriculture Scholarship Program (FPASP) of the Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF).

Aside from BAR, *Agri-Tech Negosyo* Forum and Exhibit was also supported and participated in by other R&D institutions such as the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), University of the Philippines Los Baños-Institute of Plant Breeding (UPLB-IPB), UPLB-College of Agriculture (UPLB-CA), UPLB-National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCASTRD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the private sector such as the East-West Seed Group and UniVet. The opening of the exhibits kicked off officially with the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Guests were BSWM Asst. Dir. Wilfredo E. Cabezón, PAEF Executive Director Esmeralda S. Cunanan, and FPAAA

President Mario G. Andrada. The majority of the participants came from the DOLE-Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (DOLE-OWWA). The group was represented by Dr. Alicia P. Santos, manager of DOLE-National Reintegration Center for OFWs (DOLE-NRCC).

Dr. Eugene P. Mende, FPAAA Board of Directors (BOD) member, and Dr. Marissa V. Romero, FPAAA secretary, served as the masters of ceremony.

FPAAA Pres. Andrada, welcomed the participants and in his speech, he said that the objectives of the activity were to: 1) disseminate information about commercially agricultural technologies and the business opportunities that these technologies present; 2) generate interest in agricultural technologies among OFWs, hobbyists and other individuals, and provide them with information and assistance related to these technologies; 3) serve as a venue for networking and business/market linkage among technology developers/disseminators, potential financiers, and current and would-be entrepreneurs; and 4) encourage the establishment of technology-based business start-ups among OFWs, hobbyists, and other individuals.

The event was capped by plenary sessions in the afternoon. Mr. Zac B. Zarian, columnist-journalist of the Manila Bulletin, talked about “*Opportunities in Different Agri-Tech based Industries – Facts & Figures.*” Dr. Ida F. Dalmacio of BIOTECH-UPLB discussed “*Biotechnological Interventions for*

Agricultural Development and Opportunities.” While Dr. Amihan M. Lubag-Arquiza, FPASP '02, Crop Science Cluster, UPLB-CA, lectured on “*Better Living and Nation Building through Horticulture, Entrepreneurship and Agri-Technology.*”

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, the guest of honor, emphasized the importance of good packaging and marketing program when it comes to agribusiness.

He also explained President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's FIELDS (Fertilizer, Irrigation and other rural infrastructure, Extension, training and farmers' education, Loans, Dryers and other postharvest facilities and Seeds) Program being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, which aims to increase and stabilize the supply of rice in the country, as well as to deliver targeted subsidies to the poor who are most directly affected by the global price increases.

“Basic agriculture is a necessity to mankind, that's why the government is investing billions of pesos in ensuring along sustainable agriculture, its basic national agriculture program,” he stressed.

Secretary Yap also visited the exhibits at the BAR booth, which included in-house publications, books, journals, and brochures from BAR and its partner-agencies (Christmas B. de Guzman).



Sec. Arthur C. Yap visits the BAR booth during his round at the Agri-Tech Negosyo exhibit.

New CPAR on-the-go: Cacao + *Pinakbet* vegetables under coconut-based farming



A Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) Project in the Polillo Islands, Province of Quezon is expected to officially set off before the year ends.

Titled "Community-based Participatory Action Research on Cacao + *Pinakbet* Vegetables under Coconut-based Farming Systems in Polillo and Bordoos, Quezon," the new CPAR Project aims to increase crop productivity and income of farmers thru intercropping coconuts with cacao + *pinakbet* vegetables.

Quezon is the leading coconut producer in the region with 230,449 ha planted to this crop with the total production of 1.19 million MT in 2007 (BAS, 2007). In the municipalities of Polillo and Bordoos, coconut is considered as the main crop. According to statistics (MA Office, 2007), Polillo alone has a total agricultural area of 28,748.6 ha from which 59% is planted to coconut.

