

3rd Regional CPAR Congress...from page 11



The 3rd Regional CPAR Congress in Region 10 features different activities including project presentations; testimonies of farmer-cooperators and LGU members; and awarding of Outstanding CPAR Organization, CPAR Products, Agricultural Extension Workers, and Local Government Partner; among others. **PHOTOS:RDELACRUZ**

the importance of diversified farming and how it will affect our overall production. We are not only producing corn, but we also have cassava, and we are also raising goats on the side,” she said. Cosco cited that, under the project, they were able to attend various trainings to enhance their capabilities including pasture management for goat production, value orientation seminar, Integrated Nutrient Management, fertilizer application, and training on value-adding technology.

Another testimony came from Lilia Esconde, 53, farmer-

cooperator in CPAR Malaybalay, Bukidnon who was happy to be involved in the project. She mentioned that, “because of the training that we attended under the CPAR project, we are now producing our quality potato seeds resulting to an increase in yield and income,” she explained. Esconde also said that because they can now directly sell their produce to the market and there are no middlemen, they have more money to spend for food and for the education of her children. The livestock integration also provided additional income for the family.

Also present in the congress

were Marnelie Gadong-Subong, BAR focal person for Region 10, representing Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar; and Mr. Elmer Enicola of the CPAR Evaluation Team of BAR.

Other highlights of the congress were the CPAR project presentations; testimonies of farmer-cooperators and members of the local government units; and awarding of Outstanding CPAR Organization, Outstanding CPAR Products, Outstanding Agricultural Extension Workers, and Outstanding Local Government Partner. ### **(Rita T. dela Cruz)**



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PHL's FIRST INTEGRATED LAB and R&D building in Reg 2 now operational

T rue to its promise of transforming the agriculture sector in Cagayan Valley (Region 2) into one of the most progressive sectors, the region is able to maintain its stature as one of the top producers of major agricultural products including corn, rice, and legumes, among others. This has been made possible through the leadership of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 2 that focuses its efforts on providing and improving the quality of service delivery to its stakeholders particularly the local farmers.

With its battle cry “*Marun to Green*,” DA-RFO 2 aims to have a complete turnaround on the run-down conditions of its facilities and transform its manpower into modern and competitive resource. “*Marun*”

is an Ilocano word that means dilapidated while “*Green*” symbolizes transformation.

Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., envisioned that the region can achieve sustainable agricultural development if the facilities and support services given are responsive to the needs of the stakeholders. Thus, the region continues to embark on programs and projects that help them attain this vision.

Through a co-funding project with the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), the DA-RFO 2 was able to establish and upgrade its facilities, including the DA-Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Laboratory (DA-CVIAL) and the Research and Development (R&D) Division Building.

Funding support was made

possible through the bureau's Institutional Development Grant (IDG), a facility that is extended to member-institutions of the National Research and Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) for the construction, upgrading, renovation, and/or

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BAR-supported multi-purpose R&D Center for MAO in Tagkawayan inaugurated

In an effort to enhance the delivery of agri-fishery services at the grassroots level, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) officially opened the newly-established Multi-Purpose R&D Center for the Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) during its inauguration on 17 March 2016 in Tagkawayan, Quezon.

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, who served as the guest of honor and keynote speaker, underscored in his speech that BAR, through RA 8435 or Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), is investing on agricultural institutions such as the R&D Center in Tagkawayan so that the MAO will be equipped with modern facilities and can provide better services to the farmers.

“The R&D facility will be a suitable workplace for researchers in producing and commercializing technologies to attain a safe, secured, and sustained food. It can also be used in the conduct of trainings and seminars to disseminate low-cost technologies which farmers and fishers can take advantage of,” Dr. Eleazar said.

Strategically located at the center of the municipality, the Center will serve as an agri-fishery hub offering a dynamic mix of traditional



Part of the inauguration is the unveiling of the marker led by BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar together with officials from the local government unit of Tagkawayan, Quezon. PHOTO:JSANCHEZ

practices and modern technologies, and free access to services offered by the MAO. It contains a laboratory for tissue culture and soil testing, meeting and training rooms, office of the municipal agriculturist and staff, and the local radio station of Tagkawayan that airs agri-fishery news.

Present in the activity were

Tagkawayan Mayor Jose Jonas A. Frondoso, Vice Mayor Veronica Masangkay, officials of the Sangguniang Bayan, MAO Rolando Mendoza, researchers, extensionists, and other members of the local government.

“We are thankful to the Department of Agriculture and BAR

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor:
Consulting Editors:
Managing Editor:
Layout:
Writers:

Rita T. dela Cruz
Julia A. Lapitan and Victoriano B. Guiam
Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca
Anne Camille B. Brion
Daryl Lou A. Battad, Anne Camille B. Brion, Diana Rose A. de Leon,
Rita T. dela Cruz, Ephraim John J. Gestupa, Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca,
and Jacob Anderson C. Sanchez
Ricardo G. Bernardo
Lyn D. Pardilla and Lino Norman D. Reyes
Julia A. Lapitan
Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, *CESO IV*
Dr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy

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For subscription and inquiries, please contact us at: Tel. Nos: +63 (2) 928-8505, 920-0205, 920-0234
local nos. 1143, 1136, 1138 Fax No. +63 (2) 927-5691 Email: acd@bar.gov.ph
Articles are also available online, visit our official website: <http://www.bar.gov.ph/barchronicle>
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endeavor as they are not yet organized. So there is a need to institutionalize them,” explained Dr. Catherine V. Buenaventura, supervising agriculturist, Provincial Agriculture Environment and Natural Resources Office (PAENRO). Buenaventura, also the CPAR project leader, mentioned that the CPAR project aimed to promote the adoption of improved technology on tilapia production to fisherfolk using the farmers' field school (FFS) approach; and promote fish processing and packaging technologies to add value to fishery products and provide consumers with better quality fish products.

