

The SEARCA DIARY



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THE BIG ROLE OF SMALL FARMS

“Smallholders constitute the majority of farm families in the world and their contributions to household, national and global food security are monumental.”

– M.S. Swaminathan



Photo by: Kyaw Kyaw Winn

SEARCA convenes alumni for Operation One ASEAN: Towards Food Security in 2020

As SEARCA sharpens its food security agenda, it turns to one of its most important assets—its graduate alumni.

Thirty-four SEARCA alumni, including officers of the alumni associations in eight countries, participated in the *SEARCA-DAAD Alumni Associations Regional Consultative Workshop* held on 28-29 May 2013 at the Center's headquarters.

With the theme “Operation One ASEAN: Towards Food Security in 2020,” the event was co-sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), SEARCA's long-time partner in its scholarship program.

In his welcome message, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, emphasized the critical role of the graduate alumni as SEARCA's most valuable partners in the Center's various endeavors.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), which hosts SEARCA on its campus, was represented by Dr. Crisanto A. Dorado, Vice Chancellor

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In his keynote address, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, emphasized the strategic role that the SEARCA alumni and fellows will play as the Center's 10th Five-Year Plan unfolds.



Dr. Cecilio R. Arboleda (standing), Executive Director of UPLB Foundation, Inc., discussed the implications to food security of the challenges and opportunities in ASEAN agricultural higher education.

for Administration. In the welcome message of Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, UPLB Chancellor, which Dr. Crisanto read at the opening program, he reiterated the university's support to SEARCA as an active member of the SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) and home to most of SEARCA's scholars.

For her part, Ms. Ilona Krueger, Head of DAAD's South and Southeast Asia Section, had anticipated that the meeting will be an important platform for a fruitful exchange among the participating alumni, most of whom completed their graduate programs under DAAD-SEARCA scholarship.

Dr. Saguiguit's keynote paper, titled *Championing Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development*

towards Food Security in Southeast Asia, set the tone for the meeting. It outlined the Center's food security initiatives for the coming years as well as the role of the alumni in this strategic direction.

Two plenary papers were also presented: *Challenges and Opportunities in ASEAN Agricultural Higher Education: Implications to Food Security* by Dr. Cecilio R. Arboleda, Executive Director of UPLB Foundation, Inc., and *Meta-Analysis of SEARCA's Food Security Researches: Approach and Initial Findings* by Dr. Dinah Pura T. Depositario, a SEARCA alumna who is currently Associate Professor at the UPLB College of Economics and Management and a SEARCA Adjunct Fellow.

Eight participants presented papers on food security initiatives or situationer in their respective countries. The presentations were delivered in two parallel sessions, each catering to a different group of countries. The Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand comprised one group and the other included Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Timor-Leste.

The presentations laid the groundwork the development of draft concept proposals that focus on community-based pilot-testing of innovative and integrated agricultural systems. The concept proposals were presented by Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, President, Southern Luzon State University (SLSU), Philippines, and Dr. Pheak Sothea, Director, Department of Rural Economic Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Cambodia.

Dr. Saguiguit said these draft concept proposals are very relevant, particularly in light of SEARCA's new directions.

When refined, these proposed regional projects can be considered as part of SEARCA's arsenal to help drive inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development in the region. An additional leverage for the Center would be the participation of its alumni in these regional initiatives.

Aside from exchanging knowledge and best practices in food security between and among countries, the consultation workshop also provided an opportunity for SEARCA to renew its ties with its graduate alumni. Many of SEARCA's 1,307 graduate alumni now occupy positions of influence in their respective institutions and countries. (JSLaranas)



Dr. Dinah Pura T. Depositario, a SEARCA alumna who also currently serves as a SEARCA Adjunct Fellow, presented the initial findings of the ongoing *Meta-Analysis of SEARCA's Food Security Initiatives* that she is conducted.



Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, President, Southern Luzon State University (SLSU), Philippines, presented the concept proposal of the group composed of alumni from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.



Dr. Pheak Sothea, Director, Department of Rural Economic Development, Cambodia, presented the concept proposal of the group composed of alumni from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Timor-Leste.

THE SEARCA DIARY

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Participants, resource persons, and organizers of the *SEARCA-DAAD Alumni Associations Regional Consultative Workshop* held on 28-29 May 2013 at SEARCA.

UK joins SEAMEO as associate member

The accession of the United Kingdom as an associate member-country of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) was approved by the SEAMEO Council during its 47th conference on 19-21 March 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

In a statement, the British Embassy Hanoi said “the membership will allow the UK to reinforce its existing relationships with South East Asia’s education network, and to cultivate new regional education links to bring mutual prosperity to the SEAMEO member nations.”

The UK is the eighth SEAMEO associate member-country, joining Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Spain.

SEAMEO associate member-countries have contributed financial support and technical expertise in the development of education, science, and culture in Southeast Asia through SEAMEO’s 21 regional centers, including SEARCA.

The SEAMEO also has affiliate membership for other organizations, including the International Council for Open and Distance Education, Japan’s University of Tsukuba, and the British Council.

The 47th SEAMEO Conference was attended by the Ministers of Education of SEAMEO member-countries, representatives of SEAMEO associate member-countries, affiliate members, regional centers, SEAMEO Secretariat; and officials and observers from development partners and international organizations.

The SEARCA delegation to the Conference was composed of Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director; Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, Deputy Director for Administration; Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Unit Head, Management Services; Ms. Adoracion T. Robles, Executive Coordinator, Office of the Director; and Mr. Delfin T. Paz, Electrical and Equipment Technician, who received the 2012/2013 SEAMEO Service Award in an awards ceremony during the Conference. (LLDDomingo)

SEAMEO College formally introduced

A special meeting for ambassadors, education attaches and other officials of embassies in Thailand was convened by Bangkok-based Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat at its headquarters on 29 April 2013 to formally introduce the SEAMEO College and drum up support among the diplomatic community in promoting cooperation in education, science, and culture in the region.

