

# The SEARCA DIARY



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Knowledge management involves thinking and deciding together, as a preparation to acting productively together. It is about producing explicit group knowledge from tacit individual knowledges.  
- Dr. Serafin Talisayon

Photo by: Jonathan Beaton

## SEAMEO braces to contribute more to quality of life via knowledge management

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) kicked off implementing its strategic plan for 2011 to 2020 through its first training-workshop on Knowledge Management (KM) on 29 February-2 March 2012. Forty-three delegates from various SEAMEO regional centers and the SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) gathered at SEARCA for leveling off on understanding and motivations regarding KM among SEAMEO regional centers.

Specifically, the training-workshop sought to provide an appreciation of the rationale for designing and applying knowledge solutions in organizations. It also aimed to firm up notions of knowledge partnerships and enable the SEAMEO centers to draw up a joint knowledge management agenda and related actions. The training-workshop was the first step in the development of a SEAMEO KM System whose design will cut across and harmoniously run among and between all 20 diverse SEAMEO regional centers based in various countries in the region. In his message during the opening program, Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMES

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Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, UPLB Chancellor, delivers his welcome message at the opening program.



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, gives his opening remarks at the opening program.



Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMES Director, speaks at the opening program of the training-workshop.

Director, said SEAMEO is in a marathon of 10 years that begins with this first KM training-workshop.

“In the course of the marathon, we need to effectively and strategically harness our mission which, as a result, creates and enhances our ability to contribute to the region and the world,” Dr. Witaya stressed.

He added that once the SEAMEO centers understand the essence of KM, “we will be able to capture and distribute our organization’s collective expertise and knowledge to create the best possible support for our organization’s strategic goals and objectives.”

“In an organization, KM has a great effect in our decision-making processes and to our actions... we look at information specialists like you to assist the organization and [its members] to seize the knowledge that they create and discover and then make it available to those who would need them,” Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), said in his welcome message during the opening program.

“The information and knowledge we generate in SEAMEO is what drives the organization, unifies it, and gives it relevance particularly when used to address the development needs of the region we are mandated to serve,” Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said in his opening remarks.

Dr. Saguiguit said the enormous amount of information and knowledge in various fields of specialization of SEAMEO’s 20 centers are useless if not shared with their constituencies and stakeholders in the 11 member countries.

Dr. Serafin D. Talisayon, Director for Research and Development, Center for Conscious Living Foundation and Professor of Knowledge Management, UP Technology Management Center, served as the Training-Workshop Technical Coordinator. In his lectures, he tackled the topics on “Knowledge: the New Wealth of Nations, Communities, and Organizations;” “Aligning KM with Organizational Objectives and Stakeholder Needs;” and “Introduction to Exemplar KM Practices in Global/Regional Networks.”

On the other hand, Dr. Olivier Serrat, Principal Knowledge Management Specialist, Regional Sustainable Development Department of the Asian Development Bank, served as a resource person and delivered lectures on “Building a Knowledge-centric Organization” and “Designing Knowledge Partnerships Better”.

Mr. Winifredo B. Dagli, and Mr. Garry Jay S. Montemayor, both Instructors at the UPLB College of Development Communication, served as facilitators during the workshop sessions. Members of the Training-Workshop Management Group from SEARCA were Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for KM, and Ms. Nova A. Ramos,

Training Specialist, both of the Knowledge Management Department, as well as many other staff who provided documentation, logistical, and information technology (IT) support.

During the first workshop session, the participants identified and assessed the resources of each center. Two simultaneous workshop sessions were then conducted. One workshop involved the Center Directors or their representatives who brainstormed and discussed the basic elements of a SEAMEO KM System Strategy and Program. The other workshop involved KM focal persons in each Center who identified and discussed learning and knowledge-sharing mechanisms across Centers.

At the end of the learning event, the participants presented their proposed action plans for the following: (1) Internal KM (KM within each SEAMEO center), (2) External KM (KM between SEAMEO centers and their stakeholders), and (3) SEAMEO-wide KM (KM among and between the SEAMEO centers).

“The SEAMEO Secretariat stands ready to support any future initiatives resulting from this workshop,” Dr. Witaya said.

At the conclusion of the training-workshop, Dr. Saguiguit proposed that at the level of the organization, SEAMEO’s KM efforts may be centered on improving quality of life which will then be the focus of each SEAMEO center’s KM

## THE SEARCA DIARY

Web: [www.searca.org/web/newsletter](http://www.searca.org/web/newsletter)  
E-mail: [post@agri.searca.org](mailto: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: Leah Lyn D. Domingo  
Editorial Advisers: Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr.  
Adoracion T. Robles  
Graphic Designer: Edwin Robert A. Cortes



Participants of the training-workshop pose for a souvenir photo together with the Training-Workshop Management Group.

## 4 new SEARCA–DA-BAR projects launched in 2012

SEARCA and the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Philippines began collaborating on four new capacity building projects in January 2012. The titles of the new projects are as follows: *National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP)*, *Capacity Development Program on Knowledge Management (KM)*, *Strengthening Research Project Development and Management for Agri-Pinoy Agricultural Development*, and *Capability Building on Responding to Climate Change through Research and Development in Agriculture Phase 2*.

These projects are expected to empower professionals in the agricultural sub-sector in terms of technology transfer and commercialization, knowledge management, project development and management, and in addressing issues concerning climate change.

### Technology Commercialization

The *NTCP* will build on the experiences and lessons learned from the management and implementation of various projects under its auspices. Its primary aim is to accelerate the commercialization of technologies for increased productivity and profitability of stakeholders

and key players by transforming the agriculture and fisheries sectors from resource-based to technology-based.

Specifically, the project will review *NTCP* covering its guiding policy, institutional arrangements, relevance of projects funded, efficiency and effectiveness of implementation, stakeholders participation, and its immediate impact and contribution to agricultural development. It is envisaged that the project will further strengthen the capacity of DA-BAR/DA personnel in the national, regional, and field units as well as partner institutions in managing technology development and commercialization projects through short-term training. The project will also benchmark *NTCP* vis-à-vis other similar programs in other countries and recommend measures to enhance the improvement of technology commercialization in the Philippines.

### Building Capacity in KM

The *Capacity Development Program on KM* intends to strengthen individual and institutional capacities in KM, focusing on knowledge products development as well as knowledge capture, sharing, and reuse in the agriculture sector.

