

process consultation is a means of mobilizing people, and educating and organizing them to become effective participants in the agricultural knowledge and information system.

Capacitating the KM workers

In an attempt to improve the linking mechanisms, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), as the lead agency for R&D of the Department of Agriculture, partnered with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for a series of KM capacity development programs. This initiative aimed at focusing on knowledge capture, knowledge products design, and knowledge sharing as strategies to manage information and knowledge generated in the agricultural and fisheries sector.

In the concept paper produced by SEARCA, which served as the backbone of the program, it was articulated that the state of agricultural research in the country has greatly improved in the past two decades due to strengthened programs, increased government investments in R&D, networking and consortium building at the local, national and regional levels, and research capacity development of state universities and colleges. Improved capacities for agriculture and fisheries R&D have generated new knowledge and technologies across sub-sectors. However, these newly generated knowledge assets have not been adequately managed in terms of

knowledge capture, sharing and reuse, since the research findings have not been fully utilized.

The objectives of the program includes: 1) crafting a strategic framework for agricultural knowledge management; 2) developing the DA-BAR strategic plan for KM capacity development (CapDev) based on the strategic framework; 3) designing a comprehensive CapDev program for the agricultural research subsector that specifies the long-term and short-term trainings on KM within the next five years; and 4) implement agricultural KM roundtable discussions and benchmarking activities in selected and various knowledge centers.

The project hopes to benefit the agricultural and fisheries information and knowledge management including research management, communication, information science and information staff; and selected information officers from DA-BAR network and partner institutions.

KM experts stressed the need to employ the disciplines of KM and its deliverables to reach its intended users. Capacitating the information officers of each line agencies of the DA is a primordial concern in conceptualizing the KM program.

BAR sees that such program serves as an effective vehicle in knowledge capture, sharing,

and reuse.

The research, development, and extension communities will greatly benefit from this undertaking as this will create the momentum of cascading vital and relevant information to the end users in general. It was also clear that the role of RD&E is crucial to the continuing growth of the sector. ###

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Attended by information officers and technical staff members from DA-BAR; DA-Regional Field Offices, attached agencies, and staff bureaus; and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Regional Offices, the activity was the third leg of the second phase of the collaborative project on KM between DA-BAR and SEARCA. ### (Anne Camille B. Brion)

APEC economies meet for collaborative CLIMATE CHANGE RDE AGENDA



APEC member economies participating in the symposium workshop are Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam. Seated at the front row are (L-R): DA-APEC Focal Person and DA-SWCCO Director Alicia Ilaga, APEC-ATCWG Focal Person and DA Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Segfredo Serrano, BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar, and BAR Assistant Director Teodoro Solsoloy.

The problem with climate change is that many of those risks have just been transformed into uncertainties. When uncertainties pervade a particular sector or economy, or the way society acts or conducts itself, what you have is a lot of hedging and uncertainties. Our duty is to provide more clarity through research, studies, and technological innovations to reconvert those uncertainties into calculable risks," said Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, Department of Agriculture (DA) undersecretary for Policy and Planning, and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) - Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) focal person, in his welcome remarks during the "Symposium/Workshop on Planning a Collaborative Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Program on Climate Change among

APEC Member Economies" held on 16-17 September 2015 at The Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

The symposium/workshop was held in response to a call to have a unified and collective RDE effort among the APEC-member economies to address the challenges brought upon by climate change. The event was organized and led by the Department of Agriculture-System Wide Climate Change Office (DA-SWCCO) and the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) through its Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) program.

The event aimed to look at possible collaborative RDE works

among member economies on the development of climate change-resilient agriculture through sharing of information on technologies and strategies on climate change adaptation and mitigation; and identify the RDE gaps, common

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BAR Asst. Director presents collaborative Climate Change RDE to APEC-ATCWG

Dr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy, assistant director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), presented the “Collaborative Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Program on Climate Change among APEC Member Economies” during the 19th Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) Meeting held on September 28, 2015 at the Iloilo Convention Center, Iloilo City.

The presentation of Dr. Solsoloy was the output of a previously conducted workshop among APEC economies organized and led by DA-BAR and DA-System Wide Climate Change Office. Specifically, the objective of the workshop was to come up with a collaborative RDE program on climate change and present the country's stand on the issue including its projects and initiatives.

BAR, as the focal R&D agency for the Climate Change Program of the Department of Agriculture and the APEC-ATCWG Project Overseer in the Philippines, as represented by BAR Asst. Director Solsoloy, presented common and specific adaptive capacity measures among seven invited economies which included water conservation, revised cropping calendar/agriculture rainfall index, and planting climate-tolerant varieties. Dr. Solsoloy also presented adaptive capacity with mitigation measures, gaps and limitations, overarching RDE interests.



