

BARChronicle

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

TBI must operate as a business -Soriano



DA-BAR director Junel B. Soriano encourages PSAU to continue their excellent service to the agriculture and fishery sector through research for development initiatives. //MSVALDEABELLA

“Technology business incubation (TBI) must operate as a business. You are on the right track because you are partnering with non-government offices operating business. We want to see a sustainable project. That’s the big challenge for you now, how will you grow the TBI,” said Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) director Dr. Junel B. Soriano during the inception meeting in Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU) on 20 January 2022.

Soriano also emphasized that the university should think like a business person in order to sustain and grow the TBI project. He also highlighted the importance of TBI in research for development as well as its role in capacitating the farmer cooperatives and associations.

“We want to see a successful TBI

on the ground soon,” he added.

Funded by DA-BAR in October 2021, the project aims to facilitate the innovation and sustained development of start-ups and agri-entrepreneurs through the transfer and commercialization of mature research-based technologies.

Led by Intellectual Property and Technology Business Management Office director Walter L. Pacunana, the project is also in collaboration with DA-Research Outreach Station Magalang.

In attendance during the meeting were PSAU OIC and vice president for academic affairs Dr. Anita G. David and vice president for administration, business and finance Myrna B. Lorenzo; and DA-BAR assistant director Joell H. Lales and selected staff. //RENA

S. HERMOSO AND MARA SHYN M. VALDEABELLA

To formulate and firm up the bureau’s plans, programs, and activities for 2022, DA-BAR held its first Management Committee (ManCom) meeting for the year on 26- 27 January.

“The agenda is a continued effort of the DA-BAR family in order to give us updates and plans for the following months of 2022,” DA-BAR director Dr. Junel B. Soriano said in his opening remarks.

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DA-BAR director Dr. Junel B. Soriano (right), together with DA-BAR assistant director Joell H. Lales (left), leads the discussion during the ManCom meeting. //RBERNARDO

He is hopeful that the laid-out plans, and strategies for the programs of the bureau will be implemented soon. Further, he expressed his appreciation towards the staff of as they continue to give their best efforts and hard work.

Presentations included updates and plans in relation to the goals, directions, and recommendations discussed and laid out in recently held meetings and issuances. Aside from the three major divisions of the bureau: the Research ▶ 3

Soriano underscores FCAs-private sector linkages for full commercialization of products



DA-BAR team, led by director Dr. Junel B. Soriano (4th from right), conducts project monitoring on various R4D-supported projects implemented by DA-QARES in Tiaong, Dolores, and San Antonio, Quezon. //MEAQUINO

In a project monitoring activity of the bureau, DA-BAR director Dr. Junel B. Soriano underscored how the bureau sees the importance of strengthening linkages with the private sector, thus instructing implementing agencies to establish the linkages between the farmers' cooperatives/associations to private sector/companies in order to fully commercialize the products.

As part of the regular activities of the bureau to ensure that the set objectives of the projects are met as well as lay down the sustainability plans, DA-BAR conducted a project monitoring on various research for development (R4D)-supported projects implemented by the DA-Quezon Agricultural Research and Experiment Station (QARES) on 27-28 January 2022 in Tiaong, Dolores, and San Antonio, Quezon.

The two-day activity covered monitoring and discussion meetings on the commercialization of various commodities which include sapinit, other underutilized fruit crops, virgin coconut oil, and cacao. The completed and on-going projects were funded under the DA-BAR's National Technology

Commercialization Program.

Dennis D.L. Bihis, DA-QARES Research Unit head, presented an overview of the station including the implemented projects supported by DA-BAR.

Processing of sapinit into jam, juice, soap, tea and wine is currently being done at the service facility provided by the LGU of Dolores for the Rural Improvement Club giving additional income to women beneficiaries. Also, the said facility provided a venue to process other underutilized fruit crops such as *guyabano*, *duhat*, *bignay*, *lipote*, and *macopa*. Nurseries were also established and seedlings of said crops were planted in target municipalities.

On the other hand, the technology on cacao product development has now been transferred to various groups and associations. Wines are currently produced by the San Antonio Cacao Growers' Association and the Samahan ng mga Magsasaka ng Barangay Banilad in Nagcarlan, Laguna.