Cacao, on the other hand, accounts for 349 ha planted with 48,496 bearing trees mostly found in Quezon (BAS, 2007). Yet cacao production is quite low considering the suitability of the crop to the area.

"New technologies appropriate to the existing agro-climatic conditions are needed given that cacao production can be an effective way of alleviating poverty for millions of farm households," said Ms. Digna P. Narvacan, Southern Tagalog Integrated Agricultural Center (STIARC) chief agriculturist and one of the proponents of the project.

As intercropped with cash crops under coconut, sustainable cacao production could be a viable source of income without

disrupting the existing crop or tree crop activities. Cash crops like *pinakbet* vegetables will also help farmers find ways for their everyday expenses.

Crop diversification and productivity enhancement leading to increased income of farmers will be the results of intercropping cacao + *pinakbet* vegetables under coconut-based farming systems. Crop diversification will also boost land use and maximize labor and inputs in the area and improved biodiversity and sustainability of existing farming systems. In relation to the said project, the trend is to increase the production of coconut and for cacao to increase the area planted and its production so as to meet the high demand of this crop in the local and international

“New technologies appropriate to the existing agro-climatic conditions are needed given that cacao production can be an effective way of alleviating poverty for millions of farm households.”

markets.

The CPAR Project will be completed in two years, with assistance from the Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit IV-A, and local government units. The implementation will be spearheaded by STIARC.

Currently, STIARC is coordinating to the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Lucena City and to the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist of Polillo and Bordoos, to be able to conduct Participatory Rural Appraisal to assess the biological and socio-economic conditions of the area and identify problems and issues in agricultural development in the sites. (Christmas B. de Guzman)



BAR honors two R&D achievers

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will present citation awards to Dr. Virginia C. Cuevas of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and Dr. Louella Rowena A. de Jesus of the Regional Field Unit (RFU) IV-B MIMAROPA RIARC as R&D Achievers during the 20th National Research Symposium (NRS) awarding ceremonies on 3 October 2008 at the BSWM, Elliptical Road, corner Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap and Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III of the First District of Sorsogon, to be assisted by BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar and Asst. Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy, will award the plaques.

Dr. Cuevas, a dedicated professor for 34 years at the Environmental Division, Institute of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences of UPLB specializing on plant and fungal ecology, is one of the Ten Outstanding Teachers of the Philippines for 2008 awarded by the Metrobank

Foundation. The award-giving body was established to uplift the culture of excellence in education. Cuevas received a gold medal under the higher education category.

Cuevas was recognized in her studies in agricultural biotechnologies on rapid composting technology and the *Trichoderma*.

BAR supported a study on the efficacy of *Trichoderma* as a biological control agent of damping-off disease in lowland vegetables.

The generated technologies

have resulted in decreasing the dependence of farmers on agricultural inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Dr. de Jesus, another R&D achiever, is this year's GAWAD SAKA Outstanding Agricultural Scientist. GAWAD SAKA was established to give recognition to scientists and researchers with outstanding accomplishments in agriculture and fishery researches.

She pioneered



Dr. Virginia C. Cuevas of UPLB



Dr. Louella Rowena A. de Jesus of RFU-IVB

research on the biology, behavior, ecology, and control of the quarantined pest, mango pulp weevil (*Sternonchus frigidus*). Her study resulted in the decrease in mango pulp weevil infestation in mango-growing areas of the country. Her study considerably uplifted the socioeconomic conditions of Palawan mango growers; hence, saving the mango industry.

Cuevas was also a recipient of the Lingkod Bayan Presidential award and the Ten Outstanding Young Scientists award. Dr. Jesus now serves as the RIARC Manager for Region IV-B since September 2007. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)

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technologies for the agriculture and fishery sectors but more important, for them to join and present these new findings to the public," Dir. Eleazar said.

He further stressed that over the years, entries for the NRS have been fluctuant in numbers and most of them come from SUCs.

"We wanted to create a healthy competition among these great minds and one way of doing it is by increasing the stakes," he accentuated.

