

BAR staff members attend e-gov project management seminar

Key staff members of the Information Communication and Technology Section of the Management Information Systems Division (ICTS-MISD) of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) joined 31 representatives of the other government agencies who attended the e-Gov Project Management Seminar on at the NCC Building, in UP Diliman, Quezon City on 19-23 March 2007.

The seminar, conducted by the Commission on Information and Communications Technology through the Human Capital Development Group, was attended and participated in by Mr. Herminigildo Quibuyen, Ms. Lalaine Perlawan, and Mr. Bernardo Manuel.

The seminar was designed to provide IT managers, project managers, supervisors, and staff members who are involved in managing government ICT projects with the basic management concepts and skills that will integrate all the relevant factors needed to manage such project.

Mr. John J. Macasio, a certified IT service manager and a project consultant of the Philippine Commission on Information and Communication Technology (PCICT), was the seminar's resource speaker. He lectured on project



(L-R) MISD-ICT staff members, Herminigildo S. Quibuyen, Bernardo S. Manuel, and Lalaine A. Perlawan, participate during the e-Gov Project Management Seminar.

management conceptual framework, processes, lifecycle and various tools for project management.

To easily facilitate the discussion, all the 31 participants were grouped into three. On the first day of the activity, the groups were required to brainstorm on five activities of a project manager and how to achieve these activities. On the second and third days, Mr. Macasio introduced various free open source software (FOSS) and taught the attendees on how to use them. He assigned the groups to formulate a "project management methodology" using the software which is coupled with

different project management templates.

The last day highlighted the seminar wherein each group was given an assignment to create a project management detailed plan, a web portal for the project, and upload it to internet. The portal should contain all the parameters of the project that the clients' need. The implications of the seminar to the government are: less cost in government budget through open sourcing of hardware and software applications, cost-effective management of project, development of skills to become an effective project manager. (Lalaine A. Perlawan)

photo courtesy of Lalaine A. Perlawan

JICA Philippines conducts workshop on agriculture/fishery technology development and extension

Recent developments in agriculture and fisheries worldwide led the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Philippines to conduct a workshop on agriculture and fisheries technology development and extension.

The workshop, organized by Mr. Ichiro Tsurusaki, JICA expert for DA, was conducted on 09 March 2007 at the main conference room of the DA-Information Technology Center for Agriculture and Fisheries building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide an avenue for comprehensive understanding of the Philippine agriculture system focusing on technology development and extension between and among the JICA agriculture overseas development authority and DA units and its clientele.

It was attended by JICA experts of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice),

National Irrigation Administration (NIA), DA-Program Development Service (PDS), representatives from the JICA Philippine Office, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Japanese Embassy, senior officials of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), NIA, local government units (LGUs) of Pampanga, Laguna and

Nueva Ecija, and some farmer-cooperators.

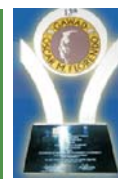
During the workshop, four major topics were discussed by the invited speakers. These were the dissemination and technology transfer strategies used for farmers and fisherfolk, coordination with other key players and agencies on agriculture and fisheries extension, issues and concerns on the delivery of technologies, and

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CPAR consultation in 10 poorest provinces kicks-off in Masbate

Masbate, situated in the Bicol region, is among the poorest provinces identified by the National Statistics Coordination Board in 2000. Of Masbate's population, 62.8 percent is below the poverty threshold. This means that in 2000, only 37.2 percent of Masbate's total population had the capacity to attain the province's minimum level of income, which was 11,488 PhP, to be able to have an adequate standard of living.

To alleviate the problem on poverty, the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), has focused its R&D initiatives to the poorest provinces of the country. In this regard, the Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) project of BAR will be implemented in the 10 poorest provinces in the country, including Masbate.

The implementation of the CPAR project for Masbate commenced with a project consultation on March 19-22. A consultation team composed of five representatives from BAR and one from Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) visited the province on the said dates.

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(Top left photo) Mr. Tito Z. Arevalo (right) gives Masbate Mayor Socrates M. Tuazon a walkthrough about the CPAR project. (Top right, bottom left photos) CPAR team during the consultation-workshop planning with the farmers. (Bottom, right photo) Mr. Arevalo (right) consults with farmers during the site visit in Brgy. Malinta, Masbate City.

Sec. Yap signs AO for CPAR implementation

The Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR), a banner program of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) can now be fully implemented. This was made possible through the issuance of Administrative Order No. 8 Series of 2007 signed by Secretary Arthur C. Yap of the Department of Agriculture (DA) dated 27 February 2007. The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) recently released new guidelines to avail itself of CPAR grants.

BAR views the importance of community participation in midstream and downstream research and

technology awareness among farmers and fisherfolks. In 1998, the collaborative CPAR program for all regions in the country was institutionalized.