The SEAMEO College is a new initiative that offers a platform for high-level discussions on forward-looking issues and concerns in Southeast Asia and support ASEAN community through a series of forums and research and development activities.

Launched at the 47th SEAMEO Council Conference on 20 March 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam,

the SEAMEO College will highlight three key issues: (1) bridging regional divides (e.g., disparities in education and skills attainment), (2) creating a common space in education (e.g., harmonizing regional frameworks for common standards in education, social needs and market demand), and (3) signaling systems for technical manpower (e.g., changing labor demand in Southeast Asia). It will also put emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Education Agenda.

“The key to making this happen is the resolve of SEAMEO to achieve a more global outlook and pursue a stronger fortitude for regional cooperation,” H. E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Brunei Education Minister and outgoing SEAMEO Council President, said in his speech at the launch at Daewoo Hotel Hanoi.

“Generating new and innovative ideas through SEAMEO College will fuel to action the mandate for which SEAMEO was created which is the promotion of cooperation in education, science

and culture. Eventually, SEAMEO College will also contribute to fulfilling the ASEAN Community,” Apong said.

The SEAMEO College’s first two-year cycle will begin in the third quarter of 2013 with support from the Asian Development Bank. Its activities will be carried out in major cities in different countries.

Representatives from 20 countries, including SEAMEO member and associate member-countries, the United States, Japan, and Republic of Korea; as well as the European Union, some United Nations agencies, and other international organizations came to the briefing.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, and other Center Directors and officials also attended the briefing, which was organized by the SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) in cooperation with three Thailand-based SEAMEO centers. (LLDDomingo with report from SEAMES)



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (standing, third from left), SEARCA Director, attended the briefing on the SEAMEO College for the diplomatic corps in Thailand on 29 April 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The briefing was presided by Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul (seated, center), SEAMEO Secretariat Director.

51 Southeast Asians awarded SEARCA graduate scholarships

SEARCA awarded MS and PhD scholarships to 51 Southeast Asian nationals from eight countries, namely: Cambodia (11), Indonesia (1), Lao PDR (7), Myanmar (4), Philippines (2), Thailand (2), Timor-Leste (5), and Vietnam (19).

Forty-three of these scholars are enrolled in master's programs while eight are pursuing PhD programs.

Seven scholars are supported by the German Academic Exchange Program (DAAD) and 28 scholars are under the Southeast Asian Upland Agriculture Fellowships project funded by the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and implemented by SEARCA. The rest are fully supported by SEARCA.

The scholars began their respective graduate programs in agriculture and related sciences during the period August 2012 to October 2013. They are studying at the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia; University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); and Kasetsart University (KU), Khon Kaen University (KKU), and Chiang Mai University (CMU), all in Thailand.

The new SEARCA graduate scholars, their institutional affiliation, study post, and degree program are:

CAMBODIA

- Ms. Chheun Sreyneang, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Ms. Chin Hunlay, Pailin Provincial Department of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *animal science*)
- Mr. Eng Chheanghong, National Committee for Democratic Development Secretariat, Ministry of Interior (UPLB/MS, *applied nutrition*)
- Mr. Long Huot, Samaritan's Purse (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Mr. Nget Raby, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agronomy*)
- Mr. Thea Sive, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agronomy*)
- Ms. Theavy Srey, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *food science*)
- Ms. Thoung Sodany, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *environmental science*)
- Mr. Ung Putheany, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *animal science*)
- Mr. Var Sophal, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agronomy*)
- Ms. Vong Pisey, Royal University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *animal science*)

INDONESIA

- Mr. Riza Firmansyah, Pt Exsamap Asia (IPB/MS, *natural resource and environmental management*)

LAO PDR

- Mr. Bouavonh Biachampah, Dongkhamxang Agriculture Technical School (CMU/MS, *agricultural systems management*)
- Mr. Khambai Phunthavongsa, Dongkhamxang Agriculture Technical School (KKU/MS, *agriculture*)
- Mr. Khamniem Phongtady, Clean Agriculture Development Center, Department of Agriculture (KKU/MS, *rural development management*)
- Mr. Lyfong Yalao, Northern Agriculture and Forestry College (CMU/MS, *animal science*)
- Ms. Pathumpone Sonemany, Community and Environmental Services Co. Ltd. (KKU/MS, *agronomy*)
- Mr. Veokham Vilaysane, National University of Laos (UPLB/MS, *agricultural engineering*)
- Mr. Xayasinh Sommany, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (CMU/MS, *agricultural systems management*)

MYANMAR

- Ms. Myat Moe Hlaing, Yezin Agricultural University (UPLB/PhD, *botany*)
- Ms. Myint Thu Thu Aung, Department of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Ms. Phyu Lay Myint, Myanma Agriculture Service (KU/MS, *agricultural and resource economics*)
- Mr. Ye Min Htwe, Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise (UPLB/MS, *botany*)

PHILIPPINES

- Ms. Edelweiss E. Sajise, Philippine Rice Research Institute (UPLB/PhD, *plant breeding*)
- Ms. Maria Anabelle D. Gerona, Visayas State University (UPLB/PhD, *development communication*)

THAILAND

- Ms. Alisa Sahahirun, Department of Agricultural Extension (UPLB/PhD, *extension education*)
- Ms. Saranya Sawangphop, Department of Agricultural Extension (UPLB/MS, *entomology*)

TIMOR-LESTE

- Mr. Abel Ximenes, National Directorate of Quarantine and Bio-Security, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (IPB/MS, *phytopathology*)
- Mr. Caetano Dos Santos Cristovao, National Directorate of Industrial Crops and Agribusiness, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (IPB/MS, *agribusiness*)
- Mr. Carlito De Araujo Mali Code, National University of Timor Lorosa'e (UPLB/PhD, *animal science*)

- Mr. Mateus De Jesus Gomes, National University of Timor Lorosa'e (UPLB/PhD, *agricultural education*)
- Mr. Micael Soares Dos Santos Martins, Ministry of Finance (UPLB/MS, *community development*)