Even the cash prize for the qualifiers was increased to P7,000 from last year's P5,000. Qualifiers are papers that garnered the average point scores of 80 percent and above and are conferred the AFMA R&D Paper Awards.

The top three papers from each category are required to present their papers during the opening day on 2 October 2008 at the 4/F RDMIC Bldg., Visayas Ave., Diliman, QC. The Best AFMA R&D paper will be selected from the top three papers and will take home the grand prize. The winner must garner an average point score of 85 percent or higher.

Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III of the First District of Sorsogon and Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap will present the cash incentives and trophies to the winners during the awarding ceremony on 3 October 2008 at the Fernando Lopez Hall, Visayas Ave. Diliman, Quezon City. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

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fisheries), *socio-economics*, *development research* (agriculture), and *development research* (fisheries).

The top three papers from each category will present their studies during the opening day from which the grand winner will be selected and awarded on the following day.

The grand winner is conferred the Best AFMA R&D Paper Award and will receive a plaque and cash prize of P50,000. The second and third runners-up will take home P30,000 and P20,000, respectively.

Honored guests, Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III of the First District of Sorsogon and Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, will award the winners. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

2nd Fellowship Night honors 10 BAR graduate scholars



The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) will hold the "Degree Scholars' 2nd Fellowship Night" on 2 October 2008 giving recognitions to 10 National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) scholars who graduated in SY 2007-2008.

The affair will be conducted at the 4/F RDMIC Bldg., Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City with BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar presenting the awards to the graduates.

The fellows are seven PhD and three MS/MA, six of whom graduated from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), two from UP Diliman, and one each from the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) and University of Southern Mindanao (USM).

The graduates are Ommal H. Abdulkadil of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (MS, Plant Pathology, UPLB); Nenita B. Baldo of the Central Mindanao University (PhD, Plant Breeding, UPLB); Liberty H. Canja of the Philippine Coconut

Authority (PhD, Environmental Science, UPLB); Aileen C. Castañeda of PhilRice (MA, Economics, UP Diliman); Herminigilda A. Gabertan of the Bureau of Plant Industry-Los Baños National Crop Research and Development Center (PhD, Environmental Science, UPLB); Deborah B. Ligon of the Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (MA, Psychology, UP Diliman); Leonarda A. Londina from the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit 8 (PhD, Rural Development, CLSU); Juanito P. Marcelino of the Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (PhD, Crop Protection, USM); Rosanna T. Pinduma of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries-Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (PhD, Horticulture, UPLB); and Lilia A. Portales of BPI (PhD, Plant Pathology, UPLB).

Scholars are supported through BAR's Degree Scholarship Program which aims to strengthen the R&D manpower capability of DA and NaRDSAF-partner institutions.

To date, the Scholarship Evaluation Committee has 11 accredited universities and colleges across the country.

From 2000 to 2008, BAR has supported 112 scholars, of whom 74 have graduated and 20 are still pursuing their degrees. The remaining 18 scholars discontinued their program of study. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Sociological perspective on fisheries dev't assessed

A group of fishery experts with strong sociological foundation has been commissioned by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to review and assess the state of the Philippine Fisheries Development. The group was led by Dr. Ida Siason, professor and former chancellor of the University of the Philippine Visayas (UPV).

The group started working in April on how to look at the Philippine fisheries development with a sociological perspective. Today, preliminary results have been drafted and will be presented for review and use in drafting the next development trend of the sector.

Emphasis is given to the social

dimension of fishing communities and their environs. It highlights gender development, livelihood and enterprise development, policy and governance, development trends, information and communications technology among other fields.

BAR believes that with the preparation and publication of this assessment report/project, it will help fishery researchers and their works to be more focused as they respond to the pressing issue now on food security, sustainability and even climate change.

Furthermore, it will help policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners alike to extend more resources to fishery researches

which are often left out in the mainstream development management programs.

With the initiative and collaborative work of BAR and UPV, the output will be of great importance in making the fisheries sector a vital activity in making the country socially and economically stable.

