

The SEARCA DIARY



A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGIONAL CENTER
FOR GRADUATE STUDY AND RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE

VOL.39 NO.3 SEP 2010

TOO MUCH, TOO LITTLE, TOO BAD

Too much water and too little water – a farmer's curse. Droughts and floods, now becoming ever more frequent and severe due to the changing climate, threaten the ability of agriculture to meet the demand for food.



Photo by: Anh Tuan

Transition economies contend with climate change risks

The transition economies of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) are already addressing risks brought about by climate change, particularly those focused on water resources. These countries are integrating vulnerability assessment in planning and implementing adaptation measures. Some countries already have adaptation plans and measures in place, while others are developing their policy frameworks and programs for climate change.

These are the main observations from a technical workshop that convened eight researchers and policy advisers or staff from CLMV in Bali, Indonesia on 6-7 August 2010 to learn about and plan their research on "Vulnerability and Risk Assessment in Climate Change: Toward Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security in Southeast Asia."

The Technical Workshop was organized with support from the Korea FAO Association (KFAO) and hosted by the Brighten Institute based in Bogor, Indonesia.

Dr. Rodel D. Lasco, Coordinator of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Philippine Program, served as key resource person. He presented evidences

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 02 SEARCA participates in ASEAN food security meeting
- 03 International meeting tracks development of biofuels model in aid of policy
- 03 Food Security Center taps Filipino expert to train Malawi PhD students
- 04 SEARCA alumnus' book wins NAST award
- 04 SEARCA hosts Los Baños Science Community symposium
- 05 EEPSEA, SEARCA team up to improve region's climate change adaptive capacity
- 06 4 staff of Philippine Department of Agriculture get MS scholarships
- 06 13 DAAD-SEARCA graduate scholars receive grant certificates
- 07 2 SEARCA alumni get grants for re-entry projects
- 07 3 SEARCA alumni receive grants for satellite remote sensing workshop in Taiwan
- 08 Snapshots
- 10 Alumni Notes
- 12 Philippine S&T Academy confers awards to young agri scientists
- 13 Thesis Abstracts
- 14 Philippine science journalists, SEARCA, ISAAA ink agreement
- 14 New 'Green Book' co-funded by SEARCA available soon
- 15 Umali lecture tackles rural credit
- 16 22 SEA higher education officials undergo academic leadership training

SEARCA participates in ASEAN food security meeting

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., Director, and Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager of Research and Development, both of SEARCA, were among the participants of a Food Security Expert Group Meeting held in Singapore on 4-5 August 2010. Convened by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, the meeting was aimed at having a better understanding of the growing food shortages in the world that were caused in part by climate change.

In particular, the objectives of the meeting were to: (1) scope out the context of urban food security relative to global and rural food security; (2) advise on the development of an ASEAN Integrated Food Security Management Information System; (3) assist in developing a research agenda on urban food security, including suggestions for potential projects and collaborators; and (4) identify possible roles for Singapore in the global food system. The meeting drew attention to the issue of urban food security and the emerging urban green revolution, which is food security's next wave.



Dr. Saguiguit (fourth from right, seated) and Dr. Sombilla (sixth from right, second row) join the participants of the Food Security Expert Group Meeting for a souvenir photo.

During the meeting, Dr. Saguiguit chaired a focus group presentation and discussion. For her part, Dr. Sombilla presented a paper on R&D in Southeast Asia to improve information on food supply and productivity. In her presentation, Dr. Sombilla identified key areas of research that could help stakeholders – from the producers to policymakers – identify appropriate and efficient intervention measures to enrich information

on enhancing food supply and increasing productivity levels.

The meeting brought together representatives from the academia, the policy and think tank communities, private agribusiness firms, urban planners, and humanitarian organizations who explored ways to collaborate and cooperate to promote food security, particularly for the urban sector. (ELRosellon and RCDikitanan)

Transition economies/ from page 1

that climate is changing with data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of which he is a member. He also presented a menu of modeling tools for climate change scenario building in support of policymaking and program planning.

Participants shared the scope and extent of responses of their respective countries to changing climate and on their watershed resource management initiatives. Prof. Dr. Ir. Hermanto Serigar, Director, Brighten Institute and Vice Rector for Resources and Development, Institut Pertanian Bogor, presented Indonesia's elaborate climate change adaptation and mitigation plan that includes increasing capacity for adaptation

and mitigation, alternative funding, emission reduction, efforts to increase adaptive capacity, and polices and legislation.

The presentations affirmed the high risks of floods and drought that can drastically reduce agricultural production and food security in Southeast Asia and in the four transition countries in particular.

Participants highly appreciated the menu of user-friendly software presented by Dr. Lasco for general circulation models (GCM), regional climate models (RCM), and local scenario building that, when applied, could inform climate change adaptation policy and planning in CLMV. These software include MAGICSENGEN, Country Specific Model for Intertemporal Climate (COSMIC 2), SEA-BASINS Model, Dynamic Routing Model

for river networks, and Community-based Risk Screening Tool: Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRISTAL).

Among the outputs of the workshop are concept notes for research on climate change adaptation policy and planning that were subject to critiquing for further refinement. These concept notes may be developed into full proposals for possible funding under SEARCA's Seed Fund for Research and Training.

The training workshop was the third in a series that is an offshoot of eight policy roundtables for CLMV which SEARCA has organized since 2004. Aside from the eight CLMV participants, 12 organizers and resource persons were also present at the workshop. (MCHCadiz and AMSMiñas)

THE SEARCA DIARY

Web: www.searca.org/web/newsletter
E-mail: post@agri.searca.org
Mail: SEARCA, College, Laguna 4031 Philippines
Tel: +63 49 536 2365 to 67 loc. 419
Fax: +63 49 536 7097

Production Team

Editor: Lily L. Tallafer
Associate Editor: Leah Lyn D. Domingo
Editorial Adviser: Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr.
Graphic Designer: Edwin Robert A. Cortes



Participants of the technical workshop pose for a souvenir photo with officials of Korea FAO Association, Brighten Institute, and SEARCA.

International meeting tracks development of biofuels model in aid of policy

Can the agriculture sector meet the demands for biofuels without compromising food security? There is much concern over the possibility that lands suitable to planting food crops will instead be used to produce biofuel crops.

It is in this context that the project titled *Effects of Biofuels on Agricultural Development, Food Security, Poverty, and the Environment* has been undertaken by SEARCA and funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The project is aimed at contributing to the formulation of appropriate policies on biofuel development based on scientific and rigorous assessment of the effects of promoting biofuels on the Philippine economy, especially on its food security and poverty alleviation goals.

Toward this end, the project is developing country database for the biofuels model and ancillary information on alternative feedstocks such as jathropa and sweet sorghum, biofuels supply chains, and resource profile for land and water. It is also aimed at determining the differential impact of biofuel production based

on alternative feedstocks on macroeconomy, key industries, household incomes and consumption, and allocation of resources. The project will likewise recommend policies for a pro-poor and environmentally sustainable development of biofuels based on the rate biofuels production are being developed with strong consideration for the food security and poverty reduction goals of the country.

Progress of model development in countries collaborating on the project, namely: People's Republic of China, Indonesia, and the Philippines, was discussed at a Technical Working Group Meeting held on 9-10 August 2010 in Bogor, Indonesia.

Issues in model building were clarified, especially on how the country models are to be integrated in the regional model, that is being developed by the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP). Discussions included the need for data exchange among the country partners for the regional model development and information dissemination through publications and other means to ensure wider reach of the findings and policy implications of the study.



Dr. Jikun Huang (left), Professor and Chief Scientist, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, and Director of CCAP, Beijing, shares his insights on model development. Dr. Huang is part of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Effects of Biofuels on Agricultural Development, Food Security, Poverty and the Environment project.

Participants of the meeting were project researchers from CCAP; International Center for Applied Finance and Economics; Institut Pertanian Bogor and University of Lampung, both in Indonesia; University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); and SEARCA.

