

24th NRS to focus on achieving food security

The Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) will be holding the 24th National Research Symposium (NRS) on October 17-18, 2012 to highlight the significance of the agriculture and fisheries sector as a driving force towards the nation's economic growth.

The opening program and symposium proper will commence on October 17, 2012 at the BAR Building, Visayas Ave. Diliman, Quezon City whereas the awarding ceremonies will take place at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Conference Hall, Visayas Ave. Diliman, Quezon City on the following day.

Since 1989, NRS has been one of the major activities hosted annually by BAR to enhance information and knowledge exchange among key players in the agriculture and fisheries R&D sector. It aims to promote awareness and disseminate relevant information on new technological breakthroughs that will improve the sector. The activity also serves as a venue wherein notable research and development efforts and accomplishments of scientists, researchers, and member institutions of the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) community are presented and given due recognition.

DA Secretary Proceso Alcala is currently prioritizing and giving

strong attention to the Philippines' goal of being food self-sufficient in 2013. This year's theme, "Responsive R&D Excellence Towards Food Security and Growth in Agriculture and Fisheries" focuses on researches and innovations that would help the country attain food security. BAR, as the national coordinating body for research and development, taps the expertise of our hardworking scientists and innovative researchers from all over the country who will act as catalysts in further intensifying the government's initiatives to ensure food security for the Filipino people.

From last year's 126, a total of 140 entries were received to compete in this year's NRS under the following categories: basic research, applied research for technology/information

generation, applied research for technology adaptation/verification, socio-economics research, and development research. ### (Anne Camille B. Brion)

This year's theme, "Responsive R&D Excellence towards Food Security and Growth in Agriculture and Fisheries" focuses on researches and innovations that would help the country attain food security.



Alcala approves program on micro-enterprises; highlights mature technologies from R&D



Responding to the challenge of Dr. William D. Dar, director general of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), to put more emphasis on micro-enterprises to encourage small farmers to become entrepreneurs, Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala immediately approved for the creation of a program that will specifically cater to micro-enterprises in the country.

According to Dr. Dar, looking into the existing programs of the government, which is mainly focused on encouraging small and medium enterprises (SMEs), requiring Php50-Php100 million as capital asset, micro-enterprise will only entail Php3-Php15 million capital asset.

The program which was then approved in concept will be specifically

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala delivering his message during the 8th NTF and 25th BAR Anniversary. In his speech he highlighted research results on value-adding technologies particularly from sweet sorghum and mango, which are supported by BAR through its National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP). Also in the photo are: (R-L) ICRISAT DG William D. Dar, BAR Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, and BAR Asst. Dir. Teodoro S. Solsoloy. PHOTOS: RBERNARDO AND RDELACRUZ

dedicated to small farmers in the agriculture and fisheries sectors to enhance their profitability and become entrepreneurs. "This is a new paradigm, transforming smallholder farmers as entrepreneurs," said Dr. Dar.

Secretary Alcala saw the merit of the suggestion of his predecessor which is also in line with the current directions and priorities of the Department of Agriculture which is geared on encouraging a market-oriented development approach.

Alcala and Dar were both honored guests and keynote speakers

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Dar points to science-based solutions to attain food self-sufficiency

By 2050, globally, there will be 9.2 billion people in this planet from the 7 billion we have today. And already today, one billion people are considered poor and hungry. If this trend continues, and sure it will, roughly 25 percent of our people will experience hunger so we need to see to it that we develop our natural endowments to produce the desired productivity. We need to use the power of science and technology.” Thus, said Dr. William D. Dar, director-general of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), one of the keynote guests, during the 8th Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition and 25th Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) anniversary celebration held on 9 August 2012 at the SM Megatrade Halls 1 & 2.

According to Dr. Dar, science-based solutions are important strategies that Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala could tap to succeed in his effort to sustain the food self-sufficiency program of the Department of Agriculture (DA). Alcala was also present during the event.

Dr. Dar called on the various sectors not only the government, but the scientific and research communities to continue to strengthen their initiatives towards agriculture and fisheries development. He added that the environment is ripe and ready, but there



Dr. William D. Dar, director-general of ICRISAT PHOTO: RBERNARDO

is still a need to continuously change the perspective in which agriculture and fisheries are being dealt with. He said: “The ‘business as usual’ approach today can no longer work but the ‘business unusual’ can work. It is necessary for us to harness the power of science and technology to increase agricultural productivity in the country.”

The thrust of DA on food production is headed towards the right direction, however, there is a need to stress the importance of linking agri-fishery products to the market and the institutionalization of a market-oriented approach to sustain the growth of the sector. Hence, Dr. Dar reiterated the need to make agribusiness a serious business.

Science-based strategies, as perceived by Dr. Dar, should provide the spin to attain food-self sufficiency. There is a need to invest in R&D to develop the best varieties that are necessary in sustaining the increasing demand for food. The challenge therefore, according to him, is to feed not only the people of today, but the people of tomorrow.

For the science-based solutions, he pointed two important strategies.

His first strategy is to continue to invest in R&D particularly to develop the best varieties to increase food production in the country. For this, he called on Sec. Alcala to pound on the leadership so that a comprehensive land

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The Mulanay Rural Improvement Club (RIC) listening to the discussion of Dr. Mary Jean Bulatao (inset) of UPLB on the agribusiness potential of raising native swine.

PHOTO: ZREYNOSO

average daily gain (ADG). In the 2006 assessment, ADG of animals was less than 100 grams. With the introduction of *Sakwa*, the ADG increased to 120 grams.

The Mulanay RIC

The Mulanay RIC is a barangay-based women's organization supported by the local government through the office of the municipal agriculturist. Created in 1995, the RIC served as a livelihood model among the people in the Barangay and the nearby municipalities.

There are 22 out of 43 active RIC members who became the first set of farmer-partners at the end of the two year project cycle. The number is expected to increase as other potential beneficiaries await the next module to be given or dispersed to them.

The women of RIC are within the age bracket of 25-50 years old and most of them are successful individual swine raisers. Some of them have been in the farm business for more than two decades now. The commonly raised native livestock in the area include: cattle, carabao, goat, and swine. However, a good majority of the farmers find strength in collective operation.

Ninety six percent of the farmer-partners primarily operate a coconut farm and the rest operate a

combination of coconut and rice farm. The average area operated is four hectares. The most common tenurial agreement in Brgy. Latangan is share tenancy. An estimated 64 percent of the total number of respondents adapt this kind of agreement between the landowner and operator. On the average, the landlord's share in net profit of the farm business is 48 percent which leaves the operator with 52 percent.

Today, there are 43 out of 80 active members of the association and most of them are successful raisers. Since becoming a partner of the DA-BAR/UPLB-ASC Native Swine Project, the organization received various national and provincial commendations on agri-based livelihood projects.

