



# AUSTRALIA AND SEARCA

SEARCA's headquarters was constructed with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the Government of the Philippines.



Established in 1966, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the 26 specialist institutions of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), a treaty organization that promotes regional cooperation in education, science, and culture.

The SEAMEO member countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. The associate member countries of SEAMEO are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

SEARCA's objectives are to:

1. Provide high-quality graduate education and training in agriculture;
2. Promote, undertake, and coordinate research addressing the development needs and problems in agriculture of the region; and
3. Disseminate the findings of agricultural research and experimentation.

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#### **SEAMEO SEARCA**

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## Our Vision

A leading enabler and champion of excellence in agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia

## Our Mission

To elevate the quality of life of agricultural families through sustainable livelihoods and access to modern networks and innovative markets



## Our Strategic Objectives

- Access new and innovative financial services
- Adopt new, sustainable, and resilient production technologies and systems
- Integrate with modern postharvest and logistics system
- Gain access to and operate in modern networks and markets





supports the  
**UN Sustainable Development Goals**



## Our Strategic Intent

SEARCA, in the next five years, commits to BETTER, BIGGER, and SMARTER outcomes and impact on the agriculture industry and its stakeholders, most especially the larger proportion of resource-poor farmers, by delivering better services through more context-relevant and valuable services to even more beneficiaries in more effective and efficient ways.

Alongside other global, regional, and national organizations, SEARCA aligns its direction towards contributing to the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address global challenges to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. SEARCA commits to contribute and allocate resources for the achievement of five SDGs which directly align with its mandate and focus, with an emphasis on creating partnerships (SDG17). Moreover, SEARCA also touches three other SDGs as it tries to achieve the five.

# EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE LEARNING

## ■ GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

### ► SEARCA SCHOLAR ENROLLED AT AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Jesus Rommel V. Herrera, a graduate scholar under the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)-SEARCA Scholarship Project, is pursuing his PhD in Animal Breeding and Genetics at the University of New England in Australia from June 2015 to May 2018. Dr. Herrera holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and serves as Supervising Science Research Specialist at PCC-University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

### ► COMPLETED SCHOLARSHIPS AT AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The Australian Government, under its fourth and last Triennium Memorandum of Understanding with SEAMEO (FY 1992/1993 - FY 1994/1995), contributed Aus\$2.935 million for activities under the SEAMEO Institutional Linkages Program as well as for the support of non-project activities (i.e., associate membership contribution and contributions to the SEAMEO Educational Development Fund).

The Australian Government also supported the graduate studies and other staff development activities (mostly study tours in Australia) of some SEARCA staff members.

In 2003, four Indonesian postdoctoral fellows spent three months at the University of Queensland (UQ) under the auspices of the Higher Education Project (HEP) jointly implemented by SEARCA and Indonesia's Directorate General of Higher Education. The HEP Postdoctoral Fellowship Project enabled the postdoctoral fellows to do small research studies, attend seminars and enhancement courses, and serve as visiting lecturers at UQ.

In academic year 2008/2009, SEARCA awarded one PhD research scholarship to an Indonesian who completed her MS in natural resource management at the University of Melbourne.





## ► UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

The Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) was initiated by SEARCA in 1989 to link strong universities in Southeast Asia and in developed countries. Through the UC, SEARCA helps in enhancing graduate education and cross-cultural understanding as well as in promoting regional and global cooperation.

The University of Queensland (UQ) was an associate member of the UC from 1993 to 2012. It hosted 12 exchange students who are from Southeast Asian member-universities. On the other hand, three UQ students went to Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).



Currently, the UC has eight members from Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The five founding UC members are IPB and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Indonesia, UPM in Malaysia, Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand, and UPLB.

Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan is a UC associate member, while the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada and Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany are UC affiliate members.



UC Executive Board members at UQ for their annual meeting held in December 2008.

## ► SHORT-TERM TRAINING

### **46th SEARCA Online Learning and Virtual Engagements (SOLVE) webinar**

SOLVE Gender Inequalities: Advancing the Gender Agenda in Food Systems

20 March 2024

Dr. Barbara Pamphilon of the University of Canberra discussed the following topic:

From Gender Awareness to Gender Transformation: Lessons for Training for Development.

### **SEARCA Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS)**

Issues in Asian Agricultural Development

17 November 2022

Dr. Peter Warr from the Australian National University discussed key topics, shedding light on the role of agriculture in East Asian growth and the potential of agricultural land reform in poverty reduction.