BAR Assistant Director Teodoro Solsoloy (right) discusses with IRRI Deputy Director General for Communication and Partnerships V. Bruce Tolentino (left) during the 19th ATCWG Meeting.

The 19th ATCWG Meeting was one of the five meetings scheduled during the Food Security Week (Sept 27-Oct 1, 2015). Other APEC meetings scheduled were on Public-Private Partnership in fishery and livestock supply chain, high level policy dialogue on agricultural biotechnology, policy partnership on food security, and high level policy dialogue on food security and blue economy.

The ATCWG, composed of government officials and experts from the academe, aims to enhance

agriculture's contribution to the region's economic growth and social well-being by promoting agricultural technical cooperation among APEC member economies. One of its strategies is on enhancing agriculture's ability to adjust and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo R. Serrano is the current Philippine APEC-ATCWG focal person. ###
(Rita T. dela Cruz)

Infusing KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT in the research-extension continuum

Story by Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca



Research and Extension (R&E) are two separate domains catering to specific thrusts, but with complementary functions in achieving agri-fishery development.

Research involves the development of better food staples and other high yielding crops, and improvement of livestock, poultry, and fisheries genetics, which are all aimed at empowering the sector in addressing the demand for food and livelihood. It includes generating new technologies to suit market needs. Extension, on the other hand, is the popularization of knowledge through intensified trainings and other means of capacity development activities.

R&E are important in transferring developed technologies

from those who generate them to the end-users. To communicate the results effectively, both must have the adequate resources and programs to back them up. One strategy that can be tapped and infused in this continuum is Knowledge Management (KM).

The American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC) defined KM as strategies and processes of identifying, capturing, and leveraging knowledge.

Interface between R&E

According to Roling's The Agricultural Research-Technology Transfer Interface (1990), an agricultural system performs well if the developed or generated technology is comprehensively transferred to the users. He argued that scientists-

researchers involved in basic, strategic, applied and adaptive research, together with the village-level extension workers and farmers must be seen as participants in a single agricultural knowledge and information system. The interface between research and technology transfer is important in determining the performance of the whole system.

One of the known methods of bridging the gap between research and extension, as explained by Roling, was the “process consultation” being adopted by small and medium-sized. He furthered that businesses became more innovative by enhancing their capacity to utilize external information. In the paradigm of agricultural processes, for instance,

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CPAR boosts *atis* production...from page 13

According to Mr. Pablo De Castro, barangay captain, and also an *atis* farmer in Brgy. Banalo, Lobo, the trees that used to yield five kilos of *atis* can now produce up to nine kilos of the fruit. At present, *atis* farmers are favoured to possibly having two harvest seasons production. Off-season harvest runs from May to July and the regular season from August to October.

Part of the project also involved training farmers in intercropping legumes and vegetables with *atis*. According to Ms. Manalo, planting different crops on the same farmland preserves the nutrients present in the soil and it can lead to better quality for the harvested *atis*. Diversifying the number of crops planted on farmland has not only increased the income of the farmers in Lobo, but also helped in providing their families with enough supply of crops for personal consumption.

Aside from providing new methods in irrigation and intercropping, farmers were also trained in the proper methods of applying fertilizer, pruning, and weeding. STIARC provided the

farmers with enough equipment in order for its beneficiaries to continue applying what they have been taught.

With the creation of an association for *atis* farmers, Ms. Manalo pointed out that farmers can finally agree to establish a hub where they can store their harvest and directly sell to market vendors. This also cuts down on the necessary expenses needed for one to hire middle men and decreases the retail price per kilo of *atis* in the market.

The CPAR project's recipients are 20 farmers from two of Lobo's less progressive barangays, Brgy. Balatbat and Brgy. Banaio. According to Ms. Manalo, once the project reaches its conclusion this year, funding is passed down to the municipal government in order for the project to continue and expand to the rest of Lobo's barangays. ###

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Value adding expands...from page 12

The seaweed puree is then mixed with the rest of the ingredients used to make dough. The noodles must be dried first before it is ready to be cooked.

Seaweed can also be turned into a sauce, wherein its puree form is mixed with salt, sugar, white pepper, soy sauce, vinegar, fried garlic, and onion, then garnished with pili nuts. Andayog and her team also incorporated a healthier twist to the Filipino classic morcon dish. For her recipe, Andayog used chopped seaweed as a binder and extender to go along with a mix of seasonings and fish or meat products. The same mix of ingredients used to produce morcon can also be cooked as *longganisa* or *lumpia*. Andayog describes her seaweed mix as a 3 in 1 product. Not only is the dish healthy, but it is also cheap. Seaweed morcon can cost just half the amount of expenses spent on cooking regular morcon.