Recently, the Mulanay RIC was awarded the Outstanding RIC for the province of Quezon on the occasion of “Araw ng Pamilyang Magsasaka” on 15

August 2012 at Quezon Convention Center. The rural club also won the Provincial and Regional (Region IV-A) Gawad Saka 2012 RIC on 29 August 2012. Mrs. Nelia Mercurio, president of the RIC of Latangan and Mulanay RIC Federation, likewise bagged the 2012 Outstanding Rural Women.

In just two years of diligent operation, cooperation, and hardwork in the project, they have come a long way from an almost inactive organization, with no means of major livelihood activities, into an award-winning organization brought about by the native swine project of BAR.

The RIC also participated in the recently concluded 8th Agriculture and Fisheries National Technology Forum and Product Exhibition held at SM Megamall in Quezon City. Truly, this is a litmus test of success of women empowerment. ###

In just two years of diligent operation, cooperation, and hardwork in the project, they have come a long way from an almost inactive organization, with no means of major livelihood activities, into an award-winning organization brought about by the native swine project of BAR.

ALL-WOMEN HOG RAISERS: A story of success in Mulanay

BY PATRICK RAYMUND A. LESACA



PHOTOS: ZREYNOSO

The role of women and its contributions to society cannot be over emphasized in this predominantly patriarchal culture, like in the Philippines. Women-led organizations in the government, non-government organization, and private sector have shaped and influenced national issues pertaining to governance and other economic-related activities. More women and women institutions are now playing a proactive role towards national development.

One good example is the Mulanay Rural Improvement Club (RIC) based in Brgy. Latangan in Mulanay, Quezon Province. The Mulanay RIC is an all-women group composed of hog raisers and has been contributing economically to the municipality.

The swine project

In 2006, a group of researchers from University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), namely: Drs. Mary Jean Bulatao and Virgilio Villancio proposed a study to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) on raising native swine which showed good agribusiness potential, as shown from an earlier assessment conducted in Bondoc Peninsula. The proposal was approved and funded as a project feasibility study funded by BAR in July 2009.

The project, "Native Swine

for *Lechon De Leche* Production Project: Improving Feed Availability through Integration of Sakwa as Forage Feed in Coconut-based Production Systems" was funded under the BAR's National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) in collaboration with the National Agricultural and Fishery Council's (NAFC) Technology Management for Competitive Agriculture and Fisheries (TMCAF). The TMCAF is a DA-NAFC-BAR initiative with the assistance from the Government of Japan. The project was conceptualized to improve the productivity and income of coconut farm households by integrating livestock enterprises in their coconut farms. Specifically, the project aimed to: 1) improve nutrient availability and introduce best management practices for native swine to reduce mortality, 2) integrate the production of *Gabing San Fernando* (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium*) under coconut trees, and 3) utilize *Sakwa* as feeds for the native swine.

Gabing San Fernando is a robust plant and generally adapted in the upland condition. It thrives best in deep, loose, and sandy soil with abundant organic matter and moisture. The crop ranks second to sweet potato in terms of nutritive value and digestibility. *Sakwa*, on the other hand, is the corm of *Gabing San Fernando*.

The project is being implemented by the UPLB Foundation Inc. through the Farming Systems and Soil Resources Institute (FSSRI) of

UPLB in collaboration with the local government of Mulanay.

The initial beneficiaries of the project are individual farmers in Brgys. Latangan and San Juan in San Narciso, Quezon. Six farmer-partners were selected for each site or a total of 12 farmer-cooperators. Each one of them was given one module equivalent to one sow and five piglets. Each site of at least 1,000 sqm. should be planted with *Gabing San Fernando*. Other crops planted include: *Trichanthera*, herbal plants, sweet potato, and *kangkong* which are advantageous to the project implementation. The actual swine dispersal was done from 24 September to 9 October 2009.

Since the project started, strings of success dominated the day-to-day activities of the farmers involved. For instance, the farmer-beneficiaries were able to utilize at least 1000 sq.m. of their area under coconut plantation for gabi garden and *Trichanthera*, *kangkong*, sweet potato as alternative sources of feeds.

As of October 2011, the project recorded an overall repayment rate of 95 percent since the modules were given as a loan to qualified farmers under the dispersal scheme. The revenue generated will form part of another module to be given to the next set of farmer-beneficiaries.

One notable achievement observed was the increase on the

BAR's 8th NTF concludes; key personalities visited

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) concluded this year's 8th Agriculture and Fisheries National Technology Commercialization Forum and Product Exhibition held from August 9 to 12 at the SM Megatrade Halls 1 and 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

The four-day event was unexpectedly visited by key personalities including UP Board of Regents Member Evelina G. Escudero, Congressman Luis R. Villafuerte, Sr. of the 3rd District of Camarines Sur, and Albay Governor Joey S. Salceda who served as the guest of honor during the culminating day.

Former University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Chancellor Luis Rey I. Velasco and Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) President Cecilia N. Gascon, along with other heads and representatives from various stakeholders also visited the event, showing their support to BAR's endeavors and activities.

Aimed to promote mature technologies generated from agriculture and fisheries research and development (R&D), to establish and strengthen networks among various stakeholders, and to provide a venue for business matching opportunities and profitable agricultural ventures, organized the technology forum and product fair which also marked the 25th anniversary of the bureau.

The event officially kicked off with the opening of the exhibits led by Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Director General William D. Dar, BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, and BAR Asst. Dir. Teodoro S. Solsoloy.

In the speech of BAR Director Eleazar, he highlighted on the importance of the two numbers in the celebration: **8** and **25** which underscored the journey of BAR as an agency and its role on improving the lives of the Filipino farmers and fisherfolk through research and development (R&D). For the number 8, he emphasized how the

technology commercialization program emerged from a regular activity that is conducted at BAR to now a national event that is being held annually at the SM Megatrade Hall. On the other hand, the number 25 underscored how change and innovation became an important mantra for the bureau as it now grew not only by function but by the number of its people. He also highlighted this year's theme, "*BAR @ 25: Celebrating R and D Excellence in Agriculture and Fisheries*" which reflects the concerted efforts, dedication, and aspiration of the bureau to uplift the lives of the Filipino farmers and fisherfolk through maintaining a standard excellence in R&D."

The 2012 BAR Primer and the new BAR Website were officially launched during the opening. The primer is a 15-minute audio-visual presentation that narrates the bureau as the country's national coordinating agency for agriculture and fisheries Research and Development (R&D) including its priority programs, client-oriented services, and major activities. The new BAR Website highlights its new design and interactive features providing a more comprehensive and easy-to-navigate platform *cum* repository of relevant and current agri-fisheries R&D information.

