



CANADA 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.

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

SEARCA is indebted to the Canadian government for its contribution, through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, to the construction of SEARCA's present headquarters. More than this, Canadian development organizations and SEARCA have had a long history of collaboration.

■ GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

IDRC-SEARCA Scholarship for Upland Agriculture and Food Security

In 2013, IDRC partnered with SEARCA in offering a graduate scholarship program to establish a critical mass of high-quality human resources in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. The scholars were envisaged to serve as catalysts who will develop sustainable agricultural programs for upland communities in Southeast Asia.



SEARCA awarded 53 IDRC-supported scholarships (52 MS, 1 PhD), to 11 Cambodians, 21 Laotians, 10 Myanmar, and 11 Vietnamese.

Four universities served as study posts of the IDRC-SEARCA scholars: Chiang Mai University (CMU), Khon Kaen University (KKU), and Kasetsart University (KU), all in Thailand, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in the Philippines.

The three-year scholarship project also supported an “annual fellowship plus conference” held in the Philippines, Thailand, and Cambodia where the IDRC-SEARCA scholars from the

different study posts got to know each other, shared experiences via paper and poster presentations, and visited upland areas to observe variations between sites that could influence their research perspective/hypothesis and thesis development.



Other IDRC-funded Scholarships

In 1980, SEARCA also administered the IDRC scholarship of a Sri Lankan who completed MS in Agronomy at UPLB and the postdoctoral fellowship of a Kenyan which comprised a three-month training on research management at UPLB.

■ SEAMEO-CANADA PROGRAM GRANTS

From 1990 to 1993, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supported SEARCA graduate scholarships through grants under the SEAMEO-Canada Program.

■ UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is an affiliate member of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). IDRC was represented at the workshop held in August 1988 in Bangkok, Thailand where the five UC founding members agreed to form the UC with SEARCA as secretariat.

Launched in 1989, the UC now links strong universities in Southeast Asia, Canada, Germany, Japan, and Taiwan to enhance graduate education and cross-cultural understanding as well as promote regional and global cooperation.

The regular members of the UC are Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and Universitas Brawijaya (UB), all in Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) KU and Maejo University in Thailand; and Visayas State University (VSU), Central Luzon State University (CLSU), and UPLB, all in the Philippines. Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan and National Taiwan University are UC associate members. Like UBC, the Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany is also a UC affiliate member.

Four UBC students cross-enrolled at UPLB, KU, and UPM under the UC Student Exchange Program, while 10 students from UPLB, UPM, UGM, and KU cross-enrolled at UBC. Also, one faculty member from UBC participated in the UC Faculty Forum held at CLSU last December

2022. UBC also hosted nine faculty members of UPLB, UPM, IPB, KU, and UQ who participated in the UC Faculty Exchange Program, while four UBC faculty members were hosted by UPLB, UPM, and IPB. UBC also hosted one UPLB researcher under the UC Research Fellowship Program.

UBC also hosted the annual UC Executive Board Meeting in 1996 and 2002 and has been consistently participating in meetings since 2018 when they reactivated their affiliate membership in the UC.

The regular members of the UC are Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and Universitas Brawijaya (UB), all in Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), KU, and UPLB. Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan and National Taiwan University are UC associate members. Like UBC, the Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany is also a UC affiliate member. In Southeast Asia, the UC affiliate members are Visayas State University and Central Luzon State University in the Philippines and Maejo University in Thailand.

Four UBC students cross-enrolled at UPLB, KU, and UPM under the UC Student Exchange Program, while 10 students from UPLB, UPM, UGM, and KU cross-enrolled at UBC. Moreover, UBC hosted nine faculty members of UPLB, UPM, IPB, KU, and UQ who participated in the UC Faculty Exchange Program, while four UBC faculty members were hosted by UPLB, UPM, and IPB. UBC also hosted one UPLB researcher under the UC Research Fellowship Program.

UBC also hosted the annual UC Executive Board Meeting in 1996 and 2002.

■ SHORT-TERM TRAINING

SEARCA conducted a number of Canada-supported training courses and learning events, most of which were implemented under the various SEARCA research projects funded by IDRC.