A comprehensive capacity development program on KM will be designed for the agricultural research sub-sector with the identification of appropriate long-term and short-term training, internships, and study visits within and outside the country.

### Supporting the Agri-Pinoy Program

The improvement of the quality and quantity of DA-BAR funded projects to align them with DA's development goals is the main objective of the project on *Strengthening Research Project Development and Management for Agri-Pinoy Agricultural Development*.

In particular, the project is geared towards enabling the participants to: (1) identify and prioritize projects that fit the country's Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), Agri-Pinoy Framework, and DA-BAR's corporate plan; (2) design projects using logical framework matrix and results-based performance; (3) write project proposals with the stakeholders in accordance with DA-BAR guidelines; and (4) use

4 New SEARCA/ to page 13

## SEAMEO braces/ from page 2



Dr. Serafin D. Talisayon (standing), Technical Coordinator of the Training-Workshop, recaps the learnings from the previous sessions.



The Center Directors and their representatives prepare for the workshop session on identifying the basic elements of a SEAMEO Knowledge Management System strategy and program.



During a workshop session, Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (standing), SEARCA Manager for Knowledge Management and Training-Workshop Manager, confer with SEARCA participants, namely (from left): Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Head of Management Services Unit; Ms. Ma. Margaritha B. Romero, Head of Human Resource Management Unit; and Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, Head, Knowledge Resources Unit.

program, depending on their respective expertise, to make information accessible to their stakeholders at all levels.

Noting the need to formalize such agreement among all the SEAMEO centers, Dr. Saguiguit said SEARCA could take the lead in crafting said proposal for approval at the next SEAMEO Center Directors Meeting.

The 43 participants in the First SEAMEO Training Workshop on Knowledge Management included the SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) Director and Deputy Directors, 13 Center Directors, and 27 professional and administrative staff.

The training-workshop was jointly organized by SEARCA, through its Knowledge Management Department, and SEAMES. (LLDDomingo)

## Southeast Asian forum on excellence in academic leadership held

SEARCA held its Third Executive Forum on Leadership Excellence in Academe Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA) on 5-9 March 2012 at its headquarters in the Philippines.

The participants of the forum included 17 administrators and faculty members of tertiary and post-graduate academic institutions in agriculture, forestry, and environmental studies in seven Southeast Asian countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

The LEAP SEA Executive Forum aims to provide a venue 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 region. It is also an opportunity for academic executives to reflect on their common contemporary challenges and suggest appropriate solutions in higher education leadership/ management in Southeast Asia.

The Third LEAP SEA Executive Forum had seven modules that covered the following topics: Challenges, Issues and Opportunities: Strategic Positioning of Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture in Southeast Asia (analysis of issues internal to higher education circles); Design and Management of Instruction in Higher Education in Agriculture; Managing Research and Extension; Managing Change and Conflict in Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture; Generating and Managing Resources in Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture; and Academic Leadership Principles and Practices.

The forum participants produced draft case stories that highlight reflections and replicable practices on academic leadership in tertiary and postgraduate academic institutions in agriculture, forestry, and environmental studies in the context of Southeast Asian realities and challenges. Synergies among the institutions of the participants were also kindled during the learning event.

The resource persons of the learning event included leading agriculture experts, current and former senior academic executives, and an agriculture entrepreneur. They were Dr. William G. Padolina, Deputy Director-General



Timorese, Filipino and Indonesian university administrators listen to a lecture on current trends and challenges in agriculture and development.



Dr. William G. Padolina of IRRI responds to participants' questions and reactions on the current environment of higher education in agriculture.

for Operations at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); Mr. Jose C. Reaño, President, Broadchem Corporation and Consultant, Philippine Department of Agriculture; Dr. Wanglin Yan, Professor and Program Director at Keio University, Japan; Dr. Ruperto S. Sangalang, Professor at the Cavite State University; Dr. Felix Libroero, Professor at the UP Open University; Dr. Rogelio V. Cuyno, international agriculture and training specialist and agricultural research management expert; Dr. Aman Wirakartakusuma, Professor at Institut Pertanian Bogor (Indonesia); and Dr. Fernando A. Bernardo, Consultant at IRRI. (LLDDomingo)

## SEARCA, Tourism Foundation Inc. ink MOA on agritourism research conference

SEARCA and the Tourism Foundation Incorporated (TFI) signed on 14 March 2012 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to jointly organize the "First National Agritourism Research Conference in the Philippines" to be held on 27-29 June 2012.

TFI is a private, non-profit corporation established to assist the University of the Philippines Asian Institute of Tourism (UP-AIT) in upgrading tourism education and training in the country.

Signatories to the MOA were Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, and General Jaime S. de los Santos (Ret.), TFI President and faculty member of the UP Diliman College of Business Administration. Witnesses were Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, and Dr. Miguela M. Mena, Dean of UP-AIT and TFI Executive Director.



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (second from right), SEARCA Director, and General Jaime S. de los Santos (Ret.) (second from left), TFI President and faculty member of the UP Diliman College of Business Administration, signed on 14 March 2012 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between SEARCA and TFI to jointly organize the "First National Agritourism Research Conference in the Philippines" to be held on 27-29 June 2012. Witnesses were Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba (rightmost), Deputy Director for Administration of SEARCA, and Dr. Miguela M. Mena (leftmost), Dean of UP-AIT and TFI Executive Director.

## Climate change project conducts vulnerability workshop, economic analysis training

A “Vulnerability Workshop and Training in Cost-Benefit Analysis” was conducted on 7-11 January 2012 at Hue University in Hue, Vietnam as part of the three-country research “Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Southeast Asia”.

SEARCA, which implements the Philippine project component, was represented by Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development.

On the other hand, the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) and Hue University implement the Cambodia and Vietnam components, respectively.

Funded by the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the project aims to strengthen the capacity of local government units to design and adopt effective adaptation measures to reduce the negative impacts of climate change. The Philippine component covers 12 municipalities in the province of Laguna.

In the first phase of the learning event, country study teams discussed the initial results of mapping and survey activities. They were later joined by local government personnel from each participating country for the training in economic

analysis of adaptation options that was held on 9-11 January.

