

BARChronicle

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

DA-BAR marks 34th anniversary; underscores R4D response amid pandemic



DA-BAR director Dr. Vivencio Mamaril presents the bureau's significant accomplishments in 2020. PHOTO: MEAQUINO

As the bureau continues to elevate research for development (R4D) response for resilient agriculture and fishery food systems amid the pandemic, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) celebrated its 34th anniversary on 24-27 August 2021 in Diliman, Quezon City and livestreamed at the bureau's official Facebook page.

With the theme "BAR@34: Pagdiriwang para sa Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita ng mga

Magsasaka at Mangingisda," series of activities were conducted during the four-day event led by DA-BAR director Dr. Vivencio Mamaril.

In his opening remarks and Director's report, he underscored how the bureau responded to challenges brought by the pandemic and how it adapted to the ever-changing landscape of the agriculture and fishery R4D by recalibrating its strategies.

"Last year's story of resilience is only a small fraction of the similar

but intertwined narratives that [DA-]BAR has been in its 34 years of existence. Circumstances and people may have been different but the attitude and response have stayed the same. The bureau continuously works hard to improve the implementation of its budget and we have remained relevant to our stakeholders. The professionalism, cooperation, and support of the bureau's staff and our partner research institutions have all contributed to what the bureau ▶ 2

Agri chief recognizes DA-BAR's milestones in 34th year anniversary

Agriculture Secretary William Dar lauded the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR)'s milestones during the week-long celebration of its 34th anniversary on 24 August 2021 in Diliman, Quezon City.

Dar graced the event by delivering an inspirational message recognizing the bureau's efforts over the years saying that, "rising above the adverse effects of the pandemic is a very

difficult task [in itself], but as the agency's founding director, I cannot be more proud to see how DA-BAR evolves and adapts to the changing needs of its stakeholders."

The banner programs of the bureau were highlighted during Dar's inspirational message, such as the National Technology Commercialization Program and the Community-based Participatory Action Research program. ▶ 2

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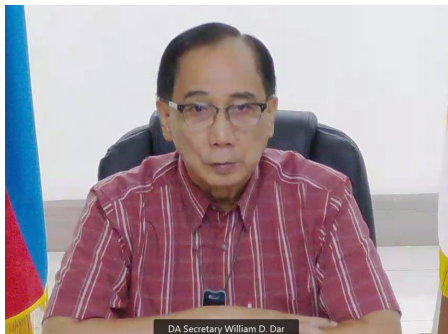
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DA-BAR, Advisory Board work towards a strengthened and resilient R4D system



DA Sec. William Dar, ABR4D chair, shares his message to DA-BAR and ABR4D members.

Aimed at crafting and implementing a comprehensive research for development (R4D) plans towards a strengthened and resilient R4D system, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) conducted the Second Advisory Board for Research for Development (ABR4D) Meeting on 25 August 2021 via Cisco Webex.

The said meeting provided a venue to present the plans, programs, and activity updates of DA-BAR—to which the board members composed of officials and representatives from various public and private sector were sought with guidance and recommendations for the continuous improvement of the bureau.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar, ABR4D chair, presented the OneDA Reform Agenda during the said meeting. The said framework focuses on the four pillars, which are consolidation, modernization, industrialization, and professionalization.

DA-BAR director Dr. Vivencio Mamaril led the presentation of the bureau's Transformative R4D Framework, as well as the R4D program priorities aligned to the

◀1...Agri chief recognizes

Dar also mentioned the successful implementation of the Mentoring and Attracting Youth in Agriculture, popularly known as MAYA program, during the pandemic which was coordinated by DA-BAR.

He also noted how the bureau remained committed despite the pandemic, by handling the Mentoring and Attracting Youth in Agribusiness program as initiated by DA. The program aimed to encourage the

OneDA approach.

Raymond Patrick Cabrera, DA-BAR Research Program Development Division head presented the bureau's new R4D priorities, as well as the major guidelines for packaging R4D projects. This was followed by a presentation by DA-BAR Research Coordination Division head Dr. Anthony Obligado on the DA-BAR-funded technologies ready for scaling.

DA Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Fermin Adriano, ABR4D co-chair; DA Undersecretary and Chief-of-Staff Dr. Leocadio Sebastian, together with the members of the board provided guidance and laid down various recommendations.

Among the key recommendations are the need to further strengthen the R4D prioritization process by identifying the needs of the sector; to include champion commodities with good export potential; to strengthen support to commercialization and scaling; and to strengthen linkage with the private sector, among others.

Upon receiving observations and recommendations from the group, director Mamaril and assistant director Joell Lales commit to comply with the instructions and to exercise due diligence in selecting research proposals to be funded.

In 2020, Secretary Dar issued a Special Order for the creation of the ABR4D with a goal to elevate and sustain the quality of R4D plans and programs toward a more proactive and innovative contributory enabler towards inclusive agribusiness. ### (Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino)

youth to engage and venture in agriculture and fisheries.

