



SPAIN 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. Spain became a SEAMEO Associate Member Country in 2006.

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.

■ GRADUATE EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEARCA has a standing institutional agreement with Agrinatura, an alliance of prestigious European universities and research organizations with a vast experience in research dealing with tropical and subtropical agriculture, organic agriculture, forestry, food security and human nutrition, veterinary medicine, fisheries and related environmental sciences. Agrinatura has 35 members from 16 European countries, including Polytechnic University of Madrid in Spain.

Agrinatura is one of the project partners in the **Master of Science in Food Security and Climate Change (MS FSCC) Project** led by Kasetsart University (KU) and SEARCA under the SEARCA-established **Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC)**.

Spain was also represented at the **Kick-off Meeting of the European Union-funded Exchange by Promoting Quality Education, Research and Training in South and Southeast Asia (EXPERTS) held in October 2010, which was organized and hosted by SEARCA. EXPERTS** promoted European Higher Education System in South and Southeast Asian countries. It also sought to enhance the attractiveness of European higher education system in the region and increase the compatibility of higher education systems in Europe and Asia.



Participants of the EXPERTS Kick-off Meeting organized and hosted by SEARCA.

■ TRAINING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Two Spanish experts shared their knowledge in learning events that benefitted SEARCA staff. Mr. Ricardo G. Barcelona, Managing Director, Barcino Capitas Limited, Spain, gave a *Special Seminar on “Bio-energy and Philippine Agriculture: Getting Policy and Economics to Talk* at the SEARCA Agriculture and Development Seminar Series held on 10 March 2011. Five years later, Mr. Pedro Gutierrez Da Cos, an IBM specialist from Spain, came to SEARCA as part of IBM's Corporate Service Corps (CSC) Program in Los Baños who worked as a pro-bono consultant to help the Center harness IT tools and enhance its knowledge management practices and strategies. He and two other IBM volunteers analyzed SEARCA's social media metrics and presented their recommendations to adopt key tools and platforms for improved workforce efficiency through cross-departmental support.



Mr. Pedro Gutierrez Da Cos, an IBM specialist from Spain, came to SEARCA as part of IBM's Corporate Service Corps (CSC) Program in Los Baños.

One Spanish student participated in the **Summer School on Integrated Forestry Farming System: A Transition to Food Security in a Changing Climate** jointly organized by SEARCA, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) of Indonesia, and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) of Vienna, Austria. A combination of theory, case studies, group discussions, and fieldwork, the Summer School was an intensive course and a required course in the MS FSCC.

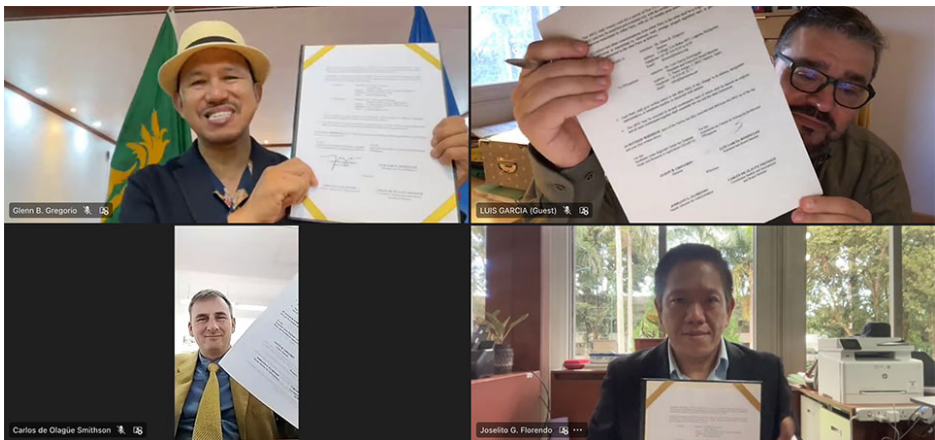
On the other hand, through the SEARCA-implemented **Capacity Building Program on Knowledge Management (KM) project**, two Philippine government officers working in the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) were able to participate in the *4th International Conference on Knowledge Management and Information Sharing* on 4-5 October 2012 in Barcelona, Spain.

RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

In 2001, SEARCA collaborated with Technical Y Proyectors, S.A. (TYP SA), Spain and the Philippine Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG) on an advisory study on project management capacity building for the DILG project called **Institutional capacity building component Subic Bay Area Municipal Development Project**, which was funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Spain. The study assessed the current project development and management systems of local government units, the DILG, and other national government institutions involved in project development and management.

In 2007-2008, SEARCA engaged with Madrid-based Eurostudios, SL, Ingenieros de Consulta on agriculture-related consulting activities.

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION



SEARCA and the Asociación de Centros de Formación Profesional (FPEmpresa) solidified their collaboration through a virtual signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 24 January 2024. Under the MOU, SEARCA and FPEmpresa will collaborate on capacity development programs and knowledge resource projects, leveraging FPEmpresa's VET centers and SEARCA's network of partners.

VISITORS



On 2 March 2023, Ms. Beatriz Jimeno-Ortas, education advisor at the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines, and officials from SEARCA, led by director Dr. Glenn Gregorio, discussed potential collaboration avenues. The focus was on SEARCA's role in enhancing agricultural education across the Philippines and Southeast Asia.



Moreover, on 3 February 2023, University of Málaga Rector D. José Ángel Narváez Bueno and Law School Professor Peping Torres Perea visited SEARCA to discuss potential areas of collaboration. They also visited the SEARCA Hub for Agricultural and Rural Innovation for the Next Generation (SHARING).



Representatives of the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation) visited SEARCA on 18 July 2008 to know more about SEARCA's research on water and to discuss possible collaboration.