



## Dar institutes *Research for Development*



PHOTOS: NTF DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

Working on the principle that conducting research must be result-oriented and utilized at the grassroots level, Acting Agriculture Secretary William Dar introduced Research for Development (R4D) during the opening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition and 32<sup>nd</sup> Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Anniversary on 14 August 2019.

R4D is a strategy that confronts “research for research sakes” way of thinking by focusing on researches that bring about genuine development to the sector. It is anchored on the rallying strategy of Secretary Dar to increase productivity and make farmers and fishers prosperous as he envisions a food-secure Philippines dubbed as “*Masaganang Ani, Mataaang na Kita*”—his battlecry for his administration.

The new agriculture chief instructed BAR to anchor on this goal for all its R4D plans, programs, and projects; and support the entire value chain, from production to processing and marketing.

Secretary Dar also urged the bureau to adopt and implement the Inclusive and Market-Oriented Development (IMOD), a strategy that empowers smallholder farmers in overcoming poverty. This can be achieved through improved and resilient farming, leading them towards a dynamic state from subsistence to market-oriented agriculture.

He mentioned that the products and technologies showcased in the technology forum should not remain on display but should be incubated, disseminated, and commercialized. He advised BAR to institutionalize the Technology Business Incubation (TBI) program which Dar revolutionized during his 15-year stint at the India-based, International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). The

TBI program is aimed at facilitating competitive agri-business enterprises through technology development and commercialization.

With the IMOD strategy as the foundation of research outputs, Dr. Dar instructed BAR to nurture and partner with prospective investors to engage in start-up agribusiness enterprises or food manufacturing.

Recognizing the crucial role of the business sector, he directed BAR to organize an advisory board with 50 percent of its composition coming from the private sector to

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BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar and Synergized Macro Solutions, Inc. President Susan Soliven lead the unveiling of BAR's ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certificate. Joining them are Acting Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar, BAR OIC-Asst. Director Digna Sandoval and BAR's ISO Technical Working Group led by Quality Management Representative Alexander Arizabal.

## BAR receives ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certification

To strengthen its commitment towards consistently providing quality services for the agriculture and fisheries sector, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) officially received its ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) Certification from TÜV Rheinland on 13 August 2019.

BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar stressed the importance of securing this certification for the benefit of our farmers and fishers during the launching of the implementation of ISO 9001:2015

QMS last April 2019.

The bureau's Technical Working Group for BAR ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Certification underwent a series of training and workshops to understand how quality management system works and how to integrate this system in the existing management system of the bureau. The Synergized Macro Solutions, Inc., led by Susan Soliven, provided their technical assistance to the bureau in this endeavor.

The six-month preparation

helped the bureau to pass the two external audits carried out by TÜV Rheinland on 10 July 2019 and 8-9 August 2019.

ISO 9001:2015 is a standard that sets out the requirements for a quality management system. This ensures that organizations can consistently deliver excellent services that meet customer requirement which in turn can enhance client satisfaction. The certification will be effective for three years. ### (Rena S. Hermoso)



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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.

# BAR participates in 4<sup>th</sup> Nat'l OA Conference



**INSET:** In his speech, Acting Agriculture Secretary William Dar emphasizes the importance of organic agriculture to rejuvenate the fertility of soil.

Researchers, professional staff, farmers, and students attending in the 4<sup>th</sup> National Organic Agriculture Scientific Conference on 19-23 August 2019 in Cauayan City, Isabela.

PHOTOS: L.FONTANIL

With the theme, “Pushing the Frontier Towards a Sustainable Organic Agriculture,” the Isabela State University (ISU) and Organic Agriculture Society of the Philippines (OASP) conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> National Organic Agriculture Scientific Conference on 19-23 August 2019 in Cauayan City, Isabela.

Designed to support the implementation of RA 10068 also known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, the activity aimed to serve as a venue to disseminate the results of research and development (R&D) initiatives on organic agriculture to farmers, students, and the general public.