Given this, it will not only support these aspects but it will also encourage the inclusion of political, technological, and ecological dimensions. When completed, it will boost fisherfolk production and profit, improving their living conditions. (Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)

PhilAgriNet holds forum and general assembly; CSSAC signifies intention to become a member



(L-R) CSSAC President Marito T. Bernales, CSSAC VP for Academic Affairs Eden C. Paz, ALAP President Noemi Tolentino, UPLB Head Librarian Concepcion DL Saul watch the video message of BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar to the PhilAgriNet officers and attendees.

To increase awareness and provide a better understanding on the roles and challenges faced by libraries and librarians, the Philippine Agricultural Libraries and Information Services Network (PhilAgriNet) held a *Forum on New Perspectives in Information Delivery* and General Assembly on 26 September 2008 at the Camarines Sur State Agricultural College (CSSAC), Pili, Camarines Sur.

The activity served as a venue to update participants on the latest advances and opportunities on Information Technology (IT) designed for effective information and library services.

With more than 50 librarians and information management professionals attending the event, CSSAC President Marito T. Bernales signified intention to be member of PhilAgriNet. In his speech, he shared his plans for the University library to better deliver quality education to students. This includes establishment of e-Library making their faculty and students globally competitive through information technology. CSSAC has recently acquired new technical books for its library and enhanced infrastructure of new IT equipment.

In his message, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar encouraged the participants to further strengthen collaboration not only with R&D institutions but also to establish linkages with other agricultural

scientists. He stressed the importance of new strategies and systems in information dissemination in attaining a sustainable agriculture sector.

DA-Information Technology Center for Agriculture and Fisheries Director Ronaldo M. Salunga was not able to attend but has committed grant of additional servers to other institution-members.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Chief Librarian Mila M. Ramos and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Head Librarian Concepcion DL. Saul presented *Aiming at Library 2.0 Status and Web 2.0 Tools for Librarians*, respectively.

Concluding the event was a general assembly attended by the 12 members of PhilAgriNet. To date, the PhilAgriNet database using WebAGRI has 2,384 entries contributed by 12 institution-members. The member libraries have already received requests for publications of PhilAgriNet members.

"This shows that better awareness of Philippine agricultural research output is achieved through the database," IRRI Assistant Chief Librarian Carmelita S. Austria said.

The organization elected a new set of Board Members and agreed to change their name from PhilAgriNet to PhilAgriNet or defined as Philippine Agricultural Information Network. The newly elected officers for 2008-2009 are BAR Dir. Nicomedes Eleazar (honorary chair), Julia Lapitan (coordinator), Connie Saul (vice chair), Elaine Joshi (secretary), Bebot Veluz (treasurer), Sonia Isip (auditor), Mila Ramos (press relations officer), and Carmelita Austria, Dorie Vargas and Rolly Oloteo (board members).

Attending at the activity were BAR's Applied Communication Division (ACD) Assistant Head Julia A. Lapitan, ACD Writer Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez, and Executive Producer of NBN 4's *Mag-Agri Tayo* Patrick B. Daffon. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)



COA auditors visit two BAR on-going projects

BAR's resident Commission on Audit (COA) Auditors Milagros T. Songsong and Lucrecia Bayubay recently visited two on-going projects under the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

The projects titled "Technology Commercialization and Packaging Development of *Ubi* Powder" and "Technology Commercialization and Packaging of Wine from Selected Local Fruits" both emanate from the Food Science Cluster, College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines Los Baños. Proponents for the *ubi* powder project are Ms. Teodora M. de Villa and Ms. Marife T. Ombico, while Dr. Erlinda I. Dizon is the proponent for the fruit wine project.

For the *ubi* project, the following objectives were set by the proponents: 1) validate the process and provide technical data for the establishment of quality



Developed products from fruit wine and *ubi*.

standard for *ubi* powder; 2) develop quality control monitoring system for *ubi* powder; 3) assess the profitability of the technology and develop market for *ubi* powder; and 4) enhance capability through technology transfer to end-user.