With a bigger venue, the event accommodated around 130 exhibitors that showcased various products, services, and commercial technologies also on the following categories: high-value crops, natural products/ natural ingredients for health and wellness, organic agriculture, and climate change.

The Edible Landscaping Team from UPLB, led by Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., designed the central setting display. Also featured are BAR-supported programs and projects including, biofuel/sweet sorghum, soybeans, adlai, livestock, fisheries, beekeeping, fruit wines, queen pineapple, *sapinit*, oregano, and mango. Also highlighted are the milestones and notable accomplishments of BAR for the last 25 years.

PHOTOS: RBERNARDO and ACONSTANTINO



Albay Governor Joey Salceda



Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte, Sr.
of the 3rd District of Camarines Sur



Former UPLB Chancellor
Luis Rey I. Velasco



SLSU President Cecilia N. Gascon

During the culminating day, Gov. Salceda gave an inspiring message, applauding the bureau for finding an efficient way to include the public in disseminating the products generated from R&D. He committed to provide a display center in Legazpi City for the abaca by-products which were featured at the DA-FIDA 5 under the Abakayamanan Project. ### (Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino)

BAR awards outstanding employees, best booths, and products

Aside from showcasing the products of the different regions in the country, the 8th Agriculture and Fisheries National Technology Forum and Product Exhibition also served as a venue to recognize the valuable contributions and efforts of the people behind the success of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Twenty one BAR employees were awarded the “2012 BAR Outstanding Employees” for their unparalleled dedication and professionalism in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

The awardees were: Jojit V. Velasquez (*permanent support service staff*); Gladys B. Gammad, Jovencio G. Lim, Jennifer T. Alianza, and Erwin B. Lacambra (*project administrative staff*); Ma. Elena M. Garces, Jose Ira Archimedes D. Borromeo, Amavel A. Velasco, Raymond Patrick L. Cabrera, Maylen D. Villareal, Apolonia A. Mendoza, Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca, and Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino (*project technical staff*); Judith A. Maghanoy, Erlinda M. Agustin and Ma. Louella S. Dejello (*permanent administrative staff*); Jude Ray P. Laguna and Lalaine A. Perlawan (*permanent technical*

staff); Anthony B. Obligado, Joell H. Lales, and Digna L. Sandoval (*supervisory staff*).

Handing out the plaques to the awardees were Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Director General William D. Dar, BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, and BAR Asst. Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy.

Another award given was the “Best Booth Award” with 130 booths vying to be recognized. However, only three booths stood out among the rest. They were: DA-Regional Field Unit 4A

/CALABARZON (1st place), UPLB Bee Network (2nd place), and DA-Regional Field Unit 5 (3rd place).

The best product award was given to the Green Rescue Organic Products (GROP) for their turmeric

product lines including the healing balm and herbal tea.

Dr. Dar, one of the keynote speakers during the opening ceremony also received the “BAR Legacy Award”

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BEST BOOTH Award, 1st Place: DA-RFU 4A/ CALABARZON
PHOTO: RBERNARDO



BAR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

PHOTO: ACONSTANTINO



Instant Salabat made easier and tastier

STORY & PHOTOS BY LEILA DENISSE E. PADILLA

Every Pinoy has probably heard and tasted *Salabat*. This herbal drink, known to remedy sore throat and stomachache, is basically a hot ginger tea with a tangy flavor and can be drunk by itself or with a pinch of sugar or a freshly squeeze of calamansi. Traditionally, this tea goes through a rigorous preparation from boiling the sliced ginger to flavoring. But an innovation in Badianan, Iloilo made it possible for the production of an “Instant *Salabat*”.

Although the instant ginger brew is not new for it originated during the 1970s in Brgy. Iniligan, Badianan, the product still needs further development in terms of commercialization and marketing. This year, the Badianan Ginger Planters and Producers Cooperative (BGPPC), in collaboration with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), partners with the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to increase the competitiveness of the product in the local market and prepare for the fierce competition in the international market.

Packaging salabat for better marketability

BGPPC has been wanting to enter the commercial market through its ginger-based products specifically the instant *Salabat* (a readily mixed drink just like the 3-in-1 instant coffee). Treading towards its goal, BGPPC is working on its License to Operate (LTO)

registration and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certification.

“However, [regarding] the application for the FDA and LTO, the concerned agencies [have] required the improvement of the facilities and production area for an increased production capacity and marketability of the ginger-based products,” explained Mr. Roberto S. Borra, chairman of the cooperative.

BGPPC's project titled, “Promotion of Instant Salabat through Enhanced Packaging and Labeling”, which is supported by BAR through its National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP), will be the stepping stone towards product market-readiness and competitiveness by upgrading the packaging and labeling of the product.

Specifically, the project aims to: 1) enhance the competitiveness of the product in the local market by improving the package and label; 2) provide additional income and increase employment in the community; and 3) establish a steady, viable and dependable income generating project for the community.

Badianan's ginger-based industry

Ginger is well-known in the municipality of Badianan for it rears an abundance of this indigenous crop within its lands. In 2004, the One Town One Product (OTOP) program was launched in each municipality of the country and ginger-based industry development was established and implemented in

Badianan through the BGPPC. With 14 years of existence, BGPPC has been striving to advance the town's ginger industry with the goal to better the lives of Badianan ginger planters.

The instant salabat is one of the premier ginger-based goods developed by BGPPC together with involved agencies. “The processed “instant salabat” is likewise exposed to the market through trade fairs both at the national and local levels,” said Mr. Chester G. Cortuna, manager of BGPPC.

Recently, it was featured as one of the products exhibited during BAR's 8th Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition at SM Megamall on 9-12 August 2012. This annual activity aims to showcase and promote innovative technologies and products in the agriculture and fisheries sector developed by government agencies, international organizations, and public-private partners.

Going instant

After the ginger rhizomes are checked and inspected for quantity and quality, they undergo proper sanitation procedures before proceeding to cutting and trimming. The cut ginger are washed with water and rinsed with 70 ppm chlorinated water to eradicate microorganisms.

Afterwards, the washed ginger passed through a mechanical grinder.

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Richard McDermott on the topic, "Free Yourself and Your Staff to Think" which tackles how clever thinking could provide a sustainable competitive advantage for every knowledge-based organization and how thinking disciplines could improve the way people think. PHOTO: RDELACRUZ



This year, 132 participants attended the congress most of which are KM practitioners from the government/federal/state and private institutions all over Australia, UK, and Asia. PHOTO: RDELACRUZ

the activity, Ms. Lapitan remarked that, "One of the strengths of this activity was the lineup of speakers which came in a variety, both representing experiences from the public and private sectors. All of them are experts and are involved in the KM arena, thus the body of knowledge that they have shared emanated not only on the theoretical aspect, but more so, on the practicality of KM as a discipline."