### **Comparative Study Mission for PCC Officials**

29 June to 10 July 2014

This study mission was the third of a series, which aimed to widen the participants' horizon by enabling them to observe and closely study various ways of genetic improvement of livestock, enterprise development/venture partnerships for livestock, R&D programs on livestock, and policies/regulatory and management framework of livestock development. The series of study mission primarily aimed for the participants to draw lessons and best practices in livestock development and management.

Participants visited relevant institutions in Australia, particularly in Armidale, Sydney, and Canberra, as follows:

- The Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI)
- Dairy Express Herd Recording Service
- School of Environmental and Rural Science of UNE
- Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA)
- The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
- Department of Agriculture



## ■ RESEARCH PROJECTS

Australia, through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Development (ACIAR), and SEARCA had collaborated on several research projects. The following were the ACIAR-funded research projects implemented by SEARCA in a span of 20 years:

### ► ACIAR-SEARCA PROJECTS

#### **Transport Policy Study Promoting Efficiency and Productivity of Flow of Goods: A Focus on the Transportation Needs of Mindanao Region (2010-2013)**

SEARCA implemented the project as part of ACIAR's economic research on enhanced profitability of selected vegetable and fruit value chains in southern Philippines and Australia. The transport policy study analyzed the marketing flow of selected agricultural products and the factors that contribute to the trade-related problems facing the key players in the supply chain, particularly the high cost of transportation and logistics, as they are influenced by government regulations and investment programs. Specifically, fruits (papaya) and vegetables (tomato and lettuce) coming from Mindanao were covered in the study to focus on the importance of improving the transport infrastructure in Mindanao.

The findings of the micro analysis that looked at the bottlenecks in the transport system (road and port networks) for the selected fruits and vegetables have resulted to policy directions and development approaches that would provide greater incentives for Mindanao to improve the quantity and quality of its fruits and vegetables and to further expand its trade to meet the perceived growing market demand, inside and outside the island. The study's findings were published in two monographs and publicized in mass media.

#### **Philippines Policy Linkages Scoping Study (2006-2007)**

The study reviewed the economic and policy environment in the Philippines, especially for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. It assessed the importance of this environment as a constraint to the adoption of ACIAR funded project outcomes. It was conducted by teams from SEARCA in the Philippines and the Australian Centre for International Economics (CIE).

The study was done to provide input to the partners' concerns on the design and conduct of projects aimed at modifying the institutional and policy environment so as to empower farmers' demand for productivity-enhancing technologies, thereby facilitating the adoption of new ideas and productivity-enhancing techniques and materials already in existence. The study culminated in a workshop titled *Rural Development Initiatives and the Philippine Policy Environment: What is the Real Score?* held in June 2007 in Manila. The workshop discussed the



findings and determined whether there are follow-up projects on some of the issues that could achieve some changes in the environment and thus improve the likelihood of future adoption.

### **Sustaining and Growing Landcare Systems in the Philippines and Australia (2004-2009)**

The five-year project was funded by ACIAR and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). It built on the significant achievements of a five-year ACIAR-funded project called *Enhancing Farmer Adoption of Simple Conservation Practices: Landcare in the Philippines and Australia*, which ended in 2004. There are, however, questions over the sustainability of Landcare in the longer term and if the success at the three sites can be replicated elsewhere in Mindanao and beyond into the Visayas.



The project focused on upland rural communities where cultivation of steep slopes presents major challenges for sustainable agriculture. It emphasized the strengthening of linkages with local government units and relevant government agencies, strengthening landcare groups, and developing and enhancing market linkages. Of all the projects major achievements, the biggest is the implementation of a program for the higher level institutionalization of landcare at the regional and national levels. The program involved facilitation of the incorporation of landcare into Barangay and Municipal Development Plans at three sites and the Provincial Development Plan of South Cotabato.

### **Enhancing Farmer Adoption of Simple Conservation Practices: Landcare in the Philippines and Australia (1999-2004)**

The project aimed to facilitate the development of Landcare activities in upland Philippine farming communities and in Australian horticulture industries, and to evaluate the effectiveness of Landcare in achieving conservation practices. ACIAR and other organizations have conducted several programs in the Philippines and Australia to develop technologies suited to farming systems on steep land, in high-erosion areas or other potentially unsustainable situations. But further studies suggest that too few of the new ideas have been adopted for any long-term impact. Often it seems conservation research work fails to translate into adoption beyond the core project sites.