The project is led by Mr. U-Primo E. Rodriguez who is Associate Professor at the UPLB College of Economics and Management. (PMVCasal)

Food Security Center taps Filipino expert to train Malawi PhD students

A Filipino communication specialist, Dr. Lily Ann D. Lando, was tapped by the Food Security Center (FSC), a global project of the University of Hohenheim (UHOH), through SEARCA, to conduct a training-workshop to strengthen the proposal writing skills of PhD students in the Aquaculture and Fisheries Science Program and the Agricultural and Resource Economics Program of Bunda College, University of Malawi. SEARCA is a strategic partner in the FSC, a project supported by the Government of Germany.

Currently Director of the Applied Communication Division of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), Dr. Lando implemented the Proposal Writing Course for PhD Students and Selected Staff at Bunda College in the University of Malawi on 19-23 July 2010.

The training aimed to enhance the participants' skills in proposal development and writing, specially developing proposals for dissertation, and targeting specific calls for proposals (e.g., International Foundation for Science call for 2010). The course also aimed to enhance the participants' skills in communicating proposals, specially in proposal presentation to an evaluation body.

Dr. Jeremiah Kang'ombe, PhD Program Coordinator, and Dr. Alexander Kalimbra, Dean, Postgraduate Studies and Research, both of Bunda College,



Dr. Lily Ann D. Lando (fifth from right) poses for posterity with the participants.

gave the welcome and opening remarks, respectively, at the opening program of the training course.

A seasoned technical editor and author of several books, journal papers, and teaching manuals, Dr. Lando used lecture and discussion, demonstration, workshop, presentation practice, and critique and group discussion were the training approaches to deliver the course.

Participants of the training were 10 PhD students, two of whom were also Bunda College staff. According to Dr. Lando, the small group was an

Food Security/ to page 14

SEARCA alumnus' book wins NAST award



Dr. Teotimo Aganon (right), SEARCA Alumnus and author of *Protected Vegetable Cultivation: Management Option and Economic Potential*, receives the NAST Outstanding Book Award from Dr. Emil Q. Javier, NAST President, during the 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) held on 14-15 July 2010 at the Manila Hotel.

The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines conferred one of its four 2010 Outstanding Books to a publication by Dr. Teotimo M. Aganon, a SEARCA graduate alumnus (PhD, entomology, 1989, University of the Philippines Los Baños) who is currently Vice President for Research, Extension, and Training of Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Philippines.

The publication is titled *Protected Vegetable Cultivation: Management Option and Economic Potential*. It was co-published by CLSU and the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Philippines. So far, it is

the only local publication in the Philippines on protected vegetable cultivation, a long-time practice in temperate countries and an emerging technology in the Philippines.

The awarding ceremony was held at the Manila Hotel during the NAST 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on 14-15 July 2010, whose theme was *MDGs and Beyond: Are we making progress?*

The book is meant to help empower farmers who are growing vegetables, which it reports as the second most important crop (next to rice) in most Southeast Asian countries. As a member of the CLSU faculty, Dr. Aganon documented various research conducted by the university aimed at verifying and fine-tuning an alternative technology for vegetable cultivation. Protected vegetable cultivation essentially involves growing vegetables under structures that shield plants from adverse environmental conditions at different stages of growth. With such technology, it becomes possible for farmers to grow off-season vegetables year-round.

Co-authored by Dr. Clarita P. Aganon, the book is also intended to guide entrepreneurs, development workers, and researchers as they venture into protected agriculture. "The book came at a fitting time when the agriculture sector in the country is pushing for modernization," said Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, DA-BAR Executive Director, who sees the publication as an important resource material for the transfer of protected vegetable cultivation technology in the country.

As a SEARCA graduate alumnus, Dr. Aganon shared his hopes with fellow scholars who are likewise pursuing the development mandate of SEARCA. "The completion of our degree equipped us with knowledge. What matters most is how to apply the knowledge to improve the quality of life of our less fortunate countrymen and fight hunger and poverty, to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," said Dr. Aganon. Five years from the 2015 deadline of the global initiative to eradicate poverty, highly esteemed Filipino researchers and scientists like Dr. Aganon expressed during the 32nd NAST-ASM their hope to be part of the solution to achieve the MDG targets of the Philippines.

NAST's 2010 Outstanding Book Award is a welcome addition to the 25 scientific awards and professional awards reaped by Dr. Aganon over the years. The awards include the 2008 PANTAS Award for being an Outstanding R&D Administrator, the highest award bestowed to a research manager by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD).

The other 2010 Outstanding Books awarded by NAST are: (1) *Animal Breeding Principles and Practices in the Philippine Context* by Orville L. Bondoc; (2) *Philippine Fermented Foods: Principles and Technology* by Priscilla C. Sanchez; and (3) *Atlas of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* by Corazon Y. Almirante. (ELRosellon)

SEARCA hosts Los Baños Science Community symposium

SEARCA hosted the Research and Development Symposium and Awarding Ceremonies of the Los Baños Science Community Foundation, Inc. (LBSCFI) on 17 July 2010. The event was part of LBSCFI's celebration of the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) in the Philippines, themed *Filipinnovation: The Way Forward*.

The symposium and awarding ceremonies had as keynote speaker The Honorable Mario G. Montejo, new Secretary of the Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Secretary Montejo highlighted the value of innovation and encouraged the scientific community to pursue scientific and technological projects that people would appreciate and benefit

from. He said science must be known to ordinary folks, and that they must understand how it can bring the progress of the nation.

"We should be proud of our (Filipino) research and outputs," said the new Secretary, who also declared in an earlier event at the National Academy for Science and Technology (NAST) that local technology works and developing local innovative capability will be the hallmark of his leadership of DOST. He noted that projects such as the all-Filipino-made Mass Transit System and windmills could take the place of imported technologies, so that the costs could be lowered by as much as five times than what the country is currently paying for.



Hon. Montejo talks about the value of innovation.

Best research awards were conferred during the R&D Symposium. The Philippine Agriculture Resources and Research Foundation, Inc. (PARRFI) R&D Award went to Antonio J. Alcantara, Moises Dorado, Eduardo Casas

SEARCA hosts/ to page 15

EEPSEA, SEARCA team up to improve region's climate change adaptive capacity



Lao participants explain their community map during a workshop session of the training.

Southeast Asia has limited ability to manage risks resulting from extreme weather events such as floods and typhoons. This is worrisome as it is projected that climate change will further increase the frequency and severity of such extreme events.

Improving the region's capacity to adapt to the current and projected impacts of climate change was the focus of the Training in Climate Change Adaptation for Six ASEAN Countries. The six ASEAN countries are: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Organized by the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) and SEARCA, the training was held on 13-17 September 2010.

Eight experts from academic and research and development organizations served as facilitators and shared their technical expertise and experience in the fields of climate science, environmental planning, participatory research, and economics of climate change. They are:

- Dr. Herminia A. Francisco, Director, EEPSEA
- Dr. Rosa T. Perez, Research Fellow, Manila Observatory
- Dr. Fe D. Domingo, Chief Economic Development Specialist, Region I National Economic and Development Authority
- Dr. Daylinda B. Cabanilla, Associate Professor, Department of Social Forestry and Forest Governance, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)
- Dr. Arief Anshory Yusuf, Lecturer/Researcher, Faculty of Economics, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia

The training participants pose for a souvenir photo with Dr. Gil C. Saguiquit, Jr. (front row, seventh from left), SEARCA Director, and Dr. Herminia A. Francisco (sixth from left), EEPSEA Director, and the training organizers.



- Dr. Bui Dung The, Chair, Department of Environmental and Agricultural Economics, Hue University, Vietnam
- Dr. David Edward James, Consultant, Ecoservices Pty. Ltd., Australia
- Dr. Canesio D. Predo, Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, UPLB

Local Empowerment

The training was conducted to prepare the participating institutions of a major EEPSEA-led capacity building initiative, that aims to strengthen the ability of local communities in developing adaptation plans and to access adaptation funding. SEARCA is a partner in this undertaking, specifically in coordinating the Philippine team. Participants were representatives from local government and non-government institutions, and researchers from universities and other organizations involved in climate change adaptation initiatives.

