



Eleazar graces groundbreaking of Crops R&D Center



BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar (center) with DA-RFO 1 Regional Executive Dir. Lucrecio R. Alviar (6th from right) and DA-RFO 1 Regional Technical Dir. Orlando J. Lorenzana (6th from left) leading the groundbreaking ceremony of the Crops R&D Center.

PHOTO: JALAXAMANA

Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar, along with Technology Commercialization Division (TCD) Head Anthony B. Obligado, graced the

groundbreaking ceremony of the Crops Research and Development (R&D) Center on 28 March 2019 at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC) in Tebag, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

government organizations, and other stakeholders.

The Center was funded by BAR, through its Institutional Development Grant (IDG), which supports for the establishment, and upgrading of various agriculture and fisheries R&D facilities, as well as acquisition of modern and improved laboratory equipment. The facility is expected to be inaugurated and be fully operational in 2020.

Also present during the activity were Dir. Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 1; Dir. Orlando J. Lorenzana, regional technical director for Research and Regulations of DA-RFO 1; and Dr. Constanca R. Diaz, PREC manager. ### (Jireh Alodia R. Laxamana)

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To raise the commercial value and increase the production of the region's priority crops, the Crops R&D Center is envisioned to be a platform that would develop an enabling environment in generating better and improved technologies through a researcher-friendly and state-of-the-art facility. Through resource sharing and collaboration, the Center also aims to make researchers capable of tissue culture-related R&D projects that will in turn strengthen linkages with the local government units, research and academic institutions, farmers, non-

RRDEN launched during Cagayan Valley Grand Farm Festival



CVRRDEN is part of the network of regional and provincial collaborators undertaking RDE programs coordinated under the guidance of BAR. PHOTO: ALLARENA



DA-RFO 2 RTD for Research and Regulations Rose Mary Aquino (2nd from left) together with the staff from BAR led by Jay Invsorsor Bermas (left), BAR-PMED focal person for Region 2. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLARENA

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 2, in coordination with the Region 2 offices of the Agricultural Training Institute, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Tourism, conducted the Cagayan Valley Grand Farm Festival at the DA-Southern Cagayan Research Center-Cagayan Breeding Station on 27-29 March 2019.

The festival aimed to launch the Cagayan Breeding Station as an agri-tourism site and showcase a climate-resilient agriculture system.

Another highlight of the festival was the launching of the Regional Research and Development and Extension Network (RRDEN).

Revitalized and launched in August 2018, RRDEN is composed of 16 networks from various DA-RFOs and is being coordinated under the guidance of the Bureau of Agricultural

Research (BAR) to develop and maintain a network of regional and provincial collaborators in their RDE programs. It serves as a vehicle to systematically develop and implement a regional RDE agenda and program for agriculture and fisheries.

Gracing the festival was DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol. In his keynote address, he talked about various programs of the DA such as the National Fertilizer Support

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BAR CHRONICLE is published monthly by the Applied Communication Division of the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research, RDMIC Building, Visayas Avenue corner Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104 Philippines.

This publication provides regular updates on DA-BAR's activities as the country's national coordinator for agriculture and fisheries R&D. It also highlights features and news articles concerning NaRDSAF-member institutions.

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ACD Head:
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ISSN 1655-3942

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Eleazar visits CPAR sites on breeder goat production in Pangasinan



Anglo Nubian goats for breeding

BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar and CPAR Farmer Cooperator Pedro A. Valelo during a visit in his farm at Brgy. Labney, San Jacinto, Pangasinan. PHOTOS: JALAXAMANA

Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar visited and monitored two sites, of the project titled “Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) on Breeder Goat Production” in Brgys. San Jose and Labney in San Jacinto, Pangasinan on 27 March 2019.

Joining Dr. Eleazar was Anthony B. Obligado, head of BAR-Technology Commercialization Division; Dr. Constanca R. Diaz, manager of the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center; and staff of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 1, and local government unit of San Jacinto, Pangasinan.

The goal of the CPAR project aimed to increase farmers’

profitability and productivity through goat raising and breeding as sources of family and community livelihood. The project is envisioned to be a platform that would promote the adoption of newly-introduced modern technologies among the stakeholders, while empowering the farmers through gaining skills and technical knowledge on goat raising.

In Brgy. San Jose, the first project site, Dr. Eleazar visited the farm of Murphy D. Banda who introduced to Dr. Eleazar his Anglo Nubian goats for breeding. These goats are ideal in the area as seen in the existing stocks being raised by CPAR farmers.

For the second site visitation, Dr. Eleazar visited the breeder goat production of Pedro A. Valelo in Brgy. Labney wherein he introduced

to everyone his Boer goats for breeding.