► IDRC-FUNDED TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Research Management Training

The success of Research Management in Asia project paved the way for this training project, which SEARCA and the UPLB Research Management Center started in 1980 with funding from IDRC. The goal was to develop research managers who are professionally proficient in applying management principles, skills, and tools in research institutions. The project produced curricula and materials for short courses and postgraduate degree programs on research management, including the following:

- Research Management Enhancement Course
- In-country Research Management Training Course
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Other IDRC-funded Training and Learning Events

The following is a list of other IDRC-funded training activities:

- Postharvest Rice Technology Training Course
- Agricultural Documentation and Information for the Development of Asia
- Cassava Production Training
- Management Training and Case Writing Workshop for Agricultural Research Managers

- Seminar-Workshop on Agricultural Research Planning
- Regional Micrographics Training Course
- Regional Training Course on Indexing and Abstracting
- International Seminar on Accelerating Agricultural Development and Agribusiness
- Trainers' Seminar-Workshop on Research Management
- Curricular and Training Development Workshop on Agricultural Research Management
- Grain Postharvest Training Courses
- Graduate Course on Grains Post-harvest Engineering
- Seminar on Paddy Deterioration in the Humid Tropics
- Trainings on Advance documentation and information work
- Short-term Trainings in International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS)/ Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS) Input Methodology and Information Storage and Retrieval
- Regional Workshop on Commercialization of Research Results
- Information Management Training Series
- Regional Training Course on On-Farm Trials for Technology Verification
- Training-Workshop on Development of Market Research
- Short-term Specialist Training Course on Database Development
- Workshop on the Proposed Valuation of Mt. Makiling Watershed
- Regional Training Course on Environmental Resource and Economics
- Workshop on Biofuels Development in Southeast Asia and East Asia
- Synthesis-Writeshop on Gender, Public Health, Governance, Public Policy and Agri-biotechnology in Asia
- Training-Workshop on Project Proposal Development and Fund Mobilization for Climate Change Adaptation Project Dissemination and Sharing Seminar
- Training-Workshop on the Development of a Participatory Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Management



► CIDA-FUNDED TRAINING ACTIVITIES

SEARCA Staff Training

Several SEARCA staff were able to go on study visits and short-term training under the auspices of the **SEAMEO Pilot Project on Integrated Community-based Human Resource Development** funded by CIDA. Six of them attended training programs in teleconferencing and CD-ROM technology, data management, women in development, and rural extension.

CIDA supported the two-month training of a SEARCA computer systems specialist at the University of Guelph under the *Guelph-SEARCA Cooperation in Food Security Research*. Under the auspices of the SEAMEO Pilot Project, CIDA also funded the development of the Database Management System for Rural Development at SEARCA, which was shared with network participants in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The project evolved into the **Data Management for Rural Development and Food Security Project** which enabled six more SEARCA staff to participate in training programs at UBC and University of Guelph in the 1990s.

Other CIDA-funded Training

Below are SEARCA training activities supported by CIDA:

- Workshop on Case Study Writing
- Agricultural Entrepreneurship Curriculum and Course Development Training

In addition to these, five Canadians served as resource persons and one served as a participant in six regional and international events that SEARCA conducted.



RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Canadian government has funded numerous SEARCA-implemented research and development projects. The first was a six-year project that began in 1971, while the latest was a three-year project conducted from 2011 to 2014. In particular, the partnership of IDRC and SEARCA in R&D spans more than four decades. The two organizations collaborated on research that focused on research management, postharvest systems, women in agricultural development, climate change, agricultural competitiveness, agribusiness, and other elements of agricultural growth.

■ RESEARCH PROJECTS

► IDRC-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Southeast Asia

The Philippine component of this three-year project was commissioned to SEARCA in 2011 by the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA), which was then still under the auspices of IDRC. Other EEPSEA partners in the region implemented the Cambodia and Vietnam components of the project.

In the Philippines, the project built up the local capacity of 12 towns in the province of Laguna to determine and analyze their vulnerabilities to climate change and identify appropriate adaptation strategies. The vulnerability analysis included GIS mapping, economic analysis, and social and gender analysis. Related training courses and technical support were also provided for research teams and local government staff.



The project recommended two sets of adaptation options for economic analysis of the vulnerable communities in Laguna: (1) establishment of a technology-based, community-implemented flood early warning system and (2) relocation, evacuation, and building modification. The project published its results in two monographs printed by SEARCA.