The activity was also designed for interaction. The organizers made it intentional that all the participants interact with each other through group discussions providing an apt venue to actively voice out their thoughts and ideas. After every session, a particular question was posted to discuss within the group and shared with the whole body. Within the group discussion, every one was encouraged to

share their views and strategies that they used within their organizations. This is a good strategy not only for interaction but also in creating a rapport within the group.

"There was also an interactive debate that enabled the participants to have their own point of views and perspectives on the issues presented. At the end of the debate, it turned out that every one has their own ideas to share," Ms. Aquino concluded.

Meanwhile, according to Ms. dela Cruz, one important statement that was repeatedly underscored during the KM Congress is the importance of knowledge sharing and how this serves as an important take off point to enhance learning among KM practitioners. "As Dr. Helen Paige said, the best way to learn is through actively participating in knowledge

sharing. Hence, it was worthy to take note that one important milestone of this activity was on how the organizers intentionally injected interactive sessions after each seminar topic. This provided a good venue for participants not only to voice out their opinions on the matter but also an opportunity for knowledge exchange," she explained.

What is good for an organization may not be good for another, but it is important that information and knowledge are laid out on the board to provide a wider perspective and in the end choose the best one that fit your own organization. This proved to be true during the conduct of the Congress. The information is vast but each participant was given a choice to pick what they think will suit the organization that they represent. ###

Instant salabat...from page 17

The juice is extracted from the pulp through the utilization of a pre-sanitized nylon strainer followed by the hydraulic press machine.

To add flavor, the extracted juice is mixed with sugar at a pre-determined ratio. At a temperature from 180°C to 200 °C, the mixture is cooked with constant stirring. The medium heat and vigorous stirring will facilitate the powdering of the mixture.

After passing the ginger brew through a series of sieves to produce a fine powder, it will then be cooled at room temperature. After undergoing packaging, sealing, and labeling procedures, the ginger brew will be stored at room temperature. "These are arranged according to production dates and are labeled properly for easy application of the first-in, first-out (FIFO) rule," said the proponents.

The production volume per month of instant *salabat* is 500 to 700 kilograms. Other ginger-based product lines manufactured by the cooperative are ginger candy, ginger juice drink, ginger syrup, ginger tea, and ginger squash bar. Today, BGPPC is looking forward to having their various ginger-based goods patented. ###



Albay Governor Joey Salceda, honored guest during the 8th NTF closing ceremonies awards to BAR Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar and Asst. Dir. Teodoro S. Solsoloy the "Plaques of Appreciation" for their dedication and leadership that has brought the bureau 25 years of continued R&D excellence. PHOTO: RBERNARDO

in recognition of his contributions as the first director of the bureau and his unwavering support to its programs since it was founded in 1987. Meanwhile, Dir. Eleazar and Asst. Dir. Solsoloy were honored with a Plaque of Appreciation from the BAR staff for their exemplary leadership and momentous contributions in setting the directions and standards in agriculture and fisheries R&D.

Realizing that the 8th Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition would not be possible without the assistance of the other partner-agencies, the bureau also awarded the Plaque of Appreciation to the three sponsoring DA agencies, namely: High Value Crops Development

Program (HVCDP), AgriPinoy Rice Program, and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). They were also recognized for their support to the programs of BAR and their unwavering commitment to achieve the country's goal of food security and self-sufficiency.

Engr. Dennis Palabrica, manager of the Zamboanga Peninsula Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ZAMPIARC), bestowed a plaque of appreciation to Dir. Eleazar and Asst. Dir. Solsoloy for their efforts to strengthen the rubber R&D. The plaque was made and crafted from the rubber wood.

For the cultural presentations, with this year's theme: "Time Revolution" the three island groups won triple tie. ### (Diana Rose A. de Leon)



The Best Product Award is given to the Green Rescue Organic Products (GROP) for their turmeric product lines including the healing balm and herbal tea. Receiving the award are Dr. Estela Taño (2nd from right) and Ms. Lucy Dalisay (3rd from right) of GROP. PHOTO: RDELACRUZ

Dar points...from page 2

reform are there to protect primary agricultural lands needed to sustain the efforts in feeding the Filipino people by 2050.

His second strategy, is for the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to tap the experts, the scientists, the state universities and colleges to invest in science and technology and produce the projected farmers' yield. There is a need to use agricultural research to break the yield barrier, according to Dr. Dar.

To further expound on the idea of narrowing the production gap between the on-station yield and farmers' yield, he cited the "Bhoo Chetana" – a mission mode project for rainfed agriculture in India wherein given the interventions, growth in agriculture was achieved. According to Dr. Dar from zero growth last year, the growth has now gone out to 6 percent per year. He stressed that the technologies are already available in our midst, it's just a matter of appropriately and sustainably using them to improve and increase farm productivity.

Dr. William D. Dar is the first Filipino and first Asian Director General of ICRISAT from 2000 to present. Prior to joining ICRISAT, Dr. Dar demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout a distinguished career in serving the agriculture sector. In the Philippines, he served as the secretary of the Department of Agriculture and the executive director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD).

Dr. Dar is the first director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research and helped revolutionized R&D in the country. ### (Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca)

...the technologies are already available in our midst, it's just a matter of appropriately and sustainably using them to improve and increase farm productivity. ~ Dar

UPLB'S BEENET

highlights R&D efforts on apiculture

Products from honey including wine, cider, soap, and other beauty products such as healing and lip balms, and body creams—highlighted this year's booth of the Bee Network Philippines Foundation, Inc. (BeeNet) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

The BeeNet booth also took the limelights in the 8th Agriculture and Fisheries National Technology Forum and Product Exhibition as it bagged the second place for the “Best Booth Award” during the awarding ceremony on 12 August 2012.

Organized by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), the technology forum and product exhibit created a venue to showcase various research and development (R&D) initiatives in a goal to highlight technologies developed through the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) of BAR.

Value-added bee products such as wellness products made out of honey are mentioned in the speeches of both DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, and BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, further affirming the high market value of these products—both in the local and foreign markets.

Sec. Alcala himself frequently uses these bee products as one of his favorite token and giveaway gifts to



PHOTO: RBERNARDO

demonstrate his confidence in the beneficial effects of the product. And with a growing market demand for bee products, various ongoing bee-related R&D initiatives (i.e., apiculture and value adding) is key to providing a sufficient supply in both the local and international markets.

Under the UPLB Bee Program, BeeNet continues its partnership with BAR to boost the apiculture industry in the Philippines. Aside from enabling local farms to produce bee by-products to

supply for the market, apiculture proves to be another profitable venture to raise household income. Although apiculture is relatively new in the country, continuous R&D efforts ensure developments in the production of bee byproducts.

