

BARChronicle

The official newsletter of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research

DA-BAR plans programs, projects, and activities for 2022



DA-BAR director Soriano gives his instructions.

To ensure sustainable contribution to the development of the agriculture and fisheries sector, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) conducted the 2022 Performance Commitment Review (PCR) Target Setting cum Second Management Committee (ManCom) Meeting on 13-15 December 2021 at the Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay City and via

Cisco Webex.

DA-BAR director Soriano laid down his directives to ensure that the results of the strategies formulated will translate to positive and sustainable impact to the primary stakeholders.

Further, to ensure that the performance measure, targets, and accomplishments for next year are aligned to its organizational strategies and core functions, ManCom members discussed the target setting as well as other relevant concerns, activities, and plans.

Director Soriano, in his message, also acknowledged the officials and staff for his insightful but very productive first months at the bureau.

Former DA-BAR director Dr. Vivencio Mamaril (now DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards director) graced the activity and enjoined the staff to continue developing automated systems and share these to other DA bureaus and agencies. He suggested strategies in

enhancing the various programs of the bureau to attain its targets and ensure its sustainability.

Other topics discussed were the Inclusive and Transformative Research for Development and Extension (R4DE) Framework, medium and long-term plans of the bureau, Yamang Lupa Sustainable Community-based Action R4DE for Livelihood Uplifting and Prosperity Program, and the upgrading of Regional Research and Development Extension Network and Technology Innovation Management Service Centers.

DA-BAR assistant director Joell Lales, in his closing message, instructed the planning and report officers of all divisions to submit the agreed performance measures and targets. He reminded everyone to continually stay focused and committed to the bureau's mission and vision.

The three-day activity was attended by the heads of the divisions, sections and units. ###
(Maria Elena M. Garces)

WHAT'S INSIDE

DA, BAR launch Yamang Lupa SCALE UP Program ▶ 2

MOA seals project on tomato production management ▶ 3

UPLB turns over edible landscape garden to DA ▶ 3

Processing mango wastes into phenolic-based products highlights in-house webinar ▶ 4

8 info systems launched, best employees and retiring staff recognized

In its efforts to streamline and improve the internal operations and delivery of information to its clients, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) launched eight automated systems developed by in-house programmers on 16 December 2021.

Initiated during the incumbency of former DA-BAR director Dr. Vivencio R. Mamaril, the *Libreng Libro sa BAR* which was first launched on 12 April 2021 is an

online book fair featuring 143 books on agriculture and fisheries research for development technologies.

Further, the Planting Material Information System which will be turned over to the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) was developed to facilitate the timely information sharing on plant materials available in DA regional field offices, DA-BPI regional offices, and state universities and colleges. ▶ 2

DA, BAR launch Yamang Lupa SCALE UP Program



Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar (middle), DA-BAR director Soriano (2nd from right), and DA-Zamboanga Peninsula regional executive director Rad Donn Cedeño (2nd from left) present the signed MOU for the YL SCALE-UP Program. PHOTO COURTESY OF KTMHERNANDEZ

Agriculture Secretary William Dar led the ceremonial launching of the Yamang Lupa Sustainable Community-based Action R4DE [research for development and extension] for Livelihood Uplifting and Prosperity (YL SCALE UP) Program held on 3 December 2021 at Garden Orchid Hotel, Zamboanga City.

Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) director Junel Soriano, together with assistant director Joell Lales, spearheaded the activity to discuss the plans and goals for the nationwide implementation of the program.

An upscaling of the 2013 DA-BAR-supported Yamang Lupa Program (YLP): Adoption of the Bhoochetana

Principles in the Philippines, the YL SCALE UP Program is expected to cover thousands of hectares of rainfed and upland areas in the country.

With DA-BAR as the funding and lead coordinating agency and the DA-Bureau of Soils and Water Management, three YLP projects were carried out by Southern Luzon State University, in partnership with DA CALABARZON; DA Eastern Visayas with Visayas State University; and DA Zamboanga Peninsula with the Western Mindanao State University.

The three-year pilot projects collaborated with 3,705 farmers for the stratified soil sampling and analysis of a total of 32,903.30 hectares; and the generation and distribution of 2,528 soil health

cards—a one-page information material that reflects general information of the farmer, soil macro and micronutrient analysis and the respective crop and soil management recommendations, among others. The projects also packaged and provided the best bet options of technologies in response to the results of the analysis conducted.

Another highlight of the event was the signing of a memorandum of understanding where DA-Zamboanga Peninsula, led by Regional Executive Director Rad Donn Cedeño, and four state universities and colleges—Western Mindanao State University, J. H. Cerilles State College, Mindanao State University-Buug Campus, and Jose Rizal Memorial State University, signified their commitment to collaborate with DA and DA-BAR in implementing the program.