Lastly, Dar challenged DA-BAR to start conceptualizing about the future agriculture that the country needs to have one generation from now.

“*Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang isang Pilipinas na may sapat na pagkain at mga magsasaka't mangingisdang may maunlad at masaganang buhay sa kabila ng pandemya,*” Dar ended. ### (Jhon Marvin R. Surio)

◀1...DA-BAR marks 34th

is today and how the bureau will fare in the years to come,” he said.

Further, director Mamaril discussed the bureau's significant accomplishments in 2020 through its funded programs, activities, and projects, as well as their alignment to DA's core strategies: modernization, industrialization, consolidation, and professionalization. Specifically, notable R4D funded technologies and support services were highlighted—reflecting significant contribution to productivity and profitability improvements, farm-level application, among others.

DA-BAR assistant director Joell Lales led the announcement of the bureau's adherence to ISO 9001: 2015 standard. As certified by TÜV Rheinland, the bureau maintained its ISO certification after successfully passing the Second Surveillance Audit (remote) on 5 August 2021.

Assistant director Lales concluded the celebration. “*Diyan nakikita ang katuturan ng research for development—na hindi lang tayo puro sa papel lang o mga report. Iyan ay may pinatutunguhan o pinakikinabangan,* [and] that is the essence of this celebration.

Ako, sa ngalan ng bureau, ay nagpapasalamat sa lahat po ng nagtulongan para dito: sa lahat ng ating kawani mula sa baba hanggang sa mga opisyal, and of course sa ating direktor na napaka-supportive sa lahat ng ating ginagawa,” DA-BAR assistant director Lales said during his closing message. ### (Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino)

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.

For comments and suggestions, contact us through tel. nos.: (+632) 8461 2900 or (+632) 8461 2800 local nos. 3121, 2143, and 2105 or email us at kmisd@bar.gov.ph. To subscribe, please send a formal request to our email.

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17,000 sweetpotato planting materials for distribution to individual farmers and FCAs in Cordillera

A total of 17,000 sweetpotato planting materials are set to be distributed to individual farmers and farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in Benguet and other provinces of Cordillera from September to December 2021.

In 2020, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), awarded PhP 3 million fund to support research projects such as the enhancement of technology transfer on vegetable seed and seedling production of sweetpotato, mushroom, and ginger in the region.

According to Josie Dasayon, DA-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Research Division science research specialist, they had already conducted trainings on single node cutting and distributed 23,000 planting materials in Itogon, Kapangan, Tuba, and Tublay early this year.

Single node cutting is obtained from the potted mother planting materials distributed to farmers. The vines are cut into single nodes using disinfected blade, leaving one or two nodes where new shoots can develop for the next harvest of vine cuttings. The cuttings are planted in a potted media and when they have grown to at least five nodes, they are transplanted.

Further, seven sweetpotato varieties are being distributed—Beniazuma, Haponita, Immitlog, Basilan, Pakak, Bokod, and Bengueta.

Based on the division's sweetpotato research in Benguet, the municipalities of Itogon, Kapangan, Tuba, and Tublay were identified as suitable areas for planting sweetpotato and were selected best in terms of short maturing duration and high yield.

The Research Division will coordinate with the local government units (LGUs) not only in Benguet but in other provinces of Cordillera for the distribution of the planting materials. For the interested sweetpotato growers, they can coordinate with their respective LGUs or pen a letter addressed to DA-CAR.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DA-CAR RAFIS

Sweetpotato, locally known as *dukto* or *lukto* is an essential crop in Cordillera. It is considered a staple food, supplement to rice and being added to local delicacies in the Philippines. The leaves, tops, and edible roots are being utilized as food or feeds and it is considered a profitable commodity.

“*Dukto* is part of our culture especially in Cordillera. The importance of planting sweetpotato is its health benefits and it can be an additional income for the family,” Dasayon said. **### (Catherin Cimatu-Toyeng/DA-CAR RAFIS)**

4 webinars held in celebration of DA-BAR anniversary

Viewed live by more than 650 people, four webinars were conducted via Facebook live on 24-27 August 2021 in celebration of the 34th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR).

Topics included product costing and marketing, innovative chevon-based products, soil-less herb garden for the kitchen, and aquaponics for urban households.

Michael Caballes, Bukid Amara chief farmer and owner; Kathlene Claire Ganareal, Central Luzon State University (CLSU) science research specialist; Jesse Descalsota, University of the Philippines Los Baños-Institute of Plant Breeding researcher; and Marx Perfecto Garcia, DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources senior aquaculturist, served as resource speakers.

Caballes shared the following concepts: marketing, product costing, and marketing strategies

for agricultural products. He emphasized that marketing is all about putting the right product in the right place, at the right price, and at the right time.