The training brought together 28 participants who are experts in different fields, including economics, sociology, geographic information system (GIS), local planning, forestry, agriculture, and water resources management. The event provided this heterogeneous mix of participants with an appreciation of the science of climate change, various techniques such as vulnerability assessment and mapping, and the different economic tools that can be used to analyze the cost and benefit of adaptation options. Through this learning event, the participants were able to appreciate the diverse expertise needed to holistically respond to the challenges posed by climate change. (JVBaruan)

4 staff of Philippine Department of Agriculture get MS scholarships

Four professional staff members of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippines have begun their master's program at Ateneo de Manila School of Government (ASoG) under the DA-SEARCA Umbrella Capacity Development Program on Strategic Management and Policy for Agriculture Professionals and Executives.

They are the first batch to do so under this four-year Program that aims to produce a cadre of homegrown, world-class career bureaucrats who can competently and proactively steer the Philippine Government's agriculture program.

The scholars are all pursuing the Master in Public Management program. They are:

- Mr. Joselito F. Bernabe, Statistician I, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS)-Operations Center, Rizal
- Mr. Nazario C. Briguera, Aquaculturist I, Fisheries Policy and Economics Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- Mr. Joseph C. Manicad, Statistician I, BAS-Operations Center, Lucena City
- Ms. Juvylee D. Obice, Accountant II, DA Region IV-A Calabarzon.

The Program provides support to selected junior and mid-level DA professional staff who are pursuing fulltime or part-time graduate studies on any of the following fields of specialization: strategic leadership and public management, development economics and agricultural policy, and agricultural business and trade and investment, which are all in support of food security and rural poverty alleviation.

Aside from ASoG, other study posts of the DA-SEARCA scholars are University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP) School of Management and the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Economics. At UAP, scholars may pursue either Master in Food Systems Management

or Executive Master in Business Management (Strategic Business Economics Program). On the other hand, scholars may pursue either Master in Development Economics or PhD in Economics at UPD.

In addition to providing graduate scholarships, the DA-SEARCA Capacity Development Program carries out the DA Lecture Forum Series and other learning events that enable DA executives and professional staff to interact with experts and peers to enable them to stay on top of current and emerging agricultural development and policy issues as well as be informed of available science-based solutions.

SEARCA's partnership with the DA in this program is a continuation of their long collaboration in capacity building and research endeavors. (LLDDomingo)

13 DAAD-SEARCA graduate scholars receive grant certificates

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), a long-time partner of SEARCA in its Graduate Scholarship Program, conducted a ceremonial handing over of scholarship certificates to 13 Southeast Asians pursuing graduate programs at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and UP Diliman. The ceremony was held on 24 August 2010 at the Deutsche Bank Seminar Room, School of Economics, UP Diliman.

Speakers during the ceremony were Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Dean of UP School of Economics; Mr. Thomas Schrod, First Secretary (Cultural Affairs) of the German Embassy in Manila; Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, Deputy Director for Administration, SEARCA; and Ms. Aisa O. Manlosa, an environmental science scholar from the Philippines, who gave the response in behalf of the scholarship grantees.

Dr. Balisacan welcomed the scholars and guests and expressed that DAAD has a special place in his heart because he is an alumnus of DAAD-SEARCA. He said that DAAD and SEARCA both play very important roles in producing leaders among Southeast Asians that would create a positive impact on the lives of people in the region.

In his keynote speech, Mr. Schrod stressed that the German government continues to focus strongly on academic exchanges, support for schools and students abroad and activities geared to promoting interest in intercultural dialogue. He said that the DAAD acts as one of



Photo shows the scholars, speakers, and guests of the ceremony posing for posterity after the ceremony. Seated (from left): Ms. Lily L. Tallafer, Special Projects Coordinator-Networks and Linkages, SEARCA; Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship; Ms. Natalie Lange, DAAD Lecturer, UPD Department of European Languages; Ms. Ana Jeannie Magno de Corte-Real Araujo (agronomy) of Timor-Leste; Ms. Yin Yin Nwet (agricultural economics) and Ms. Khin Thanda Oo (horticulture), both of Myanmar; and Ms. Manlosa. Standing (from left): Prof. Wynstandela Peña, Chair, Department of European Languages, UP Diliman; Mr. Tho Kim Eang of Cambodia (plant pathology); Mr. Natalino B. Martins (animal science) and Mr. Mario Jose Morais (animal science), both of Timor Leste; Mr. Daud Samsudewa (animal science) of Indonesia; Dr. Ruperto Alfonso, Director, External Relations, Professor, UP School of Economics; Dr. Peñalba; Mr. Schrod; Dr. Balisacan (also a DAAD-SEARCA alumnus); Mr. Afonso Alves DJ Candido (local governance and development) and Mr. Ergilio F. Vicente (community development), both of Timor Leste; Mr. Quyen Dinh Ha (community development) of Vietnam; Mr. Rey B. Lara of the Philippines (urban and regional planning); Mr. Henning Bjoern Lange, Visiting Lecturer, Ateneo de Manila University; and Mr. Kenneth A. Laruan (forestry) of the Philippines.

the implementing agencies of the Federal Foreign Office for educational programs. With Germany as an associate member of SEAMEO, the DAAD-SEARCA scholarships therefore show an excellent way of collaboration to promote projects, which can lead to durable success.

On the other hand, Dr. Peñalba said the number of DAAD-SEARCA alumni represents more than mere scholarship statistics but those individuals

who have been given the opportunity to enrich their lives through graduate studies, training, and collaborations. He expressed SEARCA's deep appreciation of DAAD's and the Government of Germany's steadfast support to the mission of developing institutional capacities for agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia.

Ms. Manlosa, in behalf of the DAAD-SEARCA scholars, shared: "As an Environmental Science

2 SEARCA alumni get grants for re-entry projects

Two SEARCA graduate alumni received small grants as seed money for their re-entry projects.

Dr. Artemio A. Martin, Jr., Filipino, Associate Professor, College of Agriculture, Isabela State University, Philippines, received a grant of Php230,000 for his re-entry project titled *Development of Land Information Systems of Cagayan Valley as a Tool for the Establishment of Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems*. His home institution will provide logistical support to the project.

On the other hand, Dr. Pheak Sothea, a faculty member of the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Cambodia received a grant of US\$5,000 for his re-entry project titled *Rice Farmers Perception towards Postharvest Grain Losses in the Top Three Rice-Producing Provinces in Cambodia*. RUA will provide counterpart funds for the project.



Dr. Artemio A. Martin, Jr.



Dr. Pheak Sothea

Dr. Martin and Dr. Sothea obtained their PhD in Soil Science and PhD in Community Development, respectively, from the University of the Philippines Los Baños in 2010 under SEARCA scholarship.

SEARCA's Re-entry Program is aimed at ensuring the immediate impact of its human resource development program as well as to extend the Center's reach in contributing to agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia. The program enables SEARCA scholars who are about to graduate or have recently graduated to

conduct projects that are jointly supported by SEARCA and their home institutions. Proposed to SEARCA as re-entry plans, the projects may serve as starting point for a national or regional research study on issues addressing a specific concern that could benefit from the expertise of the SEARCA alumnus conducting the project or other SEARCA alumni in the region. A re-entry plan may also serve as a subject of follow-up proposal for funding by interested donors.

The Re-entry Program provides financial support of up to maximum of US\$5,000 to selected proposals. A re-entry plan must be endorsement and provided counterpart support from the alumnus' home institution.

So far, four SEARCA graduate alumni have implemented projects under the Re-entry Program. Two projects were conducted in the Philippines, while one each were implemented in Lao PDR and Cambodia. (LLDDomingo)

3 SEARCA alumni receive grants for satellite remote sensing workshop in Taiwan



Mr. Lawrence Ramos (leftmost), Dr. Rusty G. Abanto (second from left), and Dr. Artemio A. Martin, Jr. (rightmost) pose with workshop co-participants at the Center for Space and Remote Sensing Research at the National Central University, Jhongli City, Taiwan.