Representatives of three Laguna municipalities and the provincial planning and development office participated in the training. The delegates were Velentine Guidote Jr., Laguna Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator; Divina Kampitan, Municipal Agricultural Officer of Victoria; Jerry Malixi, Municipal Engineer of Rizal; and Rosaly Gutierrez, Municipal Planning and Development Officer of Sta. Cruz.

Dr. Saguiguit said SEARCA believes that more attention should be given at the local and farm levels which are the most affected and vulnerable to climate change. The Center has thus intensified efforts to assist local government units in Southeast Asian countries. (LLDDomingo)

## Phi agri professionals brush up on project design



The training resource persons and organizers pose for a photo with the participants composed of DA-BAR researchers from Regions IVA-CALABARZON, IVB-MIMAROPA, and V-Bicol.

Twenty researchers from various units of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) convened in View Park Hotel, Tagaytay City on 24-27 January 2012 to participate in the first of a series of training courses on “Project Design Cycle and Proposal Writing” jointly organized by DA-BAR and SEARCA. The training course series aims to identify and prioritize projects that fit the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), Agri-Pinoy Framework, and the Bureau’s corporate plan.

It is expected to enhance the skills of the participants in designing projects using logical framework matrix and results-based performance matrix; writing and packaging project proposals in accordance with the bureau’s guidelines; and using project proposal as a management tool for project supervision, monitoring, control, and evaluation. (LLDDomingo)

## SEARCA, Tourism/ from page 4

“In the course of our work in the region, we have come to realize the importance of promoting alternative sustainable mechanisms that could serve as value added to agricultural initiatives thus contributing to the diversification of income sources of farmers and other stakeholders. We believe that agritourism, once effectively implemented, can meet such needs,” Dr. Saguiguit said.

Mr. De los Santos remarked that the collaboration would be a big challenge because tourism

is notorious for being very destructive to the environment, on which, in turn, agriculture is very dependent. He said the conference will tackle how it would be possible to link agriculture and tourism to promote sustainable development.

“With the launch of the new marketing campaign of the Philippines as a top tourism destination, nothing would indeed be ‘more fun’ than rediscovering agriculture, which is a key economic driver of our country and a key tourism product as well,” Dr. Saguiguit said.

He added that the pioneering conference on agritourism research will provide relevant analyses necessary for the advancement of both its scientific underpinnings and policy implications.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by heads of SEARCA’s programs and units as well as faculty members of UP-AIT. The agreement will be in force until the completion of all activities related to the conference. (LLDDomingo)

## Mt. Malindang stakeholders attend participatory training in watershed management



The participants, resource person, and training management team of the Participatory Watershed Management Training held on 6 - 8 February 2012 in Oroquieta City, Philippines.

“Let us continue what our government aims to do to improve our watershed... and be counted in doing this...”

This was the closing message and the challenge given by Hon. Eleuterio Blasco Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, Oroquieta City, Philippines to the participants of the training in *Participatory Watershed Management* held on 6-8 February 2012 at the Civic Center Convention Hall, Oroquieta Town Center, Oroquieta City. The training was jointly organized by SEARCA, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), and WorldFish Center under the project titled *From Ridge to Reef: An Ecosystem Based Approach to Biodiversity Conservation in*



Dr. Agustin Mercado Jr. of ICRAF-Claveria, discussing the concept of sustainable watershed management and its social, human, financial, natural, and physical capital assets.

*the Philippines*, which is led by WorldFish Center and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Participants were 22 members of various stakeholder groups of the Layawan Watershed in Mt. Malindang in the province of Misamis Occidental, including representatives from the federation of farmer-irrigators, deputized fish wardens, fisherfolk association, provincial government of Misamis

Occidental, and the local government units of Oroquieta City, Aloran, Panaon, Jimenez, Sinacaban, and Tudela. Other attendees were representatives of the local offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) as well as the People's Ecotourism and Livelihood Foundation, Partnership for Rural and Technical Services, Inc., Oroquieta City Water District, and the Oroquieta City Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Agustin Mercado Jr. of ICRAF-Claveria and Prof. Moises Dorado of the College of Engineering and Agro-Technology, University of the Philippines Los Baños served as resource persons. They discussed the concept and importance of participatory watershed management and governance. In particular, they presented topics on agroforestry principles and practices, the causes and processes of soil

erosion and material transfer, approaches in landcare, the Conservation Agriculture with Trees (CAwT) approach; and the causes and prevention of land degradation.

An action planning workshop was also conducted to identify the strategies to address sustainability issues in watershed management. The management recommendations included strict enforcement of laws (i.e., Executive Order 23 or the logging ban in natural and residual forests and Republic Act 9003 or the ecological solid waste management); promotion of organic farming; restriction of quarrying; land classification and regulation of migrants; establishment of material recovery facility; provision of alternative livelihood



Resource mapping helped the participants in visualizing the interconnectedness of the different ecosystems found in the watershed and how materials are transferred from the upstream to the downstream communities

to upland farmers and settlers; a benchmarking visit on landcare and CAwT approaches, and soil conservation practices in Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

The training management team was composed of Ms. Claudia Binondo of SEARCA's Project Development and Management Department, Mr. Leo Kris Palao and Ms. Kharmina Paola Anit of ICRAF, and Dr. Benjamina Flor, Professor of Development Communication at UPLB. Dr. Flor also served as the program and workshop facilitator. (CBBinondo)

## Sensitization course on adaptation for agro-ecosystems conducted



Participants, resource persons, and organizers of the training course pose for a souvenir photo.

Thirty climate change adaptation enthusiasts from the academe, local government units, and national research institutions in the Philippines, including representatives from the Philippine

Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the Philippine Climate Change Commission, gathered at SEARCA on 16-17 January 2012 to discuss

current researches, development initiatives, available technologies, and practices in climate change adaptation in agroecosystems.

The event, dubbed “Adaptation Strategies for Enhancing Resilience of Different Agroecosystems to Climate Change: A Sensitization Course,” was organized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) College of Agriculture, UPLB Agricultural Systems Cluster, Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research, and SEARCA.

The sensitization course intended to equip the participants with knowledge on different adaptation strategies that will help to enhance the agricultural sector’s adaptive capacities and improve its resiliency to extreme weather events. (AMSMiñas)

## SEARCA publishes 3 discussion papers on SFRT-funded researches

Three discussion papers developed from the Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) grants were released by SEARCA in January 2012.