Further, through funding support to the current VCO production of the

CABAYAN Rural Improvement Club of Barangay Cabay, Tiaong, Quezon, VCO products are being improved in terms of quality and quantity—providing additional income for the beneficiaries. VCO were also distributed to frontliners to help ease the effect of the pandemic.

During the said activity, possible collaborative R4D proposals with the station aligned with the the DA-BAR Inclusive Transformative R4DE Framework and the OneDA Reform Agenda were also discussed.

Director Soriano discussed the need to strengthen industry-academe-DA collaboration; boost and enhance product development and packaging; and establish FDA-compliant facilities, among others. Also providing recommendations and insights were DA-BAR assistant Director Joell H. Lales, BAR technical adviser Josie Valdez, and the bureau's technical staff.

The team met officials and staff of DA-CALABARZON led by Research Division chief Eda Dimapilis and DA-QARES Center chief Rolando Cuasay, the municipal agricultural officers, and farmer-cooperators of the project. //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.

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Editor: Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino

Consulting Editors: Salvacion M. Ritual and Maria Elena M. Garces

Writers: Ma. Eloisa H. Aquino, Rena S. Hermoso, Geline Nicole A. Morillo, Mara Shyn M. Valdeabella, and Diwa J. Velasquez

Layout: Rena S. Hermoso

Circulation: Ryan Joseph M. Abrigo and Lyn D. Pardilla

Advisers: Dr. Junel B. Soriano and Joell H. Lales

DA-ACPC lending programs open DA-BAR online seminar series

DA-BAR opened its online seminar series for 2022 with the discussion of the lending programs offered by the DA-Agriculture Credit Policy Council (ACPC) on 18 January via the bureau's Facebook page.

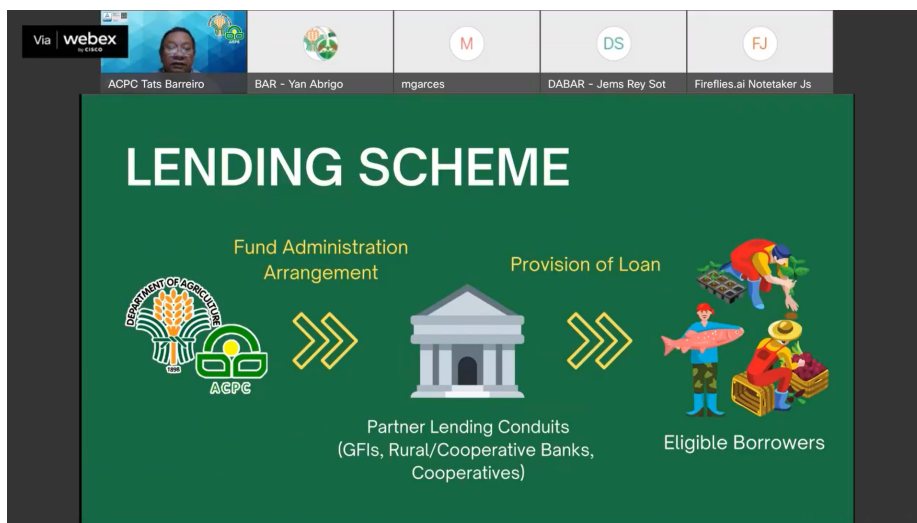
ACPC, an attached agency of DA, is an institution on agri-credit policy and program development that promotes a sustainable and effective delivery of financial services to the countryside.

Renato W. Barreiro, project development officer of the ACPC-Communications and Public Affairs Division, started by explaining the lending scheme of the institute. ACPC downloads credit funds to partner lending conduits (i.e. government financial institutions, rural and cooperative banks, cooperatives) who then loans the money to eligible borrowers.

Barreiro proceeded by discussing the features of the following: Survival and Recovery (SURE) Assistance Program, Kapital Access for Young Agripreneurs (KAYA) Program, and Agri-Negosoyo (ANYO) Loan Program. All of these are offered with zero interest rate and no collateral needed.

The SURE Assistance Program is being offered to small farmers and fisherfolk from areas declared under state of calamity to finance the rehabilitation of farming, fishing, and livelihood activities of calamity-affected small farmers and fisherfolk.