Gene Bank for Economic Crops in Southeast Asia

In 1971, SEARCA launched this five-year project to collect and maintain all available genotypes of crops of economic importance to Southeast Asia, classify the collected materials into useful categories, generate breeding materials from the collection, and serve as a center from which SEAMEO member countries could obtain genotypes needed in their research. The catalogue of genotypes were sent to researchers in all SEAMEO member countries. In 1975-1976, IDRC

financed the construction of the project's seed dryer and cold storage needed to maintain a good gene bank. SEARCA later turned over the facilities to the UPLB Institute of Plant Breeding.

Protein Gap Study

IDRC and SEARCA collaborated with IRRI on the research titled **Uniform Regional Tests of Selected Varieties of Crops which are Potential Sources of Protein in Seven Locations in Southeast Asia** with the end view of increasing production of high-protein crops to help solve the protein gap and the nutritional problems that plagued Southeast Asia's growing population at the time. The collaborative project assembled the most promising varieties of soybean, mungbean, peanut, cowpea, sweet potato, and high-lysine corn in seven Southeast Asian countries. The project also established a mechanism by which each country can directly use the results of the uniform yield trials through a national program of extensive varietal testing, varietal release, and seed certification and multiplication.

Research Management in Asia

IDRC funded this SEARCA-led project during its initial phase (1974-1978) and throughout the three-year extension (1979-1981).

With 10 participating countries (i.e., Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Thailand), the project aimed to strengthen the research management capacity of research administrators to support agricultural development in the region and institutionalize research management in colleges and universities in Southeast Asia. The project succeeded in institutionalizing research management at UPLB. Several other universities in participating countries also started to offer formal courses on research management in 1977. This was considered a feat as at the time, nowhere else in the world was agricultural research management per se offered as a formal course.



Moreover, the project identified constraints to research productivity and recommended solutions. It also produced a compendium of teaching materials that cover various dimensions of research management at different levels of agricultural research systems at the international, regional, and national levels.

Southeast Asia Cooperative Post-Harvest Research and Development Program

In 1976, SEARCA began to host the technical team of the program led by IDRC. The program was jointly funded by IDRC, CIDA, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the governments of Australia and the Netherlands. The program sought to develop postharvest systems best suited to local conditions in Southeast Asia to raise the levels of available rice and other important grains in the region, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

SEARCA assisted IDRC, the program's executing agency, in financial management and logistical support, including provision of housing, facilities for meetings and other forums, and office accommodation. Regional activities conducted under the program included the following:

- Grain Post-harvest Training Course
- Regional Training on the Prevention of Waste and Loss of Food Grains
- Grains Post-harvest Workshop
- Regional Systems Studies
- Establishment of the ASEAN Working Group on Grain Program
- Study on the Establishment of a Regional Post-harvest Center
- Exchange programs and lectures
- In-country training events and research in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand

Women in Development

Started in 1986, this project was supported by IDRC, the **SEAMEO-CIDA Pilot Project for Integrating Community-based Human Resource Development**, and SEARCA's Operating Funds to increase the income generating capacity of rural women. The project implemented a small rural credit program and small grant projects on fruit and vegetable processing, honeybee culture, and mushroom and nata de coco production.



Women in Postproduction Systems

In 1989, SEARCA launched this IDRC-funded project which aimed to define the postproduction environment of selected agricultural crops and examine the status and role of the different household members, especially women in the postharvest system. The project outputs included a procedure to identify and evaluate postharvest technology that will meet the different gender needs and requirements of target beneficiaries and an effective technology transfer. The project was implemented by SEARCA in collaboration with Philippine universities, namely: UPLB, Isabela State University, and Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA, now known as Visayas State University).

Research Utilization Project

SEARCA began this IDRC-funded project in 1988 when it shifted its research focus from technology generation to technology application. SEARCA developed quick and simple methodologies to evaluate the commercialization of research results and pretested these methodologies on some root crop-based technologies developed by ViSCA (now known as Visayas State University) in the Philippines. Initiatives under the project included the following:

- Evaluation of the Potential Commercial Utilization of ViSCA's Root Crop-based Technologies
- Evaluation of Coconut-based Technologies and Pectinase Production
- Seminar on Financial Evaluation of Projects
- Postproduction Research Application Project