The project demonstrated via the Landcare approach that farmer-led participatory development processes can achieve a greater degree of change than the traditional 'dole-out' and top-down approach of implementing projects, often evident in the Philippines. More than 400 Landcare groups are now in operation at the three project sites in the island of Mindanao (a region whose high poverty levels have gained it special attention for Australian development assistance). Over 4230 households became involved as members of Landcare groups. Both the Philippines and Australian components have dynamically redefined the Landcare approach to incorporate livelihoods perspectives, largely to meet the expressed needs of the farmers with whom the project worked.

## **Development and Evaluation of Sustainable Production Systems for Steeplands (1994-1998)**

This project aimed to develop sustainable farming systems for steepland farming in Australia and the Philippines by identifying and collating technologies appropriate to steepland agriculture integrating selected technologies into 'best bet' farming systems. The systems were tested on cooperating farms monitoring yield and sustainability against normal farm practice, and the rate of adoption of farming systems.



The project established on-farm trials of selected technologies with farmers on 10 farms in Jala Jala, Rizal, Philippines; up to 10 farms in Ned, South Cotabato, Philippines; and two farms from south eastern Queensland. Halfway through the five-year on-farm trial work, the project was able to design and install improved farming systems with three major components: annual crop, perennial crop, and conservation practice. Special technologies for steepland farming were developed, but few were used. The project also provided management skills training to cooperating farmers and developed a sustainability evaluation tool.



Prior to this project, SEARCA has conducted a review and analysis of technologies for sustainable land management in the uplands of the Philippines funded by ACIAR and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI). The project developed a catalogue of 105 upland farming technologies that served as a reference material for sustainable cropping systems in steep lands.



## **Improving Smallholder Farming Systems in Imperata Areas of Southeast Asia: A Bioeconomic Modelling Approach (1995-1998)**

The project aimed to aggregate existing and new socioeconomic and technological information relating to Indonesia's Imperata grasslands and use the information to develop computer models that link all significant variables. The project largely drew on information obtained by SEARCA-ACIAR projects on steeplands and upland farming systems. It involved two other institutions: Center for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES) at the Australian National University; and the Indonesia-based Center for Agro-Socioeconomic Research (CASER).

Project reviewers concluded that the project had successfully met its objectives and was 'impressively productive' in terms of publications. The project established exceptionally good working relations and cooperation within and between the research teams. Many published works emanated from the project, including about 40 papers published in the Imperata Project Paper series.

### **Socioeconomic Evaluation of Soil Conservation Technologies for Upland Farming Systems in the Philippines (1993-1998)**

SEARCA implemented the project in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture of the University of Queensland. The project aimed to improve the flow of appropriate soil conservation technology to upland farmers by providing feedback from farmers to researchers and policymakers regarding factors likely to promote technology adoption. This farming systems approach will start by defining the goals and circumstances of farmers in specific physical and socioeconomic environments. It also had an ecological focus, having examined not only whole-farm systems but agroecological systems, including agroforestry systems and land-use systems. A general hypothesis which guided the research was that upland farmers choose technology in order to further their goals, subject to the constraints imposed by resource availability and environmental conditions.



The project conducted in-depth socioeconomic surveys in eight upland development sites spread throughout the Philippines. In total, the project produced seven survey reports, 20 working papers, and two data papers.

### **► OTHER R&D PROJECTS**

#### **Landscape: Inclusive Agribusiness in Southeast Asia**

SEARCA was commissioned by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to conduct the scoping study in June-July 2015. The study aimed to examine and share evidence of emerging inclusive agribusiness innovation trends in the ASEAN region with specific focus Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam where a Grow Asia Chapter is being organized.



The Grow Asia platform was launched by the World Economic Forum and ASEAN in April 2015 to promote novel and effective public-private partnerships to reduce poverty and food insecurity, boost agricultural productivity, and build the foundations for sustainable growth in the ASEAN region.



Moreover, the study identified relevant players and their activities and roles in the region in relation to inclusive agribusiness. It also provided an analysis of effective practices and implications of these for future investments, policy decisions, and partnership strategies.

Results of the study were presented at the Roundtable on Inclusive Agribusiness in Southeast Asia that held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in September 2015, which was also co-organized by DFAT through CSIRO. SEARCA's presentation emphasized the status, trends, functions, shape and factors supporting success of inclusive agribusiness in the region with focus on the four countries covered by the study.

### **Livestock R&D**

Australia is one the four countries visited during the *Overseas Comparative Study Mission of Livestock R&D Institutions* implemented by SEARCA. The customized comparative study mission benchmarked the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) with similarly situated institutions in other countries and draw lessons and best practices in livestock development and management.