Gracing the event were Acting Agriculture Secretary William Dar, ISU President Ricmar Aquino, OASP President William Medrano, Department of Science and Technology Cagayan Valley Regional Director Sancho Maborrang, Department of Agriculture (DA)-

Regional Field Office 2 Executive Director Narciso Edillo, Isabela 6<sup>th</sup> District Representative Faustino Dy V, Cauayan Mayor Bernard Faustino Dy, and former OASP President Arsenio Barcelona.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) was invited to provide information on packaging organic agriculture research proposals in line with the agenda of DA for the researchers and professional staff.

Joell Lales, BAR-Program Development Division head, represented BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar in the plenary session. He discussed the “BAR Organic Agriculture R&D Priority Thrust and Agenda.”

As the research-coordinating agency of DA, he stressed that all proposals submitted and projects funded by the bureau are thoroughly reviewed and must align with the BAR R&D priority thrust and agenda.

At the end of his presentation,

Lales said that the bureau believes that the conference will provide massive dissemination and wider application of organic agriculture technologies and practices. He hoped that the researches discussed and plenary sessions held will reach the farmers who will be benefitted the most.

Secretary Dar, keynote speaker of the event, emphasized the importance of organic agriculture to rejuvenate the fertility of soil. In his agenda as agriculture secretary, he asked the participants to support him. Dr. Dar hopes that the level of production and income of the farmers will increase while going for a balanced fertilization program.

Another highlight of the event was the “Farmers and Student Technology Forum on Organic Agriculture.” This featured the inspiring stories and success of various organic agriculture practitioners in the Philippines. ###  
(Leoveliza C. Fontanil)



# Eleazar pushes for competitive, market-driven industry in 15<sup>th</sup> NTF

“I am humbled and proud to see the proofs of this research, and immensely delighted that these products and technologies have been seen by and presented to the general public this forum and exhibition. May this event be an inspiration to all of us to become more competitive and market-driven as we strive to achieve *‘masaganang ani at mataas na kita’* in line with the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) mission to modernize the agriculture and fisheries sector,” said Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) director.

With the theme, “NTF@15: Technologies from Agri-Fishery R&D as Catalyst for Sustainability and Competitiveness,” BAR highlighted the importance of

technologies and products in achieving sustainable development. The event was held on 14-16 August 2019 at BAR Grounds, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

In line with the advocacies of DA to proceed with overall agricultural development, Dir. Eleazar emphasized the need to exploit the potential of R&D by ensuring mature technologies will reach farmers and fishers. He likewise underscored the Department’s role particularly the bureau’s commitment on intensifying research for development by implementing the Inclusive and Market-Oriented Development Strategy.

The activity started with a thanksgiving mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Arnel Recinto of Our Lady

Fatima of Mount Carmel Parish. This was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and opening of exhibits led by BAR Director Eleazar and BAR OIC-Assistant Director Digna Sandoval.

Attending the event was Atty. Rhaegee Tamana, representing Senator Cynthia Villar, the chairperson for the Committee on Agriculture and Food; and Acting Agriculture Secretary William Dar.

Also present were: Jose Luis Fernandez, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization; Dr. Roberto Rañola, Jr., member of the DA-Transition Team in-charge on Innovation, Academe & Industry; Commodore Eduardo Gongona, director of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; and Anthony

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BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar and BAR OIC-Asst. Director Digna Sandoval, together with Central Luzon State University President Tereso Abella and FARM Inc. President Lorna Daffon, lead the ribbon cutting ceremony. PHOTO: NTF DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE



# DA-RFO 10's coco sauce wins best product



PHOTOS: NTF DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

The coconut sauce of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 10 was named Best Product during the closing ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Production Exhibition (NTF) on 16 August 2019 in Diliman, Quezon City.

Made from pure coconut water, the all-purpose coconut sauce was an initiative of a Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) cooperative from Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental.