CPAR aims to: (1) enhance the role of the R&D system in technology transfer and production management system; (2) institutionalize the active community participation in the overall management of farm and coastal resources; and (3) develop strategies for effective integration of support services for the development of agricultural-enterprises.

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

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Yap encourages vegetable industry towards profit and market promotion

photo by Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez



DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap delivers his message via teleconference during the Vegetable Congress.

An environment of profitability and market promotion. This was the key message of Secretary Arthur C. Yap of the Department of Agriculture (DA), urging the support of all stakeholders, at a teleconference during the 5th National Vegetable Congress in Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City on 8-9 March 2007. This year's vegetable congress had for its theme, *Shaping the Vegetable Industry Towards the Mega-Challenges of the 21st Century*.

The Congress was a joint activity of DA-Regional Field Unit (RFU) IV-A, the Regional Fisheries Agricultural Council (RAFC), Philippine Vegetable Industry Development Board (PVIDB), and Region IV-A Vegetable Industry Council, Inc. (RVIC).

The activity started with the opening of exhibits with Assistant Secretary Salvador S. Salacup leading the ribbon cutting. He was joined by Assistant Secretary Dennis B. Araullo, Mr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), and Mr. Lyndon SC. Tan, president of the RVIC, Inc. Engr. Marcos T. Villegas, president of PVIDB led the ceremonial opening of the Congress.

Sec. Yap, in his keynote address, highlighted the 10 priority projects for possible international funding, namely: (1) sustaining rural growth; (2) infra-related projects; (3)

irrigation; (4) national grains highway; (5) repair of small water impounding projects; (6) putting up of correct technology (systems of pre-cooling or refrigeration); (7) postharvest infrastructure (additional tramline, farm-to-market roads); (8) production support; (9) logistic delivery; and (10) access to final retail points (development of additional markets for

15 Million consumers of NCR, opening of Barangay Food Terminals (BFT), and agribusiness centers).

Also, one of the highlights of the event was the launching of the book titled *Package of Technology of Different Vegetable Crops*, published by RFU IVA-Technology Generation Unit published and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Some of the topics presented were the role of the vegetable industry in alleviating poverty and hunger (ASec. Araullo), effects of globalization to vegetable industry (USec Segfredo R. Serrano), and comparative productivity of vegetable farms in selected Asian countries (Dr. Rodel G. Maghirang, HVCC). Mr. William S. Co, agriculture attache in China, also discussed the vegetable partnership with China.

In closing, this year's host, Mr. Lyndon SC. Tan, handed over the key to Dir. Abelardo R. Bragas, OIC regional executive director (RED) of DA-RFU IVA, for the hosting of the 6th National Vegetable Congress. The two-day activity was well-attended by farmers all over the country, representatives from the private sector, stakeholders, and local government units (LGUs).

The congress aimed to develop a well-organized machinery that can spell a big difference in boosting the vegetable industry of the region and the country as well. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)

photos by Rjta T. dela Cruz



Prof. Fortunato T. dela Peña, DOST undersecretary for S&T services, welcomes the participants in behalf of DOST Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro.



Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino (left), head of BAR-MISD and former coordinator of the NTCP, hosts the seminar and Dr. Manuel F. Bonifacio (right), BAR consultant, throws questions at the panelists.



Dr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy (left), assistant director of BAR, officially closes the activity with an inspiring message. Meanwhile, Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (right), director of PCARRD- Technology Outreach and Promotion Division, answers inquiries during the open forum session.



Audience during the seminar.

Establishing solid innovation policy for effective R&D technology transfer

by Rjta T. dela Cruz

A solid framework for the transfer of technologies from publicly funded research, a policy to harmonize everything. This was the gist of the seminar on the "Proposed National Framework on Technology Transfer" held at the BSWM Convention Hall on 27 March 2007. The event was spearheaded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR).

The activity underlined the importance of having a sound policy and strong support to technology transfer of publicly funded research and how establishing this framework could result in strong productivity growth and eventually beef up the economic development of the country as a whole.

Agriculture and fishery research and development (R&D) plays a crucial role in promoting a nation's economic growth, improving environmental quality, and assuring innovative scientific research. The role that R&D plays in the economic development affects the lives of people across the country.

Far from simply transforming theoretical ideas into adoptable technologies, R&D has taken the lead in helping improve the way people live. This is the challenge that BAR has taken by heart—an agency tasked with ensuring that all agricultural researches are coordinated and undertaken for their maximum utility to agriculture. The key word that we want to emphasize here is maximum utility. But how is this to be attained?

Being a central coordinator and manager of agriculture and fisheries R&D programs in the country, BAR focuses its objective toward an optimized R&D system, manned by adequate and trained scientists who will enable the agriculture and fisheries sectors to compete in the global market. The ultimate gauge is to have these technologies from research be of great use to the ultimate beneficiaries—the farmers and fisherfolk.