Specifically, the study mission aimed to:

- Identify relevant and specific international public and private sector program concepts and strategies that are applicable, can be refined and adapted to strengthen genetic improvement, enterprise development and R&D program of the PCC's Carabao Development Program (CDP);
- Facilitate the formulation, preparation, and integration of findings into the CDP; and
- Assist in establishing active linkage through research/technical cooperation or scientist exchange program.

As part of the study mission, eight PCC key officials and a SEARCA program specialist visited six Australian institutions from 29 June to 10 July 2014. The institutions visited were:

- University of New England (UNE)
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Development (ACIAR)
- Meat and Livestock Australia Limited (MLA)
- Australian Agricultural Company (AACo)
- Department of Agriculture, Canberra



## **Strengthening ASEAN Mechanisms for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD Plus)**

In 2012, SEARCA was commissioned by the ASEAN to implement this project funded by the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II).

The project's overall goal was to enhance ASEAN's ability to coordinate efforts for REDD Plus at the regional and international levels to address the issue of climate change and its impact in ASEAN Member States (AMS). Specifically, the project aimed to: (1) promote the utilization of the ASEAN strategy and common positions on REDD plus in the international arena; and (2) develop and promote the application of guidelines for measuring and reporting emissions and removals, forest carbon stocks and area changes and establishing Reference Emission Levels as key entry requirements for REDD plus programs in AMS.

SEARCA was tasked to provide technical leadership in designing feasible, scalable, and cost-effective guidelines for measuring, reporting, verifying and establishing reference levels for carbon dioxide emissions caused by forest degradation. It also identified approaches and technical assistance needed for the implementation of REDD plus as well as collaborative research in the region. SEARCA coordinated with the AMS and provided guidance in addressing methodological issues as key entry requirements for REDD plus and its subsequent implementation.

SEARCA produced two key documents under the project, namely:

- "Methodological Approaches for Reference Level and MRV Systems and Assessment of Future Technical Assistance to Implement REDD Plus Effectively"
- "Guidelines for Establishment of Reference Emission Level (REL) and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Systems for Implementing REDD Plus"





## Other Research Studies

The following are some of the other projects and studies done in collaboration with Australian institutions:

- Review and Analysis of Technologies for Sustainable Land Management in the Uplands of the Philippines
- Organizational Assessment and Change Management Consultancy for Land Administration Management Project (LAMP) 2
- LAMP 2: Preparation of a National Working Paper on Free Patent Amendment
- Evaluation Mission of Government of Australia-Government of the Philippines Activities Focusing on Marginal or Rainfed Farming Systems in the Philippines
- Tropical Rainforest Management Course (Philippine Portion)
- Customized Training in Strengthening the Capability of the National Agriculture and Fishery Council to Effectively Conduct Social Mobilization
- Agribusiness and Related Projects
- Improving the Efficiency of the Agribusiness Supply Chain and Quality Management of Small Producers in Mindanao
- Development of a Computer-based Design Procedure for Agroforestry Models
- Post Production Systems Management (Integrated Pest Management; Pilot Study on the Application of Post-harvest Systems and Technologies; Corn Loss Assessment and Control Studies)
- Safe Storage of Grain in the Humid Tropics

## ► CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The Australian Government, through ACIAR, was one of the sponsors of the *2nd International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in Southeast Asia (ARD2014)* held on 12-13 November 2014 in Makati Shangri-La, Manila, Philippines. The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), also co-sponsored the first international conference on ARD convened by SEARCA in 2005.

The following are some of the other conferences, as well as workshops, roundtable discussions, and training courses conducted by SEARCA in partnership with or support from Australian partners:

- Workshop on Rural Development Initiatives and the Policy Environment: What is the Real Score?
- Roundtable Meeting on SEARCA-ACIAR Philippine Policy Linkage Scoping Studies
- International Workshop on Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture on Marginal Uplands in Southeast Asia
- Seventh Policy Roundtable on Building Capacities for Agricultural Competitiveness of Transition Countries in Southeast Asia (Global Financial Crisis: Impacts, Challenges, and Responses toward Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security in Transition Southeast Asia)
- Third National Agribusiness Conference “Charting the Future of Agribusiness”
- The Global and Terrestrial Ecosystems-Land Use/Cover Change Open Science Conference
- 14th Annual Scientific Conference of the Federation of Crop Science Societies of the Philippines