VIETNAM

- Ms. Bui Quy Hong, Hanoi University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Mr. Ho Trung Phuc, Hue College of Economics (KU/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Ms. Le Phuong Thi Hong, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (UPLB/PhD, *community development*)
- Mr. Le Phuong Nam, Hanoi University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Chung, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (CMU/MS, *agricultural systems management*)
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Thuong, Hanoi University of Agriculture (KKU/MS, *rural development management*)
- Mr. Nguyen Tien Dinh, Hanoi University of Agriculture (UPLB/PhD, *agricultural economics*)
- Mr. Nguyen Van Thanh, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (KU/MS, *agriculture*)
- Mr. Nguyen Xuan Huu, Hanoi University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *environmental science*)
- Mr. Pham Cuong, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (UPLB/PhD, *forestry*)
- Ms. Pham Thi Thuyen, Nong Lam University (CMU/MS, *agricultural systems management*)
- Mr. Tran Cao Uy, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (CMU/MS, *agricultural systems management*)
- Mr. Tran Liem Thanh, Vietnam Forestry University (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Mr. Tran Quang Hung, Vietnamese-German Center (CMU/MS, *animal science*)
- Ms. Tran Thi Thuong, Hanoi University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Ms. Tran Trang Thi Thu, Hanoi University of Agriculture (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)
- Ms. Vu Thi Thuy Trang, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (KU/MS, *agriculture*)
- Mr. Vu Xuan Truong, Southern Centre of Agriculture Policy and Strategy (UPLB/MS, *agricultural economics*)

As of June 2013, SEARCA has awarded a total of 1,520 graduate scholarships to nationals of the 11 member-countries of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), which also include Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Singapore. (JSLaranas)

Meta-analysis of SEARCA's food security initiatives conducted

Food security is an overriding concern and pressing issue in the Southeast Asian region and has very serious implications on the poverty reduction efforts of governments and international development organizations.

On the supply side, food security is affected by production levels of farmers, climate change risks, and level of investments in agriculture, including support services. On the demand side, food security levels may be influenced by trade routes and supply chains, changing patterns of consumption in some countries that can cause deficits in net importing countries, government actions as a response to international events, effects of the Southeast Asian regional trade integration, and the region adapting to a more liberalized global trade environment.

Against this backdrop, SEARCA initiated a meta-analysis to examine completed and ongoing food security-related studies and other initiatives conducted by SEARCA between 2000 and 2013. The intent is to determine the trends and patterns in SEARCA's food security researches, assess the Center's accomplishments related to food security, draw lessons, identify research and knowledge gaps, and derive future directions that will enable the Center to play a more relevant role in addressing the issue.

Dr. Dinah Pura T. Depositario, Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Economics and Management (UPLB-CEM) and SEARCA Adjunct Fellow, was tapped as to conduct the meta-analysis.

The study incorporates the four facets of food security (i.e., availability, access, utilization, and stability) as widely discussed by Dr. Paul S. Teng,

Dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and SEARCA Senior Fellow on Food Security. As SEARCA Technical Consultant for the *Regional Consultation Workshop for the Umbrella Program on Food Security for Southeast Asia*, Dr. Teng identified the important determinants of each facet. The determinants include level of production, stock level, and net trade for availability; income/income distribution, expenditure, and markets and prices for access; food safety and standards, food care and feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of diet, and intra-household distribution of food for utilization; and adverse weather conditions, political instability, and economic and ecological factors for stability.

Additional food security driving forces such as trade liberalization policies, advances in biotechnology, postharvest and processing, and other technologies and changing consumer preferences were also matched with the food security determinants.

Issues that are becoming increasingly important in recent years, such as gender and food security versus energy security, are also included.

To complement the meta-analysis, the evolution of SEARCA's thrusts since its establishment in 1966 is also being examined. This can serve as additional input to setting the future directions of the Center's food security initiatives.

Dr. Depositario presented the inception report to the SEARCA Directorate, program heads, and program specialists on 9 May 2013. She also presented the initial findings of the study at a plenary session of the *SEARCA-DAAD Alumni Association Regional Consultative Workshop* held at SEARCA's on 28-29 May 2013 (see related story on page 1). (HMCustodio)

SEARCA, UPLB assess 14 PCAARRD industry strategic S&T plans

SEARCA and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) have been commissioned by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) to conduct an ex ante analysis of 14 PCAARRD industry strategic science and technology plans (ISPs) for crops, livestock, and inland aquatic resources.

SEARCA has also provided counterpart funds of more than half a million pesos to the P13.76 million ex ante analysis project to be conducted for 12 months. SEARCA's contribution is allocated for the production of publications resulting from the project.

The ISPs under crops are abaca, banana, coconut, mango, and rice. Duck, goat, native chicken, layer, and swine are grouped under livestock. Inland aquatic resources include milkfish, mudcrab, tilapia, and shrimp.

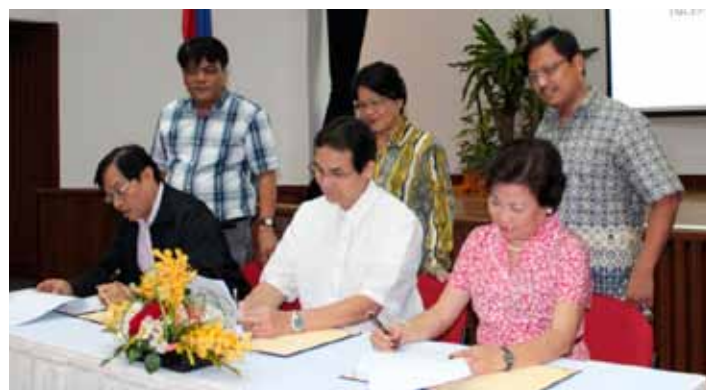
The ISPs outline the targets for each industry and identify the aspects of the industry in which S&T will make a difference.