In a seminar she conducted on 23 September 2015 at BAR, Andayog cited the Marine Resource Develop Corporation in pointing out that seaweed texture exhibits properties that help preserve moisture in foods and make pork more stable and manageable. This implied seaweed's efficiency on being a food extender, thus leading Andayog to develop a morcon recipe using seaweed.

Other seaweed products that Andayog developed included seaweed juice, seaweed *leche flan*, seaweed pickles, *nata de seaweed*, and seaweed spaghetti.

With the advancement of seaweed value-added products, Andayog continues to boost Bicol's seaweed industry. She has already brought her product demonstration to other countries such as Korea and Singapore. During the seminar, she pointed out that seaweed farming and the industry's manufacturing aspect greatly depend on each other. As it grows, more opportunities of doing smallscale business enterprises would be available for the locals in the Bicol region. ###
(Ephraim John J. Gestupa)



DA Secretary Proceso Alcala (6th from left) and BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar (7th from left) in a photo op with the other attendees

Phl leads ASEAN agri leaders meeting; DA strengthens policy on food quality and safety

Ten years after the APEC Meeting was held in the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture (DA) once again had the privilege of hosting a series of ministerial meetings that included the 37th Meeting of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), 15th Meeting of AMAF Plus Three Ministers on Agriculture (AMAF+3), and the 4th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF). These meetings were held on 7-11 September 2015 at The Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

The AMAF and related meetings were attended by ministers from agriculture, fisheries, and forestry of the 10 ASEAN member-countries including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam; ministers from the ASEAN+3 that included Japan, South Korea, and China; India for the AIMMAF; deputy secretary-general of the ASEAN Secretariat; representatives

of dialogue-partner multilateral organizations; and representatives from ASEAN civil society organizations.

The ministerial meetings were significant to the member countries as these provided opportunities and venues to tackle and finalize actions regarding the regional cooperation's policy framework on food, agriculture, and forestry.

According to DA Undersecretary Dr. Segfredo R. Serrano, the Philippines can capitalize on these gatherings to revisit, strengthen, and enable the country's policy environment and programs on agriculture especially in the context of an integrated ASEAN economic community.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, in his statement, said that the country should be looking for harmonization and alignment of product and production standards with that of the ASEAN especially on food quality and safety. This is why DA has strong initiatives to standardize the guidelines on good agricultural practices and good animal husbandry

practices, and has already enacted laws including the Organic Agriculture Act and Food Safety Act, among others.

On the 37th AMAF, the DA assured that the country will comply and follow the specified standards under the terms of the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 endorsed by AMAF.

In relation to this initiative, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) as the national coordinating and funding agency for research and development (R&D) of DA is tasked under Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 to take the lead in coordinating the DA's R&D initiatives on organic agriculture. As of 2014, BAR has been coordinating 33 organic agriculture projects nationwide. Also, the bureau, through its National Technology Commercialization Program, has been taking on R&D initiatives and activities to develop and commercialize technologies that have potential market both locally and globally. ### (Diana Rose A. de Leon)

BAR-funded OA project wins R&D awards



Receiving the R&D awards for the project, "Development of Organic Seed Production System of Lowland Vegetables and Legumes at BPI-LBNCRDC and Strengthening Partnership in CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and Bicol Region," are Dr. Herminigilda A. Gabertan and her team from the BPI-LBNCRDC.

In celebration of the "Syensaya" or the Los Baños Science Festival, the Los Baños Science Community Foundation, Inc. (LBSCFI) gave recognition to an organic production system project supported by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Winning the "PARRFI R&D Award for Development Category" was the project titled, "Development of Organic Seed Production System of Lowland Vegetables and Legumes at BPI-LBNCRDC and Strengthening Partnership in CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and Bicol Region," which is being coordinated by BAR under the Organic Agriculture Program.

Focused on establishing an organic seed production program by setting-up organic seed production areas at the Bureau of Plant Industry-Los Baños National Crop Research and Development Center (BPI-LBNCRDC), the project produced organic seeds of cowpea, mungbean, *okra*, pole string beans, and tomato.

The project teamed up with four groups of researchers in Regions 4 and 5. Identified by organic focal persons in the region, project partners in Region 4 included the Department of Agriculture-Palawan Agricultural Experiment Station in Puerto Princesa,

Palawan; and the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual, and Cultural Advancement (OISCA) in Lucban, Quezon. Meanwhile, partners in Region 5 were the Madrigal Foundation, Inc.; and the Christian Community Life (CCL), both in San Fernando, Camarines Sur.

The project provided on-site training on organic seed production to farmers, growers, professionals, and all interested citizens during field day activities held at the partner groups' sites.

Dr. Herminigilda A. Gabertan and her team from the BPI-LBNCRDC received the award for the two-year seed production project during the festival's closing ceremonies held at the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) D.L. Umali Auditorium.