He said, “*Ang pagsasaka ay negosyo. So dapat ang trato natin sa pagtanim ay negosyo. Dapat maka-develop tayo ng business plan na hindi tayo gumagaya sa iba. Dapat may sarili tayong value proposition.*”

Ganareal talked about the instant chevon-based products developed by CLSU and funded by DA-BAR. Registered under the trademark, K-zser, these products include: *papaitan*, *kapukan*, *tapa*, and *bakkwa*. Their research showed that these products are highly acceptable by the consumers.

Considered financially viable, this value-adding technology is ready for transfer and adoption. She explained that there are three modes of commercialization available: complete sell-out, ► 4

16 DA-BAR staff receive due recognition

In celebration of being the lead coordinating agency for agriculture and fishery research for development for 34 years, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) honored 16 employees during its anniversary celebration on 24 August 2021 in Diliman, Quezon City.

With the celebration almost lasting for a week, its programme of activities also included the oath-taking ceremony of newly hired, appointed, and promoted staff, as well as the recognition of loyalty awardees and retirees of the bureau.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar virtually officiated the oath taking. Marilou Oren (Administrative Officer IV (Budget Officer II)) was the newly hired staff, while Glenn Dimayuga (Agriculturist II) and Vincent Visitacion (Administrative Aide VI (Clerk III)) were newly appointed. The promoted DA-BAR staff included Raymond Patrick Cabrera (Supervising Agriculturist), Melissa Resma (Information Systems Analyst III), and Jay Invinsor Bermas (Senior Agriculturist).

On the other hand, leading the recognition under the Performance Award were DA-BAR director Dr. Vivencio Mamaril and assistant director Joell Lales.

Acknowledged for their 30 years of government service, DA-BAR Loyalty Awardees included Corazon Barretto, Supply and Property Unit head; Julia Lapitan, Research Coordination Division

(RCD) assistant head; Lyn Pardilla, Knowledge Management and Information Systems Division (KMISD)-Scientific Literature System Section head; and Gretel Rivera, Cash Unit head.

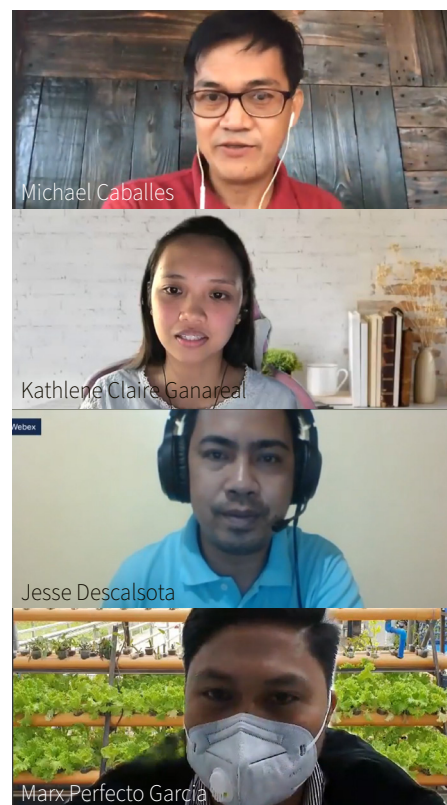
Serving the bureau for 15 years—Magdalena Calimutan, Procurement Unit administrative officer, and Jojit Velasquez, who is one of the bureau’s pilots, were also among the loyalty awardees.

The DA-BAR was also pleased to present the Personnel Development Award to Dr. Anthony Obligado, RCD head, who graduated this SY 2020-2021 with a Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science and Management. The said award is given to permanent employees who has finished their Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral Degrees through personal expenses.

An audio-visual presentation was also prepared to honor former DA-BAR officials and staff who have retired. Thoughtful messages were given to Dr. Nicomedes Eleazar, longest-serving former director; Digna Sandoval, former assistant director; and Elvira Rapada, former KMISD-Information Management Section technical staff.

With the theme “BAR@34: *Pagdiriwang para sa Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita ng mga Magsasaka at Mangingisda,*” the anniversary celebration was also livestreamed via the bureau’s official Facebook page. ### (**Jireh Alodia R. Laxamana**)

◀3...4 webinars held in



joint venture, and technology licensing.

Descalsota discussed how to grow herbs without soil for your kitchen. Producing your own herbs at home ensures that you have a fresh and abundant source.

From the Latin word that means “working with water,” hydroponics uses nutrient solution as well as promotes rapid growth of plant, higher yield, and superior quality. He also shared the different types of hydroponics systems such as wick system, water culture, ebb and flow, drip, nutrient film technique, and aeroponics system.

Garcia introduced aquaponics to the viewers or the combination of rearing fish in a closed environment alongside soil-less planting. He also discussed the various types and designs such as the nutrient film type, substrate-based or media-based technique, floating raft or deep water culture, and hybrid. Operation and management of the aquaponics system were also discussed.

The webinar series is part of the bureau’s regular activities to disseminate and promote research-based agriculture and fishery technologies as well as other relevant information. ### (**Rena S. Hermoso**)

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