The ex ante analysis will estimate the economic value of each ISP before the research and development (R&D) projects are undertaken. It involves quantitative assessment of the possible net financial gain and economic benefits from each proposed R&D project.

Results of the project will provide bases for more informed decision-making as well as more effective and efficient implementation of the ISPs.

Moreover, the assessment is expected to contribute to the body of knowledge and literature on ex-ante analysis, particularly in terms of the recommended analytical methodologies used.

The project is also envisaged to strengthen the capacities of the leaders and staff of 14 projects in assessing the possible outcomes of S&T programs and projects and their ability to improve program planning and governance. (LLDDomingo)



Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas (seated, right), Deputy Director for Administration, represented Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, at the signing ceremony for the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on the *Ex Ante Analysis of PCAARRD ISP for Crops, Livestock, and Inland Aquatic Resources* held on 14 June 2013 at SEARCA. Also in the photo are Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz (seated, center), Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Dr. Albert P. Aquino (seated, left), PCAARRD Socio-Economics Research Division (SERD) Director, who were also signatories to the MOA. Witnesses were (standing, from right) Dr. Lope B. Santos III, SEARCA Program Specialist and Officer in Charge of the Project Development and Management Department; Dr. Isabelita M. Pabuayon, UPLB College of Economics and Management Dean; and Dr. Ernesto O. Brown, PCAARRD SERD Assistant Director.

Back-to-back IDRC-SEARCA climate change project activities conducted

A *Project Dissemination and Sharing Seminar* was held back-to-back with a *Training-Workshop on Adaptation Project Proposal Development and Fund Mobilization* on 25-28 June 2013 at Richmond Hotel in Pasig City, Philippines.

SEARCA conducted both events under the auspices of the Philippine component of the multi-country project titled *Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Southeast Asia*, which it is implementing in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, the project is now in its third and final year.

The two learning events were attended by 21 participants from local government units (LGUs) working with the project, which covers 12 towns in the province of Laguna, Philippines. The project team, led by Asst. Prof. Maria Emilinda Mendoza, facilitated both activities.

Sharing the research results

The seminar intended to share the research results and recommendations of the project with representatives of the stakeholders in the towns covered by the study. Among the knowledge shared were the results of the household and community vulnerability assessment, mapping exercise, and economic analysis of adaptation options.

Dialogues were encouraged among the participants, who were divided into small groups to discuss the different aspects and components of the project that are useful to their respective LGUs. They also talked about the LGUs' specific needs (including data requirements) in climate change adaptation (CCA) planning and interventions as well as possible future collaborative activities in CCA.

Developing proposal writing skills

"We can only achieve so much with our limited resources. Hence, we must actively seek collaborative opportunities with institutions that are supportive of what we do," stressed Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, in his opening remarks.

The training-workshop thus aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in developing project proposals on climate change adaptation and in accessing different adaptation funding sources. It also provided inputs to deepen the participants' appreciation of harmonizing CCA and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) plans with local development plans.

Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel, SEARCA Program Specialist for Research and Development, outlined the requisites in good proposal planning and gave tips on how to write a winning proposal.

Several speakers from various organizations discussed various windows for funding CCA projects. Ms. Carrie Mitchell of IDRC had a session with

the participants via Skype. Ms. Agnes Balota of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit or German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Ms. Perlyn Pulhin of the Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Inc. (OML) also presented their respective organization's window for funding CCA projects and the requirements to tap into these funds.

The participants then drafted proposals on CCA. Representatives of the Laguna provincial planning and development office focused on a Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Training Center. Officials from the municipality of Liliw proposed a Small Water Impounding System. The Sta. Cruz River Basin Council drafted a plan for a Community-based Early Warning System.

The draft proposals were critiqued by Dr. Rodel Lasco of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and Mr. Marlo Mendoza of the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), both of whom have served as reviewers of proposals in a number of donor organizations. They provided guidance on how to enhance the plans and enable the LGUs to successfully access funds for their CCA projects. (PJRocamora)

IDRC-SEARCA project team holds writeshop

A writeshop was conducted by SEARCA on 23-25 April 2013 in Tagaytay City, Philippines for the Philippine component of the project titled *Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Southeast Asia* funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

The writeshop intended to facilitate the production of publications on the project's outputs. The planned publications include policy briefs, research notes, and a monograph.

Participants of the writeshop include members of the project team from SEARCA and the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, Head of SEARCA's Knowledge Resources Unit, gave a presentation on the Center's publications program as well as language and style guidelines.

Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Program Head for Knowledge Management; Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Acting Program Head for Research and Development; and Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel, Program Specialist, also attended the writeshop and gave their comments and insights on the drafts of the planned publications. (PJRocamora)



Participants, resource persons, and organizers of the *Project Dissemination and Sharing Seminar* and *Training-Workshop on Adaptation Project Proposal Development and Fund Mobilization* held on 25-28 June 2013 in Pasig City, Philippines.

SEARCA among ADB top 10 consultants on technical assistance projects

SEARCA is among the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Top 10 Consultants involved in technical assistance projects over the five-year period from January 2008 to December 2012.

SEARCA ranks seventh in the list, according to the ADB's Philippines Fact Sheet released on 24 April 2013. This is the second time that SEARCA was ranked among ADB's Top 10 Consultants in the Philippines.

SEARCA's performance may be attributed to its landing the contract for ADB's *Technical Assistance 8111 PHI – Climate Resilience and Green Growth in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL): Demonstrating the Eco-town Framework (46225-001)* in December 2012.

Previous project engagements of SEARCA with ADB were *Technical Assistance 6324 REG*

– *Expansion of Subregional Cooperation in Agriculture in the Greater Mekong Subregion (2008)*, *PPTA No. 4390 PHI – Agrarian Reform Communities Project II (2005)*, and *Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy Study (2004)*.