- Workshop on Systems Modeling Project
- Workshop on Soil Changes under Agroforestry
- UC Conference on Agricultural Competitiveness and Rural Development in Rapidly Globalizing Economies of Asia: How Do Southeast Asian Universities Respond?
- Dissertation Workshop on the Challenges of Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia
- Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on International Fund for Agricultural Development Rural Poverty Report 2009

## ► VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS FROM ANU

A faculty member and a PhD Candidate at the Australian National University (ANU) are affiliated with SEARCA as Visiting Research Fellows from June 2015 to September 2018. They are Dr. Robert Dyball, Lecturer, Human Ecology Program, and Mr. Federico Davila, PhD Candidate both at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment.



Dr. Robert Dyball (third from left) of ANU guides participants from Cambodia in their workshop exercise.

Dr. Dyball accepted SEARCA's invitation to serve as Visiting Research Fellow to facilitate the Training-workshop on Developing, Planning, and Implementing ISARD Projects. Held on 22-26 June 2015, the activity was a collaborative initiative of SEARCA, ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños – College of Human Ecology (UPLB-CHE). Participants were 24 university researchers, development practitioners, and faculty members representing five teams from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and the Philippines. By the end of the training-workshop, each team had drawn up a project proposal on ISARD. As Visiting Research Fellow, Dr. Dyball was among the lead investigators in the conduct of the research developed from the training-workshop.



Mr. Federico Davila (2nd from right) of ANU explains the expected output of a workshop exercise to the participants from Thailand and the Philippines.

On the other hand, as a SEARCA Visiting Research Fellow, Mr. Davila is conducting his research that aims to explore the linkages between food security, food sovereignty, and the pressures of sustainable development among Filipino smallholder farmers. His research is well attuned to SEARCA's thrusts on ISARD as it seeks to contribute to the current multilateral focus on greater inclusion of smallholder farmers into development programs and agricultural policies to improve well-being and equity.

## ► TRAINING COURSES

Training courses conducted by SEARCA in partnership with Australian institutions include the following:

- Third Executive Forum on Natural Resource Management: Environmental Economics for Decision-making
- Southeast Asia Cooperative Postharvest Research and Development Program
- Participatory Approach to Research and Technology Development for Sustainable Land Management
- Training Course on Management of Agricultural Information Series

## KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE

SEARCA promotes a learning culture, knowledge use, and knowledge creation among decision-makers, leaders, scholars, researchers, and key actors in agriculture and rural development through learning forums, training, seminars, virtual knowledge centers, a semi-annual journal titled *Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development*, books, monographs, and other publications which are available in print and online.

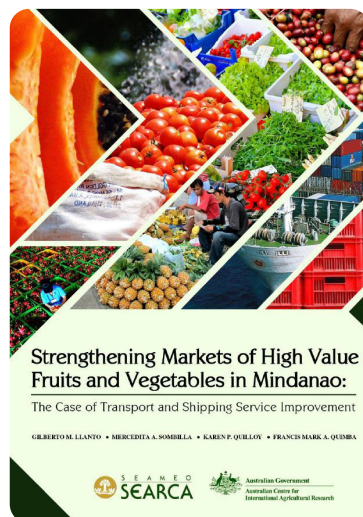
The contents of these knowledge products are gleaned from SEARCA-organized international conferences, results of SEARCA research projects, as well as the tacit knowledge of researchers, decision-makers, and practitioners who participate in the Center's short-term training programs and other learning events.

In 2013, SEARCA published a monograph titled *Strengthening Markets of High Value Fruits and Vegetables in Mindanao* as an output of a project funded by ACIAR and implemented by SEARCA.

The authors of the monograph are Dr. Gilberto M. Llanto, Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Ms. Karen P. Quilloy, and Mr. Francis Mark A. Quimba.