In order to maximize the utilization of the coconut fruit, the

cooperative thought of an innovative value-adding way to use coconut water that goes to waste when they process the fruit for copra.

Coffee liqueur of DA-RFO CALABARZON won the second best product. While nata de cacao from DA-RFO 12 and orange-fleshed sweet potato from DA-RFO 13 bagged the third and fourth best products, respectively. Tied at fifth place were batuan-based products (jam and jelly) from DA-RFO 6, soybean-based products from DA-RFO 5, and abaca fruit wine from University of Southern Mindanao.

The criteria for the selection of

best products include: 1) creativity and uniqueness; 2) relevance to food security or health and wellness; 3) product attributes; 4) packaging and labelling; and 5) market potential and competitiveness. Winners of the best product competition received R&D grants and a plaque.

Seven booths were also recognized for their uniqueness, creativity, and technologies showcased. These were: DA-RFOs 1, 2, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, 5, 8, and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. ### (Rena S. Hermoso)



2<sup>nd</sup> Best Product



3<sup>rd</sup> Best Product



4<sup>th</sup> Best Product



5<sup>th</sup> Best Product



5<sup>th</sup> Best Product



5<sup>th</sup> Best Product



*Eleazar pushes for...from page 4*



One of the activities during the opening of the NTF is the launching of “The Way Forward: Level Up Philippine Agriculture” – authored by Acting Agriculture Secretary William Dar. PHOTOS: NTF DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

Obligado, chief of BAR-Technology Commercialization Division (TCD).

Other highlights of the three-day event were seminar series featuring relevant topics and practical technology demonstrations, the recognition of the Best Products and Best Booth, awarding of Loyalty Awards and IPR certificates, and the launching of Dr. Dar’s book, “The Way Forward: Level Up Philippine Agriculture.”

His book advocates the leveling up of the Philippine Agriculture System through technology and agripreneurship.

Other VIPs who graced the event and visited the booths were: Romeo Recide, deputy of Philippine Statistics; Evelina Escudero, representative of 1<sup>st</sup> District of Sorsogon; Dr. Vivencio Mamaril, director of Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards; Edgar Madrid, regional technical director



Rev. Fr. Arnel Recinto, parish priest of Our Lady Fatima of Mount Carmel Parish, presides over the thanksgiving mass in celebration of BAR’s anniversary.

of DA-Regional Field Office 5; Dr. Tereso Abella, president of Central Luzon State University; Dr. Ricmar Aquino, president of Isabela State University; and Lorna Daffon of PTV 4’s Mag-Agri Tayo program.

Organized through the bureau’s TCD, NTF serves as one of BAR’s

major activities.

Conducted annually, the event is part of the bureau’s activities to disseminate and promote research generated technologies to communities that need them the most. ### (Leoveliza C. Fontanil)



# SUCs and NGO recipient to IPR



BAR-assisted IPR applications are awarded to BAR's partner institutions: Jose Rizal Memorial State University-Zamboanga del Norte Agricultural College (trademark), Central Luzon State University (utility model), Nueva Vizcaya State University (utility models); and private individual, Josephine Ramos (trademark).

PHOTO: NTF DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

Four recipients were awarded with Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) certificates during the 15<sup>th</sup> Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition (NTF).

To ensure that product developers in the research and development sector receive the full economic benefit from the technologies that were developed, BAR provided assistance to those seeking to secure IPR.

In his speech during the opening ceremony, Acting Agriculture Secretary William Dar underscored the role of agriculture-based business enterprises in increasing the profits of farmers and fishers.

IPR also ensures that scientists and product developers were given sufficient incentive to further innovate existing outputs.

“We award IPR certificates to those seeking assistance in securing patents, trademarks, and other similar intellectual property rights for the products that they themselves have developed. *Napakaimportante nito para makilala ang mga developers ng technologies,*” said Anthony

Obligado, BAR-Technology Commercialization Division head.