SEARCA is also engaged in implementation of projects funded by other international organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), WorldFish, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), European Commission, and International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

Most of the projects assisted by SEARCA articulate its priority thrusts on natural resource management and agricultural competitiveness. Such projects have also been a channel for

helping member-countries, which include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

The top 10 consultants providing technical assistance to ADB are: (1) Pacific Rim Innovation and Management Exponents, Inc. (PRIMEX); (2) Lahmeyer IDP Consult, Inc.; (3) International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); (4) McKinsey & Company; (5) Asia Halcrow Inc.; (6) World Health Organization (WHO)–Regional Office for Western Pacific; (7) SEARCA; (8) UP Center for Women's Studies Foundation, Inc.; (9) Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center, Inc.; and (10) Family Medicine Research Group.

PRIMEX and SEARCA are both members of the Institute of Management Consultants of the Philippines (IMPHIL). (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA assesses 12 protected areas in the Philippines

SEARCA is currently implementing the Protected Area Management Enhancement (PAME) Project, which aims to enhance the management of 60 existing protected areas and the establishment of at least 100 new terrestrial or marine protected areas in the Philippines.

The project is undertaken in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines.

The SEARCA study team has two subsets, with one sub-team covering Region 4A and the other Region 5. The study team is composed of Dr. Paulo N. Pasicolan, Team Leader cum Natural Resource Management (NRM) Specialist; Dr. Teodoro R. Villanueva, NRM Specialist; and Mr. Nelson Jose Vincent B. Querijero and Ms. Evelyn M. Buenaventura, both Organizational/Institutional Development Specialists.

The protected areas covered by the project are: (1) Taal Volcano Protected Landscape, (2) Mts. Palay-palay and Mataas na Gulod Protected Landscape, (3) Quezon Protected Landscape, (4) Mts. Banahaw and San Cristobal Protected Landscape, (5) Alibijaban Wilderness Area, (6) Abasig-Matognon-Mananap Natural Biotic Area, (7) Bulusan Volcano Natural Park, (8) Mt. Isarog Natural Park, (9) Lagonoy Natural Biotic Area, (10) Bicol National Park, (11) Caramoan National Park (CNP), and (12) Catanduanes Watershed Forest Reserve.

The Management Effectiveness and Capacity Assessment (MECA) survey in 12 protected areas in Regions 4A and 5 has been completed by the project.

Exactly 175 members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of each site participated in the MECA survey. They included the DENR 5 Regional Executive Director; Regional Technical Director for Protected Areas, Wildlife,



Dr. Teodoro R. Villanueva (standing, right) and Mr. Nelson Jose Vincent B. Querijero (standing, left) guided the Alibijaban PAMB members during the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessment held on 28 May 2013 in San Andres, Quezon.



Dr. Paulo N. Pasicolan (rightmost) and Ms. Evelyn M. Buenaventura (second from right) paid a courtesy call on Mr. Gilbert C. Gonzales, DENR Region 5 Executive Director, and Mr. Felix C. Mendoza, DENR Regional Technical Director for Protected Areas, Wildlife, and Coastal Zone Management Services on 30 April 2013 in Naga City.

Coastal Zone Management Service (PAWCZMS); Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (CENROs); Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs); Protected Area Supervisors (PASus); Assistant PASus; Provincial Planning and Development Officers; Barangay Chairmen; as well as representatives of each LGU where the protected area is located, nongovernment organizations, and people's organizations.

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SEARCA expands network in CIRDAP meeting

SEARCA expanded anew its network with like-minded regional organizations by presenting its program thrusts in a workshop titled *South-South Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Rural Development* on 20-21 May 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. SEARCA's participation is upon invitation by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director-General of the Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), a regional, intergovernmental and autonomous organization based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

SEARCA's presentation, titled *Promoting Food Security and Poverty Alleviation in Southeast Asia: SEARCA's Program Thrusts*, was delivered by Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Program Head for Knowledge Management.

Other guest organizations that presented their work during the workshop were the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations (UN-ESCAP); Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO); National Agricultural Extension and Training Center (NAETC) of Kasetsart University; Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet); and Bina Swadaya (acronym of *Badan Pengembangan Swadaya Masyarakat* or Community Self-Reliance Development Agency), a huge Indonesian NGO.

In addition, 14 CIRDAP Country Link Institutions (CLIs) presented their best practices in integrated rural development, as follows:

- Afghanistan: National Area-based Development Programme
- Bangladesh: Local Development Coordination Programme, Small-scale Water Resources Development Sector Project; The Local Governance Development Fund Project; Participatory Rural Development Project; Micro-credit; and Comprehensive Village Development Programme; and World Bank's Horizontal Learning Program
- Fiji: Issues for Consideration for Facilitating Better Collaboration among CIRDAP Member-countries through CIRDAP Regional Cooperation Fund
- India: Geo-ICT and Sensor Network Applications in the Rural Sector
- Indonesia: National Program for Community Empowerment – Rural Community Empowerment, Synergy and Social Entrepreneurship

- Lao PDR: Approaches, Lessons and Innovations on the Bamboo Value Chain
- Malaysia: Overview of Rural and Regional Development in Malaysia
- Myanmar: Capacity-building and Empowerment of Women Self-help Groups through Micro-credit and Social Mobilization since 1999
- Nepal: Local Development Training Academy
- Pakistan: Brief on Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration (AHK NCRD); and Benazir Income Support Programme: A Model Social Safety Net
- Philippines: Agroenterprise and the Clustering Approach
- Sri Lanka: Postharvest Practices and Rural Development in Sri Lanka
- Thailand: New (King Bhumibol's) Theory of Agriculture
- Vietnam: Training Delivery for Agriculture and Rural Development

The workshop on South-South collaboration aimed to build stronger collaboration between and among CIRDAP's CLIs and other relevant institutions in Asia and the Pacific toward scoping and creating opportunities for sharing and learning from each other. Accordingly, CIRDAP will plan exposure visits, in-country training, and sponsorship of resource persons from CIRDAP member-countries in conferences and workshops.

The two-day workshop was held back-to-back with CIRDAP's 28th Regular Technical Committee Meeting, which ended with a field visit in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 24-28 May 2013.