Three Filipino SEARCA alumni who graduated in SY 2009/2010 received training grants from the National Science Council of Taiwan and the National Central University (NCU) in Jhongli City, Taiwan, to participate in the 2010 Capacity Building Workshop of Satellite Remote Sensing for Southeast Asians on 27 September to 5 October 2010.

The NCU grantees are Dr. Artemio A. Martin, Jr., Assistant Professor at Isabela State University; Dr. Rusty G. Abanto, Assistant Professor at Camarines Norte State College; and Mr. Lawrence T. Ramos, Research Assistant at the World Agroforestry Centre office in the Philippines. The three SEARCA alumni finished their graduate study programs at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Spearheaded by the NCU Center for Space and Remote Sensing Research, the workshop will focus on the following topics: (1) Satellite Remote Sensing Infrastructure in Taiwan; (2) Atmospheric Radiation and Remote Sensing; (3) Satellite Remote Sensing Applications; and (4) Integration of Remote Sensing, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS). The courses will be conducted in English through lectures and tutoring sessions.

NCU is one of Taiwan's leading schools in the fields of geophysics and space science and was recognized as one of the country's major research-oriented universities in 2001. (LLDDomingo)

13 DAAD-SEARCA/ from page 6

student, I learn about the big divide between the developed and developing countries. But in my personal life, through the scholarship that DAAD has awarded to me, I see how you have endeavored to reach out to us to achieve equity among nations, to create opportunities through which we can hope for a better future, through which we can make our dreams come true, through which we can determine our own choices. If we are able to see farther than we have seen before, it is because of the pedestal that you have built and provided for us to stand on. You may not be able to change everything there is to change, but for each one of us, you have made a very significant difference. Our deepest gratitude for that."

The affair was organized by Ms. Natalie Lange, DAAD Lecturer at UPD Department of European Languages, with the assistance of Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager, Graduate Scholarship Department, SEARCA.

Currently, SEARCA implements the scholarship grants of 76 Southeast Asians pursuing various graduate study programs in different host universities in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The Center's Graduate Scholarship Program assists in producing high-caliber professionals in agriculture and related fields who would take on important leadership responsibilities in institutions that help propel Southeast Asia's economic growth. So far, 1,271 graduate scholarships have been granted. (LLTallafer and ECCedicol)

Snapshots

SEARCA OFFICIALS CALL ON NEW PHILIPPINE AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARY



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (second from right), SEARCA Director, called on Atty. Virgilio delos Reyes (third from right), new Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) of the Philippines, on 29 July 2010. During the meeting, Secretary delos Reyes shared his general directions and targets for DAR. He expressed appreciation of SEARCA's offer of assistance to DAR. Others in photo are (from left): Mr. Lope B. Santos, Project Development Specialist; Ms. Lily L. Tallafer, Special Projects Coordinator-Networks and Linkages; Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, Deputy Director for Administration; and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Manager for Project Development and Management.

SEARCA has been a long-time partner of DAR. Among the projects that SEARCA has assisted DAR in implementing is "Sustaining the Gains of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP): Master Plan for Philippine Rural Development." Conducted in 2008 with funding from the World Bank, the project aimed to fine tune agrarian reform in the context of global development by conducting an in-depth analysis of the situation. It had two phases: (1) conduct of a review of the sector, formulation of an enhanced CARP direction and framework, and formulation of a Master Plan; and (2) provision of technical assistance for the installation of systems, orientation, and institutionalization of interventions on the new direction and framework.

ACIAR OFFICIALS VISIT SEARCA



Dr. Nick Austin (rightmost), Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), visited SEARCA for the first time on 6 August 2010. He was accompanied by Dr. Peter Horne (second from left), Livestock Production Systems Research Program Manager; Dr. Caroline Lemerle (third from left), Agricultural Systems Management Research Program Manager; Mr. Les Baxter, Horticulture Research Program Manager; Ms. Cecilia O. Honrado, Country Manager, Philippines; Mr. John Oakeshott, ACIAR Philippines Horticulture Manager; and Ms. Mara Faylon of ACIAR Philippines.

Dr. Saguiguit, (leftmost), met with the visitors and shared with them SEARCA's current programs and thrusts. Present also during the meeting were Dr. Burgos, Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, Head, Knowledge Resources Unit; Ms. Leah Lyn D. Domingo, Graduate Scholarship Specialist; and Ms. Tallafer.

STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES VISIT SEARCA



Fifteen bio-business practice students from Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) visited SEARCA on 19 August 2010 as part of their study tour program. Accompanying the students are Associate Prof. Dr. Hiroki Inaizumi and Associate Prof. Koji Kihara. They were briefed on SEARCA's programs and activities by Ms. Tallafer, Special Projects Coordinator-Networks and Linkages. This is the 18th batch of students from TUA to visit the Center.



Twelve university students from Guam, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand were received by SEARCA on 20 August 2010. They are participants of the Asian Association of Agricultural Colleges and Universities (AAACU) Study Tour Program. The two-week program aims to expose the students from member institutions to practices, technologies, and developments of agriculture in the Philippines. It is also a venue for cultural exchange and understanding. The participants were hosted by the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).



SEARCA was one of the institutions visited on 23 August 2010 by students and faculty from Kochi University who are on a study tour in the Philippines. The tour is coordinated by Bicol University-Tabaco Campus (BUTC). Dr. Plutomeo M. Nieves, BUTC Dean, and some faculty and staff accompanied the Japanese visitors.

SEARCA CONVENES CAMBODIAN AND LAO ALUMNI



Ms. Tallafer, discuss with Cambodian SEARCA graduate alumni the plan to re-launch the SEARCA Alumni Fund during a dinner meeting on 20 September 2010 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

MAEJO UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS VISIT SEARCA



Two officials of Maejo University (MJU) in Thailand visited SEARCA on 5 September 2010 to discuss areas for partnership. They are Dr. Yoongyooth Srigoifun (second from left), Adviser for International Coordination and Support and Dr. Satit Wimol (leftmost), Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations.

The officials, accompanied by Ms. Maria Diana Jantakad (third from left), Executive Secretary for International Affairs, Office of the President, MJU, were met by Ms. Tallafer. Among matters discussed were: (1) the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between SEARCA and MJU, which is now headed by Dr. Chamnian Yosraj, a SEARCA graduate alumnus; and (2) possible collaboration in the conduct of international learning events, faculty/student visits, and conduct of short courses for MJU junior faculty and graduate students.

SEARCA OFFICIALS CALL ON NEW PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SECRETARY



Dr. Saguiguit (left), and Dr. Peñalba (right), Deputy Director for Administration, called on Bro. Armin A. Luistro, new Secretary of Education of the Philippines on 2 September 2010. They discussed areas of possible collaboration, particularly a proposal by Secretary Luistro to implement a food and nutrition program in various primary schools nationwide. SEARCA, along with experts from UPLB, its host institution, committed to assist the Philippine Department of Education in conceptualizing the program.



Ms. Tallafer also discussed SEARCA's new directions with Lao SEARCA graduate alumni on 23 September 2010 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

SEARCA GRADUATE ALUMNI CALL ON SEARCA DIRECTOR



Prof. Dr. Musliar Kasim (right), Rector of Andalas University, Indonesia, presents a souvenir to Dr. Saguiguit during the former's visit to SEARCA on 20 September 2010 to discuss possible areas of collaboration between SEARCA and his university.

Prof. Musliar was accompanied by other top university officials: Prof. Dr. Helmi, Vice Rector for Cooperation Affairs; Dr. Werry Darta Taifur, Vice Rector for Administration and Finance; Prof. Novirman Jamarun, Director of Graduate Programs; Prof. Syafruddin Karimi, Dean of the Faculty of Economics; and Prof. Fauzan Azima, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Technology. Joining Dr. Saguiguit during the briefing on SEARCA's programs and activities were Dr. Peñalba, and the managers of the Center's core programs: Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development, Dr. Cedicol, Dr. Burgos, and Dr. Ticsay, who represented the Knowledge Management Department.

Prof. Musliar finished his PhD in agronomy from the UPLB in 1991 under a SEARCA scholarship supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).