### Indigenous Food Plants

The volume entitled *Survey and Characterization of Indigenous Food Plants in Ilocos Norte, Philippines* documented a total of 46 indigenous food plants (IFPs), representing 27 plant families in seven upland and remote municipalities of Ilocos Norte province, Philippines. It provides information on the IFP’s identity and taxonomic nomenclature, socioeconomic importance, ethnobotany, and geographic location.

The identified IFPs are important plant genetic resources that contribute to food sufficiency, nutrition, and household income. Ethnobotanical data indicate that the plants have become an

integral part of the people’s daily diet, adapting to a wide range of geomorphic and soil conditions. Recognizing the benefits of these IFPs, the upland communities conserve them through *in situ* conservation and conservation by use.

### Rice Terraces Conservation

The publication entitled *Capacity for the Conservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces: The Hungduan Farmers of Ifugao* was based on a study that aimed to develop the capacity of Hungduan farmers in preparation for a full-blown Payments for Environmental and Cultural Services (PECS) project by engaging them in environmental and cultural resource assessment in a watershed context.

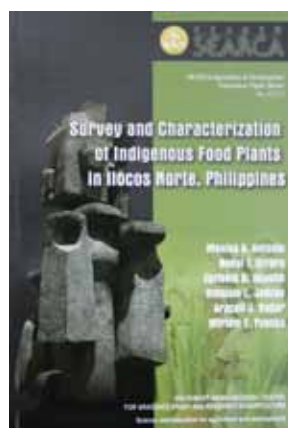
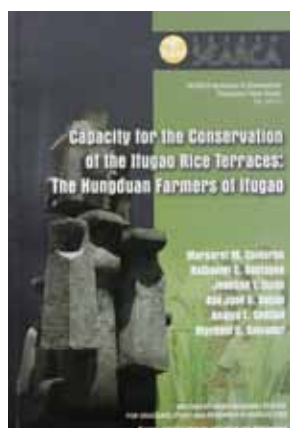
The project facilitated activities that enhanced Ifugao farmers’ knowledge in community-based

resource and damage assessment and mapping, identified the environmental and cultural services of Hungduan, and formulated community-based management plans for four sub-watersheds.

### Water Resources Management

The volume entitled *Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Philippines: An Analysis of the Political Economy of Banate Bay* evaluated the Banate Bay Resource Management Council (BBRMCI), which has been touted as a model for a successful alliance.

The BBRMCI has succeeded in reducing the incidence of illegal fishing, reforesting large, denuded mangrove areas, thereby creating livelihood projects for its member municipalities. It examined the path that led the alliance to its perceived successes and evaluated its material and welfare impact to its beneficiaries. In light of its findings, the paper presented recommendations on how the alliance can perform its functions more effectively and sustainably.



The Discussion Paper Series are outputs of the SEARCA SFRT, which seek to address emerging challenges in the region and in SEARCA’s pursuit of its thrusts on natural resource management and agricultural competitiveness. The SFRT provides winning research and training project proposals up to USD 15,000.00 of start-up funds intended to enhance chances of securing long-term support from donor agencies.

The Discussion Paper Series are available as free copies or downloadable as PDF from the SEARCA website at [www.searca.org](http://www.searca.org).

## Snapshots



Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz (third from left), Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños and new Country Representative of the Philippines to the SEARCA Governing Board (GB), was given an overview of the Center's programs and activities. Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (second from left), SEARCA Director, led the briefing. He was joined by Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (leftmost), Manager for Project Development and Management; Ms. Adoracion T. Robles (second from left), Technical Assistant to the Director; and Engr. Rosario B. Bantayan of the UPLB Chancellor's Office. Others present at the meeting but not in the photo were Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, SEARCA Manager for Graduate Scholarship, and Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, immediate past UPLB Chancellor and former Philippine Representative to the SEARCA GB and Chair of the SEARCA GB.



Dr. Pai-Yei Whung (leftmost, foreground), Science Adviser, World Bank, Washington D.C., discusses agro-climatic information concerns with (from right) Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for Knowledge Management; Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development; and Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, Head, Knowledge Resources Unit, during her visit to SEARCA on 7 March 2012. They also explored possible areas of collaboration between SEARCA and World Bank.



A group of Texas A&M University students and Dr. Piya Abeygunawardena (rightmost), Associate Director of the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, visited SEARCA on 12 January 2012 to learn about the Center. Photo shows the group with SEARCA officers and staff, including Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (fifth from left), SEARCA Director; Dr. Editha C. Cedicol (third from right), Manager for Graduate Scholarship; Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay (second from right), Head, Knowledge Resources Unit (KRU); Ms. Avril DG. Madrid (leftmost), Information and Communication Specialist, KRU; Ms. Rochella B. Lapitan, Project Management Associate, Biotechnology Information Center; and Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel, Project Development Specialist, Research and Development Department.



On 5 March 2012, 72 agricultural economics students of the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) Extension Program in Pampanga visited SEARCA as part of their study tour. Accompanying the students was Prof. Patrick C. De Leon of UPD. They were given a briefing on SEARCA's program and activities. In addition, Ms. Jenny A. Panopio, Special Projects Coordinator and Network Administrator of SEARCA's Biotechnology Information Center, and Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel, Project Development Specialist, Research and Development Department, gave presentations on the BIC and SEARCA R&D projects that are related to the students' field of study, respectively.



# SEARCA Summer Outing 2012

ROAD TRIP TO NORTHERN LUZON, PHILIPPINES: LAOAG, PAGUDPUD, VIGAN, AND BAGUIO



Kapurpurawan Rock Formation, Ilocos Norte



Burnayan (Pottery) Workshop, Vigan, Ilocos Sur



Bangui Windmills, Ilocos Norte



Patapat Viaduct, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte



Ancestral home of world-renowned Filipino painter Juan Luna in Badoc, Ilocos Norte



Baguio City

## SFRT symposium held in Indonesia



Dr. Zeily Nurachman (eighth from right) and Dr. Ari Widyanti (eighth from left) flank Dr. Joko Sarwono (ninth from left), Research Coordinator of the ITB Faculty of Industrial Technology, and Dr. Rico Ancog (ninth from right), Project Development Specialist at SEARCA's Research and Development Department, as they pose with the Bandung Technological Institute faculty and staff who attended the SEARCA Seed Fund for Research and Training Symposium held on 2 February 2012.