During the closing ceremonies of the 15<sup>th</sup> NTF, BAR awarded two trademark certificates and five utility model certificates to recipients from various state universities and colleges across the Luzon region and to one non-government organization.

An IPR Certificate of Trademark Registration was awarded to Engr. Dexter Alagano of the Jose Rizal Memorial State University-Znac Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte for MECHANEW: Machines that renew.

Another recipient for the trademark registration was OPTIONS Inc. founder, Josephine Ramos for JO'S CHOCOLATES: made from only the best cocoa beans.

An IPR Certificate for a Utility Model was awarded to Dr. Dana Vera Cruz of Central Luzon State University (CLSU) for developing the Process of Eliminating Fishy Flavor from Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*). She was the project leader of the research that developed CLSU's Tilapia Ice Cream.

Lastly, Dr. Perlita Tiburcio of

Nueva Vizcaya State University received four utility model registrations for: Process for Making Shelf Stable Citrus Fruit Leather, the Process Producing Citrus-Tomato Juice, the Process Producing Carrot-Citrus Juice, and the Process for Producing Conserve with Mandarin Pomace and Rind. ### (Ephraim John J. Gestupa)

## *Dar institutes...from page 1*

look into the research proposals for funding support. Their involvement will provide a better understanding of the decision processes of research policies, achieving better use of investments in public research.

Attending with Secretary Dar in the event were Atty. Rhaegee Tamana, representing Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Food; Dr. Nicomedes Eleazar, BAR director; and Digna Sandoval, BAR OIC-assistant director. ### (Rita T. dela Cruz)

# 8 topics highlight NTF seminar

Attended by more than 90 individuals, the seminar series of the 15<sup>th</sup> Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition (NTF) held on 15 August 2019 in Diliman, Quezon City featured seven topics and one product demonstration.

Conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Research through its Technology Commercialization Division, the seminar topics include: 1) production and commercialization of specialty coffee; 2) livelihood opportunities for cacao growing communities; 3) processing technologies for *batuan* value-adding towards enterprise development in Region 6; 4) processing technologies for soybean value-adding towards enterprise development in Region 6; 5) cleft grafting for jackfruit planting material production; 6) JOVIMIN – micronutrient supplement for

small ruminants; and 7) demand requirements and market potentials for local jute fiber, sacks, and other products. After the seminar, a product demonstration for the processing of ginger candy and pastillas was also conducted.

Serving as resource speakers were Dr. Ruel Mojica of Cavite State University; Josephine Ramos of Organization for Partnerships, Teamwork, & Initiatives on Opportunities for Nature Stewards (OPTIONS), Inc.; Elizabeth Amit and Richard Geganzo of Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 6; Leonarda Londina of DA-RFO 8; Dr. Jovita Datuin of DA-RFO 1; and Dr. Remedios Abgona of Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA); and Marijun Pinyuhan, farmer beneficiary of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

As part of the seminar presentation of DA-RFO 6 on *batuan* and soybean value-adding processing technologies, a testimonial was given by one of their cooperators. Suzette Demo, an agripreneur, shared how these value-adding technologies introduced to her by DA-RFO 6 helped in uplifting her life. She was very appreciative of the help and assistance extended to her by the DA-RFO 6 in her business endeavor on *batuan* and soybean products.

Thus, she encouraged everyone to have an open mind when it comes to attending seminars conducted by DA.

The seminar series is a regular activity of the bureau during the celebration of the annual NTF as part of its commitment in technology dissemination and adoption. ###  
(Rena S. Hermoso)



L-R: Dr. Ruel Mojica of Cavite State University, Josephine Ramos of OPTIONS, Inc., Elizabeth Amit and Richard Geganzo of DA-RFO 6 serve as the resource persons during the morning session of the NTF seminar series.

PHOTOS: NTF DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE



L-R: While, Leonarda Londina of DA-RFO 8, Dr. Jovita Datuin of DA-RFO 1, Dr. Remedios Abgona of PhilFIDA, and Marijun Pinyuhan, farmer beneficiary, take the afternoon session.