Dr. Outhai Soukhy (center) called on Dr. Saguiguit (left), accompanied by Ms. Tallafer, on his visit to SEARCA on 16 September 2010. Dr. Soukhy is the new Deputy Director of the Northern Agriculture and Forestry College (NAFC, formerly known as Luangprabang Agriculture and Forestry College). Having just completed his PhD in community development under SEARCA scholarship in April 2010, Dr. Soukhy was briefed by Ms. Tallafer on the Center's plans and activities regarding the SEARCA alumni.

Alumni Notes

BALISACAN APPOINTED DEAN OF THE UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan is the new Dean of the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE), effective 2 August 2010. Also a Professor at UPSE, Dr. Balisacan is a renowned development economist in Asia whose research and scholarly work is recognized by development researchers as well as bilateral and multilateral development agencies, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and various United Nations agencies. He also serves as adviser and expert in poverty and rural development issues to local government chief executives and legislators. Currently, he is also president of the Asia-Pacific Policy Center (APPC), the Philippine Human Development Network, and of the Asian Society of Agricultural Economists; and chairs the Task Force on Climate Change of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines.

Previously, Dr. Balisacan served as SEARCA Director, Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Agribusiness Corporation, and Member of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

He has written/co-written a number of international publications focusing on poverty, inequality, agricultural and regional development, globalization, sustainable development, and economic policy reforms. He is the founding and current editor of the Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development (AJAD), SEARCA's international refereed journal.

Dr. Balisacan holds a PhD (economics) from the University of Hawaii, an MS degree (agricultural economics) from the UP Los Baños obtained through SEARCA's graduate scholarship program, and a BS degree (agriculture, magna cum laude) from Mariano Marcos State University, Philippines. (MTBFerino)

FILIPINO ALUMNUS UNDERGOES BIOTECH TRAINING IN THAILAND

A SEARCA Filipino graduate alumnus has recently completed a three-month training in biotechnology in Thailand. Mr. Charlie B. Batin, Science Research Assistant and Affiliate Faculty of the Forestry Department of Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Northern Philippines, was among the 12 successful applicants (out of 89) to receive a scholarship grant this year from Thailand's National Center for Genetic Engineering

and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) to attend the Human Resource Development Program in Biotechnology on 1 July-30 September 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

BIOTEC is a premier research institute in Thailand and Asia, which operates under the auspices of Thailand's National Science and Technology Development Authority. Since 2001, BIOTEC has been offering annually the HRD Program in Biotechnology to hone the research skills of young researchers in Asia and the Pacific. Participants undergo rigorous training in plant biotechnology, food safety analysis, biodiversity, and bioresource utilization.

"My training at BIOTEC improved my research skills, having worked with research-inclined Thai researchers. I had the chance to use BIOTEC's finest and advance equipment in gathering data for my research. This training has strengthened my capabilities as a researcher and, at the same, time broadened my perspective on science and technology. The rich experience that I gained motivates me to work more aggressively in research and development for the advancement of science and technology in the Philippines," said Mr. Batin.

He also expressed his gratefulness to SEARCA for supporting his graduate studies. "SEARCA has helped me achieve my wishes for my professional growth and has opened doors for better opportunities," he added.

Aside from his being a Science Research Assistant and Affiliate Faculty of MMSU, Mr. Batin also currently serves as Technical Expert of the project titled *S&T-based Farm on Bamboo Production and Rejuvenation*. He completed his MS in forestry in April 2010 at the University of the Philippines Los Baños under SEARCA's graduate scholarship program. (MTBFerino)



Mr. Batin at the BIOTEC laboratory in Thailand.

DR. CHAMNIAN YOSRAJ IS NEW PRESIDENT OF MAEJO UNIVERSITY



Dr. Chamnian Yosraj

Dr. Chamnian Yosraj, a SEARCA graduate alumnus, has been appointed as President of Maejo University (MJU) in Thailand, effective 8 July 2010. He succeeds Dr. Thep Phongparnich, who completed a four-year presidency (two terms) on 7 July 2010.

Prior to his new appointment, Dr. Chamnian was Vice President for Administration (2006-2010 and 1998-2000) and Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Production (1993-1998) of MJU. His other posts at MJU include being Secretary of the Maejo University Council (2006-2010) and Vice Rector of Student Affairs (1986-1987). He also has been serving as chair of the organizing committee of the Re-introduction of Native Orchids to the Forest: A Royal Development Project since the project's inception in 1994.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, in his congratulatory letter, expressed SEARCA's pride at this latest accomplishment of Dr. Chamnian, noting that his appointment attests to SEARCA's contribution to developing leaders and professionals in agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia. "We hope that Maejo University will soar to greater heights under your stewardship. SEARCA stands ready to further strengthen our ties with your university," said Dr. Saguiguit.

Acknowledging SEARCA as one of MJU's strong partners in its quest of becoming a world-class university, Dr. Chamnian assured SEARCA that "the academic partnership between our two institutions will continue to flourish." He credited SEARCA for the character and virtues that have been molded in him as a SEARCA graduate scholar, which have helped him in developing strong leadership skills. "I shall always be appreciative and ever conscious of the character and virtues that SEARCA has molded in me," he said. He added that his appointment serves as a testimony to the ideals and goals of SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Program.

Dr. Chamnian completed both MS (1983) and PhD (1990) degrees in animal science from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) under SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Program. The program is at the core of SEARCA's pursuit of its mandate of providing high-quality human resources and strengthening institutions that would help propel regional economic growth. Four other SEARCA graduate alumni are currently

holding the top position in their universities. They are Dr. Sugeng Harianto, Rector of University of Lampung, Indonesia; Dr. Musliar Kasim, Rector of Andalas University, Indonesia; and Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, President, Southern Luzon State University, Philippines; and Dr. Irvin C. Generalao, President, Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology, Philippines. (ELRosellon and MTBFerino)

SEARCA GRADUATE ALUMNA SPEARHEADS RESEARCH STUDY ON THE UPLANDS



Dr. Priscila G. Tangonan

The conditions and various issues confronting the uplands are such that they pose a big challenge to rural development efforts. Is there hope in the uplands? Yes, but only if stakeholders, especially those with a big role in development, will work together to uplift the lives of people in the uplands.

This is a major insight of Dr. Priscila G. Tangonan, a SEARCA graduate alumna, and her research team from Tarlac College of Agriculture, Philippines. Dr. Tangonan's two-year study that analyzed the state of the Western Tarlac watershed (in northern Philippines), including the livelihood systems of upland communities. In particular, the study focused on the upland households' food security and coping mechanisms. It also included an agenda for intervention to ensure food security, increase the budget of farm households, and conserve the genetic resources in the area.

"Upland communities are very poor. The tropical forest itself is poor in providing the day-to-day food needs of the people," the research team reports. The upland farm households are afflicted with multiple problems such as low farm productivity; inadequate source of income/non-farm employment opportunities; inadequate services provided by government and non-government organizations; and attitudinal problems. Hence, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary collaborative efforts cannot be overemphasized in addressing issues and finding solutions to alleviate the destitute conditions of upland households.

The study found that the majority of upland farm households consider food as priority in terms of allocating the household budget. Food culture, food habits, and food consumption patterns of upland farm households are influenced by factors such as climate or season; household activities; sources of income; household size and age; civil status; food expenditure and beliefs as

influenced by mass media and advertisement, nutrition knowledge, existing household food and resource management strategies; and availability and access to food.

With the scarce resources and harsh environmental conditions, the households ensured food availability through various coping mechanisms, primary of which is diversification of income sources such as engaging in various on-farm and off-farm work. Another coping mechanism was to cut down on food consumption and other essentials. Migration (rural to rural) is the ultimate strategy for the upland farm households because working outside their villages enabled them to buy rice and other primary necessities of the family.

Some institutional support systems (internal and external) provide security to the upland households. The most common of the internal or village support systems are the kinship support, bayanihan, pagdamayan, credit, and indigenous healing patterns. External support systems include past programs and projects that helped alleviate the impoverished conditions of the upland farm households. These were provided by government and nongovernment organizations and institutions. However, the farmers interviewed disclosed that only few organizations were assisting them at the time of the study.