For the fruit wine project, Dr.

Dizon showcased the appropriate packaging and technology of quality wine from selected local fruits. Specifically, she would like to achieve the following: 1) validate the process for commercial production of wine from *bignay* and mango; 2) improve packaging design that will gratify both product stability and market viability; 3) assess the market potential of the product; and 4) enhance the capability of the end-users of the technology on wine processing.

The proponents took turns in showing the process flow as well as the end products of their projects and explained in detail the progress and hurdles they are encountering in completing them. According to the proponents, they consider the BAR-funded projects as valuable since it allows them to fulfill their extension work and thus create a real impact not only on Filipino farmers and entrepreneurs, but the overwhelming number of students who visit them at UPLB all year round to learn from them.

Both projects are scheduled to end early next year. The funds were released by BAR to the Food Science Cluster through the University of the Philippines Los Baños Foundation, Inc. (UPLBFI). The two projects were also among the first batch of projects assisted by BAR's Technology Commercialization Unit (TCU) with the preparation of their financial analysis for both the proponent and investor side. (Miko Jazmine J. Mojica)



COA Auditors Milagros T. Songsong (left, sitting) and Lucrecia Bayubay (left, standing) together with BAR-TCU Coordinator Digna L. Sandoval (right) tasting the fruits which are made into wine during their visits to two BAR on-going projects.

Bioversity and BAR launch handbook on banana

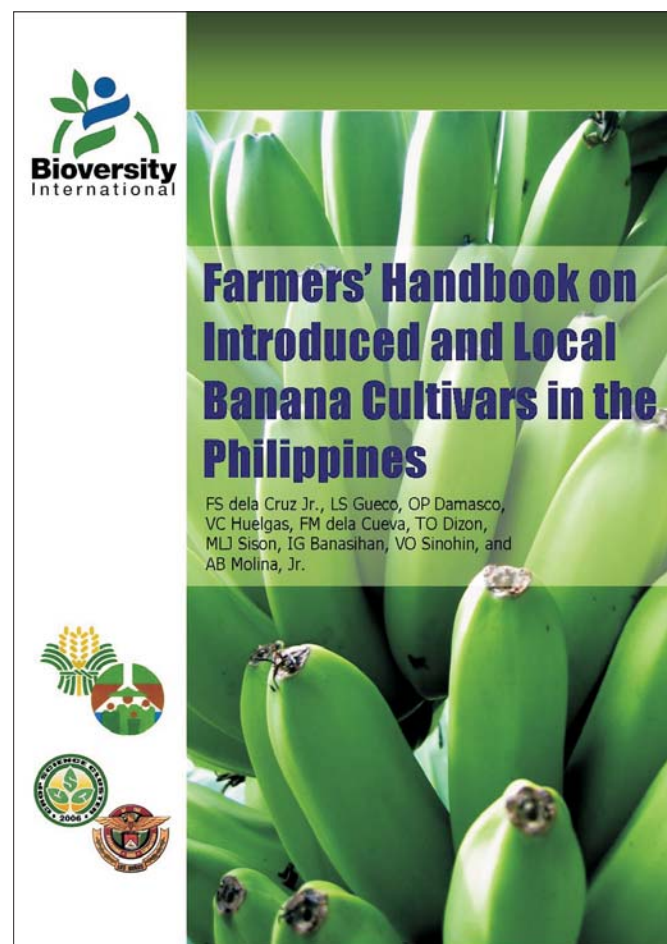
The Bioversity International's Commodities for Livelihoods Programme in the Asia-Pacific, through the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR)'s Scientific Publications Grant, will launch a reference handbook on banana titled "Farmers' Handbook on Introduced and Local Banana Cultivars in the Philippines". The book launch is one of the activities during 20th National Research Symposium on 3 October 2008 at the RDMIC Bldg., Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Biodiversity International, along with the Institute of Plant Breeding-University of the Philippines Los Baños (IPB-UPLB) and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), identified National Repository, Multiplication and Dissemination Centers (NRMDCs) established across the country to evaluate the performances and acceptabilities of the introduced bananas under local growing conditions.

