



NEW ZEALAND 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. The Philippines is one of the founding member countries of SEAMEO, which was established in 1965.

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 and resilient 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.

NEW ZEALAND'S INVOLVEMENT WITH SEARCA

New Zealand is one of the six associate member countries of SEAMEO.

■ GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1998, New Zealand has contributed annually to the *SEAMEO Educational Development Fund (SEDF)*, which are earmarked for scholarships for participants from SEAMEO member countries, with emphasis on female participants. From 1988 to 1998, New Zealand contributed US\$ 177,915 to the SEDF, which had, in turn, funded two SEARCA graduate scholarship slots per year.

► SHORT-TERM TRAINING

From 4 to 6 February 2025, SEARCA, in partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Dairy Training and Research Institute (DTRI), hosted the **Training for Livestock Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Measurement** in Laguna, Philippines, equipping participants with the skills to use and maintain GreenFeed™ units for livestock GHG measurement. It comprised lectures and hands-on experience in all aspects of commissioning and operating the new equipment, which has been provided to UPLB in a new project funded by the Global Methane Hub. From setup to experimental design and data analysis, the training enabled the use of GreenFeed™ equipment in measuring and managing GHG emissions from dairy cows.

This region-wide initiative is jointly organized by the Philippine and Vietnam Greenhouse Gas Measurement Hubs, with support from the New Zealand Government's Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative and the University of California, Davis. With 17 participants from eight countries, the training was led by Prof. Roger Hegarty and Mr. Graeme Bremner, and was administered by the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC).



In July 2018, the Global Farm Tourism Summit (GFTS2018) brought together stakeholders from various countries, including New Zealand, to explore the potential of farm tourism as a sustainable industry. With over 300 attendees from nations such as South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and the USA, the summit aimed to raise awareness about the benefits of integrating tourism into farming practices.

■ RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEARCA has adopted a wider perspective beyond traditional agriculture that gives equal emphasis on the conservation and preservation of natural environment and rural growth promotion. After signing a general memorandum of agreement with Lincoln University in 2002, **SEARCA's Agro-Industrial development Program** hosted Dr. Gilbert Nartea, a Visiting Professor who was on sabbatical from Lincoln University. During Dr. Narte's visit, SEARCA supported him in his research for a sequel to his published book on agribusiness entrepreneurs, which focused on the Asian perspective.

In June 2023, SEARCA showcased its agriculture education and training initiatives at the Philippines-New Zealand Program Launch at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The event, attended by the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre and the Philippine Carabao Center, highlighted New Zealand's global research engagement and the UPLB project on greenhouse gas inventory and mitigation for cattle. The roundtable discussion explored potential collaborations between the Philippines and New Zealand.

VISIT NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR TO SEARCA



Her Excellency Dr. Catherine McIntosh, New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines, visited SEARCA on 12 September. The meeting focused on revisiting potential joint initiatives with the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC) on climate-smart agriculture 2024.