Among the interventions introduced in the project included the establishment of tilapia fishpond production demonstration sites wherein each cooperators where provided at least 400 square meters of their fishpond areas for their on-farm trials. Meanwhile, the FFS was conducted during the first cycle and the next were monitored by the CPAR team. “The Provincial and Municipal CPAR team facilitated the establishment of beneficiaries' production ponds through FFS method and there were special topics discussed during these sessions. Problems identified were discussed and were given solutions outright,” Buenaventura added.

To strengthen the capabilities of fish farming communities in managing their resources, trainings were provided through the project. Conducted together with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Regional Fisheries Training Center of Aparri, Cagayan, among the topics included: fishpond design, construction, and management for tilapia; fishpond culture of tilapia; seine net and scoop

net design, construction, and maintenance; postharvest and value-adding; data gathering and record keeping; and organic fish feed formulation.

Camat, upon the invitation of Fontanilla, attended these trainings, field trips, and other activities on fishpond production as well as on-going sessions of FFS on organic vegetable and chicken production in Kiangnan.

From the seminars he attended, Camat acquired learnings and applied and modified some of the technology in his own farm.

Camat was thankful that the CPAR project came to Lamut. “Even though I was not a cooperator of the project, I was able to learn from the introduced technology and intervention, and applied them in my farm.”

Camat was able to develop his own feed formulation for his swine, chicken, and fish and is now producing his own fertilizer using Azolla in combination with the manure for his organic swine.

In 2013, the Camat Farm was fully converted into an integrated organic farming which included: rice production, fish culture, organic swine production, chicken production, vegetables in plots and plastic containers, and rabbit production.

His organic tilapia production, which is 0.5 hectare, was further strengthened when he attended training on postharvest and value-adding.

“I started going into organic culture of tilapia in 2012. We source our fingerlings from CLSU or at a nearby Provincial Fish

Hatchery. I formulate my own feeds out of the available forages in the farm like rice bran (D1). Copra and soya are added to the forages and fermented for 21 days,” explained Camat.

Produce are often sold as fresh and the smaller sizes which are about 35 percent of the stocks are being processed as smoked and dried tilapia. One of his recent venture is the *tilanggit* also known as *tilapiang dinanggit* (*Oreochromis niloticus*), which was inspired from how the usual *danggit* (*Siganus* sp.), is being prepared.

One of its distinct characteristics is that, it is meatier compared to *danggit*. This did not only provide value-adding to tilapia production, but it also opened opportunities for livelihood and additional income to fisherfolk in the area.

Products from tilapia, both fresh and processed, are being sold at the local market in Lamut. Many of Camat's buyers usually go to his farm to buy his produce. ###

Villafuerte Camat shows his tilapia produce



“I was able to learn from the introduced technology and intervention, and applied them in my farm.”

Expanding organic tilapia production and processing through CPAR

Story and photos by Rita T. dela Cruz



Processing of tilapia into *tilanggit* (tilapiang *dinanggit*)

While most stories start with an insight, there are those that start with a question. People, who ask the right question at the right time and through proper channel, know that this is the best way to gain deeper insight. Hence, the story of Villafuerte Camat, Jr., a farmer from Lamut, Ifugao and owner of the Camat Farm.

With the high cost of farm inputs, Camat had been wanting to go into organic farming. His land area of around 1.5 hectares, which operated as an integrated conventional farm, was mostly allotted for rice, tilapia, swine, and

vegetable productions. But he doesn't know how.

It was from here that Camat sought the assistance of Mr. Arthur Fontanilla, an agricultural technician from Lamut Municipal Agriculture Office, who was then involved in the implementation of a Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) project on fishpond production in Lamut, Ifugao. Specifically, the CPAR project was being implemented in Brgys. Hapid and Sanafe where most farmers are earning meager income.

Tilapia production in Lamut started growing when the Hapid Irrigation

Project operationalized in 2000 allowing the proliferation of tilapia production. Idle lands and rice fields have been converted to fishponds. With the increase of inputs for fishpond production, many fisherfolk have been encountering problems, one of which is the decline of income.