Both sites have met the requirements set by the project such that, each has a goat house, and a forage or pasture area as immediate source of roughage for the breeder goats. The goat houses of the two project sites were both elevated since breeder goats preferred it more that way. On the other hand, Napier grass and Trichantera leaf meal were the forages that were planted. For the feeds, the farmers mixed rice bran with either of dried malunggay leaves, dried ipil-ipil or dried kakawate leaves. The farmers utilized their resources, and applied their knowledge and skills especially in the field of breeder goat production. ### (Jireh Alodia R. Laxamana)

Farmers' field day showcases success of CPAR on SSNM yellow corn



CPAR SSNM Yellow Corn project proponents and farmer-cooperators raise the corn to manifest abundant harvest.

PHOTO: PILESACA

In a unison gesture of jubilation, more than 200 farmers, mostly yellow corn farmers, from Brgy. San Vicente and neighboring barangays in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro gathered to participate in the “Farmers’ Field Day on Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) on Yellow Corn Using Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM) Approach in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro” on 20 March 2019.

Organized by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) MIMAROPA, in partnership with the Sablayan Municipal Agriculturist Office, the field day intended to showcase the impact of technologies for the benefit

of corn farmers in the region. CPAR is one of the banner programs of the Bureau of Agricultural Research, while SSNM technology is an approach which promotes the optimal use of fertilizers, existing nutrients from the soil, crop residue, manures and timely application of fertilizers, also supported by the bureau.

Dr. Louella Rowena Lorenzana, regional technical director for Research and Regulations, DA-RFO MIMAROPA, delivered the opening remarks while Marissa Luna, chief of the research division, presented the project overview and impact.

Showcased during the field day were 20 farmer-cooperators: 10 from Brgy. Tagumpay and 10 from Brgy. San Vicente, who applied the

SSNM technology, which as a result has increased their yellow corn productions.

Highlighted during the activity were testimonials of CPAR farmer-cooperators: Jose Paquidongon and Alfredo de Vera of Brgys. Tagumpay and San Vicente, respectively. Both corn farmers attested on the project’s positive results and claimed that their corn production increased from an average of 4 tons to 7.9 tons per hectare just by adopting the interventions introduced through CPAR: applying the SSNM best practices and using the Quick Guide for Fertilizing Hybrid Yellow Corn. ### (*Lara Abigail S. Espiritu and Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca*)

RRDEN launched...from page 2

Program, Solar Powered Irrigation Program, and strengthened financial and machinery support programs for the farmers, among others. The DA chief also emphasized that the agriculture sector “must be a

competitive sector,” adding that its purpose will always lead to the productivity of the farmers “to secure food for our children and grandchildren.”

The activity was attended by the sector’s stakeholders, researchers, farmers, students, and the locals of

the region. Attending for BAR was Jay Invinsor L. Bermas of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) who gave a message during the RRDEN launching on behalf of BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar. ### (*Apple E. Llarena*)

UPLB Bee Program conducts Bee Day in Lanao del Norte



Dr. Cleofas R. Cervancia of UPLB discusses the importance of bees as pollinator and the activities and events that transpired leading to this Lanao del Norte Bee Day. PHOTO: RHERMOSO

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Bee Program conducted the Bee Day on 26 March 2019 at Brgy. Pikinit, Sultan Naga Dimaporo (SND), Lanao del Norte. The activity served as the culminating activity of the project, “Pollinator Conservation and Promotion of Stingless Bee Technologies in Lanao del Norte,” funded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) under its National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP).

UPLB research team, led by Dr. Cleofas R. Cervancia, president of the Asian Apicultural Association Philippines, demonstrated how to properly identify colonies for division and how to split it, and how to extract pollen, honey, and propolis from the colony. Participants were also taught how to transfer broods into a new box to start a new productive colony. After the demonstration, the participants

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With the aim of educating the youth on the status of Philippine agriculture in terms of technological developments, programs, and opportunities; and to encourage them to aspire for a career in support to the sector, the Department of Agriculture (DA), through its Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division and respective Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section, organized an information caravan in different regions in Luzon and Mindanao.

The series of info caravan were held on 7 March (Legazpi, Albay), 21 March (Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte), and 28 March (Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro).