The project, “Commercialization of Beekeeping Technologies: I. Product Processing and Bee Production in Select Communities in Luzon” implemented by the UPLB Bee Program was launched early last year. The project aims to maximize the utilization of other bee products aside from honey, like propolis, beeswax, and pollen. Management of native bee cultures is also among the objectives of the collaboration in order to strengthen the species used in commercial production. Value-added bee products include candles, varnishes, ointments, liqueurs, and even medicine.

With product lines garnering attention from the market, placing in the NTF booth competition with simple but highly informative materials and decors could just be the icing on the cake. Continued R&D initiatives to further the apiculture industry in the country ensures that products from honey, beeswax, propolis, and pollen extend farther than bazaars and exhibits, and soon may be seen on the racks of your local convenience store and even malls across the country. ### (Zuellen B. Reynoso)

PHOTOS: RBERNARDO AND RDELACRUZ



Tapping the potential of Knowledge Management for R&D

BY RITA T. DELA CRUZ



The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), as the lead coordinating arm of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in agriculture and fisheries research and development (R&D), has been generating vast information from its funded researches. As such, there is a need to adequately manage information to ensure that they are disseminated and appropriately used.

Managing knowledge (capturing, sharing, re-using) has not been fully tapped due to lack of capacities of its manpower particularly in terms of knowledge sharing, products design and development.

Part of building capacities in KM is to learn from the experts, one of which is through attendance to international conferences and exploring opportunities for sharing and networking through institutional visits. Lessons learned from these are essential inputs and bases in designing a capacity development program that is specific and suited for the Philippine agriculture and fishery R&D sector.

Given this, a group of KM practitioners from BAR was sent to attend the KM Australia 2012 Congress on 24-25 July 2012 in Sydney, Australia. Organized by the Ark Group, the *KM Australia 2012 Congress* is the largest KM event in the Asia Pacific region that attracts a large audience each year, and gains enthusiastic support from sponsors and the KM community alike. The activity aims to convene KM practitioners and provide them opportunities to network and share experiences at all stages along the knowledge spectrum.

This year, 132 participants

attended the congress most of which are KM practitioners from the government/federal/state and private institutions all over Australia, UK, and Asia. Representing the Philippines were staff members from BAR, namely: Ms. Julia A. Lapitan, head of the Applied Communications Division (ACD); Ms. Rita T. dela Cruz, asst. head of ACD; and Ms. Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino, writer from the Technology Commercialization Division (TCD). The three are directly involved in managing knowledge of the bureau, particularly, in implementing strategies and practices that the organization could use to ensure efficient and effective flow of information and knowledge from the research field to the target beneficiaries—farming and fishing communities.

The topics lined up for the *KM Australia Congress 2012* highlighted on the value of social media and

collaboration, change management and culture, learning and performance, content and information management, communication and leadership, and capitalizing on the expertise of the organization's most important asset: its people.

International keynote presentations from thought leaders and noted international corporations all over the country shared their extensive experiences in KM through practical tips that could be implemented in the organizations. To make every session interactive, participants were grouped to discuss and share their own ideas and thoughts.

The congress was specifically designed for KM practitioners to teach them how to create and implement KM strategies that are applicable for every organization. When asked for the post evaluation of

next page



Representing the Philippines are staff members from BAR, namely: (L-R) Ms. Julia A. Lapitan and Ms. Rita T. Dela Cruz of ACD; and Ms. Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino of TCD.

EAS Congress 2012 highlights new opportunities for ocean economy

Highlighting the critical role of coastal and ocean resources, the City Government of Changwon, in collaboration with Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM), hosted the East Asian Seas Congress 2012 held in Changwon City, Republic of Korea.

With the theme, "Building a Blue Economy: Strategy, Partnerships, and Opportunities in the Seas of East Asia," the congress aimed to address new opportunities for the ocean economy of East Asia, the range of partnerships that have developed and are required in order to realize the full potential of a blue economy, and the progress and achievements in governance of regional/subregional seas within the framework of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

The congress provided a venue for partnerships between over a thousand participants from 25 countries and 23 regional and international organizations all over the world including the Philippines. Representing the country was the Bureau of Agricultural Research with technical staff members: Ms. Marnelie Gadong of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) and Ms. Marinelle Espino of the Project Planning and Development Division (PPDD). They were joined in by other participants from Cambodia,



Representing the country was the Bureau of Agricultural Research with technical staff members: Ms. Marnelie Gadong (left) of PMED and Ms. Marinelle Espino (2nd from right) PPDD. Also in the photo is Mr. Len Garces (right) of the WorldFish Center.

China, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

To fully meet a more extensive yet focused knowledge exchange and strategic action and cooperation in coastal and good governance, the congress was divided into five subthemes: 1) Nurturing the Coastal and Ocean Economies of the Seas of East Asia: Opportunities and Challenges; 2) Accelerating Blue Innovations in support on an Ocean-based Blue Economy; 3) Securing Ecosystem Services through Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management; 4) Good Governance, Good Business; and 5) Meeting

Institutional and Individual Skills and Capacities for Integrated Coastal and Ocean Governance.

The five-day congress held simultaneous plenary sessions that tackled on issues such as the need for government support in terms of legislation and enforcement, community support in terms of active participation and financial and technical support coming from concerned agencies to achieve the vision for the oceans and coasts' sustainable development. Among the highlights of the event were the poster presentation of studies on integrated coastal management and strategies on execution of marine protected areas, and the assembly of the third EAS Youth Forum for the new pool of Young Champions of the Ocean from 11 countries with the aim to promote awareness in the value of the oceans and coasts, encouraging and preparing them to be young stewards of the oceans through various activities such as lectures, workshops, and field visits.

BAR, in partnership with The WorldFish Center, has provided opportunities such as the EAS Congress to continually support the bureau's advocacy on capacitating its staff through enriching and broadening of knowledge and providing exposures and involvement through national and international partnerships. ### (Daryl Lou A. Battad)



CHEVON AND MUTTON PRODUCTS heading for commercialization

Chevon (goat's meat) and mutton (sheep's meat) are not the Filipinos' conventional choices for meat products, yet it is slowly penetrating the meat market, especially now, that the current trend is healthy living. Aside from being packed with the essential nutrients, chevon and mutton contain less fat and cholesterol than any other type of meat.

Making chevon and mutton available in canned products and prime cuts was the focus of the presentation of Director Jonathan Nayga of the Cagayan Valley Small Ruminants Research Center, Isabela State University (CVSRRC-ISU). His presentation was one of the featured popular seminars during the 8th Agriculture and Fisheries National Technology Forum and Product Exhibition held on 9-12 August 2012 at the SM Megatrade Halls 1 & 2.

Chevon Valley is the brand name of the canned chevon and mutton products developed and produced by CVSRRC. According to Dir. Nayga, venturing in canned products is only practical because it is easier to transport and have wider distribution without worrying of spoilage due to shorter shelf-life.