A SEARCA Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) Symposium was held at Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Bandung, Indonesia on 2 February 2012.

The symposium was organized by SEARCA's Research and Development Department in collaboration with the Faculty of Industrial Technology of ITB. Dr. Rico Ancog, Project Development Specialist, coordinated the activity and gave the opening remarks on behalf of Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development, as well as an overview of the SFRT program.

The symposium speakers were two Indonesian SFRT grantees who are both lecturers at ITB. They are Dr. Ari Widyanti of ITB (2011 grantee) and Dr. Zeily Nurachman (2008 grantee).

Dr. Ari presented her research proposal entitled *Attitude and Behaviour Intervention to Diminish Psychological and Cultural Barriers of Food Diversification in Indonesia: Ending love affair with rice, beyond food security*.

On the other hand, Dr. Zeily discussed the outputs of his SFRT-funded project entitled *Screening and Identification of the Local Marine Microalgae Strain Producing Biodiesel*.

A paper based on said research has appeared in the *Bioresource Technology*, peer-reviewed scientific journal published by Elsevier. Dr. Zeily Nurachman is lead author of said paper entitled "Oil productivity of the tropical marine diatom *Thalassiosira* sp".

The paper presents the results of investigating the potential of cultivating *Thalassiosira* sp. in three types of media (i.e., Walne, enriched seawater, and plain seawater) to produce biofuel as well as find out its biodiesel product properties and growth characteristics. The study found that *Thalassiosira* sp. grew well in enriched seawater medium. Moreover, the algal biodiesel characteristics derived showed that *Thalassiosira* sp. may be fit for use in households.

The SFRT is a competitive grant aimed at assisting promising research projects of Southeast Asians to enable them to carry out research and training initiatives supportive of agricultural and rural development in the region. (LLDDomingo)

## Institutional development assistance to Cambodian university initiated

Institutional development assistance to strategic and developing agricultural universities in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam is one of the activities pursued by SEARCA as a component of its agricultural human resource development mandate.

During the 59<sup>th</sup> SEARCA Governing Board (GB) Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia in October 2011, Dr. Ngo Bunthan, Rector of the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) and Cambodia's representative to SEARCA's GB, expressed RUA's need for capacity-building assistance.

This is the principle behind a SEARCA-led reconnaissance visit to RUA in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 26-27 March 2012. The SEARCA team was composed of Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director; Dr. Oscar B. Zamora, Vice Chancellor for Instruction of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, SEARCA Institutional Development Consultant and former UPLB Chancellor; and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, SEARCA Manager for Graduate Scholarship.

During the visit, Dr. Bunthan expressed his appreciation to SEARCA for responding to his request for assistance. He said Cambodia's economy is still agriculture-based and that agriculture continues to be important in ensuring food security for the people. He emphasized that the government of Cambodia needs RUA's assistance in developing the agriculture sector as part of the government's strategic plan covering 2009-2013, and that a priority program under the plan is the strengthening of agricultural human resources.

Institutional development/ to page 11

## Lao Ambassador visits SEARCA



Her Excellency Mrs. Malayvieng Sakonhnhom (seventh from left), Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Philippines, together with Mr. Khamfeuag Phanthaxay (fifth from right), Second Secretary and Deputy Chief of Mission, and Mr. Vilayvanh Xaysomvang (sixth from right), Third Secretary, both of the Embassy of the Lao PDR to the Philippines, pose for a souvenir photo with SEARCA officers, namely: Dr. Editha C. Cedicol (sixth from left), Manager for Graduate Scholarship; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (rightmost), Manager for Knowledge Management; Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla (leftmost), Manager for Research and Development, and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (third from left), Manager for Project Development and Management; and Lao SEARCA scholars studying at UPLB.

Her Excellency Mrs. Malayvieng Sakonhnhom, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Philippines, together with Mr. Khamfeuag Phanthaxay, Second Secretary and Deputy Chief of Mission, and Mr. Vilayvanh Xaysomvang, Third Secretary, of the Embassy of the Lao PDR to the Philippines, visited SEARCA on 18 January 2012 for an overview of the Center's programs and activities.

Ambassador Sakonhnhom was welcomed by Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate

Scholarship and Center Officer in Charge; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for Knowledge Management; Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development, and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Manager for Project Development and Management.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, was unable to meet Ambassador Sakonhnhom as he was in Bangkok, Thailand to attend the 34th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting.

Presentations on SEARCA's programs and current initiatives in Lao PDR were held. In particular, they discussed the Savannakhet University (SKU) Institutional Development Assistance Project spearheaded by SEARCA and scholarships for graduate studies and non-degree academic bridging programs awarded to Lao nationals.

Ongoing SEARCA academic bridging and graduate scholars from Lao PDR who are studying at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) also joined the briefing. (LLDDomingo)

### Institutional development/ from page 10

In response, Dr. Saguiguit said that among the main programs of SEARCA are institutional development and internationalization of programs. He emphasized that SEARCA assists two sectors—the academe and the government agencies concerned with agriculture.

Dr. Saguiguit said the visit was just the first step of the assistance. The aim of the visit was to look at the profile of RUA and understand its organizational structure, its faculty and human resource complement, and its strategic directions.

The information gathered from the visit will be inputs to the concept proposal for a master plan of RUA's institutional development that will serve as a template for the capacity-building interventions for possible government support and donor funding. (ECCedicol)



The SEARCA team who visited RUA, which included Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (center, seated), Dr. Oscar B. Zamora (right, seated), Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco (fifth from right, standing), and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol (sixth from right, standing), pose for a souvenir photo with Dr. Mom Seng (left, seated), RUA Vice Rector, and the deans of the RUA faculties.

## Phi DA Lecture Forum tackles creativity in bureaucracy

“Kayo ang boss ko (You [people] are my boss).”

How a government bureaucracy like the Department of Agriculture (DA) can translate this touchstone statement of Philippine President Benigno Aquino Jr. into action is the subject of the Eighth DA Lecture Forum held on 22 February 2012 at the DA Head Office in Quezon City, Philippines.

The lecture, entitled “Kayo ang Boss Ko: A Challenge to Creativity of Government Bureaucracy,” was given by international agriculture and training specialist Rogelio V. Cuyno, who is a former Chancellor of University of the Philippines Mindanao.