"Though they have lots of potential areas for fish production, they can only produce so much because of the limited funds to use for fish production. They also have limited trainings to engage in this

PRISM complements R&D efforts on rice

Fast, detailed, and accurate information on rice – this was the hub of the discussion during the Philippine Rice Information System (PRISM) Annual Executive Meeting held on 31 March 2016 at Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

With the aim of updating the various stakeholders, the meeting was

spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

PRISM is a monitoring and information system for rice production in the Philippines. Its main purpose is to gather and organize information on rice yield, yield gaps, and causes of these yield

gaps; and to provide this information to key stakeholders for policy support. It is a collaborative project of DA-PhilRice, IRRI, DA-Bureau of Plant Industry, DA-Regional Field Offices (RFOs), and Sarmap (Swiss-based software developer). The project is in line with the DA's Food Staples Sufficiency Program with funding support from the DA-National Rice Program through the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

The project, "PRISM: Philippine Rice Information System – an operational system for rice monitoring to support decision making towards increased rice production in the Philippines," is a three-year initiative that aimed to

support the vision of a strengthened DA with the capacity and infrastructure to use information technology for a more food-secure future. PRISM's mission is to support DA in regional and national decision making for rice security by using state-of-the-art technologies to generate rice crop information and to enhance the capacity of the

Usec. Umali also applauded the PRISM project, which he said, is expected to benefit the rice farmers by providing the right information on when and where they can improve rice planting through new and appropriate technologies. He also recommended the institutionalization of PRISM.

Dr. V. Bruce J. Tolentino, IRRI deputy director general for Communication and Partnerships, also delivered his welcome remarks and articulated the support of Senator Cynthia A. Villar and the leadership of Secretary Alcala in implementing research and development programs and initiatives of the government. Dr. Tolentino also cited an example that through the PRISM, they were able to provide estimates on rice damages within 2-3

days brought about by typhoon Lando in October 2015.

Serving as guest of honor was Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food wherein she mentioned that PRISM is a worthwhile project of the DA which gives access to the information needs of the farmers.

BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy officially capped off the event by acknowledging the efforts of DA-PhilRice and IRRI on the success of the PRISM project. Dr. Solsoloy added that BAR will always be at forefront in delivering timely information out of its generated researches on rice. ### (Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca)



PHOTO: PLESACA

PRISM project implementers and collaborators in a photo opportunity with (from left) IRRI Deputy Director General for Communication and Partnerships V. Bruce Tolentino (fourth), PhilRice Executive Director Calixto Protacio (fifth), Senator Cynthia Villar (sixth), DA Undersecretary Allan Umali (seventh), and BAR Assistant Director Teodoro Solsoloy (eighth).

Department to collect, analyze, disseminate, and use this information.

DA Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Allan Q. Umali, who represented Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, delivered the welcome message. He stressed the need for the government to intensify its campaign towards achieving food security and uplifting the lives of the Filipinos. He also acknowledged the efforts of DA-PhilRice and IRRI, as well as the support of DA-BAR, for giving Rice R&D the needed boost and support. "Through their researches, we continue to develop new technologies that will help mitigate losses and raise farm productivity," he reiterated.

First quarter **RM MEETING** held



Research managers and representatives from the DA-RFOs and DA-BFAR, together with BAR officials and staff members, attend the "First Quarter Research Managers' (RM) Meeting." PHOTO:RDELACRUZ

Twenty nine research managers and representatives from the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) attended the "First Quarter Research Managers' (RM) Meeting" held on 1-2 March 2016 at Azalea Hotels and Residences in Baguio City. Institutionalized in 2014, the RM meeting is organized by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to update and inform all the regional agriculture and fisheries centers on the priorities of the bureau, and at the same time, keep the bureau updated on the issues and concerns that are being faced in the regions.

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, in his opening message, mentioned that since the institutionalization of the research managers' meeting through BAR's Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED), R&D key persons at the regional level are provided a venue to relay concerns relating to the implementation of various research programs supported by the bureau. He also reiterated that there must be a shift of focus towards product development and value addition, giving emphasis to the commercialization of technologies developed.

Dr. Lorenzo Caranguian, regional executive director of DA-

CAR, stressed in his welcome message that the R&D sector must reconsider the value chain approach in conducting research. "The focus must be on the development of flagship commodities of each region, taking the Philippine Rural Development Program as a model," Dr. Caranguian shared.

The agenda of the meeting included the review of the highlights of the previous quarterly meeting presented by PMED Chief Salvacion Ritual. This enabled the participants to monitor and verify completed tasks, as well as issues that still needed action. Also part of the agenda were updates on the status of the RDE Compendium, launching of the Technology Commercialization on Wheels (TCoW), Technology Business Incubation (TBI) awareness, and call for Gawad Saka nominees.

As presented by Ms. Julia Lapitan, head of the Applied Communication Division, the publication, "A Decade of Success: A Compendium of Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Projects Supported by the Bureau of Agricultural Research from 2005 to 2014," is a 10-year compilation of agriculture and fisheries R&D projects highlighting completed initiatives by DA-RFOs and BFAR, and state universities and colleges (SUCs). The compendium serves as an effective source of reference for policymakers,

farmers, fisherfolk, research institutions, entrepreneurs, SUCs, organizations, and other interest groups. The compendium is set to be launched in August 2016.