CIRDAP was established on 6 July 1979 through the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors. CIRDAP was founded to meet the felt needs of the developing countries at that time as an institution for promoting integrated rural development in the region.

The member-countries of CIRDAP has grown from the original six member-countries to 15 members, namely: Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. (MHCadiz)



Delegates and guests including ambassadors of CIRDAP member-countries joined Dr. Cecep Effendi, CIRDAP Director-General (front row, seventh from right), and Indonesia's Director-General of Community and Village Empowerment (front row, eighth from left) in opening the CIRDAP 28th Technical Committee Meeting cum South-South collaboration workshop and field visit. Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (front row, third from left), Program Head for Knowledge Management, represented SEARCA.

26 SEARCA scholars complete graduate programs

Twenty-six SEARCA scholars completed their graduate programs (14 MS, 12 PhD) in school year 2012-2013 and joined the ranks of SEARCA graduate alumni.

Among the 26 new SEARCA alumni, 23 were regular scholars who received support for their full graduate programs and three were PhD research scholars who were granted funds to support their dissertation research.

Of the 23 regular SEARCA scholars, five were supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), four by the Philippine Department of Agriculture, one by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), and 13 were fully funded by SEARCA.

Fourteen of the scholars studied at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); three at UP Diliman (UPD); two at Ateneo School of Government (ASoG), Philippines; two at UPM; one at Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) and one at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), both in Indonesia; and two at Kasetsart University (KU) and one at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology (KMIT), both in Thailand. The master's programs completed by four scholars at ASoG and UPD School of Economics are non-thesis courses.

The new SEARCA graduate alumni, the titles of their thesis/dissertation, their study posts and degree programs are as follows:

INDONESIA

- Ms. Imas Sukaesih Sitanggang, "Modeling Peatland Fires Risk Using Spatial Decision Tree: A case study of the Province of Riau, Indonesia" (*UPM/PhD, computer science*)
- Ms. Widaningrum, "Improvement of Resistant Starch of Modified Uli Banana Flour Prepared by Controlled Fermentation and Evaluation of Prebiotic Characteristics" (*IPB/MS, food science*)

LAO PDR

- Mr. Singkone Chaiyalad, "Morphology and Anatomy of Bamboos and Rattans Commonly Used in Lao PDR" (*KU/MS, forest biological science*)
- Mr. Sonephet Ounthala, "Community Participation in Selected Agriculture and

Rural Development Projects Towards Poverty Alleviation in Luang Namtha District, Lao PDR" (*UPLB/MS, community development*)

- Ms. Phouthasone Sibounnavong, "Biological Activities of Antagonistic Fungi to Control Fusarium Wilt of Tomato" (*KMIT/PhD, biotechnology in plant pathology*)
- Mr. Khampong Vongphachan, "Environmental Assessment of Sanitary Landfill Facility in Vientiane, Lao PDR" (*UPLB/MS, environmental science*)

MYANMAR

- Ms. San Hla Htwe, "Diversified Intensive Cropping of Rice-based Systems for High Productivity" (*UPLB/PhD, soil science*)
- Ms. Zin Mar Lwin, "Floating Garden Tomato Production, Water Quality Degradation and Sustainable Livelihood in Inle Lake, Shan State, Myanmar" (*UPLB/PhD, environmental science*)
- Ms. Khin Thanda Oo, "Alleviation of Browning in Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* var. *Botrytis*) by 1-MCP (1-Methylcyclopropene) Treatment" (*UPLB/PhD, horticulture*)
- Mr. Win Myint Thein, "Bioactivity of Three Essential Oil Extracts Against Maize Weevil Complex, *Sitophilus* spp. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) and Bean Beetle, *Callosobruchus chinensis* (L.) (Coleoptera: Bruchidae)" (*UPLB/MS, entomology*)

PHILIPPINES

- Mr. Nazario C. Briguera (*ASoG/Master in public management*)
- Mr. Agham C. Cuevas, "An Analysis of the Effects of Transaction Costs on the Productivity of the Philippine Rice Sector" (*UPD/PhD, economics*)
- Mr. Garyzalde L. Durna (*UPD/Master in development economics*)
- Ms. Imma Concepcion G. Gapuz, "Nutritional Potential and Product Development of the Nut of Tropical Almond (*Terminalia catappia* L.)" (*UPLB/MS, food science and technology*)
- Ms. Mirasol P. Montenegro (*UPD/Master in development economics*)
- Ms. Juvylee D. Obice (*ASoG/Master in public management*)

THAILAND

- Mr. Panumas Kotepong, "Anthocyanin Biosynthesis and Gene Expression during

Fruit and Ripening of Malay Apple (*Syzygium malaccense*) Cultivars" (*KU/PhD, horticulture*)

- Ms. Kallika Taraka, "Effects of Agricultural Extension and Environmental Factors and Technical Efficiency of Paddy Farms in the Central Region of Thailand" (*UPM/PhD, agricultural economics*)

TIMOR-LESTE

- Ms. Ana Jeannie A.M. de Corte-Real Araujo, "Community Responses to Environmental and Livelihood Impacts of Government-Initiated Dumpsite in Tibar Village, Liquica District, Timor-Leste" (*UPLB/MS, community development*)
- Mr. Mario Jose Morais, "Nutritive Value of Rain Tree (*Samanca saman* (Jacq.) Merr.) Pods for Philippine Native Goats (*Capra hircus* Linn.)" (*UPLB/MS, animal science*)
- Mr. Luis Tavares, "The Productivity of Balinese Cows in Breeding Centre, Bali Province" (*UGM/MS, animal science*)
- Mr. Ergilio Ferreira Vicente, "Community Development Strategy Toward Rice Security: The System of Rice Intensification in Zumalai Sub-district Covalima, Timor-Leste" (*UPLB/MS, community development*)