The DA Lecture Forum Series is jointly organized by DA and SEARCA for DA executives and mid-level managers and professional staff.

Each forum features an expert who discusses new or unexplored ideas and developments in agriculture; and strategic policy, leadership, and management in relation to the agriculture bureaucracy.

“This event is part of our efforts to improve the capacities of DA personnel especially in the area of governance,” said Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit Jr., SEARCA Director.

Dr. Cuyno said the proclamation by President Aquino that the citizens are going to be his boss reflects a new rationality and is consistent with emerging organizational alternative.

He suggested ways by which to introduce President Aquino’s ethical principle of public service into the mainstream of the DA’s bureaucracy.

For his proposed reform program of change to succeed, Dr. Cuyno said there must be communication; internal ownership; the need for and design



Dr. Rogelio V. Cuyno

of reform must be convincing to people in the DA; a core group and coalition of change champions who will sell, promote, inform, and educate the rank and file and other players in the system; and a monitoring information system that documents activities, participation, and feedback. He added that the nature and content of the reform program will influence the kind of response from the DA personnel. He said there is a need to organize a small, multi-skilled group of people who will carry out change management in the organization and to remove obstacles and inconsistencies blocking implementation of the new vision.

Dr. Cuyno wrapped up his lecture by enjoining the DA to develop a workable plan of reform of the public bureaucracy and presenting a format for crafting such plan.

The lecture series is part of the DA Umbrella Capacity Development Program on Strategic Management and Policy implemented by SEARCA. (LLDDomingo)

## Basic GIS for NRM training for Ridge to Reef Project beneficiaries

Soil erosion, land degradation, and sedimentation are among the major environmental problems affecting the major watersheds of Mt. Malindang, particularly the Layawan Watershed. Modeling using Geographic Information System (GIS) may be used to monitor the materials moving from upstream to downstream due to said problems and manage the impacts.

The unique features and status of Mt. Malindang make it a strategic site for piloting and modifying biodiversity conservation measures. Latest of this is Ridge to Reef: An Ecosystem-based Approach to Biodiversity Conservation and Development in the Philippines, a two-year study implemented starting February 2011 by three international organizations with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). These organizations are WorldFish Center, World Agroforestry Center, and SEARCA.



The training participants and the resource persons and organizers pose for a souvenir photo.

The Ridge to Reef project aims to address key issues affecting biodiversity conservation around the Mt. Malindang area. Tackling the problems of coastal communities will be based on three

thematic areas: (1) reversing degradation of coastal resources; (2) enhancing livelihoods of coastal people; and (3) capacity-building and information/data base management.

Basic GIS for NRM/ to page 13

## 2 SEARCA alumni get seed funds for research

Every year, the SEARCA Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) grants promising research projects and proposals modest financial resource to jumpstart their activities and eventually achieve their objectives.

Research proposals of SEARCA graduate alumni from Indonesia and Lao PDR were awarded SEARCA SFRT grants for 2011/2012.

Mr. Freddy Pattiselanno (MS, Animal Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños [UPLB], 2004), Lecturer at the Universitas Negeri Papua in Manokwari, Indonesia, received start-up funds for his research entitled *Wildlife hunting, alternative protein sources and biodiversity conservation on the Bird's Head Peninsula of West Papua, Indonesia*. His study primarily aims to evaluate the subsistence hunting and current use of wildlife among the 12 villages located along the coast of the Bird's Head Peninsula.

On the other hand, Dr. Oudom Phonekhampheng (MS, Fish Culture and Fish Feeds, Kasetsart University, 1996), Head of the Livestock and Fishery Department, Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Laos (NUOL),

was granted funds for his study entitled *The Different Potential of Rubber and Multiple Crops Production for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in Luangnamtha Province, Lao PDR*. Through this research, Dr. Phonekhampheng seeks to understand the requirements of local farmers to participate in multiple crops production and differentiate the potentials of rubber and multiple crops in relation to the issues of food security and poverty reduction.

The other SFRT grantees were: (1) Dr. Ari Widyanti, Bandung Institute of Agricultural Technology, Indonesia, *Attitude and Behaviour Intervention to Diminish Psychological and Cultural Barriers of Food Diversification in Indonesia: Ending Love Affair with Rice, Beyond Food Security*; (2) Dr. Menandro Acda, Professor, UPLB, *Fuel Pellets from Agricultural and Forestry Residues as Alternative Source of Bioenergy in the Philippines*; (3) Dr. Nyo Nyo, Yezin Agricultural University, *Horticultural Produce Supply System and Quality Management in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar*; and (4) Mr. Paul Joseph Ramirez and Mr. Niño Alejandro Manalo, UPLB, *Economic Implications and Safety Nets for Mesh Size Regulations on Local Fishing Communities in Cagayan and Pangasinan, Philippines: A Policy and Economic Analysis*. (JSLaranas)

## SEARCA scholar inducted into academic honors society



the select few individuals who were recognized by the Phi Sigma International Honors Society at the 30<sup>th</sup> Scholars' Recognition Convocation held at the NISMED Auditorium in UP Diliman on 30 January 2012.

The annual scholars' convocation, sponsored by the Phi Sigma, Pi Gamma Mu, and Phi Kappa Phi International Honor Societies, was established in 1983 to honor the outstanding seniors of the UP System for academic excellence in the biological sciences (Phi Sigma), social sciences (Pi Gamma Mu), and in all fields of discipline (Phi Kappa Phi). There were 143 honorees at this year's convocation (12 Phi Kappa Phi, 35 Phi Sigma, 96 Pi Gamma Mu).

Mr. Daud Samsudewa, lecturer at the Faculty of Animal Science, Diponegoro University, Indonesia and currently pursuing his PhD in Animal Science at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) as a SEARCA-DAAD scholar, was among

The convocation envisages that the recognition of outstanding seniors will encourage the honorees to strive for excellence in all their endeavors and serve as inspiration for emulation by other students. (AVLAlcala)

## Basic GIS for NRM/ from page 12

Held on 28-30 March 2012, the training sought to equip the stakeholders of the Layawan Watershed and Mt. Malindang Protected Area with the technical skills to operate basic GIS and understand the complex drivers of material transfer.