# AgriTalk Cebu features vertical vegetable gardening

**M**ore than 400 Cebuanos composed of farmers, members of local government units, and agricultural practitioners attended this year's AgriTalk, a series of free agriculture seminars, held on 9 August 2019 at SM Cebu Event Center.

Spearheaded and organized by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), in collaboration with Manila Bulletin, the one-day event featured various topics on agricultural practices and package of technologies that are adaptable for urban farming.

One of the featured topics was on "Urban and Vertical Vegetable Gardening" presented by Nimfa Davis from the DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) 7. She discussed various practices of cultivating and managing plants and the soil which may easily be adapted by city dwellers.

Davis also enumerated the benefits of vertical gardening, such as: 1) serves as a local source of food and additional income for the family; 2) brings communities and families to work together; 3) educates urban children about the origins of food; and 4) creates leisure and recreational spaces for humans while having safe

and healthy food.

Other seminar topics featured were "Goat Production and Management" presented by Paul Ugay, senior agriculturist, DA-RFO 7, and "Organic Square Foot Gardening" discussed by Honorio Cervantes, farmer-partner, ATI.

Participants and attendees were welcomed by DA-RFO 7 Regional Executive Director (RED) Salvador Diputado, ATI Region 7 Asst. Center Director Grace Arago, Cebu Municipal Agriculture Officer Joelito Baclayon, and Manila Bulletin Managing Editor Yvette Tan.

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**INSET:** Honorio Cervantes (left), farmer-partner from ATI and Nimfa Davis (right), senior science research specials from DA-RFO 7, are two of the resource speakers at the AgriTalk Cebu.

Paul Ugay, senior agriculturist from DA-RFO 7 discusses the topic "Goat Production and Management."

PHOTOS:LFONTANIL





Four BAR officials and four technical staff members receive the loyalty award for rendering their service to the bureau for more than 15 years. Joining them are BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar, BAR OIC-Assistant Director Digna Sandoval and former BAR Assistant Director Teodoro Solsoloy.

PHOTO: NTF DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

# 8 BAR employees receive loyalty award

Employees of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) who have rendered continuous and satisfactory service to the government were acknowledged during the closing ceremonies of the 15<sup>th</sup> Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum and Product Exhibition (NTF) in Diliman, Quezon City last 16 August 2019.

The recipients of the loyalty award for 30 years in government service are Rodilla Lorena of the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED); Melody Memita of the Administrative Division-Records Section; and Judith Maghanoy, head of Finance Division.

Receiving the award for their

25 years of service were Dorotea Calica of the Finance Division and Salvacion Ritual, head of BAR-PMED.

Jude Ray Laguna of the Program Development Division (PDD) was awarded for his 20 years of government service.

While Joell Lales, head of PDD and Rita dela Cruz, assistant head of the Applied Communication Division were awarded for being in government service for 15 years.

Each recipient was awarded with loyalty memorabilia and a cash gift for every year of service rendered by the awardee, pursuant to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Resolution No. 02-0295, series of 2002.

As per CSC, the loyalty award is granted to all officials and employees in both national and local levels, including those from state universities and colleges and government-owned and controlled corporations.

As BAR reached a new milestone by receiving its ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Certificate by TÜV Rheinland, the bureau honors its staff for continuously delivering quality services to its stakeholders, upholding the vision of a better life for Filipinos through excellence in agriculture and fisheries research and development. ### (Ephraim John J. Gestupa)



# 16 learner-participants complete IKM mentorship program



Dr. Maria Cristeta Cuaresma, SEARCA program head for Graduate Education and Institutional Development; and Julia Lapitan, BAR Applied Communication Division head, are joined by the IKM Mentorship Program Team and the 16 IKM learner-participants and their respective supervisors during the Final Assessment and Testimonial Ceremony held on 5-7 August 2019.