Bureau of Agricultural Research OIC-Assistant Director and concurrent Chief of the Institutional Development Division (IDD) Digna L. Sandoval served as one of the resource persons. Joining her was Nadine B. Coronado of IDD

Sandoval participates in DA info caravan



INSET: BAR Assistant Director Sandoval discusses about the bureau’s Undergraduate Scholarship Program during the information caravan. PHOTOS: NCORONADO

who also discussed the various programs of the bureau including the Undergraduate Scholarship

Program (application process, privileges, and guidelines). ### (Nadine B. Coronado)

Suitability maps for major commodities presented

With the goal of generating comprehensive soil and land information as bases for a sound development planning for major commodities, the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, in coordination with the Bureau of Agricultural Research and the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries spearheaded the development of suitability maps of the five major commodities, namely: cacao, coffee, rubber, abaca, and cassava.

The suitability maps were outputs of the project, “Land Resources Evaluation and Suitability Assessment of Strategic Production Areas for Major Commodities” which was funded by BAR through the High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP). The output presentation of the project was held on 28 March 2019 in Cagayan De Oro City.

The attendees during



Representatives from DA-RFO Caraga checking the detailed land suitability maps for the provinces under their region. PHOTO: CGUILARAN

the presentation were from representatives from the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) 9, 10, 11, 12, and Caraga; Philippine Coconut

Authority; Bureau of Plant Industry; and Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau. ### (Matthew Jansen C. Ty)

BAR leads R&D project scoping in Ifugao communities

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducted the “Research and Development Project Scoping: BAR Initiative for the Municipalities of Hungduan and Hingyon, Ifugao” on 20-21 March 2019 in Ifugao. Project scoping is a part of the planning activity that must be achieved to deliver a project.

BAR-Program Development Division (PDD) Head Joell Lales, representing Director Nicomedes Eleazar, graced the activity with technical staff from the Technology Commercialization Division (TCD), Institutional Development Division, and PDD. They were joined by the National Project Coordinator of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Virginia Agcopra and staff,

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BAR-PDD Head Joell Lales facilitates the mentoring session, wherein potential projects for BAR funding are discussed. PHOTO: JALAXAMANA

BAR, VSU unveil Pest Mgt Lab during PhilRootcrops symposium

Staff members from the Program Development Division, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Technology Commercialization Division, Institutional Development Division (IDD), and Applied Communication Division of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) participated in a symposium-workshop to share and discuss current research and development and extension initiatives and advances on cassava and other rootcrops on 20-21 March 2019 at the Visayas State University (VSU), Baybay City, Leyte.

Organized by the Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center (PhilRootcrops), in collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute, the symposium-workshop gathered technology developers and disseminators to identify possible researchable areas and technologies for dissemination to the industry. The activity included the symposium consisting of series of presentations on the advances of cassava and other rootcrops in the Philippines; and the workshop on the identification of possible researchable areas and technologies generated under production, postharvest and processing, and extension and

social economics.

One of the highlights of the event was the official turnover of the Pest Management Laboratory by BAR to PhilRootcrops. Leading the turnover ceremony were Dr. Edgardo Tulin, president of VSU; and Marjorie Mosende, assistant head of BAR-IDD who attended in behalf of Digna Sandoval, OIC-assistant director of BAR and concurrent head of the BAR-IDD. Joining them were Dr. Lorenzo Caranguian, national coordinator of Department of Agriculture-Cassava Program and PhilRootcrops Director Erlinda Velasquez.

Housed at VSU, the renovated building of the Pest Management Laboratory of PhilRootcrops was upgraded with the acquisition of additional research equipment funded under the bureau's Institutional Development Grant.

PhilRootcrops is the country's lead government research, development and training agency for root and tuber crops. The center is a multi-awarded research institution and a home to multi-awarded researchers and scientists who pioneered innovative researches for countryside development. ### (Rita T. dela Cruz)



Joining in the unveiling are (L-R) Dr. Lorenzo Caranguian, Department of Agriculture-Cassava Program national coordinator; Marjorie Mosende, BAR-IDD assistant head; Dr. Edgardo Tulin, VSU president; and PhilRootcrops Director Erlinda Vasquez.

PHOTO: RDELACRUZ

UPLB Bee Program...from page 5

were able to try the process for themselves with the assistance of the UPLB research team. A hands-on demonstration on honey packaging and soap making using propolis as one of the ingredients was also conducted.

Project beneficiaries from the three municipalities (Tubod, Kapatagan, and SND) participated in the activity. Also in attendance were Baluta K. Diron, SND municipal agriculturist, Francisco

C. Bihod, Inclusive Growth Plan consultant, and Evelyn H. Juanillo and Jillian E. Timple, apiculture focal persons from BAR.