Formerly named Los Baños Science Community, LBSCFI was one of the four science communities established by the Department of Science and Technology in 1984 to foster the spirit of sharing of resources and expertise among the organization's member-institutions. (*Mara Shyn M. Valdeabella*)

APEC Economies...from page 1

priorities, and enabling mechanisms to implement the RDE agenda among APEC member economies. The output was to develop a joint RDE agenda on climate change adaptation and mitigation among member economies

Among the APEC member economies that participated in the two-day activity included Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, United States of America, and Vietnam.

All the economies presented their respective initiatives to address the impacts of climate change. Their presentations contained the priority concerns and current technologies/strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation for the agriculture sector, existing institutional platforms/framework, and RDE gaps, limitations and other issues.

Also present was BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar who gave the overview, objectives, expected output and mechanics of the workshop.

Dr. Dindo Campilan, director for Asia of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), discussed on climate change and agriculture and food security program of CGIAR while Dr. Bessie Burgos, program head for research and development of SEARCA, presented SEARCA's umbrella program on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Dr. Campilan proposed some recommended strategic actions on agricultural resilience that APEC member economies can have joint collaboration on. These include: 1) climate change vulnerability assessment, 2) climate smart agriculture prioritization, 3) science-policy partnership platform, 4) climate-smart



CPAR boosts ATIS production in Lobo

Story and photos by Ephraim John J. Gestupa

Lobo, Batangas has over 500 hectares of farmland planted with sweet sugar apple trees. The tree's fruit, popularly known as "atis", is tended by over a thousand farmers. It's no wonder why Lobo has been declared through Resolution No. 2011-61 as the "Atis Capital of the Philippines" in September 2011.

Despite this recognition, Lobo started out in a less progressive state in terms of its farming systems. According to Ms. Daisynette D. Manalo, project leader of the "Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) on Sugar Apple + Vegetables + Legume Farming System in Lobo, Batangas," an *atis* tree can potentially produce five kilograms of the fruit but the current average production in Lobo is only one kilogram per tree. At 45 pesos per kilogram, low income among *atis* farmers during harvest time has raised concerns for developing the municipality's farming systems.

She added that, aside from natural disasters such as typhoons, one major cause for low production is

the mealybug, a small pest insect that feeds on plant sap while leaving a sticky substance on the fruit and leaves. The sticky substance makes room for fungi to develop leaving the fruit surface with sooty mold. These sticky, white cotton ball like pests, infest a great number of *atis* trees and can become uncontrollable during summer, when rainfall is scarce and irrigation is unsteady.

The CPAR project, implemented by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 4A-Southern Tagalog Integrated Agricultural Research Center (STIARC), is funded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Prior to the implementation of the CPAR project, the Office of the Municipal Agriculture of Lobo conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) among *atis* farmers with the general objective of improving their yield and income. It aimed to equip smallholders with efficient irrigation technology, new crops to plant, and create an organized association for *atis* farmers.

It was during the PRA that

farmers from Lobo pointed out a simple solution to the mealybug infestation: water. The option of using chemical pesticides was not feasible due to the huge stretches of land and canopy that needed to be sprayed. What was needed is proper irrigation to give farmers access to enough water for spraying the pests off *atis* trees. Farmers in Lobo would need long stretches of water pipes that transport water from the municipality's numerous water springs. With the CPAR project, 20 farmers from two barangays in Lobo were provided with new irrigation systems that included the construction of water reservoirs and the procurement of water pumps, power sprayers, and plastic drums.

According to Ms. Rosie Egea, municipal agriculturist in Lobo, in two weeks time, farmers have already noticed significant developments in the quality and quantity of their yield. Ever since collecting water from the new irrigation system, *atis* trees began yielding more fruit.

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Value adding expands SEAWEED INDUSTRY



PHOTO: ABRION

It is unlike any sunken treasure anyone has ever discovered underneath the ocean. But its value outweighs that of a chest overflowing of gold. Seaweed is the ocean's valuable deep sea vegetable. During the ancient times, it was only served to kings and their honored guests. It has been considered a miracle crop and it doesn't fail to live up to the name. The ocean water is full of nutrients and where else can these nutrients be concentrated in but to seaweed? Seaweed is rich in minerals like calcium and iodine while also having a low amount of calories. Seaweed detoxifies our bodies. They

help prolong one's life by regulating the acid levels in our blood and in improving our bodies' disposal of toxins.

In the Philippines, Ms. Aida Andayog of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 5, has been working on seaweeds ever since the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) assisted in funding her CPAR project on seaweeds in 2003. She, along with her team from the Tobacco Faith International Church, developed the existing methods of harvesting seaweeds and eventually ventured in creating seaweed-based products.

Today, seaweed technology has already been developed and enterprises have already emerged featuring a wide array of products. Ms. Andayog is currently on the process of developing their brand and processing plants in the Bicol region.