VIETNAM

- Mr. Nguyen Dinh Ha, "Factors Affecting Resilience to Climate Change of Coastal Communities in the Red River Delta Biological Reserve, Vietnam" (*UPLB/PhD, community development*)
- Mr. Nguyen Van Huong, "Supply Response of Maize in Vietnam" (*UPLB/PhD, agricultural economics*)
- Mr. Vu Hoang Lan, "Development of Biosecurity Model for Small Scale Chicken Production in Thai Nguyen Province, Vietnam" (*UPLB/PhD, animal science*)
- Mr. Ho Ngoc Ninh, "Economic Impact of Ecologically Based Rodent Management on Intensive Irrigated Rice System: The Case Study of Rice Farming in Mekong River Delta, Vietnam" (*UPLB/PhD, agricultural economics*)

As of 30 June 2013, a total of 1,307 SEARCA scholars (771 MS, 536 PhD) had completed their graduate programs. (LLDDomingo with report from JSLaranas)

SEARCA assesses protected/ from page 7

The project also convened each PAMB in the 12 protected areas covered to assess and analyze each protected area's legal, institutional, and financial bases and processes through focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

Results of the assessment will serve as baseline information for measuring project impacts. They will also be the basis for determining the support needed to enhance effectiveness in the management of the protected areas.

The results of the assessment will be presented to the PAMB of each of the 12 protected areas during the validation period, starting July 2013. The validation period will enable the PAMBs to participate in the formulation of recommendations for effective protected area management. (SGLQuiñones/ KJSVillagrancia)

Habito joins SEARCA as Senior Fellow

Dr. Cielito F. Habito, a distinguished expert in public finance and international economics, has joined the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) as a Senior Fellow.

A former Philippine Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Director-General of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Dr. Habito is currently a Professor of Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University and Adviser for Mindanao Economic Development with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). He also serves as member of various advisory bodies, including the Panel of Senior Advisers to Regional Governor Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Philippines. His special interest and work in Mindanao are evident in his books “Managing Mindanao’s Natural Capita” and “Braving It and Making It: Insights from Successful Investors in Muslim Mindanao” published last year. He also writes the weekly column “No Free Lunch” in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a leading broadsheet newspaper, for the tenth year running.

Dr. Habito joins the growing ranks of distinguished SEARCA Senior Fellows, namely:

- Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, incumbent Philippine Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and NEDA Director-General;
- Dr. Ana Doris Capistrano, Advisor, ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change and former Director of Forests and Governance Programme of the Centre for International Forestry;
- Dr. Geronimo M. Collado, former World Bank Consultant and Director of the Central American Institute of Business Administration in Costa Rica;
- Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, NAST Academician and former Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD) Executive Director;
- Dr. Ma. Concepcion C. Lizada, Professor Emeritus in Food Science at UP Diliman;



Dr. Cielito F. Habito (fourth from right), SEARCA Senior Fellow, presents to the SEARCA Directorate and program heads and staff the inception report for the Agricultural and Rural Development Congress slated for 2014.

- Dr. William G. Padolina, President of the Philippine National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) who is also former Deputy Director-General of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and former Philippine Science and Technology Secretary;
- Dr. Percy E. Sajise, former Bioersivity International Regional Director for Asia, Pacific and Oceania;
- Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, former University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Chancellor; and
- Dr. Paul S. Teng of Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University (NTU), where he is Dean of Graduate Study and Professional Learning, National Institute of Education.

The Senior Fellows Program is composed of accomplished and renowned people in their respective fields provides the Center with invaluable guidance and advice in direction setting and program development to better address current agricultural and rural development needs in Southeast Asia. (LLDDomingo)

SEAMEO Director joins SEAMEO delegation to Argentina

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, joined the delegation of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) to a bilateral meeting and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Organization of the Ibero-American States of Education, Science, and Culture (OEI) on 22-23 April 2013 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

OEI is an inter-governmental organization of Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America, Europe, and the Equatorial Guinea in Africa.

H.E. Professor Dr. Pham Vu Luan, Vietnam’s Minister of Education and Training (MOET) and current SEAMEO Council President, led the SEAMEO delegation composed of Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMEO Secretariat Director, SEAMEO Center Directors, and representatives from MOET.

The MOU aims to formalize and strengthen existing partnership between SEAMEO and OEI in areas of education, science, technology, and culture in the spirit of integral development, democracy, and regional integration.

During the bilateral meeting, Dr. Saguiguit presented SEARCA’s programs and explored possible collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation of Argentina. He said the meeting will open opportunities for SEARCA to partner with Ibero-American States which are mostly agriculture-based countries.

Dr. Saguiguit added that the meeting was part of the Center’s efforts to strengthen South-South collaboration, particularly in areas concerning agricultural and rural development.

The bilateral meeting and MOU signing were held in conjunction with the International Conference on ICT and Education and the official inauguration of the Ibero-American Institute for ICT and Education (IBERTIC). The conference focused on the integration of ICTs to learning practices, teachers’ training, and the development of ICT-based solutions to address educational needs and problems of the Ibero-American states. (EGPandanan)



Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul (leftmost), SEAMES Director; Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (third from left); Dr. Ramon C. Bacani (second from left), Director of SEAMEO Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (INNOTECH); and Dr. Bambang Purwantara (second from right), Director of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (BIOTROP), were briefed on “2021 Metas Educativas” or Education Goals for 2021, the theme of which is “the education we seek for the bicentennial generation.”

Snapshots



Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar (second from right) was briefed on the Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award in Agricultural Development by Dr. Emil Q. Javier (rightmost) of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines and SEARCA officers, including Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas (center), Deputy Director for Administration; Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (second from left), Acting Program Head for Research and Development (R&D); and Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel (leftmost), Program Specialist for R&D on 23 May 2013 at SEARCA. The Umali Award was launched in November 2007 by SEARCA, NAST, and the DL Umali Foundation, Inc. to recognize exemplary individuals who have contributed to the advancement of agriculture in Southeast Asia. Dr. Umali was an educator, institution-builder, development champion, and prime mover of agricultural and rural development. He was also the founding director of SEARCA and a National Scientist of the Philippines.