Participants were 22 representatives from DENR, the provincial government, and the seven local government units in Misamis Occidental that are covered by the Ridge to Reef Project. They learned how to optimize its broad application, especially in managing natural resources, and came up with a generic map using the basic functions of Quantum GIS. (CBBinondo)

## 4 New SEARCA/ from page 3

project proposal as a management tool for project supervision, monitoring, control, and evaluation.

### Responding to Climate Change through R&D

The *Capability Building on Responding to Climate Change through Research and Development in Agriculture Phase 2* is DA-BAR's continuing contribution to the country's efforts in contending with the impacts of climate change on the agriculture and fisheries sectors through R&D.

In 2010, DA-BAR and SEARCA implemented the first capacity building program for staff of DA-BAR, DA Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers, DA Regional Field Units, partner local government units, and nongovernment organizations/cooperatives to equip them with appropriate technical training and knowledge as well as exposure to various climate change programs and projects.

Through these four new collaborative initiatives, DA-BAR and SEARCA further contribute to the productivity of the Philippine agriculture sector by enhancing the capacities of its professionals. (BMBurgos)

# Thesis Abstracts

## EXPLORING SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COOPERATIVISM AMONG THE GETASAN DAIRY CATTLE FARMERS IN SEMARANG REGENCY, CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA



Siwi Gayatri  
Indonesian  
MS in Community  
Development  
University of the Philippines  
Los Baños

The study aimed to explore the role of social capital and cooperativism in dairy cattle farming in Semarang Regency, Central Java Province, Indonesia. The study was conducted in Getasan Village in Getasan District, Semarang Regency using the survey research design. A sample of 96 respondents was drawn from the population of dairy cattle farmers in Getasan village.

The study showed that dairy cattle are an important source of income in Getasan village. Almost all dairy cattle farmers in Getasan Village were members of the cooperatives. The cooperatives were important for economic advancement and farmers' welfare. Social capital played an important role in improving the performance of dairy cattle farming and it enhanced the dairy cattle farmers' cooperation with each other.

The results indicated that the variables of social capital (i.e., network and membership, social trust, and collective action) had significant relationship with the variables of cooperativism (i.e., sharing of knowledge and information, sharing of resources and participation in decision-making), while cooperativism was found to have a significant relationship with the performance indicators of dairy cattle farming. The study showed that the farmers' objectives to participate in cooperatives were to increase their welfare and to extend their involvement in the group. In addition, collective action had a significant relationship with cooperativism. A farmer who participated in collective activities was more likely to expect more benefits from the cooperatives. Lastly, there was a high level of trust and participation in the cooperatives.

The study provided some recommendations and proposed using social capital as an indicator in the design and implementation of dairy cattle development projects.

## EMPOWERMENT MECHANISM AND ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY FISHERIES IN BANTEAY MEANCHEY PROVINCE, CAMBODIA



Sok Daream  
Cambodian  
MS in Community  
Development  
University of the Philippines  
Los Baños

Community-based fisheries management is a tactical strategy towards a successful fisheries resource conservation and management. In line with this, empowerment plays a key role in community fisheries. Hence, the research was conducted to determine the empowerment mechanism implemented and its effect on the organizational performance of community fisheries.

A total of 86 respondents were selected using simple random sampling from Phneat Kohpongset in Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia. The data were analyzed, compiled, and interpreted using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results showed that only some respondents understood empowerment but with limited knowledge. The empowerment strategy used in community fisheries was community organizing, which was a part of the process of national fisheries management planning and policy reform. The training provided was not adequate. Less than half of the respondents claimed that community fisheries had network linkages with other organizations. Almost all of the respondents had a positive perception of community fisheries empowerment.

The factors affecting empowerment in community fisheries were occupation, length of organizational membership, knowledge of the community fisheries development organization's (CFDO) vision, knowledge of protective legislations, resource provision, community organizing, training, and linkages. Meanwhile, the factors affecting organizational performance were gender, length of organizational membership, knowledge of the CFDO's vision, knowledge of protective legislations, the role of CFDO, resource provision, frequency of meetings, community fisheries establishment period, current status of community fisheries, training, linkage and linking ability of community fisheries. There was no significant relationship between community fisheries empowerment and organizational performance.

## DYNAMICS OF SOIL MOISTURE REGIME IN SUGARCANE FARMS AS AFFECTED BY THEIR SOIL ORGANIC MATTER AND PHYSICAL PROPERTIES



Supranee Sritumboon  
Thai  
PhD in Soil Science  
University of the Philippines  
Los Baños

The dynamics of soil moisture regime as affected by different levels of soil organic matter was studied using water balance model. The study was conducted in the sugarcane field of the Land Development Department Regional 5 Office, Khon Kaen, Thailand to: (1) establish the relationship between soil physical and hydraulic properties and different levels of soil organic matter content, (2) monitor soil moisture regime and growth performance of sugarcane under rainfed condition, and (3) develop a water balance model for predicting soil moisture regimes.

The six levels of soil organic matter were 1.25, 1.27, 2.09, 2.87, 3.89, and 4.90 percent. They were set up by applying different amounts of compost on Chum Phuang soil series (Coarse-loamy, siliceous, isohyperthermic Typic Kandistults). A bare soil that served as control treatment was added. Soil water balance model was developed to predict soil moisture content under sugarcane cultivation.

Increasing the level of soil organic matter resulted in decreased bulk density and improved the porosity of the soil surface layer. Also, it improved the moisture characteristics, increased saturated hydraulic conductivity, increased saturated moisture content, and increased field capacity, all of which consequently led to favorable soil moisture regime.

The water balance model performance in predicting soil moisture content was satisfactory. There was a highly significant correlation between observed and predicted soil moisture content of each soil layer with  $R^2$  ranged from 0.77 to 0.94.

Soil moisture regime at different soil depths was favorable to plant growth. Moisture contents were within the available moisture range, between field capacity and permanent wilting point, except in the 0-10 cm soil layer which was too dry during crop establishment stage when there was zero rainfall but too wet during period when daily rainfall was more than 50 mm.

Increasing the level of soil organic matter improved the yield performance of sugarcane.

approach in mainstreaming climate change adaptation in local development and management planning in Romblon.

On the other hand, Mr. Preecha Ongprasert, Director of Thailand's International Convention and Commitment Division under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, discussed several initiatives undertaken in Thailand, one of which is the use of bamboo pole walls in preventing coastal erosion. Meanwhile, Dr. Supranee Sritumboon of the Land Development Department Regional Office in Khon Kaen, Thailand, also shared their initiatives in response to increasing soil salinity, flooding, and drought.