Through her research, Andayog has managed to come up with a wide array of ways in cooking dried seaweed. One example is seaweed noodles. Making seaweed noodles is almost the same as making pasta. Dried seaweed is rehydrated overnight then blended into a puree.

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villages, and 5) surveillance of climate change-induced pests/diseases. Dr. Burgos' presentation, on the other hand, focused on four key thematic areas: 1) assessing climate change impacts and risks for policy, plans and investments; 2) advancing low-carbon agriculture and rural development; 3) enhancing proactive adaptation to climate change variability and extremes; and 4) enabling policies (including processes) and governance for climate-resilient agricultural and rural communities.

The second day included interactive group session among APEC economies to come up with common RDE concerns and research agenda, and action plan and enabling mechanisms for collaborations. The outputs were presented in the plenary.

Director Alicia Ilaga, DA-APEC focal person and director of DA-SWCCO, closed the activity reiterating that the output of the workshop will be presented during the APEC Food Security Week, specifically during the 19th ATCWG Meeting on 28-29 September 2015. "It is important that we stand united in this meeting so that our common agenda gets included in the Working Group's priority. It is timely that the Working Group will review its thrusts and priorities, they will decide on its 2015-2019 Strategic Plans in the light of the directions set by the Beijing Declaration on Food Security, PPFS Roadmap, and 2015 APEC Priorities which include sustainable and resilient communities," underscored Dir. Ilaga. She requested the APEC member economies to talk about and carefully consider the identified research agenda and action plan, and to determine who will take the lead. ###
(Diana Rose A. de Leon)



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALKFI PROGRAMA GENIO

GOURmix now used in ABS-CBN's feeding program

GOURmix, a highly-nutritious food developed by the Department of Agriculture-Cagayan Valley Research Center (DA-CVRC) and supported by the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), is now being utilized as part of a feeding program of ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc.'s (ALKFI) "Programa Genio".

This initiative was highlighted by BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar in his message during the 2015 Adlay National Review and Planning Workshop held on 28-30 September 2015 in Quezon City. "In its fifth year of implementation, the Adlay R&D Program is now looking into the commercialization of the crop. The adlay-enriched GOURmix product of the DA-CVRC is very encouraging and it manifests that our research and development efforts are being put into good use to help our fellow Filipinos. Believing in its potentials, BAR together with the High Value Crops Development Program of the DA, will continue supporting adlay-related initiatives to further intensify dissemination and promotion on the economic and health benefits of this commodity," the bureau chief said.

Resembling porridge, GOURmix is a combination of adlay, rice, white corn, malunggay, TVP

soybean, ground mungbean, and turmeric ginger – all of which contain essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that contribute to the body's health and wellness. "To date, there are already two batches of GOURmix products delivered to ALKFI's Programa Genio totaling to 13,600 packs," reported Ms. Rose Mary G. Aquino, lead proponent for the development of GOURmix.

According to Mr. Erwin Felipe, education program officer of ALKFI's Programa Genio, GOURmix is being used to support their feeding program in their adopted schools in Western Samar and in Laguna. "We provide them 40 packs (400 kilograms) per school every two months," Mr. Felipe added.

Apart from ALKFI's Programa Genio, GOURmix is being used in feeding activities of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Education, and local government units in Region 2 in support to various nutrition programs. Due to its market potential and impact to consumers, GOURmix was hailed as the Best Innovative Product during the 10th Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition held in August 2014 at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. ###
(Anne Camille B. Brion)

Public clamors for **GOURmix**



Aimed to provide households and general food consumers with highly-nutritious and affordable source of complete foods, the Department of Agriculture-Cagayan Valley Research Center (DA-CVRC) developed a product called "GOURmix" that was formally launched and introduced to the public during the Agri-Pinoy Mega Fiesta in Gamu, Isabela early this year. The event served as a venue to create awareness on the use and nutritional benefits of GOURmix. It also opened windows for businessmen like the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and other organized venture into the business of distributorship of GOURmix nationwide.

To date, 28,352 packs of GOURmix have been produced, of which 26,212 packs were distributed and sold in support to the feeding and nutrition program advocacies of various agencies in the country.

GOURmix is a mix of cereal-staple crops products like milled rice, white corn grits, and adlay grits; known protein-rich food legumes like ground mungbean and texturized vegetable protein out of soybean (plant-based meat substitute); and medicinal-vegetables/spices like malunggay and yellow-ginger or

turmeric in powdered form.

The product was conceptualized after the onslaught of typhoon Yolanda in 2014 wherein assistance and support to the victims poured out. During that time, the "Manna Rice Pack," a protein- and vegetable-enriched product produced by Feed My Starving Children Organization was distributed to the victims which inspired Ms. Aquino to develop a local version.