The Bureau envisions a stable and progressive future for the Filipinos through excellence in research and development in agriculture and fisheries, specifically to transform the agriculture and fishery industries from a resource-based to a technology-based industry. In doing so, the BAR must be able to develop knowledge, methods, and technologies that can make the sector competitive and efficient. But without a national policy framework on technology transfer, this is like putting all efforts into waste.

Conducting the seminar on the "Proposed National Policy Framework on Technology Transfer" is one of the initial steps to achieve this goal. Together with DOST, the Bureau continues to improve the process by making immediate consultations and forging strong linkages to hopefully surmount the existing weaknesses identified in the system and reinforce innovation policies and frameworks to smoothly operate the flow of knowledge and technologies directly to the concerned industries.

The government ensures that R&D is at the core of our efforts to reconstruct and develop the economic status of the country. This is necessary to ensure that the benefits of research are part of our proactive response to the challenge of poverty eradication and underdevelopment in the country. 🌱

Setting R&D directions for community of practice

by Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD

In response to the emerging trend and continuous development of agriculture and fisheries strategies and approaches, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) once again is taking the lead and making its efforts proactive in research and development.

This time, it is about “Building Development-Oriented Community of Practice.”

Why building on development-oriented community of practice? What do we mean by this? How do we go about it? Who will be involved? When do we start leading its initial activity?

These are some of the questions which we believe are now popping up into your minds. Well, we will provide you with basic understanding on the concept and perspective of development-oriented community of practice. We encourage you to look at its implication as it supports agriculture and fisheries resource management.

Historically, community of practice was observed one and a half decades ago in Australia as a modality to improve their extension system, particularly on land care management. Although the other practitioners and advocates were ahead of us, our creativity and initiative paved the way

for the development of innovative steps and used these for information communication technology and development management. More so, the advent of dynamic knowledge management, we gave more emphasis and its relevance is now anchored on agriculture and fisheries resource management. The exploration of its applicability is wide-range and could be practiced by a variety of stakeholders and key players in development.

As viewed contextually, community of practice is focused on information that is shared and interpreted by individuals who are keen on making a difference using best practices with one goal - that is development-orientation. Specifically, community of practice is defined as a group of practitioners who share a common interest or passion in an area of competence and are willing to share the experience of their practice.

Another definition states that community of practice may be groups of people who share a common concern or passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. These two definitions exemplarily support the efforts of the practitioners when they



photo by Marlowe U. Aquino

were in the verge of making their land care applicable to the needs and interests of the people with appropriate management skills. But for us, we used it to support our efforts in analyzing the processes behind the best practices of the farmers and fisherfolk and take that information from the processes and practices to make the leap in agriculture and fisheries development.

In addition, we made sure that relevant information will be used as an effective and efficient factor in agriculture and fisheries resource management within the realm of community development.

Setting the direction for another researchable area in agriculture and fisheries highlights more on information communication and social change. Related to this, we made sure that BAR will assist in improving the living standard of small farmers and fisherfolk in the rural areas by reconstituting their agricultural and fishery practices by enhancing their access to knowledge, technology, and services. These practices will be enhanced to energize agriculture and fisheries toward enterprise development.

Furthermore, these new researchable areas will encourage researchers and social scientists to work more on a holistic manner with strong development orientation. As we move toward achieving our goal, we have prepared a program proposal that would generate resources to support research proposals to address this new area.

May this serve as an invitation and challenge to make our work attuned to the needs and priorities in making a difference in Philippine.

Sec. Yap...from page 1

As stated in the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (AFMA), the technology plays a pivotal role in propelling the development of the A&F sector. Organizing farming communities is deemed important for a cost-effective utilization of technologies and emphasizes the need for complementation of supportive services.

On a broader perspective, AO 8 states that through CPAR, “the participation of the farming/fishing community in the implementation of the project shall be enjoined to fast-track technology transfer”. This would further sensitize the farmers and fisherfolk on the value of participatory action program and of information-based decision-making. Also, this would address the pressing problem of poverty in the country, resulting in increases in productivity and income generation.

CPAR program shall encompass four approaches: (1) farming systems development; (2) farm and coastal management resources management; (3) total farm utilization and total family involvement; and (4) integration and complementation of support services (including credit and marketing facilities).
(Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)

photo by Rita T. dela Cruz



Corn RDE sets directions and priorities for the next 5 years

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), in coordination with the Corn RDE Network headed by Dr. Artemio M. Salazar met with various key stakeholders for a round-table discussion on corn R&D directions and priorities for the next five years on 29 March 2007 at the BAR Conference Room, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The meeting was called specifically to consult and validate the corn R&D programs and projects vis-à-vis the current issues and concerns faced by the industry today. In relation to this, Dr. Salazar presented the Corn R&D Agenda and Programs for 2006-2010, which is an output of the “National Consultative Workshop for the Updating of RDE Agenda and Programs” held recently in Tagaytay City.