Data Management for On-farm Trials

From 1989 to 1992, IDRC co-funded this project, which was jointly implemented by SEARCA, IDRC, and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to develop and make available to national programs computer-based data management and analytic tools that would simplify and promote proper use and analysis of data from on-farm trials. The project covered national programs in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

Other IDRC-funded Research

Other research projects conducted by SEARCA with IDRC funding were as follows:

- Evaluation of Root Crops Production and Processing Project with Emphasis on Sweet Potato
- Agribusiness Market Research in the Philippines
- Research Methodologies for Appraising Agribusiness Enterprise
- Market Research Techniques for New Product Development and Launching by Small- and Medium-scale Off-farm Agribusiness Enterprise in the Philippines
- Market Research Study on Utilization of Root Crop Products
- Strengthening Marketability of Technology for Sustained Food Processing at the Village Level in Vietnam
- Expert Systems Project
- Development of Sustainable Indicators for Lao PDR and Vietnam
- Facing Emerging Issues in Southeast Asia: Towards Mainstreaming Economic Instruments and Related Tools in Environmental and Natural Resource Management
- Sustainable Indicators for Lao PDR and Vietnam for Regional Database Building

► CIDA-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

SEAMEO-CIDA Pilot Project on Integrated Community-based Human Resource Development

Launched in 1985 in Hull City, Canada during the memorandum of agreement signing between CIDA and the SEAMEO Secretariat, the project covered five SEAMEO member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. The objective was to test the effectiveness of some rural development approaches in villages in the five countries. SEARCA and six other SEAMEO centers provided training, technical assistance, and logistical support to the project. Former SEARCA Director, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. served as the Research and Development Coordinator and Researcher.

The project also had an institutional cooperation component which aimed to upgrade the technical and professional competencies of SEAMEO staff through institutional arrangements with Canadian universities and colleges. Several SEARCA staff were able to participate in study visits and training programs in Canada through this institutional cooperation (see page 4).

Data Management for Rural Development and Food Security Project

This project—also known as the **SEARCA-University of Guelph Linkage Project**—began in 1988 as one of several linkage projects conducted region-wide under the *SEAMEO-Canada Program of Cooperation* supported by CIDA. Adjudged as one of the best linkage projects

under the program by a consultancy firm contracted by CIDA, this project's accomplishments included the following:

- Developed a computer-based analytical techniques to assess food security and rural development status on the household and village levels
- Developed a procedure for identifying viable food security and rural development interventions for given biophysical and socioeconomic environments
- Information (case studies) of the food security status of selected rural villages in Southeast Asia
- Expanded use of the questionnaires and the techniques developed by the project

Other CIDA-Funded Research Projects

Below are other CIDA-funded research projects conducted by SEARCA:

- Technical Assistance in Agricultural Entrepreneurship for Lao PDR
- Management Information System Development for the Local Government Support Program

■ VISITING SCIENTISTS PROGRAM

The program was launched in 1969 in support of SEARCA's graduate and research programs. The visiting scientists were usually affiliated with various academic units of UPLB—SEARCA's host institution—where they taught special courses or conducted research.

IDRC supported the following visiting scientist:

- Dr. Zenaida F. Toquero, a Filipino IDRC scientist seconded to SEARCA from 1986 to 1993 who served as Postharvest Economics Advisor for Asia, to develop and strengthen SEARCA's postharvest economics and agribusiness research as well as to intensify the economics input in IDRC-supported postharvest researches in Asia. She also served as leader of the Women in Development (WID) project and its spinoff project titled Women in Postproduction Systems



Dr. Zenaida Toquero

CIDA supported the following Canadian visiting scientists:

- Dr. Donald G. Russell, who was appointed Visiting Scientist in the Postharvest Research and Development Program supported by CIDA
- Dr. William S. Griffith, University of British Columbia (UBC) Professor who specialized in adult education and agricultural extension. He assisted SEARCA in the implementation of the SEAMEO-CIDA Pilot Project
- Dr. Weldon Finlay, University of Guelph professor who was also an agricultural extension specialist. In addition to monitoring and facilitating activities in the Philippine project sites, he gave lectures and helped foster the development of institutional linkages between SEARCA and his university
- Mrs. Ilse Zandstra, a Canadian specialist who worked in the WID aspect of the SEAMEO-CIDA Pilot Project

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE

From the beginning the founders of SEARCA envisioned it to be the center for documentation of agricultural information in Southeast Asia. The vision took a concrete form when SEARCA launched the **Agricultural Information Bank for Asia (AIBA)** in 1973 with funding support from IDRC. It was by building on the gains of AIBA in the late 1980s that SEARCA established its Information Resources Development Program, which had further evolved to the Center's former Knowledge Management (KM) Program.