According to Dr. Cervancia, the Lanao del Norte was held to celebrate the importance of pollinators such as stingless bees for the agriculture and the environment. It also serves as a venue to share with more people in the community the results of the two-year project in Lanao del Norte. The project aimed to teach the community on the conservation of pollinators: stingless

bees. She further shared, "*ito ay para rin sa livelihood opportunity kasi marami tayong produktong nakukuha gaya ng pulot, pollen, at propolis. Ito ay pwedeng gawing hanapbuhay kaya additional income para sa kanila.*"

NTCP, one of the banner programs of BAR along with the Community Participatory Action Research, ensures the proper transfer of mature technologies for adoption and utilization by target farmers and fishers. ### (Rena S. Hermoso)

Organic agriculture R&D projects reviewed



PHOTO: EJGESTUPA

Dr. Luis Rey Velasco (top) of UPLB, Dr. Candido Damo (bottom) of the Department of Agriculture, NOAB secretariat, Ronald John Lamano and NOAP representatives, Joyce Eliel Ebor and Jayson Tuliao (left to right) serve as the evaluators during the project review.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) spearheaded the conduct of a project review of 10 research and development (R&D) projects funded under the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) on 7-8 March 2019.

As the lead coordinating agency for all research related activities on agriculture and fisheries, BAR ensures the effective implementation of organic agriculture R&D by conducting project reviews.

Serving as evaluators were representatives from the NOAP and

the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) together with BAR's Organic Agriculture (OA) focal persons and Dr. Rey Luis Velasco of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The OA projects reviewed were research initiatives that address specific concerns on biological pest control and the expanded body of knowledge in support to policy-making.

Of the 10 projects reviewed, 8 are being implemented by UPLB while 2 are by Visayas State University (VSU). The first project that was reviewed was a UPLB study which aimed to come up with an industry profile of organic agricultural inputs, and its production and marketing systems. Organic agriculture has its own market of organic inputs such as planting materials, seeds, pest control, and fertilizers. The collection of products has slowly grown to be a lucrative industry. The profile generated

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BAR holds fire safety seminar



Senior Fire Officer Hiyasmin Dotado talks about the importance of fire prevention measures in a corporate setting including the accessibility of fire extinguishers, a clear fire exit plan, smoke detectors, and sprinkler system.

PHOTO: EJGESTUPA

In observance of the Fire Prevention Month, with the theme slogan, *Kaligtasan sa Sunog: Alamin, Gawin at Isabuhay Natin*, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) held its annual fire safety seminar on 14 March 2019 at the BAR lobby. For the seminar, the bureau invited fire prevention officers from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Project 6 sub-station to remind BAR staff of the essential fire prevention measures in an office setting.

Speaking on behalf of the fire officers present was Senior Fire Officer Hiyasmin Dotado who emphasized the importance of always acquainting oneself with a building's fire exit plan. According to Dotado, fire exits have to be clear of any obstruction and should not bear any locks given that fires

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BAR reviews CPAR, HVCDP, and CC R&D projects



At the VIP table (L-R): Dr. Lourdes Espenido of UP Diliman, Dr. Rodel Maghirang of UPLB, Dr. Edralina Serrano of UPLB, Director Nicomedes Eleazar of BAR, Salvacion Ritual of BAR, and Regional Technical Director Rose Mary Aquino of DA-RFO 2

PHOTO: RDELACRUZ

To ensure that all research projects are being smoothly implemented and the funds are accordingly utilized, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducted simultaneous reviews of projects under the Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR), High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), and Climate Change (CC) R&D Programs on 11-15 March 2019 in Quezon City.

The week-long series of reviews covered 19 CPAR, 9 HVCDP, and 18 CC. Majority of these projects was for progress review, while

the remaining projects were for completion and for en banc.

During the opening, BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar mentioned that “these programs are anchored on DA’s main thrusts on food security and sustainable agriculture requiring the bureau to go the extra mile of rendering special effort, in the name of bringing research that matter to the people.”

The bureau chief also cited that, “in great consideration of time and resources, I think this is an effective strategy to review three major R&D programs in one activity at once. This provides us an opportunity to

review this great number of projects in a wider perspective. Through the presentations of accomplishments and updates, we are able to assess these projects in a more holistic approach enabling us to easily identify and address concerns and problems encountered during implementations and immediately provide recommendations for improvements.”

In attendance were BAR’s pool of experts; project leaders and implementers from partner-agencies; and BAR officials, program focals, and technical staff. ### (Rita T. dela Cruz)

BAR holds fire...from page 8

spread rapidly. She also pointed out the need for a functioning fire alarm system which will ensure a swift and safe evacuation of the staff during an emergency. The building evacuation plan was later simulated for BAR staff to be familiarized with the proper response in case of fire. Throughout the seminar, Dotado made use of real-life examples of fire scenarios to further establish how critical it is for the bureau to follow basic fire prevention measures.