The study also found that upland dwellers rely on practical indigenous techniques and inadequate forest conservation techniques. They need to be trained in resource-conserving methods like contouring, terracing, cover cropping, contour strip cutting, and contour buffer planting to prevent the risk of soil erosion and forest destruction.

The interventions proposed by the team can only be achieved through the support of stakeholders and development agencies with a heart for upland communities and are interested in alleviating the plight of the people in the uplands. The interventions include access to credit; capacity-building in agricultural know-how, other non-agriculture livelihood skills, and primary health care; provision of draft animals; water pumps and deep wells, marketing linkages, land security, farm-to-market roads and other necessary physical infrastructure, functional health services, and basic education services; and institutional (e.g., cooperatives) development, including values orientation activities.

The findings and the recommended interventions of the research, which was funded by the Neys-van Hoogstraten Foundation based in the Netherlands, were published as a book titled, *Is there hope in the uplands? Analysis of the livelihood systems of upland households in the province of Tarlac, Philippines*.

The other research team members are: Dr. Honorio M. Soriano, President, Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC) (formerly Vice President for Administration and Finance of TCA); Dr. Max P. Guillermo, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Dr. Tessie E. Navarro, Director for Research and Development; Dr. Yolanda S. Guillermo, Director for Extension and Training; and Ms. Rizalina M. Tablarin, Faculty of Economics, Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Tangonan is Professor and Vice President of the Research, Extension, and Training (RET) of TCA. She completed her PhD in community development at the University of the Philippines Los Baños under SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Program. (MTBFerino)

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEV HELD

The first International Conference on Sustainable Community Development (ICOSCD) held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 21-22 July 2010 was participated in by about 200 researchers and development workers from around the globe.

Organized by Universiti Putra Malaysia's Institute for Social Science Studies (UPM-IPSAS), the conference provided a platform for researchers, graduate students, and practitioners of sustainable community development to share information and accomplishments, to discover the challenges of the future, and to offer ideas for advancing practices that address current and future needs.

Three graduate alumni and a core program manager of SEARCA played key roles on the conference's organization and program. The alumni are: (1) Prof. Dr. Md. Salleh Hj. Hassan, Director of UPM-IPSAS; (2) Dr. Kamolrat Intaratat, Dean, School of Communication Arts, and Director, Communication and Development Knowledge Management Research Center, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU); and (3) Dr. Jean A. Saludadez, Director, Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services, and Associate Professor, Faculty of Management and Development Studies, University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU).

Prof. Salleh orchestrated the planning, preparations, and implementation of the conference. Dr. Kamolrat and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Manager of SEARCA's Project Development and Management Department, were resource speakers at a plenary sessions. Their presentations were titled Local New Media for Equal and Sustainable Development: Case of Thai

Alumni Notes/ to page 12

Philippine S&T Academy confers awards to young agri scientists

The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines, recently recognized two young scientists from the plant breeding and agricultural sciences for their significant contribution to their fields of expertise.

Dr. Von Mark Cruz, plant breeder and geneticist, and Dr. Roel R. Suralta, an agricultural scientist, were two of the 11 recipients of the 2010 Outstanding Young Scientists (OYS). The awarding ceremony was held on 15 July 2010 during the 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the NAST. The theme of the convention was *MDGs and Beyond: Are we making progress?*

Dr. Cruz was recognized for his contributions in plant genetic resources conservation and management in the Philippines using molecular markers. He was also involved in the technology transfer of agri-biotechnology research and development projects, and was instrumental in institutional capacities and public awareness on biotechnology in the country. At present, Dr. Cruz is a Post-doctoral Research Geneticist at the USDA-ARS National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation (NCGRP), working

on germplasm of *Lesquerella*, a promising industrial oilseed species in the Brassicaceae family.

Similarly, Dr. Suralta of the Philippine Rice Research Institute was recognized for his research efforts on understanding the morphological, anatomical and physiological responses of rice roots to fluctuating stresses, drought and waterlogging, which led to development of screening procedures for mapping using associated quantitative trait loci (QTL). These identified QTLs are essential for efficient breeding in improving adaptability of high-yielding rice cultivars to fluctuating soil moisture conditions.

The NAST is the Philippine's premier advisory and recognition body on science and technology matters. Yearly, NAST recognizes outstanding young scientists who have made significant contributions to science and technology, particularly in the fields of agricultural sciences; biological sciences; chemical, mathematical and physical sciences; engineering sciences and technology; health sciences and social sciences. (JAPanopio)

Alumni Notes/ from page 11

Telecentre and Harnessing Human Resources and Institutions in Responding to Climate Change: Toward Sustainable Community Development, respectively. Dr. Saludadez, on the other hand, presented her research titled *Understanding Views on Community-based Natural Resource Management: A Narrative Approach* at one of the parallel sessions.

SEARCA, through its Graduate Scholarship Department, provided scholarship grants to Prof. Salleh (M.S., 1979, University of the Philippines Los Baños), Dr. Kamolrat (PhD, 1997, UPLB), and Dr. Saludadez (PhD, 2004, UPM). All three studied development communication. (LLTallafer)

SEARCA ALUMNA NAMED 2010 MOST OUTSTANDING VETERINARIAN

In recognition of her achievements in the field of veterinary medicine, Dr. Clarissa Yvonne J. Domingo, was awarded as "Most Outstanding Veterinarian of 2010 in Veterinary Research" by the Veterinary Practitioners Association of the Philippines (VPAP). The award was conferred at the VPAP 38th Annual Scientific Conference held on 10 June 2010 at the Heritage Hotel, Manila, Philippines.

Dr. Domingo had recently completed her PhD in Public Health at the College of Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila under the SEARCA PhD Research Scholarship. She is currently Assistant Professor III, College of



Ms. Lily L. Tallafer, Special Projects Coordinator, Networks and Linkages, and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Manager for Project Development and Management, both of SEARCA, pose for a souvenir photo with SEARCA alumni who attended the conference.

Veterinary Science and Medicine, Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

During the conference, Dr. Domingo presented the results of her award-winning dissertation research titled *Prevalence and Risk Factors of Zoonotic Protozoa Among Small Holder Farmers in Aurora Province*. It was chosen as Best Paper by CLSU at the 23rd Agency In-House Review of Completed and Ongoing R&D Projects on 28 May 2010. It also won Best Paper for Completed Non-Operational Research at the 2010 In-House Review of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) held on 26-27 May 2010 at the PCC National

Headquarters, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. She was also recipient of the Best Presenter Award at the In-House Review of PCC.

Dr. Domingo's dissertation was also selected for presentation and competition for Best Paper Award (Research Category) at the 21st CLARRDEC Regional Symposium on Research and Development Highlights to be held on 13 August 2010 in Bulacan, Philippines. (LLDDomingo)

For Dr. Domingo's exemplary performance during her PhD studies, the UP College of Public Health conferred to her the award for Highest Academic Performance in the Doctor of Public Health Program.

Thesis Abstracts

DETERMINANTS OF GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF THE COFFEE INDUSTRY IN LAO PDR



Linglong Sithixay
Lao
MS in Agricultural Economics
University of the Philippines
Los Baños

The study aimed to identify the determinants of global competitiveness of the coffee industry in Lao PDR. Results of t-test of means indicated that the average revealed comparative advantage (RCA) value of Lao PDR coffee improved between the periods prior to the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) and during the AFTA implementation. The country also registered a greater RCA value of coffee than Thailand. Multiple regression analysis showed that domestic production and consumption of coffee were the significant determinants of export competitiveness of Lao PDR coffee. Domestic production was positively related to export competitiveness while domestic consumption was negatively related to export competitiveness of coffee.

Domestic resource cost (DRC) and resource cost ratio (RCR) estimates revealed that Lao PDR has a competitive advantage in producing coffee. Results of the sensitivity analysis showed that DRC* was sensitive to changes in the cost of electricity, border price and quantity of coffee purchased. For quality competitiveness, coffee exporters in Lao PDR have followed the local standards set by Lao PDR Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (LFCCI), which are less strict as compared to the International Coffee Organization (ICO) standards.