"The DSWD Feeding Program of PLGU-Quirino and Isabela (BRO-Lusog Program) is now committed to purchase GOURmix products for their feeding program to DSWD and DepEd undernourished school children. In fact, the product had been officially endorsed for feeding program by the Regional Nutrition Committee of Region 2 in partnership with media group during the launching of nutrition month celebration on July 01, 2015," said Ms. Rose Mary G. Aquino, chief of DA-CVRC. This was sealed through an approved resolution.

In Ilagan, Isabela, LGU-executives recently closed an official deal to become partner-manufacturer and distributor of GOURmix, while the business partnership with LCC company in Sta. Cruz, Manila and Big-Deals Enterprise in Manila (through Agri-Savers Marketing Cooperative in

Region 2) is under negotiation as prospect distributors. These strengthened public-private partnerships through other business partners in Metro Manila and local cooperatives as distributors and manufacturers.

"The growing public demand and appreciation for Pinoy GOURmix product is benefitting the farmer-producers in terms of assured local market for raw materials like adlay, white corn, mungbean, soybean, malunggay, and yellow ginger," Ms. Aquino explained. She added that the 50,000 packs monthly estimated demand by existing distributors in the Philippines is a clear manifestation for huge demand for raw materials. Hence, this can be translated to value-addition and increased income for farming households.

Commercialization activities, particularly packaging, labeling, and shelf life improvement of GOURmix, is funded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research under its National Technology Commercialization Program. ### (Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino)

MOU on native pig production signed

The Conservation and Development Specialists Foundation (CDSF), Inc. sealed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Municipality of Tuburan, Cebu and Cebu Technological University (CTU) Tuburan Campus to commercialize native swine and show its socioeconomic potential and marketability in the municipality.

Present during the MOU signing were CDSF Research Associate Ma. Joy Malabayabas, CTU Campus Director Dr. Pedrito Pontillas, Bureau of Animal Industry-National Swine and Poultry Research and Development Center (BAI-NSPRDC) Chief Dr. Rene C. Santiago, and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Project Coordinator Evelyn Juanillo. Also witnesses were CTU-Professor Dr. Pedro M. Mondejar; Municipal Agricultural Officer Esterlita Andales; and Tuburan Municipal Administrator Royeto Talaugon.

Funded by BAR under its National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP), the project titled, "Demonstration and Commercialization of Native Swine Production Technologies in Selected Areas in the Philippines," covers the transfer of the feeding and housing strategies to project cooperators including initial stocks of native swine.

The BAR-CDSF Team visited the Ubay Stock Farm in Bohol and met with Mr. Rodrigo Geromo and Mr. Joaquin Polestico to seek assistance in the procurement of native pig stocks to be brought to the technology demonstration facility which will be set-up at the CTU Tuburan Campus. Mr. Geromo and Mr. Polestico committed to assist in the procurement of the initial stock for the technology demonstration as they have farmer cooperators who are dispersal recipients and are now into native pig production.

A seminar on native pig production was also facilitated by CDSF, Inc. with the assistance from the LGU through MAO Esterlita Andales. During a visit at the



Present during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for native pig production are BAR-Project Coordinator Evelyn Juanillo (standing right) together with representatives from CDSF, CTU, BAI-NSPRDC, and LGU-Tuburan, Cebu. PHOTO COURTESY OF EUJANILLO

proposed site for the technology demonstration, Dr. Santiago provided some suggestions on the location of the housing and range area for the native pigs. He also initiated the planting of cuttings of Trichantera, a forage crop that can be fed to native pigs, at the demonstration site.

"At this stage of the project, the technology demonstration level was adjusted according to the needs of the area and the existing management practices and level of awareness on the potentials native pigs," Ms. Juanillo said.

Under the signed MOU, CTU-Tuburan will be responsible in the maintenance of the breeder stocks (feeds and drugs/medicines) and forage crops (Madre de agua/Trichantera). On the other hand, LGU Tuburan, through the MAO, will conduct monitoring activities to determine the performance of the technology demonstration facility in CTU-Tuburan. They will also be responsible in providing a shortlist of possible project cooperators and in coordinating future dispersal and facilitating distribution of repayment stocks to selected project cooperators.

BAR strengthens its support to the livestock industry. For native pig, BAR has funded four completed

projects and currently coordinating a total of eight projects on native pig production and processing including value chain analysis implemented in collaboration with other R&D institutions and private institutions in the country.

Native pig is one of the priority commodities under the bureau's Research and Development, Extension Agenda and Programs (RDEAP) 2011-2016. ### (Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino)

Adlay R&D Program...from page 7

adlay were also given by Mr. Senen Reyes of the University of Asia and the Pacific and Mr. Elmer Enicola of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, respectively.