Following Dotado’s discussion

was Fire Officer Jan Mande del Rosario’s demonstration on how to properly use fire extinguishers. Del Rosario pointed out that there are different types of fire extinguishers to be used depending on the trigger that might have caused a fire. Water fire extinguishers are suitable for fighting fires involving solid combustibles such as wood, paper, and textiles. While fires caused by faulty electrical wiring can be snuffed out using foam fire extinguishers. After the simulated evacuation, BAR staff practiced their hand in using a fire extinguisher.

To wrap up the seminar

workshop, Dotado reminded BAR staff to memorize the direct lines of the fire stations nearest the office and in their respective residences for a faster response from the fire department.

“For offices that have more than 50 staff members, the creation of a fire brigade is important. *Kailangan po tayo na bumuo ng isang fire brigade so just in case na may sunog. Sila ang magiging first responder natin while waiting for the [BFP] to arrive,*” concluded Senior Inspector Enrico L. Navarro. ### (Ephraim John J. Gestupa)



INSET: Serving as the resource speaker is Dr. Ma. Asuncion G. Beltran, a project leader from Tarlac Agricultural University and DA official lecturer of “Back to Basic: Scientific and Sustainable Poultry and Livestock Production in the Philippines.” Her presentation centers on the promotion of technologies on free-range chicken for meat and egg production.

PHOTOS: EJGESTUPA

Benefits of free-range chicken raising featured in BAR seminar

Raising free-range chicken (FRC) serves as ready a source of food and income for the family. Traditionally, free-range chicken is denoting a method of backyard practice wherein the chickens at least part of the day, can roam freely outdoors, rather than being confined in an enclosure for twenty-four hours each day. Free range system usually offers an opportunity for the extensive locomotion and sunlight that is otherwise prevented by indoor housing systems. Free range may apply for meat and egg farming.

For a better understanding on the technology-based approach to raising free-range chicken particularly its proper management, the Bureau of Agricultural Research, through the Applied Communication Division, conducted a seminar on the “Promotion of Technology on

Free-Range Chicken for Meat and Egg Production.” This was presented by Dr. Ma. Asuncion G. Beltran, acting dean, College of Agriculture of Tarlac Agricultural University, and Department of Agriculture (DA) official lecturer of “Back to Basic: Scientific and Sustainable Poultry and Livestock Production in the Philippines.”

According to Dr. Beltran backyard free-range chicken production is very manageable and allows total control over the quality of food produced. In the countryside, farmers grow all kinds of livestock as a common trend in most households. “Basically, almost all farm households keep one type of animal for subsistence and chicken is the most common of them. The practice of raising chickens in the backyard holds tremendous benefits beyond the obvious,” she underscored.

“The other benefits that can be drawn out from the care of free-range chicken in the backyard are physical and mental exercises for the household, maximizing the use of space for productive use, supplements family budget, and entertainment, fulfillment, and creativity,” Dr. Beltran added.

FRC production is also a source of manure as fertilizer for vegetables, helps eliminate food wastes, helps in pest control since they eat lots of insects, provides a learning opportunity for children, and contributes to good health and long life (oxytocin).

During the seminar, Dr. Beltran walked through the technology being promoted by the program with the participants, looking at the characteristics of backyard and commercial production;

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BAR celebrates National Women's Month



Mark Lester Valle, film-docu director, shares how they immersed in the Bontok community to learn more about the culture that permitted a rapeless culture to exist.

In celebration of the 2019 National Women's Month (NWM), the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), through its Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS), organized a series of activities for the NWM. The month-long celebration kicked off with a film showing followed by a collaborative painting competition and art exhibit.

The film showing activity featuring the multi-awarded documentary, *Walang Rape sa Bontok*, was held on 8 March 2019 at BAR. The screening was graced by Mark Lester Valle, film director, and Carla Pulido Ocampo, head writer. Attended by BAR staff, the activity was followed by a Q&A with Valle and Ocampo.

Director Valle shared their experience immersing in the Bontok community to learn more about the culture and society that permitted a “rapeless” culture to exist. The documentary has reached a wide array of audience from students, government workers to international communities. In the various screenings that they have conducted, they shared that they have encountered rape victims who got encouraged by the documentary to speak about their experience. Head writer Ocampo also said, “actually *nakarating na kami sa* policymakers. It’s a matter of *kailan namin sila mararating lahat* in such a way *na magkaroon ng* critical mass to actually do something about it.” She further emphasized that “it would take a lot of us to build a rapeless Philippines *na walang* rape culture.... The people who listen would be the people who would matter. *Kayong lahat siguro magiging magulang, magiging mentor ng isang nakababatang tao*, they need responsible adults who are informed about this kind of perspective *para kayo ‘yong pagpasa*. We can only do so much as filmmakers, as social media identities. *Pero* we need people to support us in this advocacy—*kayo ‘yon.*”

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ACD Head Julia Lapitan and Lester Bartina of the ACD accepting the first place award during the National Women's Month Collaborative Painting Competition for the entry titled, “*Mukha ng Pagbabago.*”



Winners of the 2019 National Women's Month Collaborative Painting Competition pose for a photo at the GAD Art Exhibit at the BAR lobby.