Director Jonathan Nayga of CVSRRC-ISU showing a pack of frozen chevon during technology forum. PHOTO: ABRION



As a way of promoting the country's famous local dishes, the Chevon Valley is available in *adobo*, *kaldereta* and *kilawing kambing* at *tupa* flavors. These products were subjected to nutrient fact analysis, microbial test, shelf-life analysis, trade name, and sensory evaluation.

Dir. Nayga emphasized that the Chevon Valley has no preservatives, thus, it has shorter shelf-life as compared to the commercially-available canned goods. The canned *kalderetang kambing* will last up to 7 months, *adobong kambing* is 12 months, and *kilawing kambing* is 15 months. For the mutton, all flavors will last for 4 months. He added that they are working on extending the *kilawing tupa* up to 15 months.

The ISU-CVSRRC has developed chevon prime cutting scheme such as shoulder and neck, rack/rib, loin, leg, breast, and foreshank together with Bureau of Animal Industry-Animal Products Development Center (BAI-APDC). The advantages of the retail prime cuts are the prolonged storage of the meat, good product presentation, and it commands a higher price compared when

selling the goat on per head basis.

The vacuum packed chevon prime cuts are being sold for PHP 300 per kilogram while the canned products at PHP 70 pesos per can.

Dir. Nayga admitted that their distribution is limited to Cagayan Valley as they are still waiting for the accreditation for its processing facility and goat slaughter house from the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS). Once the accreditation is released, they are working on distributing the products nationwide.

Their processing facility has a production capacity of 200 cans per hour and is capable to operate in eight-hour shift a day. The supply of goat will come from CVSRRC and other goat raisers of Region 2.

Dr. Nayga submitted a proposal to BAR under its Research and Development Facilities Development Program to support the renovation of their Integrated Laboratory facility for a chevon processing plant.

Other topics presented under the popular seminars were: 1) Deo's aquavermiponics; 2) Commercial transport of live fish without water; 3) Philippine labeling requirements; 4) Soybean cooking demo; 5) Financing; 6) Photography; 7) Edible landscaping, and 8) Doable agribusiness opportunity. ### (Diana Rose A. de Leon)

Commercial competitiveness of sweet sorghum for bioethanol explored

The sweet sorghum experience in Negros Occidental marked the commercial competitiveness of this smart crop as a complementary bioethanol feedstock. This agricultural advancement was given light in a technical seminar titled, "Establishing Commercial Competitiveness of Sweet Sorghum as a Complementary Bioethanol Feedstock Based on Commercial Scale Production and Processing Experiences in Negros Occidental" presented by Prof. Rex Demafelis of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

The topic on sweet sorghum was one of the technical seminars featured during the 8th Agriculture and Fisheries National Technology Forum and Product Exhibition held on 9-12 August 2012 at SM Megatrade Halls 1 & 2.

Prof. Demafelis is the program convenor of the UPLB Alternative Energy Research, Development, and Extension (RDE) and chair of the UPLB Energy Systems Committee, the UPLB Solid Waste Management Committee, and the UPLB Sewage Treatment Plant Rehabilitation

Committee.

"[We have] conducted plantation validation trials jointly with bioethanol companies in Negros Occidental to showcase sweet sorghum's complementary potential to sugarcane as bioethanol feedstock," said Dr. Demafelis.

In view of the Republic Act 9367 or the Biofuels Act of 2006, the government has put its efforts in optimizing the use of biofuels and requiring the blending of bioethanol with all gasoline sold within the Philippines. "With 15 percent bioethanol blend in 2015, the needed number of distilleries with the capacity of thirty million liters per year (MLPY) will rise to 22," expounded Dr. Demafelis.

Currently, there are three distilleries that process sweet sorghum for bioethanol production. These are: 1) San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. in Negros with the capacity of 30 MLPY, 2) Leyte Agro-Industrial Corp. with 9 MLPY, and 3) Roxol Bioenergy Corp. in Negros with 30 MLPY.

With the foreseeable increasing demand for bioethanol, three distilleries namely, 1) Green Futures Innovation Inc. in Isabela with 54 MLPY, 2) Negros Biochem Corporation with 120 MLPY, and 3) Fuel Incorporation in Negros with 30 MLPY are being looked at to potentially process sweet sorghum.

After the successful plantation and validation trials in Negros Occidental particularly in Sagay, Bago, San Carlos, and Binalbagan, trial sites are established in Northern Luzon (i.e., Pampanga, Tarlac, Isabela, Pangasinan) and in the marginal lands of Panay (i.e., Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique).

Currently, sites in Northern Luzon are already completed in land preparation and planting procedures while sites in Panay are undergoing such procedures. "The project targets to introduce the production of sweet sorghum in the Panay region through the use of marginal lands to increase farmers' income and land productivity," explained Dr. Demafelis.

In 2011, the industry aimed to



Prof. Rex Demafelis of UPLB PHOTO: LPADILLA

showcase the potentials of this crop through conducting the 1st Sweet Sorghum Business Summit and Plantation Showcase in order to attract investors and farmers. Now in the stage of commercial plantation and processing, procedures like plantation identification, milling and evaporation, and anhydrous ethanol production are being implemented.

The result of these efforts led to the production of the first anhydrous sweet sorghum ethanol in the Philippines and in the entire Southeast Asia. This was successfully produced in Negros earlier this year. The 30-ha sweet sorghum plantation in Sagay City was harvested and forwarded to OPTION-MPC for syrup production through milling and evaporation. The final procedures including fermentation, distillation, and dehydration were conducted in San Carlos Bioenergy Inc.

Through continuous R&D efforts together with programs created to answer the demand for bioethanol, it is hoped that the Philippines will have its first sweet sorghum distillery soon.

Other featured technical seminars were topics on: 1) Intellectual property; 2) Soybean production technologies for organic agriculture; 3) Trade solutions; 4) Beekeeping technologies; 5) Native chicken and pig production; 6) Biochemical genetic markers for onion; 7) Cacao and coffee; 8) Commercialization goats for meat production; and 9) Seaweed farming.

(Leila Denisse E. Padilla)

BAR visits SLSU campus

Partnership. Linkage. Collaboration. No matter what term is used, sharing of resources and expertise between and among institutions is a vital key in advancing research and development in the country. Just as the saying goes "two heads are better than one", establishing linkages with other institutions will fill in the lacking resources needed towards a better and more successful operation of an institution.

Recognizing this importance, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) visited one of its partner state universities and colleges (SUCs), the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) based in Lucban, Quezon. As an academic institution providing high-quality education to its students, SLSU was able to establish itself as among the country's top-performing schools in licensure examinations in the fields of nursing, education, engineering, forestry, and agriculture.