The YL SCALE-UP Program will implement and further harness the adapted science-led soil revival strategies and management practices toward boosting the productivity of farmers and strengthening their coping mechanisms amidst climate anomalies. ### (Mara Shyn M. Valdeabella)

◀1...8 info systems launched,

And, in support of the bureau's internal operations, the following were automated: Personal Data

BAR CHRONICLE highlights the bureau's activities as the country's national coordinating agency for agriculture and fishery R4D, and provides updates on NaRDSAF-member institutions.

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Sheet System, Personnel Promotion and Hiring System, Work-from-Home System, Travel Order System, Online External Provider Evaluation System, and Vaccination Record System.

Five more systems are in the pipeline: BAR Techflix, Application for Leave, Request for Vehicle,

Document Tracking System, and BAR Drive Storage System.

"I wish to commend the bureau and its initial steps towards the government's path to digital governance through the development of various automated information systems...Make these information systems operational



PHOTO: RBERNARDO

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) and the DA-Bureau of Soils and Water Management-National Soil and Water Resources Research and Development Center for Hillyland Pedo-Ecological Zone (BSWM-NSWRRDC-HILLPEZ) forged a research for development (R4D) partnership project on integrated nutrient management for soil and tomato productivity on 17 December 2021 at the center in Brgy. Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal.

Aligned with DA-BAR's initiative to assist and strengthen the R4D programs of DA-BSWM on soil fertility and crop productivity, the project titled, "Development of Integrated Nutrient Management Strategy for Improving Soil and Tomato Productivity," is funded by the DA-BAR.

The project shall package an integrated nutrient management

MOA seals project on tomato production management

strategy for tomato in collaboration with the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology-University of the Philippines Los Baños and tomato growers. Specifically, it intends to quantify the effect of integrating chemical fertilizers, organic amendments and microbial inoculants on soil properties and growth of tomato.

Through integrated nutrient management strategy, balanced fertilization can be achieved to enhance soil fertility, hence, increase tomato productivity.

DA-BAR director Dr. Junel B. Soriano and assistant director Joell H. Lales; and DA-BSWM director Engr. Pablo M. Montalla and

NSWRRDC-HILLPEZ chief Joven P. Espineli led the MOA signing. Joining them to witness are the key officials and staff of the two bureaus.

Director Soriano, in his message of support, emphasized the bureau's continuous search for collaborations to implement relevant R4D programs in support to the attainment of the DA's vision for a productive and profitable agriculture sector. He also encouraged the various centers of the DA such as the NSWRRDC to have programs that are responsive to the needs of the farmers and the industry, and be scalable to reach more beneficiaries.

Further, he highlighted the DA-BAR's focus on strengthening ► 4

UPLB turns over edible landscape garden to DA

In line with the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Plant, Plant, Plant program and its efforts towards establishment of food-resilient communities amidst the pandemic, the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) turned over the Edible Landscape (EL) garden to DA on 20 December 2021 at the DA Central Office grounds, Diliman, Quezon

City.

Dubbed as "*Hardin ng Kalusugan at Pagkain*," the garden is established to promote EL in urban communities as additional source of available, fresh, and nutritious food for every Filipino family.

The said initiative is part of a project titled, "*Magtanim ng Gulay Para sa Isang Masagana, Malusog,*

and maximize its purpose. I encourage everyone to work together to continue to improve your services," said Agriculture Secretary Dr. William D. Dar.

"I further challenge all of you to share the systems to other agencies. Collectively may we, at the department, move forward to digitizing our files and records," Dar added.

During the culmination program on the same day, 10 staff members and two retiring personnel were also recognized for their service and hard work.

Julia A. Lapitan, Cynthia Remedios V. De Guia, Ethcel Princess P. Libang, and Juan Nikolas A. Paller were awarded as the best division head, assistant division head, section head, and technical staff, respectively, for 2020 following the DA-BAR PRAISE guidelines. Prior

to the organizational restructuring earlier this year, they served as heads of their respective *ad hoc* divisions and units.

Other staff who were recognized for their relentless efforts and extraordinary service as frontliner for the bureau in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic were: Christopher F. Lazaro, Elec I. Yadao, Abelardo G. De Jesus, Jr., Rhaine M. Borres, Manny B. Sumera, and Nestor S. Nebreja, Jr.

Two retiring staff, Ma. Louella S. Dejel (administrative assistant of the Knowledge Management and Information Systems Division) and Dorina S. Rojas (training specialist of the Administrative Support Services-Human Resource Management Unit), were also acknowledged and applauded for their 25 and 16 years of service, respectively. ### (**Rena S. Hermoso**)



PHOTO: MEAQUINO

Dr. Sanchez (left) ceremonially turns over a shovel which symbolizes sustainable food production, through Edible Landscaping, to help address food and nutrition security to Secretary Dar (right).

at *Makulay na Buhay*," funded by the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar and UPLB professor and former chancellor Dr. Fernando Sanchez, Jr. led the ribbon cutting ceremony and the symbolic turn-over of a shovel—symbolizing sustainable food production, through Edible Landscaping, to help address food and nutrition security. Joining them were the key officials of the department.