BAR celebrates...from page 11

Walang Rape sa Bontok won international and local various awards including 38th Gawad Urian Best Documentary, New York Festivals Best TV and Films 2015 Finalist Certificate, and CineTotoo Philippine International Documentary Film Festival 2014 Special Jury Mention.

Following the film showing was a NWM Collaborative Painting Competition held on 20-26 March 2019. With the theme, “*Juana 4P’s (Pananaliksik at Pag-unlad sa Pagsasaka at Pangangisda)*”— a word play on (Juana for Peace), the contest was open to all the divisions of the bureau. Members of each team

were encouraged to discuss amongst themselves the concept for their respective entries. The eight artworks from the collaborative painting competition were displayed at the bureau’s lobby for public viewing on 26 March-12 April 2019.

BAR concluded its month-long celebration with the awarding of the winners for the NWM Collaborative Painting Competition on 1 April 2019. The Applied Communication Division (ACD) bagged the first place award with their entry, “*Mukha ng Pagbabago.*” Program Development Division placed second for their entry, “*Kakayahan at Tagumpay*” while the Administrative Division ranked third and bagged the “People’s Choice Award” for their

entry “*Kakayahan, Karunungan, Kababaihan.*” Awarding the winners were BAR OIC-Assistant Director Digna Sandoval and Administrative Division Head and GFPS Chairperson Evelyn Juanillo.

According to the Philippine Commission on Women, the National Women’s Month Celebration every March is part of the worldwide observance of the International Women’s Day which falls on 8 March. The celebration is in compliance to Presidential Proclamation Nos. 224 and 227 series of 1988 and Republic Act No. 6469, declaring the month of March as the national observation to recognize the role and contributions of women to the society. ### (Rena S. Hermoso)

BAR pays tribute to DA Usec. Serrano’s retirement

bureau particularly in attending its major events. “We always look forward to your presence and your insightful messages putting us on the right track, and keeping us grounded on our tasks. You are truly an inspiration to all of us,” she said.

In response, Usec. Serrano thanked BAR and left an inspiring message about humility and continuous learning. He mentioned how government officials, even though they have reached a certain status in their lives, should always remain humble. “It is very important for people to retain the commensurate level of humility,” he said. “The proper logical motivation for us is to always learn. Learn, learn, and learn. If you have an air of superiority over others, your motivation to learn is blinded. You are not blinded by the light but blinded by the dark. There is no way you can dispel the darkness if you assume and think that you already know everything” he added.

Ending the simple celebration, BAR Dir. Eleazar and staff gave a token to Usec. Serrano, which was a painting from one of his bird photography collections. Likewise, Usec. Serrano’s staff also gave him a send-off gift, a charcoal painting of their boss. ### (Rita T. dela Cruz)



Usec. Serrano with BAR Dir. Eleazar and staff in a photo opportunity

PHOTO: RDELACRUZ

Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar and members of the BAR Executive Committee paid tribute to Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo R. Serrano’s retirement through a simple celebration held on 13 March 2019 in Los Baños, Laguna.

In a message, Director Eleazar expressed his gratitude for all the support that Usec. Serrano has

extended not only to him but to the bureau as a whole, attributing its success to his guidance and leadership. “Your insightful ideas and critical mind have pushed us to deliver more than what is expected of us. You have been an inspiration of what a true public servant is,” he said.

Also giving her message was BAR OIC-Asst. Director Digna L. Sandoval who acknowledged Usec. Serrano’s earnest support to the

BAR staff take oath of office



BAR Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar (rightmost) and OIC-Asst. Dir. Digna L. Sandoval (leftmost) pose for a photo together with the newly-appointed staff, Bernalin P. Cadayong, and the promoted staff members: Kris Thea Marie B. Hernandez and Gretel F. Rivera. PHOTO: MEQUINO

Three newly-appointed/promoted staff members of the Bureau of Agricultural

Research (BAR) took their oaths on 26 March 2019 during an ISO-related activity in Clark, Pampanga.

Officiating the ceremony were BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar and OIC-Asst. Director Digna L. Sandoval.