The second run of the Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Mentorship Program has come full circle as 16 learner-participants were awarded completion certificates during the Final Assessment and Testimonial Ceremony held on 5-7 August 2019 at the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) Headquarters, Los Baños, Laguna.

Funded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in collaboration with SEARCA, the implementation of the course, titled “Communicating Agriculture and Fisheries Research for Inclusive and Sustainable Development,” aimed to empower participants in communicating agri-fishery information using different

multimedia platforms effectively.

The second batch of course learners were from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) regional offices and other attached agencies and staff bureaus of the Department of Agriculture.

During the testimonial ceremony, BAR and SEARCA recognized all the learners who were able to finish the course.

Special awards were also given to learners with outstanding performances in every module of the program. Mary Grace Nidoy of Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) was awarded Best Feature Story and Best Audio-Visual Presentation; Daryl Lou Battad of BAR got Best Blog Series; and Maureen Laroco of BFAR Region 1 was recognized as Most Diligent Learner-Participant.

The Top Five Most Outstanding Learner-Participants were Mary Grace Nidoy of PhilRice, Ronaldo Canabe of BFAR Region 5, Daryl Lou Battad of BAR, Rowena Bumanlag of Philippine Carabao Center, and Christine Gresola of BFAR Region 8.

“We are confident that this program has prepared you well to become champions of science communication and knowledge management in your home institutions and for the Philippine agriculture in general,” said SEARCA Director Glenn Gregorio in his opening remarks, as read by Dr. Maria Cristeta Cuaresma, SEARCA program head for Graduate Education and Institutional Development.

The program has four modules

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# BAR partners with OPTIONS Inc. in cacao training-seminar

To improve the knowledge and skills in value-adding of cacao, around thirty local cacao growers attended the training-seminar on cacao product development and marketing on 29 August 2019 in Tagkawayan, Quezon.

Spearheaded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in collaboration with Organization for Partnerships, Teamworks, and Initiatives on Opportunities for Nature Stewards (OPTIONS), Inc. and the Tagkawayan Local Government Unit, the one-day

training seminar featured the value chain of cacao to help farmers address the surplus of cacao in their area and process their produce to marketable opportunities.

Led by Josephine Ramos, managing director of OPTIONS, Inc., the training-seminar was divided into two sessions where lectures and hands-on demonstrations were conducted, respectively. Included in the lectures were the best practices in growing cacao to create quality products and chocolates. Among the topics discussed during the training-

seminar were: 1) basics of cacao beans production; 2) harvesting, postharvesting, and processing; and 3) transforming cacao beans into chocolates.

Gracing the activity were Tagkawayan Mayor Carlo Eleazar, Municipal Agriculturist Rolando Mendoza, and President John Ma Chumacera of Tagkawayan Growers Association.

In his welcome remarks, Mayor Eleazar highlighted the importance of the cacao training-seminar. *“Malaki ang nakikita kong potential ng pagde-develop ng cacao dito sa*



Nibs of unfermented and fermented beans are on display during the seminar.



Sample cacao and chocolate products of OPTIONS, Inc.



Josephine Ramos, managing director of OPTIONS, quality cacao beans through proper pest management.



ating bayan. Ang training-seminar na ito ay ang unang hakbang natin para mas lalong pag-igihin pa ang pagproseso ng cacao at maibenta ito hindi lang dito sa Tagkawayan kundi pati na rin sa mga karatig nating lugar,” said Mayor Eleazar.

Part of the activity was the distribution of information, education, and communication materials which will serve as guide for the farmers in growing and developing the cacao in their farms.

The activity is an outcome of the discussion and consultation of Mayor Carlo Eleazar with BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar on 11 June 2019 during his visit at the bureau. Furthermore, the training-seminar is part of the series of activities that will be conducted in Tagkawayan to help the farmers bring their cacao products to the market. ### (Clarisse Mae N. Abao)



Inc., discusses the best practices in growing ment.