The round-table discussion was also conducted to identify specific programs and priorities for implementation this year. The identification of programs is based on the needs of the industry and issues and

concerns affecting the corn industry in the country.

The meeting was facilitated by BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy, who was also the lead discussant, along with Dr. Salazar and Dr. Candida B. Adalla, dean of the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Agriculture (UPLB-CA). The round-table discussion was attended by 29 participants from the private sector, state colleges and universities (SCUs), staff members of bureaus and attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture, GMA Corn Program, DA-Policy Research Service, and key staff of BAR.

One major issue raised during the meeting was the need for the corn R&D sector to have a policy direction for the whole industry to follow and act upon. Specifically, this was suggested by Dr. Leonardo A. Gonzales, president of the STRIVE Foundation, who reiterated the need for a situational analysis of the corn industry that will dig deep into its current situation,

particularly on what researches should be conducted that will create impact on the corn industry as a whole. Dr. Gonzales also lamented that most of the researches prioritized and conducted were up to farm level only and very few researches were conducted about the industry itself, with no follow through studies. He suggested that if a situational analysis of the industry was conducted, the major stakeholders and key players will have a wider grasp of the real situation and take on the right and wise directions from there.

Dr. James P. Mateo, vice-president of the Agri Specialist, Inc., added that today, the no-corn importation in 2008 will continue to be a dream for the corn industry. To solve and realize this dream, the R&D has to be visible and the government has to support it the way other countries like China and Taiwan are supporting their R&D sector. If not, the country will continuously be hounded by this long overdue problem of corn insufficiency. He added that, today, the industry is faced with the problem of “wastages and damages” owing to the occurrence of pests and diseases that the R&D sector must continue to address to increase corn production.

On the topic of envisioning, major corn stakeholders urged the R&D sector to also look into the industry in the next five years, particularly its effect on the recent enactment of the Biofuel Act into law and ethanol production in the country. Corn is identified as one major source of bioethanol, thus, the industry must project how corn production will develop and its impact on the livestock and poultry industry. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

PhilRice conducts training on producing crop suitability maps

As a part of the implementation of the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (OPAPA), the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) conducted a training workshop on the applications of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) at PhilRice in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on March 19- 23. Mr. Joel Abunda, GIS specialist from the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) served

as one of the resource speakers for the seminar-workshop regarding the principles and theories of GIS.

The training workshop, “Training on Producing Crop Suitability Maps for different Regions in the Philippines”, aimed to train the personnel of PhilRice on developing crop suitability maps through GIS applications. GIS is a tool for collecting, storing, and transforming

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BAR Assistant Director Solsoloy keynotes URS graduation

Remember that success is achieved by people who use their knowledge and strength creatively, especially by those who dare to be different."

Dr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research, stressed this when he keynoted the commencement exercises of University of Rizal System Rodriguez Campus at Amityville subdivision, San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal on 28 March 2007.

Along the theme "URS Graduates: Responding to Global Challenges", Dr. Solsoloy gave bits of advice about taking risks and being successful.

He challenged and at the same time inspired the graduates to find good jobs amidst the depressed economy and to act upon the problems long addressed by society such as economic depression and poverty. He also encouraged the graduates to be a part of the service sector by engaging in entrepreneurship and not solely depending on the government to provide them jobs.

Aside from his inspiring words, Dr. Solsoloy highlighted the importance of the agriculture sector as source of living and as a component of the economy, thus should not be neglected. He reiterated that about 35 percent of the population still depends on farming and fishing for survival and that the agriculture and fishery sectors

contributed a significant 20.3 percent to the country's gross domestic product last year. Dr. Solsoloy further said that continuous research and development must be employed for the improvement of the mentioned sectors. He cited examples on the researches conducted for the improvement of rice varieties, hybridization of tilapia, and improved technology for the production and post-production of mangoes which benefited the farmers, fisherfolk and consumers in the end.

Dr. Solsoloy concluded his speech by urging the graduates to work hard and serve the people and also enjoined them to lift the country back to its pedestal. (Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala)

photos courtesy of CKAN

Increasing the intellectual property rights awareness

To further increase Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) awareness, seven staff-members of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), attended a seminar on Recognizing, Protecting and Managing Your Copyright and Related Rights on 4 March 2007 at the Children's Library, Robinsons Place, Novaliches, Quezon City. The training was coordinated by Dr. Andrea B. Agillon, Head of the Intellectual Property Rights Office (IPRO) of BAR and was conducted by the Community Knowledge Advocates Network (CKAN).

Lawyer Engracia Q. Bangaol, president of CKAN, gave an overview of IPRs which include patents (inventions), utility model, industrial design, lay-out designs of integrated circuits (ICs), trademarks/service marks, geographical indications, copyrights and related rights, trade secrets or undisclosed information, and plant variety protection.