The newly-appointed staff was Bernalin P. Cadayong, Agriculturist II; while promoted staff members were Kris Thea Marie B. Hernandez, Senior Agriculturist; and Gretel F. Rivera, Administrative Officer III.

Created by virtue of Executive Order 116 signed in 1987, BAR has 53 authorized plantilla positions of which 32 are technical and 21 are administrative positions with 6 coterminous with the incumbent positions. ### (Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino)

BAR leads R&D...from page 6

Kathleen Ramilo, senior enterprise development specialist; and Melanie Sison, communication specialist.

Participants of the activity were officials and representatives from the Municipal Local Government of Hungduan and Hingyon, Ifugao Provincial Agricultural Office, Ifugao Provincial Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Office, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-RFO CAR), and Ifugao State University.

The project scoping aimed to assess possible and timely R&D proposals from the stakeholders in the municipalities of Hungduan and Hingyon. There is a great opportunity to improve the

economic conditions among the aforementioned communities; hence, resulting to the communities' increased economic opportunities and development sooner or later. Specifically, the activity aimed to discuss the BAR's banner program, the National Technology and Commercialization Program (NTCP) to the stakeholders for them to be able to prepare and propose projects that can be supported by the bureau.

During the said event, various government programs were also presented including the Community-based Participatory Action Research discussed by Raymond Patrick Cabrera of BAR-PDD and the NTCP guidelines on proposal preparation given by Glenn Dimayuga of BAR-TCD.

The project sites in the distant communities of Hungduan and Hingyon were also monitored by the officials and staff of BAR and FAO, together with Dr. Magdalena Wanawan, research division chief of DA-RFO CAR. Some of the products monitored include the fresh local produce on-display that were made and grown by the community, as well as the communities' locally-made products including squash pastillas, taro chips, ginger candies, ginger teas, and Tinawon rice.

Problems on the lack of processing facilities and equipment, sustainability of raw materials, and packaging and marketing problems were also discussed during the project site visit. ### (Jireh Alodia R. Laxamana)

Organic agriculture...from page 8

through this study will prove useful for policy makers and OA certifying bodies. Other projects reviewed include the profiling of production and market systems on organic poultry, postharvest handling systems of organic fruits and vegetables, and the utilization of stingless bees as pollinators for OA farms.

Plant health was another focus of the projects discussed. UPLB presented the results of

research projects on improved fermented juice, micro-encapsulated biopesticide, and yeast-based bio-control products while VSU discussed the results of their research project on the reformulation of organic fertilizer and utilization of nematodes (thread worms) as biological control agents.

One of the research projects presented on the second day was by UPLB which aims to validate and verify the different methods of sample preparation and analysis of

organic fertilizers to be recommended to the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS).

The UPLB study presented looks into the methods of analyzing the heavy metals and mineral content of organic fertilizer and makes recommendations as to which methods are the most precise and accurate. The project proves to be very useful not just for BAFS but to third party certifying bodies and OA laboratories as well. ### (Ephraim John J. Gestupa)



CPAR on SSNM *bears success for corn farmers*

Text and photos by Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca

Corn is one of the important crops produced in the Philippines. In Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, producing yellow corn is one of the main sources of livelihood among its farmers. However, one of the challenges experienced by the Sablayan corn farmers is low corn productivity.

Around 70 percent of the farmers are producing below the national corn production average of 3-4 metric tons (mt) per hectare. Due to lack technical know-how and capital, some farmers are still following the recommended management practices and the amount of fertilizers to be applied. However, this changed when a research intervention, a science-based approach in growing corn was introduced to them in 2017 through the project, “Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) on Yellow Corn Using Site-Specific Nutrient Management

(SSNM).”

SSNM is an approach that advocates the use of available organic nutrient sources (e.g. crop residues and manures) and inorganic fertilizers to meet the nutrient demand of a high-yielding crop. This means feeding crops with nutrients as and only when needed. It employs tools to estimate the optimum amount that organic nutrient sources can contribute to crop nutrition so that only the deficit in nutrient need is satisfied with inorganic fertilizer.

Funded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), project aimed to increase corn production from 5-8 mt per hectare, enhance the use of biofertilizer and organic matter for corn, and introduce the SSNM to the farmer-cooperators and other stakeholders are the objectives of the project. Implemented in Brgys. San Vicente and Tagumpay in Sablayan, Occ. Mindoro, 20 farmers, 10 from each barangay were identified as

CPAR farmer-cooperators.

During project implementation, farmers were taught on the rudiments of SSNM and guided by using the Quick Guide for Fertilizing Hybrid Yellow Corn. They were also trained on best management practices, including recommended planting distance; fertilizer application schedule, which is based on SSNM rate; pest and disease control; and harvesting.