Spearheading the projects on TCoW and TBI is the Technology Commercialization Division (TCD) of BAR. TCoW, a mobile learning van, is an innovative approach to enhance the social marketing appeal of commodities of agriculture and fisheries for increased market matching and enterprise development. TCD Head Anthony Obligado cited TCoW's capability to bring technologies and knowledge products to remote and inaccessible areas, making it a popular tool in facilitating agri-fishery product development. TBI is a facility that supports start-up businesses through providing needed resources and services to increase business survival in a competitive market. In the context of agri-fishery, its main function is to provide advice and support to innovators in agri-based business establishment and development, relating to technology or business management, administrative, financial, and other key services.

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development workshops were provided which resulted to the organization of the Baguinge Organic Farmers' Association (BOFA) and the Good Shepherd Organic Farmers Association (GOFA) in 2012. Further, cross farm visits to organic farms of the La Trinidad Organic Producers (LaTOP) in Benguet were conducted so that the CPAR cooperators will experience firsthand exposure to organic agriculture practices.

Following the various trainings and farm visits, the 40 farmer cooperators established their greenhouses in a 100 m² area. Each was provided inputs including vinyl plastics and various vegetable seeds. Two shredders were given to each of the association in support to the production of organic fertilizers.

Interventions learned and adopted eagerly by the farmers included land preparation activities which consisted of decomposing indigenous microorganisms, application of organic fertilizers into the soil prior to planting, and basal application of organic fertilizers.

During the cropping cycles, certain practices were employed to improve soil fertility especially for farms worn-out of soil nutrients as a result of mono-cropping and excessive application of inorganic fertilizers. Farmers were introduced to crop rotation practices. The cropping pattern included the rotation of leafy vegetables, ampalaya, eggplant, and crucifers with legumes like snap beans and string beans.

Also introduced during the project was the use of fermented plant juice (extracted from locally-available plants like sweet potato, malunggay, and kangkong), fermented fruit juice (extracted from fruits in season like avocado, banana, papaya, and guava), and indigenous microorganisms to improve soil fertility. Mulching was also encouraged especially during the dry season. It was done by spreading over the roots of plants a layer of straw, grass cuttings, leaves, or compost to conserve soil moisture.

On pest control and management, various techniques were used to prevent and control the attack of insect pests and diseases on their

plants. They used odorous and bitter materials as repellants. They were taught to formulate botanical pesticides and fungicides using the available indigenous plants in the area.

Such practices reaped good results for the farmers, from the shelf life, to taste and size, they have noticed significant differences. Ernesto Dulnuan, BOFA president, noticed a difference in his organic pechay. "The shelf life of pechay grown the organic way is two days while that grown conventionally is only a day," he shared. Another farmer cooperator Agapita Kimayong, observed a change in her produce as well as in terms of size. "Pechay grown under the vinyl cellophane shed is bigger and grows faster compared to that exposed or without a vinyl cellophane shed," she said.

The quest for healthier, safer food sets this project in motion. Market was never a problem for the farmers' produce. In fact, Ms. Nene Pahiwon shared how her organic lettuce is sold fast within her community alone. "I don't need to go to the market to sell my vegetables. Dito pa lang sa amin, ubos na agad," she said. But for a sustainable market mechanism, a display center for organic vegetables was put up at the area near the Provincial Capitol of Lagawe. A regular market day is set every Wednesday.

Going beyond CPAR

Farmer cooperator Aquilina Saguilot used to be a fulltime employee. She was the university librarian at the Ifugao State University. Farming served as a hobby for her until she got involved in the CPAR project on organic vegetable production. The knowledge that she acquired through various trainings she attended enabled her to seek opportunities beyond farming. She put up her own organic farm which she turned into a learning site for farmers and students as well.

Now, the Aquilina Saguilot Farm welcomes farmers, researchers, students, and other private individuals who are interested to learn and venture into organic farming. Her farm stations include various vegetables such as tomato, mustard, pechay, and bell pepper. Whenever visitors come, she would gladly share all of her learnings she gained from the CPAR project.

The CPAR in Ifugao, particularly in Kiangnan and Lamut, has been expanding through the increase in the number of farmer adopters. Apparently, Ms. Saguilot is not the only one who converted her farm into organic farming and learning site. Organic integrated farming is slowly gaining ground in other municipalities. ###



CPAR farmer cooperator Aquilina Saguilot and her son each hold ampalaya which are freshly picked from their organic vegetable farm.



CPAR on organic vegetable results to farmer's profit

Story and photos
by Daryl Lou A. Battad

Farming equates income, especially to a common farmer. Aside from providing food on the table, farmers cultivate the land to earn money. Sadly though, it is not always the case for our local farmers especially when it comes to organic farming.

Farmers have this notion that organic farming is not as profitable compared to traditional farming. “Mahal, matagal ang kita,” would be their usual response when asked about organic farming. But Ifugao farmers proved this wrong as many of them have thrived going into organic farming.

It all started with CPAR

When the Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) on organic vegetable production

project was introduced, through the efforts of Dr. Catherine Buenaventura of the Provincial Agriculture Environment and Natural Resources Office (PAENRO), farmers from Kiangnan, Ifugao conceived a whole new perspective of organic agriculture.

The Ifugao province is known for its favorable microclimate parameters conducive to farming vegetables. In fact, Ifugao is among Cordillera Administrative Region's (CAR) provinces — along with Benguet and the Mountain Province — tagged as the “Salad Bowl” of the Philippines, supplying about 80 percent of the vegetable market in the country. In the case of Ifugao province, the most common vegetables grown are snap beans, string beans, pechay, Chinese cabbage, eggplant, and tomato.