She stressed the importance of obtaining IP protection. "This will cover exclusive rights, strong market positions, higher returns on investment, and opportunity to license or sell the invention, increase in

negotiating power, positive image for your enterprise and privileges and incentives," she said.

Bangaol also discussed Copyright, which as a rule is acquired from the moment of creation. This covers literary and artistic works such as books,



(L-R) Ms. Mariko M. Ramos of PDD, Mr. Jude Ray P. Laguna of OAD, and Mr. Ferdinand Dax S. Lorena, BAR participants during the IPR seminar conducted by CKAN.

pamphlets, articles, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, sermons, addresses, dissertations, letters, drawings, painting, architecture, and musical compositions. This encompasses several rights which include economic and or propriety rights, moral rights (authors are recognized for their work, right to control the act or method of reproduction, and right of translation of work).

Lawyer Gladys C. Vilchez talked about trademarks and patents. Trademarks serve as source identifier, guaranty of quality, and can be considered as a "silent salesman". Section 155 of Republic Act 8293 Intellectual Property Code states that a person commits trademark infringement if without the consent of the registered mark owner, the registered mark has been copied or reproduced which can cause confusion, mistake, or deception. "A patent gives the inventor the exclusive right to exclude others from making, using, importing, and

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Participants during the CKAN IPR Seminar.

OPAPA launches e-Learning program for AFNR sector



photo courtesy of Julia A. Lapitan

The e-Learning program of the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (OPAPA) envisions creating a network of institution that will provide efficient e-Learning management for the agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources (AFNR) sector.

Through this program, it is expected that the e-Learning services of the different institutions will be harmonized through a well-planned e-Learning management of those in the AFNR sectors at the same time empower the stakeholders in AFNR on the value of e-learning products and services.

As a part of the initial implementation of the e-Learning program, a "Training on the Development of e-Learning Modules for the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (OPAPA)" was sponsored by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) on 19-23 March at the Benguet State University in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The training seminar was the first in a series of activities that will be implemented for the e-Learning program of OPAPA.

Mr. Jose Jose Ray Y. Alo, an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) consultant from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) served as the resource person and facilitator for the event.

e-Learning is an improved teaching and learning strategy that uses new multimedia features and the internet. It is a type of learning that is supported by the use of digital tools and content which involves transformation and redesigning of traditional courses into an online version. e-Learning could be in the mode of online

learning through web-based training or in an off-line learning mode through CD-ROMS or DVD compilations.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) was represented in the training seminar by Ms. Julia Lapitan, assistant head of MISD; Ms. Apolonia Mendoza, research coordinator from RCD; and Ms. Rueth Cabral, programmer from MISD.

Other participants were representatives from the Philippine Council on Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and from the ATI regional offices. Topics on working strategy for e-Learning, writing for e-media, functional hypertext markup language and working with a web template were discussed.

Alo emphasized that in writing or rewriting for e-learning modules, online courses must be structured in units of learning that are shorter and more modular, hence a course outline was developed during the training. He added that e-Learning was conceptualized to utilize and maximize

the available resources such as the ICT/web technology and not to replace the traditional way of conducting training programs.

To enable the participants to have a hands-on experience, workshops on module rewriting and module assembly were done alternately with the discussions.

At the end of the training program, the participants were able to create fourteen web-based course modules on agriculture and fisheries technologies. The modules contained topics on water management for corn, practice of minimal tillage for corn, nursery management and establishment of Arabica coffee, durian production, yield-boosting technologies for citrus, bamboo production, banana production, integrated pest management in mango production, tilapia culture production, slaughter goat production, production and management of organic fertilizer from solid wastes and the production of fermented juice and fermented fruit juice as organic fertilizer. (Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala)

PhilRice...from page 3

spatial data which is widely used in the fields of agriculture and fisheries for a more efficient and strategic location and implementation of related projects.

Twelve participants from the PhilRice stations in Batac, Los Baños, Midsayap, Agusan, Negros, and Nueva Vizcaya shared the setting up of GPS in their respective branch stations. Theories and principles of GPS and GIS were also discussed together with a series of workshop on the construction of crop suitability maps for the regions in the country.

The participants from each PhilRice station will establish their own respective GIS teams equipped with an enhanced knowledge on GIS applications obtained from the five-day training program. (Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala)



photo courtesy of unead.edu.au

International funding agency consults BAR on possible tie-up

program manager for Agricultural Systems Economics and Management (ASEM), and discussed the possibility of linking up the R&D program of ACIAR Landcare program with the Bureau's Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR).

Joining in the discussion was Dr. Manuel F. Bonifacio, BAR senior consultant, who presented the CPAR program, which he described as a novel approach to agricultural development. Dr. Bonifacio stressed that agricultural development can be achieved by empowering farming communities through the improvement of the management of knowledge and

of production.