The handbook features the results of performance trials in 2002 and 2005 conducted at the UPLB Experimental Station of the College of Agriculture by Felipe S. dela Cruz, Jr. (UPLB), Lavernee S. Gueco (UPLB), Olivia P. Damasco (UPLB), Visitacion C. Huelgas (UPLB), Fe M. dela Cueva (UPLB), Teodora O. Dizon (UPLB), Vida Grace O. Sinohin (Bioversity), and Agustin B. Molina, Jr. (Bioversity).

The project, in which the handbook is based, was funded by BAR presenting banana hybrids introduced from the *Musa* Germplasm International Transit Centre in 2000. Introduced hybrids and local cultivars were evaluated in terms of yield and yield characteristics, visual and organoleptic acceptability, and reaction to the banana diseases.

The publishers expressed the hope that the handbook will serve as a comprehensive reference on the diversity of banana to banana growers and other banana enthusiasts. (Ma. Lizbeth J. Baroña)



Philippine agri dev't triggers new sociological inquiry

The development of Philippine agriculture is triggered with a new subject for sociological research. This time, it is on the infusion of information and communication technology (ICT) and community development (CD).

This was noted during the International Sociological Association First Debate in Sociology held on 5-8 September 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino, head of the Applied Communication Division (ACD) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

In his paper, Dr. Aquino presented the response of Philippine agriculture on cyber development through the *e-AgriteK* innovative strategy.

The *e-AgriteK* is the newest

development approach of BAR that combines the use of ICT and CD to make the agriculture and fisheries products more competitive through proper knowledge management and agricultural research.

In doing so, it encourages researchers and development practitioners as well as stakeholders to work together to determine the direction of researches by emphasizing the social dimension. It also focuses on the patterns, interaction, and relationships of researchers, farmers and fisherfolk, and consumers to appreciate the latest agricultural technologies that are shared to effect changes in social, economic, and technological dimensions.

The *e-AgriteK* was conceptualized under the leadership of

BAR Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar to provide the appropriate use and application of research outputs and/or technologies developed under the two major banner programs of the bureau, namely: the Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) and the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP).

CPAR and NTCP ensure that all information and knowledge generated are experienced by key players and stakeholders and shared to make agriculture more productive and profitable. This way, the *e-AgriteK* serves as an indicator of the progress of programs and basis for more sociological inquiries for Philippine agricultural development.

Lessons learned will be properly documented which will be presented for more interactive discussions and agenda/program setting in the future. (Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)

BIARC develops value-adding technologies for pili, Queen pineapple, and *malunggay*

To increase productivity and farmers' income, the Bicol Integrated Agricultural Research Center (BIARC) under the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit 5 (DA-RFU 5) developed promising value-adding technologies for *pili*, Queen pineapple, *malunggay*, and selected vegetables as banner commodities for Bicol.

BIARC Manager Elena B. delos Santos led a group of researchers to come up with new products from the banner commodities and high-value vegetables in the Bicol region. The project was also developed in response to the twin goals of DA to reduce post-harvest losses while increasing the marketability of the commodities.

With funding support from the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) under the leadership of Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, BIARC was able to conduct trials and promotional activities on the developed technologies.

BIARC is now conducting sensory evaluation and shelf-life trial on roasted *pili* kernel and product development through the utilization of different packaging materials for *pili* tart.