Meanwhile, SURE COVID-19, implemented during the enhanced community quarantine period,



Renato W. Barreiro of DA-ACPC explains how the institute offers loans to eligible borrowers.

offered working capital loans to agri-fishery micro and small enterprises, as well as emergency and production requirements assistance to marginalized small farmers and fisherfolk to continue operations.

KAYA offers loans to finance working capital and/or fixed asset acquisition requirements of start-up or existing agri-based projects of young entrepreneurs and agri-fishery graduates. This loan program aims to entice the youth who either attended formal or non-formal schooling (ie. DA-Agricultural Training Institute-accredited programs and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority farm schools) to venture into agriculture and fisheries.

ANYO Loan Program offers loans to finance capital requirements of agri-fishery-based micro and small enterprises to finance

income-generating activities such as production, processing, or marketing of agri-fishery products, or a combination of agri-fishery income-generating activity and non-farm micro enterprise.

To apply for these loan programs, log in to ACPC ACCESS or the Agri-Credit Client Electronic Signup System through website acpcaccess.ph.

On top of these lending programs, Barreiro also explained that ACPC through its Institutional Capacity Building Support programs also engages state universities and colleges, government agencies, business development providers to extend business advisory or technical assistance services such as mentoring, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, among other topics. // **RENA S. HERMOSO**

◀ 1...DA-BAR firms up PAPs

Program Development Division, Research Coordination Division, and Knowledge Management and Information Systems Division, the Human Resources Management Unit, General Services Unit, and Records and Supply Unit also discussed administrative concerns and other matters.

Aligned with the OneDA Reform Agenda, some of the presentation highlights covered the DA-BAR

Inclusive Transformative R4DE Framework, OneDA Research for Development and Extension System (OneDA R4DE System), DA-BAR National RDE Agenda and Programs (NRDEAP), Strategic Plan, among others.

DA-BAR assistant director Joell H. Lales delivered his closing remarks by thanking and reminding the DA-BAR employees to continue reaching their full potential through capacity building. He also

emphasized that the staff shall continue to abide by its mandate and extend the bureau's programs to reach more farmers, fishers, researchers, partner agencies, and state universities and colleges.

Presided by director Soriano and assistant director Lales, ManCom members attended the meeting either physically or virtually, in light of the ongoing health restrictions. // **DIWA J. VELASQUEZ**

DA-BAR forges partnership with Bauertek Corp.

Aligned with the bureau's goal to ensure that the products and technologies developed are directed towards maximum utilization and commercialization, DA-BAR inked a partnership agreement with Bauertek Corp. on 19 January 2022 at the DA-BAR, Quezon City.

DA-BAR director Dr. Junel B. Soriano and assistant director Joell H. Lales led the signing of the memorandum of understanding with Bauertek Corp., represented by its General Manager, Richard Nixon Gomez.

Noted as a momentous feat, director Soriano described the signing as a significant step forward for the bureau and its stakeholders—signifying the start of a partnership that is geared toward establishing purposeful investments.

Anchored on the inclusive and transformative research for development and extension agenda, the bureau chief also furthered that this engagement will fortify and intensify the contribution of the bureau's research endeavors to economic recovery. Further, the partnership will also pave the way to firm up the capacities of its researchers, farmers, and fisherfolks.

DA-BAR assistant director Lales, in his message, highlighted the bureau's efforts to constantly seek ways and means to improve and extend its resources. Driven by the goal to strengthen all agriculture and fisheries research for development initiatives, the DA-BAR continues to widen its networks and forge partnerships with different agencies, research institutions, SUCs, and private companies such as Bauertek.

Such efforts will provide implementing agencies and farmer cooperatives and associations an avenue to acquire needed knowledge, materials, and overall assistance relevant to the conduct of their research.

Bauertek Corp. is a company engaged in research, manufacturing, and development of food supplements and pharmaceutical products. It envisions better health for the community through delivery of quality products, materials, and services. Specifically, the company offers technical assistance to its partners through identifying and sourcing materials as needed in their undertaking. Additionally, Bauertek also extends its services to handling necessary regulatory compliances. //GELINE NICOLE A. MORILLO



DA-BAR director Dr. Junel B. Soriano (center) and assistant director Joell H. Lales (left) sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Bauertek Corp. general manager Richard Nixon Gomez (right). //GNMORILLO