For his part, Dr. Menz expressed optimism that there is an opportunity for the BAR staff to learn from Landcare activities. Landcare program is a conservation farming project with income generation component which is very much within the framework of CPAR to promote agribusiness in farming communities with the use of mature technologies.

The meeting with Menz is an offshoot of a discussion with ACIAR Deputy Director Dr. John Skeritt last year where an initial plan for a joint project on Landcare between BAR and ACIAR was set. *(Rudyard R. Roxas)*

Dr Ken Menz

A senior officer of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) consulted with the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) officials on 13 March 2007 on ways to link up their respective R&D programs aimed at improving farmers' lives in the Philippine countryside.

Dr. Carmencita Kagaoan and other senior officials of BAR met with Dr. Ken Menz, ACIAR's research

CPAR consultation...from page 1

On the first day of the activity, a planning-workshop for the finalization of CPAR project proposal and memorandum of agreement (MOA) was held at the Masbate Breeding Station in Asid, Masbate City.

In the morning, a briefing on the overview of CPAR was conducted for the participants from the different offices from the Bicol Integrated Agricultural Research Center (BIARC), Regional Fisheries Research and Development Center, Research Outreach Station- Masbate, and provincial and municipal local government units including the barangay captains and farmer-leaders in the locality.

A validation on the result of the existing participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and the identification of priority activities and areas of collaboration followed later that day. A PRA previously drafted by the local government of Masbate on 2005 includes the previous selection of priority areas which covered barangays Asid and Malinta in Masbate City and barangays Bacolod and Cayabon in Milagros town. A site validation on the selected areas and a meeting with the farmers and local officials in each barangay was done on the second and third day.

The following were the

necessary activities identified for the selected barangays: training on organic farming, nursery management, enterprise development, technology demonstration; improvement on the package of technologies on corn and vegetables; and enhancement of products and by-products of fruits and vegetables. Implementation of the project will start after the finalization of the MOA followed by the release of appropriate funds.

To further realize the identified activities for the province, it was agreed that the local government officials, particularly the mayor of Masbate City and the administrator of Milagros, will provide counterpart support such as deployment of agricultural technicians in the project site, provision of training venue and demonstration farms given that the projects to be implemented will complement the area's existing programs. Meanwhile, ATI pledged to assist in training management, preparation of information, education and communication materials, provide resource persons and venue while BIARC will provide technical assistance needed. *(Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala)*

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future directions and recommendations to improve the Philippine agricultural extension delivery system. The discussions were in line with DA's development pillars wherein research, development, and extension and education (RDE/E) are of prime importance.

Furthermore, it was emphasized that there should be a unified system of program conceptualization and implementation which is considered as one of the indicators of success. Based on this, RDE/E is a very strong area wherein the efforts of BAR and ATI, including other DA units and partners, must complement, including technology development and commercialization initiatives. To do these, BAR and ATI must team-up, including pooling their resources and activities, for better agriculture and fishery development.

Moreover, it was recommended that in order for technology transfer and extension to be successful, the importance of process in technology transfer must be highlighted in action research. To provide direction, a new framework must focus on community-based resource management system and incorporating making business out of agriculture or agribusiness for key players to be part and complement the agriculture and fisheries efforts to be effective and sustainable in the total landscape of production development. *(Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)*

IP Management Seminar establishes partnership

It was a vacation-turned-seminar for Dr. Andrea Agillon in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) from 9 to 14 March 2007 when she visited her friend Dr. Aminah Abdullah, the dean, Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.

They were both visiting scientists at Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) in Sydney, Australia in 1985. Dr. Agillon was still at the ASEAN Postharvest Center in UP Los Baños (UPLB) while Prof. Dr. Aminah was then the chairman of the Food Science Department.

Having noted Dr. Agillon's latest responsibility at the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Prof. Dr. Aminah requested her to conduct a one-day seminar for the faculty and scientists of FST. Armed and prepared, Dr. Agillon happily obliged and made sure that Intellectual Property (IP) management will have an impact and able to increase the level of awareness of the Malaysian UKM staff. The seminar resulted in an exchange of ideas and established partnership with the UKM researchers for IP management.

The seminar was attended by key officials of UKM headed by Prof. Dr. Aminah; Prof. Dr. Nur, deputy director of the Malaysian Genomic Institute; Prof. Dr. Rahmah B.T. Mohamad, Molecular Biologist and Director of the IPO of UKM; Prof. Dr. Osman Bin Hassan, food scientist of the FST; some faculty-members and

graduate students from Malaysia, Sudan, and Indonesia.

During the seminar, Dr. Agillon emphasized the newest trend for R&D outputs – Patent, Protect, Publish, and Profit. This is an improvement of the old conventional researcher/scientist mentality of publish or perish. With this new development, intellectual property management is viewed to boost economic development while supporting the social relevance of researchers and scientists on development programs and activities.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Aminah is very optimistic that there will be an IP Congress in the ASEAN region in the future. Why? Because, she finds the seminar very relevant and worthy for other ASEAN regional universities to be aware of the IP and its consequences for the increasing need of university-based research outputs to be used for development of the ASEAN region.