The first destination of the visit was the SLSU Business Resource Center. Completed and opened on 2 August 2012, the infrastructure project is committed to serve its students and the whole SLSU community by providing quality education, world-class excellence, and economic progress. It will both serve commercial (spaces will be available for rent) and academic purposes (facilities will be managed and maintained by the students themselves).

A brief program was held at the building with Mr. Manuel V. Deazeta, university and board secretary, who served as the master of ceremony. The program began with an audio-visual presentation telling the story of the university, its



(clockwise) BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar and Asst. Dir. Teodoro Solsoloy discuss with SLSU officials: Dr. Milo Placino, Dr. Walberto Macaraan, Dr. Conrado Abraham, and Dr. Cecilia Gascon at the SLSU Business Resource Center. PHOTO: RDELACRUZ

mission, vision, current programs offered, along with their various projects and activities.

Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, SLSU president, in her message, shared SLSU's humble beginnings. Starting as Junior Municipal High School in 1964, SLSU officially became a state university in 2007 by virtue of Republic Act 9395. As one of the schools offering a degree program in agriculture, it also carries out research and development initiatives, in partnership with other institutions such as BAR. "I am very thankful because we have a strong partnership with DA-BAR. We, at SLSU, would like to thank you, Director Nick, and BAR as a whole, for your continued support to our projects and activities," Dr. Gascon said.

Consecutively, BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar also expressed his gratitude because of the warm accommodation given by SLSU. He commended the university on the improvement of its research generation. According to him, their projects were able

to produce positive evaluation outcomes and this is what gives BAR the reason to keep on supporting them, hence the continuous collaboration. Among the numerous projects being undertaken by the university supported by BAR include rubber and apiculture, such as the growth performance of rubber tree in Quezon province and determining the diversity of native species of bees found in Mt. Banahaw – San Cristobal Protected Landscape.

After the program, BAR was also invited to view the university library and gymnasium.

Dr. Gascon was joined in by other SLSU officials in welcoming BAR officials and staff members. Among them were: Dr. Milo O. Placino, vice president for planning, research, extension, production and development; Dr. Walberto A. Macaraan, vice president for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Conrado L. Abraham, vice president for Administrative and Financial Affairs. ### (Anne Camille B. Brion)



BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar and BAR staff members pose for posterity with SLSU President Cecilia N. Gascon. PHOTO: RDELACRUZ

BAR holds 2012 midyear review and planning



One way of determining whether an organization is headed towards the right path in attaining its goals and objectives is the evaluation of its activities. This way, positive outcomes will be recognized and mistakes will be corrected earlier to avoid repeating it in future undertakings. With this, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) held its "Midyear Review and Planning Workshop" on 15-17 August 2012 in Lucban, Quezon. The activity aimed to assess its initial accomplishments for the first semester and plan for the next activities for the second semester of the year.

Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, the bureau's director, discussed the marching orders for each division. Each directive would promote a more efficient conduct of activities and effective management of time and resources. He enumerated the directions that BAR, through each division, should follow within the year.

Before the presentations, Mr. Joell H. Lales, head of the Planning and Project Development Division (PPDD), introduced first the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP) for 2012 which is aimed at ensuring that new initiatives undertaken will give solutions to the country's current economic challenges and will establish sustainable gains. Consecutively, he talked about the support and investments focused towards the improvement of DA's current thrusts and priorities including

irrigation, farm-to-market roads, postharvest facilities and equipment, market development, climate change risks resiliency, among others.

On the other hand, Ms. Evelyn H. Juanillo, agribusiness coordinator from the Technology Commercialization Division (TCD), gave an update about the DA-Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development. The main principle of the convergence is that the three agencies should inform each other about the implementation of projects on specific location sites so as to avoid conflict and overlapping of functions. The said convergence is also a complementation strategy that will serve as a means for the sharing of expertise and resources between and among the three agencies.

The head of each division proceeded with the presentation of their respective 1st semester accomplishments and 2nd semester plans: Mr. Joell H. Lales for the Planning and Project Development Division (PPDD), Mr. Anthony B. Obligado for the Technology Commercialization Division (TCD), Ms. Salvacion M. Ritual for the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED), Ms. Digna L. Sandoval for the Institutional Development Division (IDD), Ms. Julia A. Lapitan for the Applied

Communication Division (ACD), Ms. Melissa A. Resma for the Information Management Unit (IMU), and Mr. Roberto S. Quing for the Finance Unit. Each presentation involved the major projects and activities undertaken, as well as the accomplishments achieved by each division from January – June 2012. It also included the plans that they will be carrying out for the 2nd semester of the year. All of the divisions pledged to maintain, support, and even further intensify the encouraging results of BAR's projects and programs, and continuously seek for more opportunities for the progress of the agriculture and fisheries sector of the country.

After each presentations, Dr. Eleazar and BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy raised questions, and provided comments and recommendations for the improvement of the work of each divisions. Concerned BAR officials and staff members answered the queries afterwards.

Towards the end of the program, Dr. Solsoloy, in his closing remarks, emphasized that having a good working relationship is key to what BAR has already achieved and where it is right now. He encouraged each and everyone to continue to sow the seeds of excellence because these very same seeds are what they will be reaping afterwards. **### (Anne Camille B. Brion)**

BAR Annex Building inaugurated

Pushing forward not only its R&D initiatives but also infrastructure development, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), led by its key officials— BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar and Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy— inaugurated the two-level BAR Annex Building on 8 August 2012. This activity is part of the year-long celebration of the 25th year of the bureau with the theme, "BAR@25: Celebrating R&D Excellence in Agriculture and Fisheries".

The new Annex Building sits parallel between the ATI and RDMIC buildings inside the Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI) Compound. The first level is built with sheds for parking and three rooms and toilet facilities, while the second level contains four rooms designated for additional office spaces. Construction began the first semester of 2012, with a scheduled completion just about August. The rooms are designed both to house additional office spaces for the constantly growing manpower of the bureau as well as to accommodate guests and visitors.

A thanksgiving mass with BAR staff kicked off the activity. Following



(L-R) Ms. Luz Abundo of CLSU, Auditor Priscilla Rivera, BAR Asst. Director Teodoro Solsoloy, and BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the official inauguration of the new BAR Annex Building. PHOTO: RBERNARDO

was a message from Dir. Eleazar expressing how encouraging this year has been for the bureau. The hardwork and dedication each BAR staff has put into ensuring the connections among its partner-agencies and have been remarkable contributions to BAR success.