“When you combined these protocols or best practices, one can be assured of a good harvest” said by Jose Paquidongan, CPAR farmer-cooperator from Brgy. Tagumpay.

Prior to becoming a full-time farmer, Paquidongan, 59, used to be an employee of a multi-national hybrid seed company promoting the use of various hybrid seeds across the country. Sometime in the 90s, his Manila office sent him, on a short mission, to Occ. Mindoro to explore

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the island and introduce hybrid seeds. Never did he realize that destiny has its own calling.

In 2003, Paquidongan resigned from his job and went back to Mindoro to push his luck and decided to settle down and follow the course of his destiny. Backed by experience as a seed grower, Paquidongan became a full-time rice and corn seed grower in Sablayan, and later formed a farmers' cooperative. In 2011, the local government of Mindoro recognized him as one of the most outstanding farmers in the region.

Being a farmer and a seed grower, Paquidongan continued to till the family-owned five-hactare farm planted with rice and corn, and eventually became a full-pledge

farmer. *“Tatlumpung taon na akong nagsasaka ng mais dito sa aming lugar at isa mga alalahanin ng mga magsasaka ay ang mababang produksyon ng mais,”* said Paquidongan.

On the average, the municipality produces four metric tons of yellow corn per hectare. *“At sa aking karanasan bilang isang seed grower, kaya pang tumaas ang produksyon, marahil tamang teknolohiya ang kailangan,”* he said. Maximizing the full potential of the island was his vision then.

According to Paquidongan, sometime in 2016, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office MIMAROPA and the provincial government conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal seminar in search of a farmer-partner who

would qualify as farmer-cooperator of the BAR-funded project on CPAR-SSNM. In 2017, Paquidongan, along with the other 19 farmers became partners of the project.

“Simula ng nagabayan ng SSNM sa tamang planting schedule, nutrient management, rekomendadong planting distance, soil analysis at ang CPAR technology, masasabi kong tumaas ang aming ani,” Paquidongan revealed. He furthered that his first harvest reached 6.7 mt per hectare by applying the SSNM technology. His current production has now reached 7.9 mt per hectare giving him and his family an added income of roughly Php 14,000 per cropping. *“Hindi lang ako ang umani ng ganon, ang iba sa aming mga kasamahan, halos ganon din ang produksiyon,”* he added. ###



Jose Paquidongan of Brgy. Tagumpay, Sablayan, Occ. Mindoro, inspects the quality of a corn cob produced thru SSNM.

BAR gears up for ISO 9001:2015 certification



BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar encourages the participants for their full cooperation as the bureau goes through the ISO certification process. PHOTO: DLBATTAD

Following the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) seminar-workshop on the Quality Management Systems Documentation, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducted the ISO-related workshop on 25-29 March 2019 in Clark, Pampanga.

Facilitated by BAR’s Technical Working Group, the workshop gears up the bureau for ISO 9001:2015 certification through series of training and workshops that entail the identification of internal and external issues through risk-based thinking, and the updating of the Quality Policy Manual to improve the bureau’s

delivery of service.

As BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar leads the bureau towards an ISO-standardized agency of the Department of Agriculture, he encouraged all BAR staff to prioritize and take the matter seriously because “this is part of our service to the Filipino people as public servants.”

ISO consultants from Synergized Macro Solutions, Inc., a trusted consulting, training, and auditing firm with focus on international standards led the training program, assisting the bureau in drafting documentary requirements in compliance with the ISO 9001:2015 standards. ### (Daryl Lou A. Battad)

Benefits of free-range...from page 10

main characteristics of FRC production; advantages of FRC eggs; five important requirements of FRC production; caring and growing FRC; housing for FRC; feeders and waterers; breeds and selection; understanding the characteristics of day old chicks, growers and pullets, laying birds, cockerels/roosters; FRC breeds in the Philippines and their dominant characteristics; crossbreeds; commercial layer strains; brooding; growing and management of day old chicks; lighting and feeding; commercial, add-on, and alternative feeds; among other topics.

“While growing and caring for FRC for meat and egg purposes in the backyard is quite simple, it is still important for farmers to know how to do it in a scientific manner that would ensure greater success,” she said.

The lecture of Dr. Beltran discussed the appropriate technology for growing free range chicken in the Philippines that has been developed for local farmers. Some of the best and popular FRC breeds in the world are also available in the country including crossbreeds.

The DA has also packaged a program that would enhance and ensure the sustainability of FRC production, 50 percent of which is in the hands of smallholder farmers and backyard raisers. ### (Leoveliza C. Fontanil)



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