As of August 2015, BAR is coordinating 49 adlay projects which are being implemented by DA-Regional Field Offices, state universities and colleges, Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), and Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG). ### (Anne Camille B. Brion)

Best practices, platforms HIGHLIGHT KM WORKSHOP



Dr. Alexander Flor, Knowledge Management (KM) Capacity Development expert, gives an overview of the KM workshop. PHOTO:RDELACRUZ

Sources of agricultural information used to be obtained only from newspapers, television, magazines, and leaflets. With rapid technological advancements, social media and e-learning platforms have emerged and provided new means of increasing the availability of information to farmers, extension workers, policymakers, students, and the general public about the recent developments and breakthroughs in agriculture and fisheries while allowing social interaction at the same time.

With this, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) held a knowledge sharing workshop on Knowledge Management (KM) on 1-3 September 2015 in San Juan, Batangas. The three-day workshop aimed at learning institutional best practices on social media use and other e-learning platforms, sharing lessons learned based on experiences, and appreciating the use of various

learning management systems.

Resource speakers from various institutions shared their respective practices and experiences on the use of social media and e-learning platforms. Mr. Xerxees Remorozo, information technology officer at the DA-Information and Communications Technology Services (ICTS), presented on "Social Media in Agriculture: DA-ICT Service Experience". He mentioned on how social media serves as a cost effective tool in disseminating modern farm practices to the sector's stakeholders.

Consecutively, Dr. Maria Victoria Espaldon, professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, discussed on "Project SARAI" which stands for Smarter Approaches to Reinstantiate Agriculture as an Industry in the Philippines. One of the project's objectives aims to build a knowledge portal on climate resilient and sustainable crop production that is accessible to farmers, agripreneurs, policymakers, students, and key players in the field of agriculture.

Mr. Jose Rey Alo, adviser of

the DA-Agricultural Training Institute's (ATI) e-Learning Process, shared about ATI Interactive which is the agency's way of enhancing their knowledge management through social media. He also cited ATI's e-learning site that serves as a repository of knowledge on agriculture and fisheries.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mariliza Ticsay, head of SEARCA-Knowledge Resources Unit (KRU), discussed on SEARCA's program on knowledge management that promotes a learning culture, knowledge creation, and knowledge sharing and use in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia. On the other hand, Ms. Malaya Montesur, KM associate from SEARCA-KRU, gave details on SEARCA's main platform for knowledge sharing on climate change known as KC3 or Knowledge Center on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management in Southeast Asia. She cited some of KC3's features including projects, publications, and other climate change-related initiatives.

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Adlay R&D Program to focus on COMMERCIALIZATION



BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar emphasizes on strengthening efforts on adlay product development, value-adding, and other promotional undertakings. PHOTO:ABRION

To review and assess accomplishments on the development and promotion of adlay projects and technologies, discuss project implementation issues, identify priority projects for next year, and finalize plans for commercialization and product promotion, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), in partnership with the DA-High Value Crops Development Program conducted the "2015 Adlay National Review and Planning Workshop" on 28-30 September 2015 in Quezon City. In its fifth year of implementation, the Adlay R&D Program is now looking

into commercialization of the commodity.

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, in his opening message, pushed for the strengthening of adlay product development initiatives, value-adding activities, and other promotional undertakings. The bureau chief cited the adlay-enriched GOURmix product as an example which is now being utilized in various feeding programs of government and private agencies. Likewise, he noted on some of the accomplishments of the program including the market research study with the University of Asia and the Pacific and featuring of adlay during

the Madrid Fusión in Manila, a 12-year Spanish culinary congress. "Let us continue working together to further intensify the development and promotion of adlay projects, activities, and technologies to help ignite the passion of our farmers in planting adlay, not only for economic reasons but health causes as well," Director Eleazar said.

Also present during the activity was DA-Bureau of Plant Industry Assistant Director and DA-HVCDP National Program Coordinator Jennifer Remoquillo. She encouraged the adlay project proponents to pursue the implementation of the program and assured the full support of the DA-HVCDP in such endeavors.

During the three-day activity, adlay focal persons and proponents presented on the accomplishments of their respective projects and activities. Consecutively, a planning workshop was held to align the projects and activities to the priorities and directions of the Adlay R&D Program for the next five years. During the workshop, project implementers identified the researchable areas and activities to be undertaken in terms of adlay processing and utilization, commercial production, extension and promotion activities, marketing and distribution assistance, expansion of adlay production, and capacity-building activities.