UKM, through Dr. Aminah, is willing to coordinate the activity for the ASEAN region. As an initial activity, she will facilitate similar IP Management seminars for Malaysian universities with strong research and development initiatives.

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offering for sale the product of his invention," she said. Patent protection covers 20 years from filing date of the application.

BAR, as a coordinating and funding agency for agricultural and fishery research and development activities, created a unit called Intellectual Property Rights Office (IPRO) in 2004. This ensures management and protection of all Intellectual Properties accruing from BAR-funded, partly-funded, or other researches commissioned and contracted by BAR. CKAN, a group of UP alumni and professionals, aims to contribute to nation-building by reaching out and sharing useful knowledge to members of the community through seminars, workshops and short-courses. *(Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)*



photos by Marlowe U. Aquino

Dr. Andrea B. Agillon at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).



Dr. Andrea B. Agillon lectures on IP Management seminar at UKM, Malaysia.

Moreover, she hopes to share this concern to other interested organizations, especially in the field of food science and biotechnology, with the prime objective of making profits from technologies developed.

Based on the objective set, she further believes that through IP management, ASEAN countries will be highly competitive on their developed technologies and able to share and exchange information for more responsive and challenging research and development endeavors.

Dr. Agillon concluded that IP management will boost nationalistic concerns for scientists who only want to produce knowledge and do not need the royalties.

The seminar ended with a vision of moving forward to a fruitful partnership through exchanged technologies and professional programs that highlight technology promotion, utilization, application, adoption, and commercialization. *(Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)*

3rd BAR Seminar Series highlights modern biotechnology

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) conducted the third of its seminar series for this year featuring the lecture of Dr. Aida D. Solsoloy of the Cotton Development Administration (CODA) on “Management of Modern Biotechnology: Challenges and Directions” at the RDMIC lobby, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City on 16 March 2007.

The activity was attended by various representatives from the Department of Agriculture's (DA) attached agencies and staff bureaus. The event was hosted by Mr. Jude Ray P. Laguna of the Office of the Assistant Director (OAD), while Mr. Victoriano B. Guiam, head of the International Relations Unit (IRU), delivered the welcome remarks.

Dr. Solsoloy's lecture was divided into six main topics, namely: 1) a backgrounder on modern biotechnology, 2) products of modern biotech, 3) Cartagena Protocol on biosafety, 4) Bioremediation, 5) Biopharming, and 6) Bioinformatics.

Bioremediation is a treatment processes that uses microorganisms (such as bacteria, fungi, or yeast) or plants to break down or degrade hazardous substances into less toxic or nontoxic substances.

Biopharming is the harvest of bioactive molecules from mass-cultured organisms (also called molecular farming), for use as pharmaceuticals to maintain health or

to prevent or cure disease.

Bioinformatics is the science of managing and analyzing biological data using advanced computing techniques. It is a computer-assisted data management discipline that helps in gathering, storage, analysis, integration of biological and genetic information, and representing this information efficiently.

The country has been facing challenges to combat some of the most enduring problems against hunger, poverty, and employment which add to the pressing demands of an ever-growing population.

The onset of modern biotechnology and what it can do to make life easier for people has come in as one of the plausible solutions today. Research results on biotechnology are no longer new to Filipinos, but its immense benefits are yet to be reaped. Innovations in biotechnology serve as a tool for other countries to attain economic growth but for developing countries like the Philippines, the promise and potential of modern biotechnology is something to hope for.

For years scientists have been conducting studies to improve the way people live. The common techniques lead to more modern systems and procedures so as to cope with an ever increasing demand.



Dr. Aida D. Solsoloy of the Cotton Development Administration (CODA), resource speaker during the 3rd BAR Seminar Series on modern biotechnology.

photo by Rita T. dela Cruz

But like they say, no technology is totally risk free. And in the world of modern biotechnology, all benefits require reasonable and manageable risks.

According to Dr. Solsoloy, modern biotechnology is not a silver bullet solution for all human problems as it is still in its developmental stages and has a long way to go. But it is known today, modern biotechnology can 1) solve several problems in agriculture, health, and environment; 2) develop better crops, animals and microorganisms; 3) provide cleaner and sustainable environment that is safe both to humans/animals and the environment, and 4) present as an effective, precise, and safe medicine

The seminar series is regularly conducted by BAR to give way to the exchange of information and knowledge, trends, challenges, and opportunities in the agriculture and fisheries R&D sector. It serves as an important venue for information-sharing and discussions of some of the latest issues and concerns, challenges, and directions faced today. (Rita T. dela Cruz)



Mr. Jude Ray P. Laguna (left) hosts the event. Mr. Victoriano Guiam (right) welcomes the participants.