SEARCA also worked with ACIAR in producing the following ACIAR monographs:

- Landcare in the Philippines, A practical guide to getting it started and keeping it going
- Landcare in the Philippines, Stories of the people and places

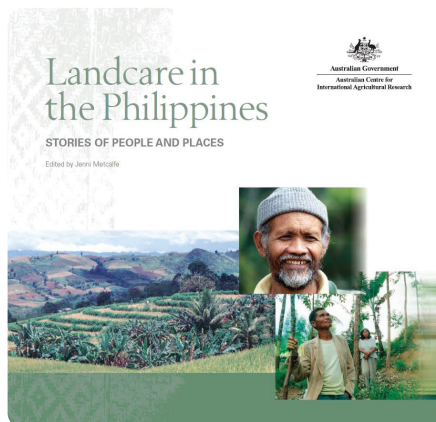
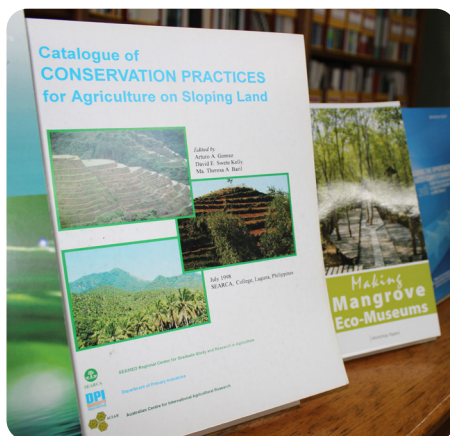
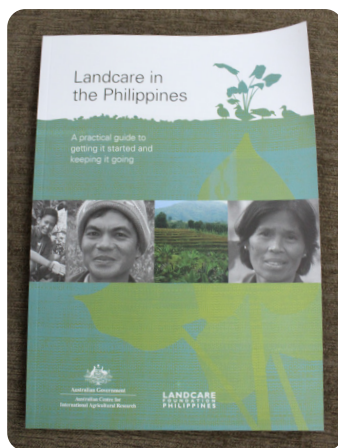


In addition, SEARCA has published 20 working papers, two data papers, seven reports, one catalog, seven technical papers, and three research papers in cooperation with Australian institutions. These include the following titles:

- Spontaneous Tree Growing Initiatives by Farmers: An Exploratory Study of Five Cases in Luzon, Philippines
- Grassland-based Upland Farms: A Study on Fire Occurrence in Isabela
- An Application of the Trenbath Model for Studying Shifting Cultivation Systems
- The Dynamics of Grassland Transformation in Salindingan, Ilagan, Isabela, Philippines
- Napier Grass Strips and Livestock: A Bioeconomic Analysis
- A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Gmelina Hedgerow Fallow System in Claveria, Northern Mindanao, Philippines

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## PHOTO GALLERY

### FORMER AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR'S VISIT



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., former SEARCA Director, welcomes His Excellency Bill Tweddell, Ambassador of Australia to the Philippines, on his visit to SEARCA on 26 April 2012. The Ambassador was accompanied by his spouse, Mrs. Christ Tweddell (rightmost), and Ms. Cecilia O. Honrado (standing at the back), ACIAR Country Manager.



Dr. Saguiguit, Jr. briefs Ambassador Tweddell about SEARCA's programs and activities. Others in the photo are Mrs. Chris Tweddell and Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, former SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, to her right; Ms. Dorcas Trinidad of WorldFish Center-Philippines, and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, former SEARCA Manager for Project Development and Management, flanking Dr. Saguiguit on his left and right, respectively.

### LANDCARE PROJECT AGREEMENT SIGNING



Officials of ACIAR led by chief executive officer Dr. Nick Austin (right) visited SEARCA on 18 August 2010 to acquaint themselves with SEARCA's current programs and thrusts. ACIAR and SEARCA have been collaborating over the years on programs, projects, and activities of common interest. Photo shows Dr. Saguiguit reporting the center's activities to the Australian group, which also includes Dr. Peter Herne (second from left), ACIAR Livestock Production Systems Research Program Manager; Ms. Les Barter (second from right), Horticulture Research Program Manager; and (not in photo) ACIAR-Philippines Country Manager Cecilia O. Honrado, Philippine Horticulture Manager John Oakenshott, and ACIARPhilippines staff member Mara Faylon.



Her Excellency Ruth Pearce, Ambassador of Australia to the Philippines, and SEARCA, represented by former Director Arsenio M. Balisacan, formalized the implementation of Project No. ASEM/2002/051 *Sustaining and Growing Landcare Systems in the Philippines and Australia* funded by ACIAR and AusAID with the signing of the project agreement on 17 January 2005 at the Australian Embassy in Makati City. The signing was witnessed by Dr. Arnulfo G. Garcia, Landcare Project Leader, SEARCA; Mr. Paul O'Neill, First Secretary on Development Cooperation, AusAID; and Ms. Cecilia O. Honrado.

The Landcare project was an expanded version of the Landcare project that SEARCA implemented from 1999 to 2004. Covering five project sites in the Philippines, the project was a joint undertaking of SEARCA, the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.