Dr. Sanchez, Jr., project leader and head of the UPLB EL team, ► 4

Processing mango wastes into phenolic-based products highlights in-house webinar

Processing mango wastes into phenolic-based products was seen as one of the solutions to address the industry's waste disposal problem as well as augment the income of mango farmers. Various researches were conducted by the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology-University of the Philippines Los Baños (BIOTECH-UPLB) to explore this.

Registered chemist and researcher Arsenia B. Sapin of BIOTECH-UPLB led the discussion on the processing of phenolic-based products from mango wastes during the in-house webinar of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research on 20 December 2021.

Phenolics are compounds consisting of one or more aromatic rings with single or multiple hydroxyl groups. This compound

is known for its antioxidant bioactivities and other health-promoting activities.

"We developed phenolic-based products from seeds, branches, and early fruit drops for various applications as a potential source of income for mango processors and farmers," said Sapin.

Sapin together with Teresita J. Ramirez developed the PhenoFera, a phenolic powder made from mango seed wastes, to be used as an active ingredient in cosmetic products.

"Natural phenolics from mango branches and early fruit drops exhibited high antioxidant and antidiabetic bioactivities that could lead in the development of phenolic-based products with potential use as health supplements providing additional revenues to farmers," explained Sapin.

"Mango seed is a good source of natural phenolics possessing whitening and anti-wrinkling properties with potential use in the cosmetics industry," she added.

Cosmetic products developed through mango seed phenolics powder included lotion, shampoo, hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap, and sunscreen products. Meanwhile, the mango branch, bark phenolic powder was processed to make Diaferin, a natural effective health supplement for diabetics.

Further, a healthy juice for diabetic was developed from early mango fruit drops. The early fruit drops were washed, sorted, peeled, and sliced. After which it is shredded and mixed with pectinase, then filtered through cheesecloth. The puree will then be formulated and heat-processed to become a phenolic-rich juice. ### **(Rena S. Hermoso)**

◀3...MOA seals project on tomato policy development through the R4D projects' outputs under the Research to Policies for Development and Extension (R2P4DE) approach.

Serving as the implementing agency, NSWRDC-HILLPEZ is a Research and Development Center

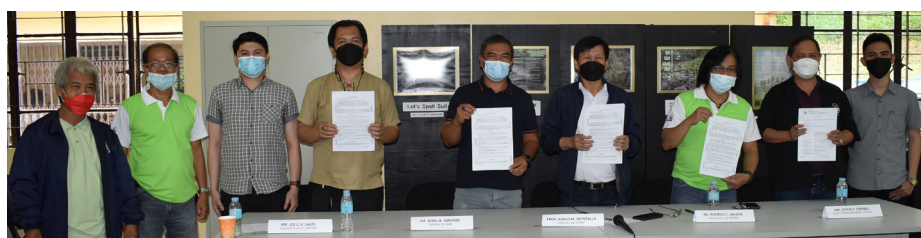
mandated to undertake applied and location-specific researches in hillyland pedo-ecological zones—showcasing cost-efficient, socially acceptable and environment friendly soil and water management technologies in hillyland pedo-ecological zones. ### **(Raymond Patrick L. Cabrera)**

◀3...UPLB turns over edible acknowledged DA and DA-BAR for its support in urban agriculture promotion.

"This project was inspired by our wanting for more food in urban areas and we thought that it is important to start this at the Department of Agriculture. The basic thing is organic and what you see you here are organic vegetables and there are in dispersed inspired by Usec. Evelyn [Laviña]. We thought that these mix of things that are beautiful and edible are ideal in this point in time especially we thought that the DA should really be the model for that," DA Undersecretary for Regulations Engr. Zamzamin Ampatuan said in his message.

The concept of the design for the DA demo garden was based on the logo of the department while the metal stand of the marker symbolizes and encourages crop production and urban agriculture.

Edible crops used are eggplant, tomato, bush sitao, tarragon, radish, mustard, pechay, sili, and variegated calamansi, with a combination of some ornamental plants such as marigold and vinca. ### **(Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino)**



DA-BAR director Dr. Junel B. Soriano (5th from left), DA-BSWM director Engr. Pablo M. Montalla (right), NSWRDC-HILLPEZ chief Joven P. Espineli (2nd from right), together with the key officials and staff members of the two bureaus during the ceremonial MOA signing. PHOTO COURTESY OF JCEUGERIO

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