Participants from the policymaking sector discuss the specific roles expected of their sector in championing climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

### Transformative Leadership

The last module focused on three skills needed in CCA environmental leadership: negotiation, fund raising, and knowledge sharing and networking. Dr. Espaldon introduced the module by presenting the cases of Albay Province and the Municipality of Infanta, both in the Philippines. The cases focused on how these local government units were able to successfully integrate CCA in their planning and management systems. Both cases highlighted the strong role played by the local leaders in championing CCA mainstreaming.

Commissioner Naderev Saño of the Climate Change Commission, Philippines discussed negotiation and financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation (CChAM). He provided some practical tips in negotiating for more political and financial support for CChAM activities. He also provided some guidelines on how to approach funders and provided a list of financing opportunities for CCA. He repeatedly highlighted the importance of thinking out of the box, explaining that solving climate change means embracing change and transforming the way people govern and do business.



Participants work on their draft climate change adaptation plans for possible submission to funding agencies.



Participants from the science-policy linkage sector discuss the specific roles expected of their sector in championing climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, SEARCA Manager for Knowledge Management, and Dr. Christer Holtsberg, Senior Technical Advisor of the AIT-UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific, both spoke on the importance of knowledge sharing and networking in CChAM. Dr. Holtsberg introduced the various knowledge products, web portals, and learning events that UNEP's Adaptation Knowledge Platform (AKP) has to offer. On the other hand, Dr. Cadiz presented SEARCA's Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Program (CChAMP), which aims to build the capacities of regional institutions in working towards climate change resiliency in agricultural production and sustainable NRM.



Commissioner Naderev Saño adds to the discussion during the participants' sharing of achievements in localizing climate change adaptation action plans.

### Champions' Commitments

The training-workshop ended with each participant sharing their commitment as CCA champions. Many were personal commitments, like that of Dr. Budhi Setiawan of the University of Sriwijaya in Indonesia, who pledged to be "a wise researcher".

Some indicated their dedication to affect change within their respective organizations, just as Ms. Salvacion Ritual of the Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines committed to "assist our leaders in integrating climate change in agenda setting and in formulating agricultural programs and projects".

Other pledges focused on their desire to persuade those within their circle of influence such as Dr. Van Leeah Alibo who's commitment is to include climate change adaptation and mitigation concepts in the B.S. Environmental Science curriculum of Caraga State University in the Philippines. (JVBarian)

# SEARCA, EEPSEA, MJU team up in developing CCA champions

“Champions serve as leaders who bring vital issues and concerns to the attention of the many. And now is the opportune time to champion the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into development plans and programs – because climate change is one of the greatest challenges in our pursuit for a sustainable future,” Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said during the opening program of the training-workshop on *Environmental Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation for Southeast Asia*.

Organized by SEARCA in coordination with the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) and Maejo University (MJU), the training was held at the MJU Chiang Mai campus on 6-10 February 2012.

It brought together 29 champions from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand who represented academic as well as local and national government agencies involved in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. A number of the participants hold mid- to senior-level executive positions in their respective organizations and joined the training to further strengthen their advocacies to mainstream climate change adaptation (CCA) in local and national development planning and management.

## Climate Change Science

The training was divided into four modules. The first module focused on improving the participants’ understanding of climate change science. Dr. Ma. Victoria Espaldon, Training Technical Coordinator and Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), started the discussion by focusing on three main points: what is currently known about climate change, what is still uncertain, and how these uncertainties should be managed. She emphasized that although much is still unknown about climate change, enough is known to adequately prepare for its uncertainties.



Dr. Ma. Victoria O. Espaldon synthesizes the desirable leadership characteristics of a climate change adaptation champion.

Community-based adaptation (CBA) to climate change was also given attention. Mr. Mozaharul Alam, United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Regional Climate Change Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, led the discussion and explained that CBA as an approach empowers communities to plan for and cope with climate change impacts based on their priorities, needs, knowledge, and capacities.

Dr. Orapan Nabangchang, EEPSEA Senior Economist, discussed the economic tools for climate-related risk management. She emphasized the importance of such tools in determining whether a climate change adaptation project is cost-effective or whether its costs are adequately justified based on its benefits on social well-being.



Dr. Orapan Nabangchang talks about the usefulness of cost-benefit analysis as an economic tool to support climate-related risk management decision-making.

and implementation of national and local initiatives and to identify where resources may come from.



Mr. Mozaharul Alam explains the concept of community-based adaptation to climate change.

## Institutional Frameworks

The second training module provided an appreciation of how the region is organized to address the challenges posed by climate change through the discussion of relevant institutional frameworks.

Mr. Alam presented an overview of several regional and international decision-making frameworks, highlighting the importance of understanding these processes to guide the development

Representatives from the Philippine Climate Change Commission, Indonesian National Council on Climate Change, Cambodian Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment, and Thailand Climate Change Coordination Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment also described how their respective country-level frameworks function.

## Adaptation and Mitigation

Adaptation and mitigation concepts and principles were discussed in the third training module. Dr. Louis Lebel, Director of Chiang Mai University’s Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER), talked about the adaptation and mitigation in natural resource management (NRM). He emphasized the need for initiatives that can ensure that the ecosystem can recover on its own in the face of challenges posed by human consumption and exploitation for economic development as well as impending impacts of climate change.

For agriculture, Dr. Lucille Elna Parreno-de Guzman of the UPLB College of Agriculture presented an extensive list of recommended strategies to lessen the contribution of agriculture to GHG emissions and to adapt to existing and future impacts of climate change. The strategies she presented focused on sustainable livestock and crop production.

Selected participants also shared some achievements in localizing CCA actions in their respective areas of responsibility. Experiences in two Philippine provinces were shared by Dr. Ma. Teresa Destura, Assistant Provincial Agriculturist in Sorsogon province, and Dr. Merian Mani, Romblon State University’s Vice President for Research, Extension and Production. Dr. Destura talked about the Sorsogon’s disaster risk reduction measures for rice, one of which is the “palayamanan” or diversified integrated rice farming system. For her part, Dr. Mani presented their convergence web

SEARCA, MJU/ to page 15