Presentations on the initial results of the adlay market research as well as cost and return analysis for

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Participants of the "2015 Adlay National Review and Planning Workshop" PHOTO:ABRION



3rd Research Managers' Meeting held

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) strongly values the importance of harnessing an environment that promotes solidarity, open communication, and active participation among its partners. Fundamental to this effort, BAR institutionalized the conduct of the research managers quarterly meeting to discuss the status and updates of the implementation of R&D programs and activities in the regions. Held on 24-25 September 2015 at the Midas Hotel in Pasay City, the meeting was attended by research managers from the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) and DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

In the message of BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, as read by BAR-Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division Head Salvacion Ritual, he emphasized how this activity, which started in January 2014, has helped the bureau and its R&D partners in sorting out issues, thus becoming an effective means in bridging gaps in the coordination of the Department's R&D priority programs in the regions. More importantly, it provides the regions a good venue to raise even administrative matters that demand

actions not only from BAR but also from the DA central office. He further said that, "the quarterly meetings have been instrumental towards a smoother implementation and coordination with and among our research managers."

Among the highlights of the meeting was the recommendation to improve the existing arrangement in the zonal and regional networks' activities, allowing more flexibility and more opportunities to implement R&D projects, thus a strengthened Regional Research Development and Extension Networks (RRDEN). To accommodate more activities/projects, BAR is proposing to increase the networking funds at the regional level.

Other topics discussed were on proposal writing, community organizing, participatory rural appraisal, and strengthening of farmer associations and cooperatives.

BAR believes that effective R&D implementation requires capacity build up within and among project implementers. To address this, a collaborative project on knowledge management has been initiated with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), along with other activities supported by BAR that cater to capacity development.

Upcoming major BAR activities including the National

Research Symposium; 2nd National CPAR Congress; Research, Development and Extension Agenda and Program (RDEAP) updating; and the Organic R&D Program updating were presented to inform the regions and to solicit support and participation from them. Regularly conducted program reviews which consisted of the Rice Program, High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), and Corn and Cassava Program were also laid out to provide the DA-RFOs and BFAR regional offices the particulars of such undertakings.

Other matters discussed involved various administrative and technical issues with respect to project management and implementation. This quarter's research managers' meeting also served as a venue to review the accomplishments and set R&D project goals of the three zonal research, development, and extension networks for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

In closing, Dr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy, assistant director of BAR thanked the participants for intently cooperating so that R&D efforts are assured and aligned in one common goal. He recognized the commitment of the DA-RFOs and BFAR-ROs, through their respective research divisions, in increasingly working with BAR towards a sustainable agri-fishery R&D sector. ### (Daryl Lou A. Battad)



BAR administrative staff participate in the second batch of gender sensitivity training as part of strengthening the bureau's implementation of the GAD program. Joining them are (seated in the middle) Ms. Lorenza Umali, former deputy director of the Philippine Commission on Women and BAR GAD's technical adviser and Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, BAR director. PHOTO COURTESY OF DDELEON

In support to the country's effort to mainstream Gender and Development (GAD) in the plans, programs, projects, and activities of the government, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducts series of capacity-building activities that include gender mainstreaming, gender analysis and gender-responsive planning and budgeting, and gender sensitivity training (GST) for its employees.

With this, BAR organized the second batch of the gender sensitivity training for its administrative staff members on 8-10 September 2015 at Widus Hotel, Clark, Pampanga. The activity was a continuation of the previously held GST conducted wherein the participants involved GAD focal and alternate focal persons, and members of the Executive Committee and Technical Working Group.

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar graced the event and gave the opening message. He reiterated on how BAR is serious in complying

with the policies regarding GAD. "In 2012, BAR intensified its GAD program through the conduct of series of activities that address the following: one, enriching our understanding of the Gender and Development programs and objectives, thereby helping us integrate gender mainstreaming in the projects and programs that we coordinate; and two, upholding what we know by principle into practice," he said. He viewed that every staff has a role to play to strengthen the implementation of the bureau's GAD program.

Serving as resource speaker was Ms. Lorenza Umali, former deputy director of the Philippine Commission on Women and BAR GAD's technical adviser. Facilitating the event was Ms. Ma. Aurora Atanacio, GAD focal person from Philippine Fisheries Development Authority. Ms. Umali tackled on the basic GAD concepts such as sex and gender, and the role of Filipino women in the society during the pre-colonial, Spanish, Japanese, and American

period. She also elaborated the major laws on women that protect them from the existing gender biases in the society.

Various individual and group activities were done to ensure that everyone will imbibe the learnings from the training. As a finale activity, the participants were asked on their own take on identifying women's issues and concerns in the family, work and community, and what are their recommendations to address the issues identified.

The conduct of the training was also in adherence to the provision of Magna Carta of Women which mandates that all government agencies should capacitate its employees on GAD concepts, issues, and policies. The bureau believed that through appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the current gender issues permeating in the society, it is easier to move forward the cause of both men and women especially in the agriculture and fisheries sector. ### (Diana Rose A. de Leon)