Participants coming from the different DA-attached agencies and staff bureaus.



Dr. Eugenio A. Alcala starts the open forum right the lecture.

photos by Rita T. dela Cruz

BAR to restructure weak framework in Philippine agri

A house built on a weak framework could not possibly stand strong through time and may eventually collapse when disaster occurs.

The same rationale also applies with the structure of the Philippine Agriculture as implied by Dr. Manuel Bonifacio, technical adviser of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), in the presentation of the proposed project of BAR to be funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) held on March 13 at the RDMIC conference hall.

“The weakness of Philippine Agriculture is the inadequacy of concretion in operating without an appropriate framework,” Dr. Bonifacio said.

During the presentation, Dr. Bonifacio described the demography of Philippine Agriculture with its aging farmers, weak support systems, unwillingness of young people to engage in agriculture, and high costs of production inputs. He added that the nature of agriculture production is fragmented and that the research and extension aspects in the country are weak.

In the proposed project of BAR titled “Building Development-Oriented Community of Practice: The Making of the New Philippine Agriculture”, the need for a new and timely framework to address such problems on agricultural development was recognized.

A community-based, system-oriented, complementary and participatory framework that is grounded on the needs and practice of the farmers is the ideal framework BAR visualizes. Dr. Bonifacio, as the presenter of the project stressed that the focus and key to the proposed project is capturing and improving the practices of the farmers.

Generally, the objective of the program is to improve the standard living of small farmers in the rural areas by restructuring their agricultural practices through the enhancement of the farmer's access to knowledge, technology and services to meet the goals of agribusiness development.

Specific aims of the project includes the following: (1) document, develop, and disseminate local, scientific, and technical agricultural information; (2) promote sustained access of farmers to knowledge and information covering agricultural practices, markets and agricultural service providers; (3) connect rural communities, research and extension networks and provide them access to the much needed knowledge, technology, and services; and (4) guide the development of

community of practice from enterprise to agribusiness development.

The proposed project also includes consolidation of community practice that is believed to be essential in restructuring the framework of Philippine Agriculture. The consolidation of community practice will be done to combine the utility of best practice with the innovations as well.

Dr. Bonifacio added that established practices of farmers will be discovered through communication and must be documented as the real foundation of the new Philippine Agriculture. He also stressed the importance of efficient information dissemination regarding researches on agriculture as it provides quick access on information to farmers which they can use to integrate with their established practices.

With hopes to achieve its goals, activities such as community-based consolidation of positive and productive production practices, empowering farmer's organization by strengthening their management skills, effective management of agricultural information through information and communication technology and through the development of electronic cooperative information resources center will be employed.

With the implementation of the project, it is expected that a knowledge database on agriculture that will serve as a rich source of information for building

multi-level community of practice and a replicable model of an electronic cooperative agricultural resource information center will materialize. Moreover, it is also envisioned that through the proposed project, a well-informed community of farmers and an increased income of farm families in participating barangays through agriculture and complementary livelihood activities—moving from enterprise development to agribusiness development—will arise.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ken Menz, Research Program Manager of ACIAR, suggested that the proposed project of BAR be linked to the Landcare project of ACIAR in Mindanao to facilitate easier approval of the proposal. He added that the framework of the proposal can be adopted in the Mindanao project.

An affirmative response was given by BAR on both suggestions of Dr. Menz. However, problems on the differences of the conceptual framework were identified by Dr. Bonifacio—the approach of Landcare is more on conservation agriculture while the approach of the proposed project of BAR is toward agribusiness development. To resolve the conflict on conceptual framework, Dr. Bonifacio requested copies of the project papers on the Landcare project of ACIAR so he could review these and suggest a new framework for action. (Ella Grace L. Nagpala)

On promoting exportable agricultural products

To increase productivity of new varieties of fruit and ornamental crops, Mama Sita Foundation (MSF), Inc. has come up with a project to introduce selected cultivars that would lead to large-scale production for export titled “Collection, evaluation, and utilization of exportable agricultural products” under the leadership of Dr. Benito Vergara, a National Scientist. This shall introduce outstanding new varieties of calamansi, jackfruit, tamarind, potted mini anthurium, and black pepper.

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), serving as a coordinating and funding agency to support agriculture and fisheries R&D activities of the government, has once again tied up with the Office of Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. in the project. Senator Magsaysay has committed to support the financial resources of MSF through BAR.

The project aims to obtain new varieties of selected areas developed in other countries and those indigenous in the Philippines. Also, it intends to evaluate the new varieties of different commodities for adaptability, productivity, and optimum growth and provide stock materials for large-scale production to interested clients. This is expected to benefit small plant growers to mass produce the seedlings, potential large-scale producers, local processors, and exporters.

Other collaborating agencies involved in the project are the Philippine Agriculture and Resources Research Foundation, Inc. (PARRFI) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (PCARRD-DOST). (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)