However, farmers were

accustomed to the traditional way of farming which makes use of chemicals inputs as means to manage weeds and pests. This practice led to different issues such as high cost of inputs and depleting soil health. It is the very same reason why the CPAR team thought of introducing organic agriculture in the province.

Specifically, the project aims to increase the income of selected farmers through the adoption of organic vegetable production techniques, reduce cost of farm inputs, improve farmers' capability in organic farming, and improve the resource management capacities of rural communities within the province.

Forty farmers from barangays Baguinge and Tuplac were chosen to participate in the project. To fully prepare them, two organizational

RDEAP undergoes refinements



Participating in the RDEAP refinement are BAR pool of experts coming from the Department of Agriculture, academe, and other partner research institutions. PHOTO:DDELEON

To ensure the development of an inclusive, responsive, and comprehensive agriculture and fisheries research and development and extension (RDE) agenda for the next six years, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), in partnership with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and WorldFish, organized the “Refinement Workshop on the Review and Updating of the Research and Development, and Extension Agenda and Program (RDEAP)” on 17-18 March 2016 at RDEC Hall, ATI Compound, Quezon City. The workshop aimed to fine-tune the outputs during the “National Multi-stakeholder's Consultation Workshop on the Review and Updating of RDEAP”

held in February 2016.

To facilitate the refinement, BAR tapped the expertise of BAR Pool of Experts, composed of experts from the various offices of the Department of Agriculture, academe, and research institutions.

Participants refined the outputs from the national workshop to give clarity, brevity, and more substance to the identified problems, researchable areas, he expected outputs, possible implementing agencies, and timelines for the seven major R&D priority commodities. Among the commodities included in the RDEAP are: 1) rice; 2) corn and other staples; 3) plantation crops and biofuel; 4) vegetables and rootcrops; 5) fruits and indigenous plants; 6) poultry, livestock, and feedstock; and 7) fisheries and aquaculture.

The participants were divided into seven groups and

presented their workshop outputs. Those who presented their refined outputs were: 1) Dr. Jose Hernandez (UPLB) for rice; 2) Rose Mary Aquino (DA-RFO 2) for corn and other staples; 3) Josephine Ramos (Options, Inc.) and Dr. Rex Demafelis (UPLB) for plantation crops and biofuel; 4) Elmer Enicola (UPLB) for vegetables and rootcrops; 5) Dr. Edralina Serrano (UPLB) for fruits and indigenous plants; 6) Ms. Cynthia de Guia (BAR) for poultry, livestock, and feedstock; and 7) Dr. Lourdes Cuvín-Aralar (SEAFDEC/ AQD) for fisheries and aquaculture.

The outputs of the workshop will be finalized for publication and released by the end of May 2016. ### (Diana Rose A. de Leon)

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for providing funds to build this modern facility. Through this, we can improve our services to increase agri-fishery productivity, not only for Tagkawayan but also for the whole region,” said Mayor Frondoso.

Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Masangkay expressed her full support to the initiatives of the MAO and suggested to revive citrus production. In response, MAO Mendoza said, “the facility gave us additional confidence in performing our jobs, thus we promise to double our effort to increase agricultural productivity.”

After the program, Rev. Fr. Celso L. Baretto led the prayer and blessing of the building. This was followed by a ceremonial ribbon cutting and unveiling of the commemorative marker. The activity concluded with the traditional tossing of coins which is symbolic of abundance and success. ### (Jacob Anderson C. Sanchez)



2016 National Adlay TWG meeting held

Adlay focal persons from the Bureau of Agricultural Research; Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) 2, 4A, 8, 9, and 10; Central Mindanao University; and Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization participated in the National Adlay Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting held on 9-10 March 2016 at DA-RFO 10-Research Division in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

The meeting was facilitated to give updates on the Adlay R&D Program, review the minutes of the previous meeting held in October 2014 in Zamboanga del Sur, assess the issues raised during the 2015 Adlay National Review and Planning Workshop held in Quezon City, present on-going adlay postharvest projects, and discuss other adlay-related R&D matters.

In attendance were Adlay TWG Chairperson Juanita Salvani of DA-RFO 10, Co-chairperson Digna Narvacan of DA-RFO 4A, and other TWG members, Rose Mary Aquino of DA-RFO 2 and Elmer Enicola of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Also present was DA-High Value Crops Development Program

National Coordinator Jennifer Remoquillo who recognized the fruitful efforts of everyone in contributing to the growth and progress of the Adlay R&D Program. According to her, much has been done for adlay. However, there is also still much to be done, particularly in achieving targets and identifying the directions of the program for the next six years.