Agricultural Information Bank for Asia (AIBA)

Set up to serve as a regional documentation center that aimed to improve information services in the field of agriculture and allied disciplines, AIBA's membership included five ASEAN countries at the outset (i.e., Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand), to which were added Bangladesh, Korea Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong, but only to revert back to the initial five members in 1985.



In 1974, AIBA became the regional hub of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) *Agricultural Information System (AGRIS)* and later *Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS)* and helped develop the national agricultural infrastructure of each participating country.

Through AIBA, SEARCA took part in the IDRC-funded **Asian Health, Environment, and Allied Databases (AHEAD) Project** wherein SEARCA was in charge of premastering the Asian Pacific Information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (APINMAP) databases to produce compact discs containing information on health and environment.

AIBA also helped in the databanking effort of the *SEAMEO-CIDA Pilot Project* on Integrated Community-based Human Resource Development by developing the framework for the characterization of rural development programs in terms of focus of intervention in terms of environment, process, and impact.

AIBA counts among its accomplishments the introduction and operationalization of the concept of an agricultural information network in Southeast Asia. Starting 1979, IDRC also supported a three-year training series on information management which consisted of short-term courses conducted by leading library and information centers in the region. In the 1990s, IDRC commissioned AIBA to conduct an *Information Management Training Series*.

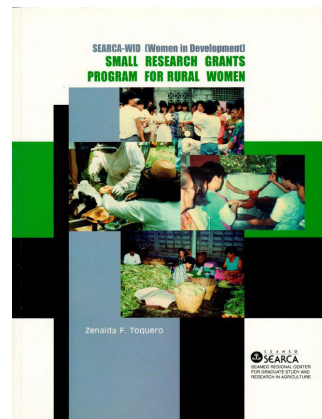
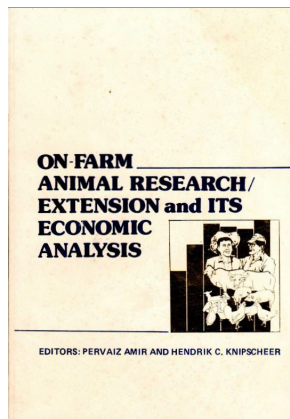
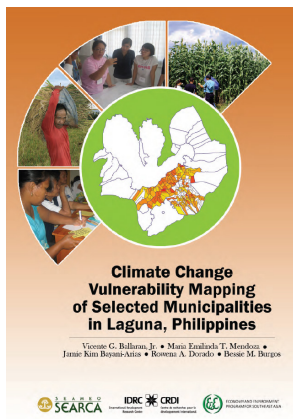
■ PUBLICATIONS

In 2014, several publications containing results of the IDRC-funded project titled *Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Southeast Asia* were published. These include two monographs titled *Faces of Vulnerability: Gender, Climate Change and Disaster and Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping of Selected Municipalities in Laguna, Philippines* as well as policy briefs on the same topics.

SEARCA also published the proceedings of the annual fellowship plus conference attended by IDRC-SEARCA scholars.

Earlier publications containing results of IDRC-funded projects include the following:

- Agriculture Research Management, Volumes 1 and 2
- Research Management Learning Packages
- Agriculture Research System in Asia
- Curricular and Training Development Workshop on Agricultural Research Management
- Texts and Case Studies on Agricultural Research Management
- AgriAsia Volumes I, II, and III (No. 1-4)
- Indonesian, Philippine, and Thai Agricultural Bibliographies
- Research Management Profiles of India, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan
- Small Research Grants Program for Rural Women
- Gender Concerns in the Postproduction of Selected Horticultural Crops in the Philippines and Thailand: Issues and Perspective
- On-Farm Animal Research and Extension and Its Economic Analysis



ATTENDING CANADA DAY 2023

Dr. Gregorio attended the celebration of Canada Day at the Grand Hyatt Manila. Dr. Gregorio and his colleagues met Canadian Ambassador David Hartman and Mr. Eric Russo, counselor and readiness and security program manager at the Embassy of Canada in the Philippines.