AgriTalk Cebu...from page 9



Distribution of IEC materials during AgriTalk seminar PHOTO: LFONTANIL

RED Diputado cited the importance of the activity. “Farmers and farm entrepreneurs of Cebu are privileged to learn about new farming technologies from experts. The technologies that will be learned are developed and tested through research which are ready to be applied,” he said. Meanwhile, Asst. Center Director Arago thanked the organizers for choosing Cebu as the venue for the activity. She also encouraged the attendees to practice and adopt the knowledge gained from the seminar series. Also part of the activity was

the distribution of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials like flyers, brochures, crop calendars, and technology digest to the participants. The distribution of IEC materials is an initiative of the bureau, through its Applied Communication Division, in collaboration with the Korea-based organization, Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperative Initiative. The fourth and final leg of this year’s seminar series is scheduled on October which will be held in Dasmarinas, Cavite. ### (Leoveliza C. Fontanil)



**16 learner-participants...from page 11**

introducing the foundations of science communication for sustainable development employed in print, audio-visual, and online platforms.

The four modules were: 1) science communication in the context of inclusive growth and sustainable development in agriculture research; 2) writing for dissemination of agriculture technology and research results; 3) photography and videography for dissemination of agriculture technology; and 4) online writing and production for dissemination of agriculture technology and research results.

In her message, BAR-Applied Communication Division Head Julia Lapitan challenged the learner-participants to work harder toward the development of the country's agriculture sector.

"You will be the sector's knowledge managers and storytellers. I trust you that everything you learned here will increase the visibility of agri-fishery R&D. BAR, realizing the value of knowledge management, is truly proud of you," she said.

Meanwhile, a message on behalf of the learners was delivered by Mary Grace Nidoy as the top learner of the batch.

She put emphasis on how much she appreciates the mentorship program being one of the very few that capacitates those who deliver information.

"We go back to our office more equipped, more critical, and more discerning. The real challenge now is to apply and share the lessons we learned in communicating research outputs: to make sense of the information that matters the most to our farmers and fisherfolk, and to make the information available and accessible—from practice to praxis," Nidoy concluded.

BAR and SEARCA launched the second batch of the mentorship program last 19-21 November 2018, which ran for eight months. Using the blended learning approach, the mentorship program implemented modules through combination of online and face-to-face sessions.

Mentors were composed of professors from the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Development Communication. ###  
(*Jhon Marvin R. Surio*)

**NOAP reviews...turn to page 16**

objectives, Dr. Pomares focused on the formulation of ORCM largely composed of pellets made from plant material that goats forage from, all of which were grown organically.

The ration mix is made up of grasses and legumes that are cut, dried, pulverized and made into pellets. The forage plants that served as raw ingredients include setaria, atratum, napier, and ipil-ipil while the legumes include rensonii, indigofera, and arachis pinto.

"*Ang isang objective ng research project na ito ay yung adaptability ng mga farmers so nakapag-identify na tayo ng mga cooperators upang mag-establish ng demonstration farms,*" added Dr. Pomares.

Benjamin Lao, one of the cooperators of the project, explained that his decision to collaborate with Dr. Pomares is mainly because the technology is low cost and that it guarantees an entirely organic approach to the process of preparing goat feeds.

NOAP was established on January 2012 to promote, propagate, further develop and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines towards a competitive and sustainable organic agriculture industry that contributes to better farm incomes and sustainable livelihood, to improve health for farmers and consumers, to strengthen environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and resilience to climate change, and to further social justice.

The program served as a guide for the conduct of Organic Agriculture activities under the Department of Agriculture and its implementing units, including the Bureau of Agricultural Research which is responsible for the evaluation, monitoring, and review of research and development projects submitted for funding support. ###  
(*Ephraim John J. Gestupa*)



BAR-Applied Communication Division Head Julia Lapitan encourages the learner-participants to do their part in making the agriculture and fisheries R&D visible to its intended users.