Part of the two-day activity was a site visit at Tuminugan Nature Sanctuary, also called Hinelaban Farm in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. The group was welcomed by the farm's Marketing Director Renee Araneta Perrine. The farm produces the Hinelaban coffee which is known for its premium highland Arabica coffee. Aside from this, the farm is also into adlay farming. Mr. Elmer Alalong from the farm's Finance Department brought the group to a one-hectare land planted with adlay. Seeds of which were obtained from DA-RFO 10 through its partnership with the Hinelaban Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that advocates for the preservation and restoration of mountain rainforests and critical watersheds in Mindanao. Potential collaborations arose during the discussions between the Adlay TWG

and Ms. Perrine, especially in terms of the crop's product development and marketing. ### (Anne Camille B. Brion)

First quarter RM meeting...from page 4

BAR also stressed the intensification of the call for nominees for the Gawad Saka search for Outstanding Agricultural Researcher (OAR) and Outstanding Agricultural Scientist (OAS). Ms. Digna Sandoval, head of the Institutional Development Division (IDD), reported that a proposal was made to include the OAR and OAS for fisheries, which is currently awaiting the approval of the DA.

In closing, BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy thanked all the participants and challenged the research managers to conduct more researches. "You are the reason why we are performing good, because without you who are giving proposals, we can never be good stewards of the resources we have been given. You have helped us a lot in fulfilling our duties in the government," Dr. Solsoloy closed. ### (Daryl Lou A. Battad)

Around 300 participants including farmers, researchers, and project implementers, attended the 3rd Regional Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) Congress spearheaded by the Research Division (formerly Northern Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center) of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 10.

The congress, held on 28-29 March 2016 in Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City, carried the theme, "Enhanced Farm Business Enterprise and Entrepreneurship: CPAR Models the Vehicle to Success," which emphasized on the importance of farming as a profitable activity.

"We are the only region that's been conducting the CPAR Congress, and so far we have 16 active CPAR projects that will be presented later in the program," said Juanita Salvani, chief, DA-RFO 10 Research Division, who welcomed the participants in the opening program. "We are conducting this congress to recognize the strengths and strategies implemented by the various CPAR projects in Region 10, and to provide a venue for our project implementers, researchers, and farmers to share valuable information and lessons that we can learn among ourselves," Salvani added.

CPAR is a banner program of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and is being implemented throughout the country through the DA-RFOs, in close collaboration with the local government units (LGUs). In 2014,

3rd Regional CPAR CONGRESS highlights farming as a business



BAR institutionalized the conduct of the National CPAR Congress every November to showcase successful projects that particularly highlight stories of researchers in the fields and farmers' testimonies.

"Given its success, as manifested by its farmers' attendance, we will be holding this event annually to showcase what we have done in the region, particularly in implementing the CPAR program here," explained Assistant Regional Director Constancio C. Maghanoy, Jr. who also delivered a message during the event's opening.

Regional Director Lealyn A. Ramos expounded on how their CPAR projects in Region 10 are being sustained even though some of them

have long been completed. Since its first implementation in 1998, the region has 16 CPAR projects, all of which are still operational until now and are rippling its effects in the communities. Director Ramos mentioned that one important strategy in implementing CPAR is expansion through value-adding of commodities and agricultural products. "We teach the farmers not only to farm, but we teach them how to expand their profit through value-adding technology," she said.

Evangeline Cosco, 42, farmer-cooperator in CPAR Kadingilan, Bukidnon, narrated how her life changed when she joined and was become deeply-involved in the project. "In CPAR, we were taught on

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"We are conducting this congress to recognize the strengths and strategies implemented by various CPAR projects in Region 10."

Phl's first integrated...from page 1

acquisition of R&D facilities and equipment.

DA-CVIAL, a world-class diagnostic facility

It took five years before the idea of establishing a world-class diagnostic laboratory in Region 2 was finally realized. DA-CVIAL is now fully operational and is ready to provide various diagnostics services to the people of Cagayan Valley and other provinces in the country. DA-CVIAL is the first integrated, state-of-the-art, one-stop-shop diagnostic facility in the country. It is equipped with modernized laboratories and equipment, and houses four major laboratories, namely: 1) Regional Soils Laboratory, 2) Regional Crop Protection Center, 3) Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and 4) Regional Feed Laboratory.

The *Regional Soils Laboratory* provides technical information and analysis for soil, and fertilizer recommendations relative to soil condition and plant nutrient requirements to aid farmers in attaining the optimal benefits of soil and plant environmental protection and preservation while the *Regional Crop Protection Center* provides adequate information and immediate control and solutions to problems on pests, plant diseases, nutritional disorders and pesticide injury for quality assurance, and consumers protection from health hazards owing to indiscriminate use of pesticides. The *Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory* provides immediate and efficient diagnostic services in the reduction of the occurrence of major diseases and control disease outbreaks of livestock and poultry to ensure product safety and consumer welfare; and the *Regional Feed Laboratory* formulates and enforces product standards to ensure product quality, consumer safety and acceptability for both local and international markets.

With the establishment of DA-CVIAL, the regional office can now accommodate a larger number

of clients with much lesser waiting period for testing and analysis. "We can assure you that this time, we have an enhanced and competitive services as compared before. Our equipment, our manpower, and our capabilities have more than doubled in terms of accuracy, capacity, and efficiency," said Director Alviar. CVIAL also targets to be a research and training hub for future laboratory technicians, researchers, and modernized farmers.

As of writing, the laboratory services are free of charge for backyard farmers/raisers and for barangay projects, as well as for special cases like diseases and/or pests outbreaks.