Under the project, *malunggay* (*Moringa oliefera*) is being packaged into



BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar (right) inspects a *Moringa* powder, one of the products developed by BIARC. In the photo are (L-R) Region 5 RTD Egdr R. Madrid, BIARC Manager Elena B. delos Santos, and BAR-ACD Assistant Head Julia A. Lapitan.

various product lines including tea, instant juice, powder, polvoron, *yema*, cookies, noodles, pastillas, and the *malunggay* surprise. New products and processes are also applied on papaya, *sili*, tomato, salabat, squash, *pili* pulp, and dried *kamias*.

To improve existing products, BIARC developed new post-harvest

processes and waste reducing technologies.

For technology promotion on the new technologies, 33 hands-on trainings and techno-demonstrations were conducted to the farmers, housewives, government employees and other students of the region. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)



Products from *Moringa oliefera*

Following the massive campaign of the several health benefits from *malunggay*, a line of *malunggay*-based products have been released in the market. There is the *malunggay* oil for cooking, which can be used as an alternative to olive oil; the *malunggay* powder that can be used as flavoring or additive to pre-processed food products such as noodles and *pandesal*; *malunggay* tablets are also made as a health supplement. Still, the list of *malunggay*-based products is growing because of the nutrients that can be derived from the vegetable, hence the innovation of nutritious and cheap products from *Moringa oliefera*.

The World Vegetable Center DG visits BAR

“There's an exciting future ahead for The World Vegetable Center as it is poised to make a significant contribution to the Millennium Development Goals over the next decade. Its efforts will be felt by the poor in farming communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa and in other parts of the developing world.”

~ Dr. Dyno Keatinge
Director General of The World Vegetable Center



Five months after he assumed office as director general of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center-The World Vegetable Center, Dr. Dyno Keatinge visited the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) on 8 September 2008 for a briefing on the AVRDC's current priority programs and directions and to discuss future collaborative activities in a bid to strengthen vegetable research and development (R&D) in the Philippines.

Dr. Keatinge was met by BAR key officials and staff, namely: International Relations Unit Head Victoriano B. Guiam, Program Development Division Assistant Head Salvacion M. Ritual, Technology Commercialization Unit Coordinator Digna L. Sandoval, and technical consultants Dr. Santiago R. Obien, and Dr. Manuel F. Bonifacio. Staff from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), led by Planning and Management Office Head Rhoda Grace Pintuan, also joined in the meeting.

Dr. Keatinge was shown a short presentation of BAR's primer which provided him with the current priority R&D programs. This was followed by Dr. Keatinge's presentation, titled “Prosperity for the Poor and Health for All”—which is also his battle cry in fostering partnerships with other R&D institutions and maintaining a “pro-poor” focus to improve nutrition, food safety, and create job opportunities.

The group discussed developments in vegetable R&D as well as the Philippines' role and level of commitment to AVRDC and its programs.

Dr. Keatinge stressed the importance of the Philippines'

participation in the activities of AVRDC given that vegetable is also one of its R&D priority areas of concern which plays a crucial role in the food production drive of President Arroyo's administration.

One of the possible areas of collaboration discussed during the meeting was tapping of Filipino experts to work with AVRDC. This is in connection with the current retirement of Dr. Liwayway M. Engle, former head of the AVRDC Genetic Resources and Seed Unit and project coordinator of the AVRDC-BAR project on “Promotion of Indigenous Vegetable for Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition Improvement of Rural Households in the Philippines.”

Mr. Guiam was affirmative and mentioned that it may be in the interest of BAR to set up a program for the dispatch of Filipino experts, not only for AVRDC, but also other international and national institutions that the bureau is directly

connected.

Other possible areas of collaboration discussed during the meeting were on: 1) ICT and extension, 2) expansion of the AVRDC-BAR project on indigenous crops, 3) training and study exchange program of DA's RDE staff at AVRDC, and 4) safety in pesticide use for vegetables.

Prior to his current post, Dr. Keatinge held various positions at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Syria, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria, and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India.

He succeeded outgoing AVRDC director general, Dr. Thomas A. Lumpkin, who is currently the director general of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico. (Rita T. dela Cruz with reports from Mr. Victoriano B. Guiam)