The problems encountered by the coffee industry in Lao PDR included: (1) high cost of chemical fertilizer used in coffee farming; (2) low yield of coffee; (3) prevalence of antiquated or old coffee mills; (4) stiff competition with major coffee exporters in the international market; and (5) local coffee standards are not in harmony with the ICO standards.

Based on the results of the study and the problems encountered by the coffee industry, the following policy reforms are recommended: (1) promotion of the use of organic fertilizer and adoption of the integrated pest management; (2) provision of training in proper methods of storing coffee; (3) investment on modern coffee mills; (4) strengthening of linkages among coffee farmers, wholesalers and exporters; and (5)

harmonization of the local coffee standards with the ICO standards.

SPATIAL INTEGRATION OF BEEF CATTLE MARKETS IN CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA



Agus Setiadi
Indonesia
PhD in Agricultural Economics
University of the Philippines
Los Baños

The study aimed to analyze the degree of market integration, price asymmetry, and the effects of the meat self-sufficiency program on the beef cattle industry in Central Java, Indonesia. The study sites were 10 regional markets and one central market. The effect of the transportation cost on the retail price of beef was also examined.

Results of the study revealed that at the farm level, cattle markets were highly integrated with one another. The Law of One Price (LOP) was found in all of the cointegrated cattle market pairs, implying that the farm prices were fully transmitted between these markets. At the wholesale level, beef markets were likewise highly integrated with one another. LOP was found in all of the cointegrated cattle market pairs, indicating that wholesale prices were fully transmitted between these markets. At the retail level, beef markets were also highly integrated with one another. LOP was found in all of the cointegrated cattle market pairs, suggesting that the retail prices were fully transmitted between these markets. The integration pattern at the farm, wholesale, and retail levels was found to be perfect.

The implementation of the meat self-sufficiency program has positively affected the cattle population in Central Java as well as the average per capita meat consumption, total and average per capita beef consumption, and retail price of beef in this province.

Transportation cost has a significant effect on the retail price of beef in the central market. An increase in transportation cost leads to a rise in the retail price of beef in the central market. At present, the Indonesian government still subsidizes the price of gasoline in the country to reduce transportation costs in Central Java.

Based on the results of the study, the following policy directions are recommended: (1) strengthening of the meat self-sufficiency program in Central Java; (2) proper maintenance of good market infrastructure and communication facilities; (3) enhancement of technical support to improve the cattle farm productivity; (4) establishment of a cattle auction center; (5)

improvement of the live cattle market facilities; and (6) production of better quality beef.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT METHODS IN THE RECTANGULAR STRATEGY OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA



Pheak Sothea
Cambodia
PhD in Community
Development
University of the Philippines
Los Baños

The study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of the community development (CD) methods, namely: participatory research, community organizing, community education, and community planning in the Rectangular Strategy (RS) of development of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Data were collected from 186 respondents using personal interviews. Key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and secondary data analysis were also used. Descriptive statistics, Spearman rank correlation, and Chi-square test were used in the data analysis.

The findings showed that more than half (56%) of the respondents were male and had a mean age of 41 years old. All of the respondents engaged in farming and nearly half of them had an annual income of USD\$100-300. Most (78%) of the respondents were not affiliated with any organization. Despite this, the people in the community have positive perception of the government programs/projects. This highlights the important role of the Village Development Committee in the implementation of the RS components, namely: rice production, irrigation, micro-finance, and capacity building.

The CD methods across the four components of the RS were moderately effective. The test of correlation showed that individual and institutional factors have highly significant associations with the effectiveness of CD methods.

In general, the study showed that the respondents have a favorable perception of the implementation of the RS in terms of the four components. Institutional support from government and nongovernment organizations were still limited across the CD methods in the four components of the RS. This implies that people still need more support from these organizations. Perception of government program, organizational membership, household income, and institutional support were found to be considerably crucial variables in affecting the effectiveness of the CD methods.

Philippine science journalists, SEARCA, ISAAA ink agreement

SEARCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) and the Philippine Science Journalists Association, Inc. (PSciJourn) to uphold the role of science education and communication in agriculture development.

The MOU formalizes the collaboration to pursue common education, training, and research objectives. Signatories were Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, Dr. Randy A. Hautea, Global Coordinator and Southeast Asia Center Director of ISAAA, and Ms. Lyn Resurreccion, President of PSciJourn. The signing ceremony was held on 30 September 2010 at a seminar titled *Over-exploitation: The way to Biodiversity Loss* at SEARCA.

During the learning event, science journalists were apprised of the current status of biodiversity at the global scale. They were also informed of the different interventions being undertaken to mitigate the continuing

biodiversity loss. The seminar also tackled agri-biotechnology as an important tool being widely used to harness crop diversity and conserve genetic resources towards increased agricultural productivity. The participants also learned about the documented benefits of adopting biotech crops to improve the state of biodiversity.

Hon. Angelo Palmones, a science journalist and a Representative to the Philippine Congress of the science-oriented political party list AGHAM, emphasized in his message the critical role of effective science communication in science and technology development. He also said the media should undertake continuous learning to empower and engage the public in scientific undertakings. He challenged the science journalists to provide accurate science-based information on biodiversity and biotechnology, particularly for policymakers, to fully harness their potential for agricultural and environmental improvement. Hon. Palmones, being an active PSciJourn board member, also signed the MOU as witness, along with Dr. Rhodora R. Aldemita, Senior Program Officer of ISAAA, and Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, Deputy Director for Administration of SEARCA. (JAPanopio and SMMercado)

New 'Green Book' co-funded by SEARCA available soon

A new "Green Book" that discusses policy issues and directions for Philippine Agriculture will soon be available. Titled *Agenda for Action for the Philippine Agriculture Sector*, the book is a result of a research collaboration among SEARCA, the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Economics and Management (UPLB-CEM), and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD). The research analyzed and provided recommendations on pressing policy issues besetting the Philippine agriculture sector today.

The book is the second 'Green Book' edition. The first Green Book, titled *Agenda for Action for the Philippine Rural Sector*, was published in 1987 by

UPLB-CEM. It presented policy statements and programs for reforms in agriculture during the crucial time of transition under the then Corazon Aquino administration.

The new book is intended to set policy direction and to promote wide and intelligent discussion of agriculture in the mass media and agriculture stakeholders, private sectors and government, said Dr. Corazon T. Aragon, Chair of UPLB-CEM's Research and Extension Committee. It tackles policy issues on productivity, rural poverty and malnutrition, rural institutions, sustainable agricultural development, climate change, and alternative energy. It also discusses directions for trade, improving supply chain of grains, high-value fruits and vegetables, agribusiness enterprises, and enterprise development.

The new book's contents were presented by the authors in a seminar-workshop held at PCARRD on 26 July 2010. Titled *Facing the Challenges: Agenda for Action for the Philippine Agriculture*

Sector, the seminar-workshop was attended by policymakers, development practitioners, and stakeholders of the agriculture sector. It aimed to solicit experts' opinions and views for inclusion in the book.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said the book was "timely and strategic, and important to Philippine agriculture in particular, and to the country's rural development in general." He sees the publication as especially helpful to the new Aquino administration, particularly to the Department of Agriculture. It is also in keeping with SEARCA's objective of addressing agricultural concerns through policy recommendations.

The workshop was part of UPLB-CEM's celebration of its 32nd Foundation Day. Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, UPLB Chancellor, thanked SEARCA and PCARRD for supporting UPLB-CEM in addressing issues in agriculture for more than three decades now. (ELRosellon)

Food Security/ from page 3

advantage as it kept all participants attentive and closely involved in the training activities. Furthermore, she noted that the small group fostered a positive perception of the training among the participants as it gave the training an "opportunity-for-all foundation."

In her post-training report, Dr. Lando said "the participative training methodology was identified as one of the key strengths of the course, which was structured largely around independent, self-directed work that was fueled by internal motivation. The work was broken into manageable tasks that would eventually help them meet job-

related needs. Through their sharing sessions, the participants were recognized for their knowledge and even for their prior accomplishments. All in all, these aspects acknowledged the participants as adult learners."