The first and second floors were also blessed to ensure that the entire structure is dedicated not only to support

BAR's mandate, but of course in fulfillment of the Lord's plans for the entire bureau. Candle lighting and coin tossing ensued after the blessing. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was also one of the activities headed by Dr. Eleazar and Dr. Solsoloy. Culminating the day's activity was the unveiling of the BAR Annex Building marker. **### (Zuellen B. Reynoso)**

Alcala approves...from page 1

during the opening of the 8th Agriculture and Fisheries National Technology Commercialization Forum and Product Exhibition held on 9 August 2012 at the SM Megatrade Halls 1 and 2, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The activity is an annual event of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) coinciding with the bureau's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Aside from putting up a micro-enterprise program for smallscale entrepreneurs, the Secretary also pushed for the promotion and dissemination of technologies generated from R&D particularly those that will enable the farmers and fishers to produce and earn more.

Sec. Alcala mentioned some of the R&D generated technologies that the public can now access and use in the field. Among these included result studies on the promotion of value-adding technologies which will provide added income for every Filipino family. Specifically, he mentioned technologies from sweet sorghum and

mango, which were supported by BAR through its National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP).

Sec. Alcala also recognized scientists, researchers and their outstanding contributions in the field of R&D. Among them were: Dr. Cristeta A. Cueto of PCA-Albay Research Center and her study on the improved basal medium for coconut embryo culture which was verified for the mass propagation of Makapuno seedlings; Dr. Rubigilda C. Paraguison of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) who developed detection kits for the rapid screening of FMD (Foot-and-Mouth Disease) virus infection; Dr. Marissa V. Romero and her research on the extraction and characterization of rice plant oil from our local *palay* varieties which has a very high potential; and Dr. Erlinda B. Panggat of UP Visayas and her project on the production of liquid protein from the scrap parts of tuna fish.

The Secretary acknowledged the role of the state universities and colleges

(SUCs) and their expertise in making these technologies possible. He underscored the importance of collaboration and converging efforts with R&D partners to push for the advancement of technologies in the country.

He also recognized the importance of R&D partner institutions like the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) in developing and promoting not only high-yielding varieties of rice but are also climate change tolerant. Among these included rice submergence-tolerant and drought-tolerant varieties.

Given the vast availabilities of these mature technologies, he instructed Dr. Eleazar to regularly report to him which of these technologies are now completed and ready for commercialization so that the Secretary could give recommendation what specific technologies to push and promote in the public. **### (Rita T. dela Cruz)**



Davide's FSTP gains recognition in 2012 Ramon Magsaysay Awards

In view of “honoring greatness of spirit in selfless service to the peoples of Asia”, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is bestowed to individuals and organizations who have exemplified the qualities possessed by the late President Ramon Magsaysay in coming up with sustainable solutions to address issues on poverty, public health, environment, education, and human rights, among others.

This year, six individuals who have made extraordinary impact to their community were given the prestigious award considered as Asia's internationally-known Nobel Peace Prize.

For the Philippines, it was our very own Romulo Davide.

Why he was chosen

Guided by the saying “there are no barren soils, only barren minds”, Romulo Davide was inspired to become an agricultural scientist. He became

famous for developing the BIOCON technology, now registered as BIOACT, which serves as a biological control against nematode pests that attack agricultural crops. The said technology is now being used worldwide.

As an agriculture extension worker, he discovered a way to change the course of the lives of the Filipino farmers in Argao, Cebu. When he was awarded by the Department of Agriculture (DA) as an “Outstanding Agricultural Scientist” in 1994, he used his prize to embark on a project, “Corn-based Farmer-Scientists Research, Development and Extension Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development,” or simply FSTP. It aims to empower and turn farmers into farmer-scientists to uplift their living conditions. From merely planting rice, they are taught to do the experiments themselves.

Before graduating from the program, the farmers have to undergo

three phases. Davide calls Phase I as “cultivation of the mind”. Farmers, with the aid of scientists, do research works in the field where they learn to measure plant height and gather data on plant growth, among many other things. Phase II, or what he calls “cultivation of the soil”, involves the replication of the farmers' research experiences in their own farms, making use of the experiments and learnings they gained from the previous phase. Lastly, Phase III is where now farmer-scientists share their expertise by teaching untrained fellow farmers. Under the program, farmers are also taught to become entrepreneurs. Values formation or learning the values for love of God, country and people, is also an important aspect of the program where a culture of community is instilled among them.

The success of the program's implementation was evident when farmers were able to register a surplus of corn because of an increase in yield from up to

6 to 12 times. Because of the higher yield, there was an increase in income due to the sales of the surplus corn. They were also able to adopt the intercropping system, as well as technologies involving animal production which provided them with additional income. As Davide said, “FSTP has successfully demonstrated that poor farmers can be technically empowered through direct contact with agricultural scientists/experts to improve their living conditions beyond the poverty level”.

Technical empowerment for farmers, improvement of agricultural production, increase in farmers' income which enable them to send their children to schools, and improving the quality of their lives and their living standard – these are only among the many fruitful results that the program has accomplished. Argao moved up the social ladder, from a 5th class town towards becoming a 1st class town since 2006. In 2008, FSTP was implemented as a National Program, reaching out to poor farmers and catering to the indigenous peoples in mountainous communities.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) believed in the change that the program can achieve. Hence, it was one of the institutions who supported the initiative by providing funding support for the program through its Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) project.

The other awardees

Aside from Davide, there were other five awardees for this year. One is Ambrosius Ruwindrijarto who organized Telapak, a group who made its mark as one of the solid protectors of Indonesia's forests, marine biodiversity, and the indigenous people's rights by fighting the country's illegal logging businesses.

There is also Syeda Rizwana Hasan whose courage and passion gave the people of Bangladesh the social and ecological justice that they deserve.

Together with the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Hasan is one of the toughest fighters against environmental degradation in their country.

Yang Saing Koma also received recognition because of his contribution in helping the farmers of Cambodia and Cambodia itself when he introduced the System of Rice Intensification or SRI to his fellowmen. SRI is an ecologically sustainable approach to rice production with its main principle of producing more yields with less production inputs.

Another is Kulandei Francis who established the Integrated Village Development Project (IVDP) in India, helping the women get out of oppression and embrace the social-cultural status that they ought to have in the rural community. Women and their families were able to obtain loans needed for cultivation, basic necessities, and other livelihood activities through the self-help groups organized by the IVDP.

Lastly, there is Chen Shu-Jiu. She is a vegetable vendor in Taiwan with a pure and kind-hearted soul who donates to charities using her own hard-earned money. Her generous act sent children to schools and provided them with the basic necessities in life. ### (Anne Camille B. Brion)

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PHOTO: ABRION



2012 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees (L-R) Ambrosius Ruwindrijarto of Indonesia, Romulo Davide of the Philippines, Chen Shu-Jiu of Taiwan, Syeda Rizwana Hasan of Bangladesh, Yang Saing Koma of Cambodia, and Kulandei Francis of India. PHOTO: ABRION