R&D Division, seat of zonal research for agri and fishery

Aside from being the front liner in performing the functions of R&D planning, project coordination and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and extension in Region 2, the R&D Division of DA-RFO 2 is also designated to be the seat of Zonal Research Center for Agriculture and Fisheries (ZRCAP) for Luzon and the Regional Research and Development and Extension Network (RRDEN).

ZRCAP is a consortium of research centers of DA-RFOs and BFAR from Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and CAR. It addresses cross-regional issues and problems in agriculture and fisheries R&D. On the other hand, RRDEN is a

network composed of five research outreach stations in Region 2, DA's bureaus and attached agencies, academe, local government units, and civil societies that focus on strengthening the direction of RDE agenda and programs in the region.

With the magnitude of tasks at hand, it is seen fit to have a complementary working facility that will support and facilitate the efficient and effective delivery of services to its stakeholders.

Through the funding support from BAR, the once worn-down R&D Building was replaced with a newly-constructed building, furnished with equipment needed to continuously serve the people of Cagayan Valley by producing quality outputs such as updated Regional Integrated Research and Development and Extension Agenda and Program, project proposals, promising and matured technologies, among others. ### (Diana Rose A. de Leon)

Reference:

Regional Agriculture and Fishery Information System, DA-RFO 2. "The DA-Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Laboratory (CVIAL): Coping with global momentum, now operational!" Retrieved on 22 March 2016 from <http://rfo02.da.gov.ph/news/regular-programs/48-the-da-cagayan-valley-integrated-agricultural-laboratory-cvial-coping-with-global-momentum-now-operational>



DA-Regional Field Office 2's Research and Development Division building PHOTO:RBERNARDO

BAR celebrates Women's Month



gave a summary of the film and discussed the underlying GAD concepts presented in the film. Umali's review on the movie also facilitated dialogue among the audience as some were asked of their impressions on the film's characters.

Every March, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) joins the rest of the country's government agencies in celebrating National Women's Month (NWM). This year's theme, "Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda!" (Include Women in the Agenda) resonates the call for gender balance in leadership and decision-making positions both in public and private sector; inclusion of women's concerns in leadership platforms and the government's development agenda; and capacitating and preparing women and girls to reach their ambitions.

In celebration of NWM, BAR lined up week-long activities including a photo exhibit, seminar series on women and women-related issues, and film showing.

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, along with the women employees of the bureau, officially opened the photo exhibit featuring empowering portraits of women. The photos featured in the exhibit were photographed by BAR employees over the past two months.

The celebration continued the next day with the film showing and review of "Sister Stella L." – a film released in 1984 with Vilma Santos in the lead role. The movie features the story of a Filipina nun who participated in political demonstrations alongside activists fighting for labor rights during the Marcos regime. After having viewed the movie, GAD technical consultant Ms. Lorenza A. Umali

conducted a two-part seminar series on the "Role of Women in Agriculture" with Ms. Maria Daryl Leyesa, former secretary general of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK); and on "Basic Gender Analysis" presented by Dr. Maria Helen Dayo, member of Philippine Commission on Women's National



Gender Research Pool and president of the Women Studies Association of the Philippines. Leyesa gave a situationer on the current state of women in the field of agriculture and the various roles they hold in farming systems and in social hierarchies, while Dr. Dayo discussed basic gender and development concepts and basic gender analysis.

BAR concluded its week-long celebration with the awarding of the winners of the Trivial Pursuit and NWM Photo Contest.

This year's grand champion of Trivial Pursuit, a trivia competition highlighting notable women in Philippine history as well as governing laws on women's rights and other

GAD-related issues, was the Planning and Project Development Division (PPDD). Meanwhile, the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) and the Institutional Development Division (IDD)/Office of the Director (OD) bagged the second and third prizes, respectively.

The grand winner of the 2016 NWM photo contest was Mr. Ronnel Pasion of IDD for his amazing portrait of a woman in a rocking chair weaving a basket titled "Paglulupi." Meanwhile, Ms. Rita dela Cruz of the Applied Communication Division (ACD) took home both second and third prizes with two of her photo entries featuring women strawberry farmers in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Mr. Ricardo Bernardo of ACD and Ms. Maria Divina Gonzalez of the Administrative and Finance Division (AFD) won fourth and fifth places, respectively. Ms. Gonzalez' photo entry featuring a lady doctor treating a mother while holding her child, also won People's Choice Award.

Assistant Director Teodoro Solsoloy officially capped off the event with a message applauding all the GAD focals of BAR for making the event successful. He expressed optimism towards the road that the Philippines is heading to in becoming more inclusive and equal for both genders in achieving progress.

Later the following week, selected BAR employees, together with other representatives from various government agencies, participated in the culminating event, "Sama-Samang Pagsulong sa mga Agenda ni Juana" at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila. ### (Ephraim John J. Gestupa)



PHOTOS:EGESTUPA/MCONSTANTINO

BAR seminars are "all about women this month"

In celebration of the National Women's Month, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) spearheaded the conduct of "it's all about women this month" seminar series featuring topics on women and women-related issues.