Dr. Lando's visit to University of Malawi was coordinated by Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager, Graduate Scholarship Department and focal person for the FSC at SEARCA, and Dr. Wellington N. Ekaya, Program Manager (Training and Quality Assurance), Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and FSC Regional Coordinator for Africa.

The FSC is a newly established center of excellence in development collaboration at the University

of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany (UHOH). It is one of the five centers of excellence of the program "Exceed- Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation," supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany. FSC's mission is to make effective and innovative scientific contributions in research, teaching, and policy advice to eradicate hunger and achieve food security in collaboration with partner Higher Education Institutions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as national and international development and research organizations. The FSC activities deal with issues of sustainable food availability, food access, food use, and food utilization. (LLDDomingo)

Umali lecture tackles rural credit

The rural poor lack access to affordable finance for agriculture and other livelihood activities. Moreover, accessibility of the small farmers to credit remains limited and production risks remain high. These and other issues on rural credit business, as well as how they can be effectively addressed, were discussed during the 17th DL Umali Memorial Lecture Series held on 22 July 2010 at SEARCA.

With the theme *Rural Credit: The Unresolved Dilemma*, this year's lecture had as keynote speaker Dr. Jovita M. Corpuz, Executive Director, Agricultural Credit and Policy Council (ACPC), Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA). She presented a paper titled *Rural and Agricultural Finance in the Philippines: History, Status and Future Direction*.

The lecture was organized by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), in cooperation with DL Umali Foundation, Inc. and SEARCA. The three organizations have been co-organizing the Umali Lecture Series since it was launched in 1994.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, expressed gladness that through the Umali Lecture, SEARCA is able to contribute further to "an intelligent and

highly engaging discussion of contemporary development issues, particularly in agriculture and rural development, by well-recognized experts." Noting that access to credit is an important factor of productivity growth, he expressed hope that discussions will shed more light on the rural credit puzzle and would help give guidance to the new set of leaders of institutions in the Philippines concerned with rural credit, in particular, and agricultural and rural development, in general.

A panel of sector representatives and experts discussed various aspects of rural credit and finance. The panel was composed of: (1) Mr. Antonio L. Tiu, Chief Executive Officer of AgriNurture, Inc., the biggest exporter of mangoes in the Philippines, representing corporate integrators; (2) Mr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, General Manager, Center for Agriculture and Rural Development-MRI Development Institute (CARD-MRI); and (3) Dr. Eulogio T. Castillo, Professor, Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Institutions, College of Public Affairs, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Mr. Tiu shared unique ways of giving farmers new opportunities to increase their productivity and income. For example, they provide farmers with

fertilizers in exchange for their seeds, or tractors in exchange for carabaos.

"How can the government help you?" The various responses to this question raised by Dr. Emil Q. Javier, NAST President, brought a positive tone toward the end of the lecture. Recommendations include the following:

- Give tax incentives to encourage young people to go into agriculture;
- Bring down the high interest rates;
- Include the small farmers in the supply chain;
- Give importance to capacity-building on value formation, including business ethics;
- Facilitate the generation of markets by bringing opportunities to small farmers in strategic areas; and
- Provide good and useful data as well as incentives for the hard-to-reach places; and avoid asking for long reports from micro-finance institutions.

The DL Umali Memorial Lecture Series aims to provide a venue for discussing issues regarding agriculture, the environment, and other agriculture-related concerns, particularly those that have an impact on the welfare of small farmers. (ELRosellon)

SEARCA hosts/ from page 4

and Raquel Huliganga for their research titled *Performance of Anaerobic Digesters in Small-to-Medium Swine Farms in Calumpang River Watershed, Batangas, Philippines*.

The Elvira O. Tan Memorial Award for Best Published Papers went to Mudjekeewis Santos, Grace Lopez, and Noel Barut for their publication titled *A Pilot Study on the Genetic Variation of Easter Little Tuna (*Euthynnus affinis*)* and to Ma. Rowena Romana-Eguia, Minoru Ikeda, Zubaida Basiao, and Nobuhiku Tanaguchi for their paper titled *A Genetic Change during Mass Selection for Growth in Nile Tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus* (L), Assessed by Microsatellite*.

The new members of LBSCFI Board of Trustees were inducted into office by Secretary Montejo during the affair. They are: President – Dr. Grace Javier-Alfonso, Chancellor, University of the Philippines (UP) Open University; Vice President – Mr. Alexander R. Madrigal, Director, DOST Region IV-A; Secretary - Dr. Patricio S. Faylon, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture and Natural Resources Research and Development; Treasurer – Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director; and Members – Dr. Robert S. Zeigler, Director General, International Rice Research Institute; Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, Chancellor, UP Los Baños; Mr. Cesario R. Pagdilao, Officer in Charge, Philippine Council for Aquaculture and Marine Resources Research and Development; Mr. Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., Director, Environment Research and Development Bureau; and Hon. Anthony F. Genuino, Mayor of Los Baños.



Dr. Saguiguit (center), LBSCFI Treasurer, Dr. Cardenas (left) and Dr. Pagdilao join other members of the LBSCFI Board of Trustees in the oath-taking during the induction ceremony.

Established in 1984, LBSCFI has grown from just 10 member agencies to the current 23, including SEARCA. Its mission is to effectively collaborate and cooperate toward the creation of a model community that addresses the needs of Los Baños and similar environs through creativity and innovation. (ELRosellon)

22 SEA higher education officials undergo academic leadership training



Indonesian participants work on their exercise on quality assurance and assessment.

Twenty-two higher education administrators from the Southeast Asian region participated in the Second Executive Forum on Leadership Excellence in Academe Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA) conducted by SEARCA in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (BIOTROP) at BIOTROP, Bogor, Indonesia on 19-24 July 2010.

LEAP SEA was conceived in 2009 to help ensure quality in higher education programming and administration in the SEA region. It recognizes that the greater proportion of executives of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the region need constant information updating on HEI administration as a result of regular turn overs and in response to a variety of emerging global concerns.

Specifically, LEAP SEA aims to: (1) provide a learning forum where significant new knowledge about leadership in and management of higher education, especially those in agriculture, may flow between experts and senior or mid-level executives of higher education institutions in the member countries of the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO); (2) provide an opportunity for academic executives to write case stories on management problems they are facing and reflect on applying lessons learned in the executive forum to address these challenges; and (3) adopt an innovative process of packaging and publishing LEAP SEA cases as knowledge and learning resources appropriate for Southeast Asia.

In his welcome remarks during the opening program on 19 July 2010, Dr. Bambang Purwantara, BIOTROP Director, noted that

many young faculty members are appointed to executive positions with limited preparation in HEI administration, hence, the need to have continuous updated information on this aspect, through a program like LEAP SEA, is very timely and necessary.

LEAP SEA is an improved version of the Advanced Higher Education Administrators Development (AHEAD) Training Course implemented by SEARCA from 1999 to 2003. LEAP SEA covers six modules, namely:

- (1) The Environment of Southeast Asian Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture and Forestry (External Analysis);
- (2) Contextualizing Higher Education in Agriculture and Forestry in the New Millennium (Internal Analysis);
- (3) Opportunities for Change in Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture and Forestry;
- (4) Managing Change in Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture and Forestry;
- (5) Learning Organizations and Total Quality Management; and
- (6) Basic Management for Higher Education Institutions.

Participants of the course came from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. They are expected to develop their case stories, highlighting best practices on higher education institution administration and management. These cases will be compiled and published later as knowledge and learning resources appropriate for Southeast Asia.

LEAP SEA is one of the banner programs of SEARCA. Implementation of the one-week program is a collaboration between SEARCA, BIOTROP and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). (NARamos)



Dr. Rahmawaty of the University Sumatera Utara receives her certificate of completion from Dr. Bambang Purwantara, SEAMEO BIOTROP Director. Looking on is Prof. Mario Antonio G. Lopez of AIM. Dr. Rahmawaty is a SEARCA graduate alumna.