PHOTO: JMSURIO



# YLP's soil health campaign assessed

To assess the accomplishments of the Yamang Lupa Program (YLP) and to discuss its future activities, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) convened the YLP Management Group in a meeting on 27 August 2019 in Quezon City.

The group is composed of BAR, as the lead coordinating agency, together with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM); Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) CALABARZON; 8; 9; Southern Luzon State University (SLSU); and the Visayas State University (VSU).

Implemented in 2014, the YLP aimed to rejuvenate the soil by studying and applying the principles toward improving upland and rainfed areas through the use of scientific technologies while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. It is also intended to increase productivity and income of farmers by 20 percent through improving soil health condition as an entry point.

Engr. Samuel Contreras of BSWM, chair of the management group, presided the meeting.

In attendance were Maria Melba Wee, regional technical director for research policy, planning and

regulatory of DA-RFO 9; Dr. Elvira Torres, regional technical director for research and regulation of RFO-8; Digna Narvacan, research division chief of DA-RFO CALABARZON; Leonarda Londina, research division chief of DA-RFO-8; Dr. Othello Capuno, vice president for research and extension of VSU; Joell Lales, head of BAR-Program Development Division (PDD), Patrick Cabrera and Thea Hernandez of the bureau's PDD and Program Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED), respectively.

Dr. Elvira Torres in partnership with VSU; Dr. Gondelina Radovan, vice president for Planning, Research, Extension, Production and Development of SLSU in collaboration with DA-RFO CALABARZON; and Engr. Roger Bagaforo, research division chief of DA-RFO 9 presented the accomplishments of their respective projects.

Since the program was piloted in three identified regions (CALABARZON, 8 and 9), stratified soil sampling and analysis were done covering an aggregate area of 32,903.30 hectares.

The project has generated and

distributed 2,528 soil health cards to farmer-participants. And a total of 3,705 farmers have been engaged and involved in the project.

The soil health card is a one-page information material that reflects general information of the farmer and soil chemical analysis, among others.

Farm productivity was reported to have incremental increases base on the production of rice, corn, fruits, and vegetables during project implementation, as compared to farmers' practices.

The provision of soil health cards is one of the major outputs of YLP. With the aid of the said cards, farmers can make the necessary adjustments on soil management in terms of fertilizer application to supply the needed balance nutrients of the soil thus improving the soil health.

The YLP is an approach that aims to assess soil health condition and develop resilient rainfed agriculture towards improving rural livelihoods. The program is in partnership between the Indian-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropic and DA.

### (Patrick Raymund A. Lesaca)



Engr. Samuel Contreras (left) of BSWM presides over the YLP management group meeting on 27 August 2019.

PHOTO: PRLSACA



# NOAP reviews Goat Project

On 21-23 August 2019, BAR held a review of 17 projects under the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP).

Twelve of which were project proposals, two were on-going projects and three were completed projects.

One of the completed projects presented titled “Development of Organic Complete Ration Mix (OCRM): Adoption, processing and commercialization for organic dairy

goat production” was implemented by the Animal Research Division of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) Agricultural Research Center in Kabacan, Cotabato under the leadership of Dr. Cayetano Pomares.

The study aimed to come up with an organic agriculture system wherein hybrid goats are given feeds made from organically grown plants which maximizes their potential in producing dairy.

*“Ang layunin po nito ay makapag-develop ng organic ration mix feeding para sa Philippine hybrid goats upang makamit ang sustainable milk production.*

*Layunin din po natin maipalaganap at ma-commercialize ang ating teknolohiyang na-develop sa proyektong ito tulad ng fresh milk, sabon, at pastries,”* said Dr. Pomares.

In order to accomplish the said  
*turn to page 14*



USM tapped two cooperators, the Lao Integrated Farm Inc. and the Saljay Farm, to serve as demo farms in the utilization of formulated feeds and silage feeding.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. CAYETANO C. POMARES/USM



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