The two-part seminar series, held on 10 and 17 March 2016 at BAR, featured two topics on the "Role of Women in Agriculture" with Ms. Maria Daryl Leyesa, former secretary general of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK); and on "Basic Gender Analysis" presented by Dr. Maria Helen Dayo, member of the Philippine Commission on Women's National Gender Research Pool and president of the Women Studies Association of the Philippines.



Ms. Maria Daryl Leyesa on the role of women in agriculture

Women in agriculture

Leyesa, in her seminar, explained how women farmers are present in statistics and how they are not. She presented data conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority that as of 2013, the ratio between men and female farmers is three to one (3:1). Such proportion, according to Leyesa, continue to decrease every year. The reason for what seems to be a declining percentage of women participating in the agricultural labor force is partly influenced by the nature of the tasks they do.

An expert in fisheries aquaculture and member of the Philippine Commission on Women's GAD resource pool, Dr. Blesshe Querijero said that the participation of most women in agricultural activities does not constitute as active employment. Such tasks include tending to livestock, processing and preparing food, collecting fuel and water, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members, and home maintenance. Querijero said that despite their constant absence in records, women are still essential

contributors to agricultural and rural economies.

Despite having to work the same amount hours as male farmers, both Querijero and Leyesa pointed out a huge wage difference between male and female workers. For example, the Philippine Statistics Authority identified a 32.86 and 14.81 peso differential that favored male workers in Central Luzon and Central Visayas respectively in the year 2014. Considering all the data presented in this month's seminars, it comes as no surprise to know that the country's poor is made up of mostly women and children.

Changing climate

According to Querijero, the threats of climate change are never gender neutral. "Women are highly dependent on local natural resources for livelihood because of their responsibility to secure water, food, and energy for cooking. Climate change makes [it] harder to secure these resources," she added.

Following up her discussion



Dr. Blesshe Querijero on women's role in mitigating climate change

on the negative impact of climate change, Querijero stressed the key roles women embody in mitigating climate change. Since women greatly depend on natural resources to accomplish their agricultural tasks, their knowledge and expertise as stewards of the environment must be prioritized when developing adaptive measures. Leyesa and Querijero both made it clear in their discussions that women, despite being overshadowed by men in each statistics, can provide researchers and policymakers a clearer picture of the realities of climate change. What needs to be done now is for government agencies to be more gender sensitive.

Gender-sensitizing projects

Leyesa presented General Recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women, an agreement drafted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The CEDAW agreement implores member states to reassess their laws



Dr. Maria Helen Dayo on basic gender analysis

and policies, ensuring such to be non-discriminatory and at the same time, recognizing the crucial contributions of rural women to local and national economies. The agreement will also facilitate the transition of rural women from the informal to the formal economy. In light of this agreement, among other International commitments and constitutional laws such as the Millennium Development Goals and the RA 9710 Magna Carta of Women, agencies across the Philippine government are gearing towards gender responsiveness through the application of the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines for Project Development, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation.

According to Dr. Maria Helen Dayo, UPLB anthropologist and member of PCW's GAD resource pool, the government must strive for gender equality in all its proposed projects and policies. Dayo said in her presentation that "equality does not mean that women



Dr. Mary Jean Bulatao on women empowerment through livelihood

PHOTOS: EGESTUPA/MCONSTANTINO

and men become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities, and opportunities do not depend on whether they are born male or female."

Gender equality is further realized through gender analysis, a method that asks two important questions: 1) How will the different roles and status of women and men within the community and workplace affect the work to be undertaken? and 2) How will the anticipated results of the work affect women and men differently? By considering these two questions, agencies have a framework in writing policies and projects that ensure balanced impact where both genders are given equal opportunities.

Envisioning progress

To cap off all the seminars conducted, Dr. Mary Jean Bulatao, assistant professor and university researcher from UPLB's Farming Systems and Soil Resources Institute, talked about her team's research initiative of empowering women in Mulanay, Quezon Province through

the provision of livelihood opportunities.

Bulatao and her team of university researchers began with a simple objective of alleviating poverty in one of the coconut farming communities of Southern Luzon. Their travels across the Bondoc Peninsula and occasional run-ins with wandering native pigs crossing highways led them to see the potential of developing Mulanay's livestock production system.

With native pigs generating increased demand and profit brought about by health-conscious consumers, Bulatao's team came up with a modified sharing scheme for livelihood. Women farmers were left in charge of building sheds and planting crops for feeds, while UPLB and BAR provided the women farmers livestock to be bred and shared to the next batch of project beneficiaries. Bulatao's research led to the exponential growth of the native pig industry in Mulanay both in quality and quantity. Aside from increasing the income of the women farmers in the community, Bulatao's research also helped establish a strong and stable women's organization: the Mulanay Rural Improvement Club.

With more and more government agencies shifting gears towards gender equality across their proposed projects and policies, one can now hope for a progressive and woman-empowering agricultural sector. ### (Ephraim John J. Gestupa)

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Maria Daryl Leyesa
(tubongbarako@yahoo.com)

Dr. Maria Helen Dayo
(helenfd2002@yahoo.com)

Dr. Blesshe Querijero
(blessheq42@yahoo.com;
blquerijero@up.edu.ph)

Dr. Mary Jean Bulatao
(mgbulatao@up.edu.ph;
jeanbulatao@gmail.com)