Mr. Roger Couture (left), Regional Controller of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, gets a demonstration of SEARCA's accounting software from Mr. Arnel R. Oabina (seated), SEARCA Financial Analyst, during his visit to the Center on 25 April 2013. Looking on is Ms. Imelda Myla R. Mojica, SEARCA Unit Head for Accounting. While at SEARCA, Mr. Couture also briefed Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, Deputy Director for Administration, along with other key program and administrative heads on the general financial policies and administrative procedures of IDRC in view of SEARCA's implementation of IDRC-funded projects, namely: an *Upland Agriculture and Food Security Fellowships* project and the Philippine component of a three-country project titled "*Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Southeast Asia.*"



The Directorate, program and unit heads, as well as key staff of SEARCA, led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiquit, Jr. (standing, 11th from left), SEARCA Director, were the participants of the first Strategic Planning Workshop to craft the Center's 10th Five-Year Plan (Fiscal Year 2014/2015-2018/2019) held on 2-4 May 2013 in Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City, Philippines. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Geronimo M. Collado (standing, 13th from left), an organizational development expert and SEARCA Senior Fellow, while Ms. Chrystie Collado served as rapporteur.



Thirty-one staff members of the Philippine Department of Agriculture-Mindanao Rural Development Program (DA-MRDP) attended the *One-Day Appreciation Course on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation* conducted by SEARCA on 18 June 2013 at its headquarters. The delegation was led by Engr. Arnel V. De Mesa (front row, seventh from right), DA-MRDP Deputy Director. The course aimed to give participants an appreciation of the core concepts of climate change and the available knowledge-based adaptation and mitigation strategies that can be used to effectively respond to it, specifically in the sectors of agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). SEARCA officers in the photo are Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas (front row, sixth from right), Deputy Director for Administration; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (front row, fifth from left), Program Head for Knowledge Management; and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (front row, fourth from left), Acting Program Head for Research and Development.

SEARCA Professorial Chair awarded

A Thai and two Filipino academicians were awarded the SEARCA Regional Professorial Chair for 2013.

The new SEARCA Professorial Chair awardees are Dr. Nakorn Tippayawong of Chiang Mai University (CMU) in Thailand, Dr. Felino P. Lansigan of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Dr. Annabella B. Tulin of the Visayas State University (VSU) in the Philippines.

They were recognized by SEARCA for their academic and research excellence in agriculture

and rural development in Southeast Asia. Each awardee will deliver at least one public lecture on their research and write a technical paper for publication.

Dr. Nakorn is an Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering at CMU and has a strong research background in biomass energy utilization, energy efficiency improvement, and particulate emission control. His public lecture is titled *Bioenergy Utilization Technology for Local Agricultural Industry and Rural Development*.

Dr. Lansigan is a Professor of Statistics at UPLB and President of the Philippine Academy of Young Scientists. He specializes in statistical hydrology and water resources, environmental statistics,

and climate change variability, among others, and has collaborated with various local and regional organizations. He will deliver a public lecture titled *Addressing the Statistical Challenges of Weather Index-based Insurance for Managing Risks in Agricultural Production*.

Dr. Tulin is a Professor of Soil Science at VSU. As senior scientist, she has had extensive involvement in plant nutrition research and extension projects, particularly in vegetables and root crops, with local and regional partners. Her public lecture is titled *Micronutrient Biofortification of Soils from Marginal Uplands for Increased Yield and Improved Nutritional Quality of Vegetables and Root Crops*. (JSLaranas)

SEARCA scholars undergo communication skills training

For any graduate student, excellent communication skills do not only come in handy during class reports and thesis oral defense; they have a lifelong impact as well.

This is the reason why SEARCA found it important to conduct an *Oral Communication and Presentation Skills Training Program* for SEARCA scholars on 4-7 June 2013 at its headquarters.

Seventeen SEARCA scholars studying at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) underwent the training, which was conducted in cooperation with the Los Baños Community Toastmasters Club.

The participants were from Cambodia: Ms. Srey Theavy, Ms. Ong Socheath, Mr. Sambo Pheap, Mr. Eng Chheanghong, Mr. Var Sophal, Mr. Huot Long, and Mr. Thea Sive; Lao PDR: Mr. Phansamay Inphomma, Mr. Kolakanh Chanthavongsa, Ms. Outhvey Vongmany, Mr. Keosangkhom Phommaseng;

Myanmar: Ms. May Yee Kay Khine Sein, Mr. Myo Win Maung, Ms. Myat Moe Hlaing, Mr. Ye Min Htwe; Philippines: Ms. Karen Grace P. Jullado; and Thailand: Mr. Stanan Phanapaipong.

Lectures, workshops, role playing, games, and guided discussions comprised the program facilitated by members of the Los Baños Community Toastmasters Club. The resource persons were Ms. Betsie Krueger, Mr. Vini Cadiz, Mr. Bobby Bautista, Mr. Neb Perez, and Ms. Angela Mae Miñas.

As a culminating activity, the participants demonstrated their new skills through a panel discussion on "Urbanization: Bane or Boon," a talk show about "Global Scholar Dialogue," and a press conference on the "Effects of Pesticides on Animals."

Several participants were cited for their excellent performance during the four-day course. Mr. Myo Win Maung, Mr. Phansamay Inphomma, and Mr. Eng Chheanghong were cited as "Best Speaker" and Mr. Thea Sive as the "Best Speaker in the Table Topic Session." Mr. Keosangkhom Phommaseng and Mr. Ye Min Htwe were recognized as the "Most Improved Speakers" in the group. (JSLaranas)



"Every scholar showed that they have a potential to excel and if in the future there are more trainings like this, I will not think twice of grabbing the opportunity," said Mr. Stanan Phanapaipong.



"The four days may not be enough to make us 100 percent good speakers, but this event showed us the way to go," said Ms. Outhvey Vongmany.



Participants, resource persons, and organizers of the communication skills training for SEARCA scholars.

Agri stakeholders participate in int'l conference on biotech crops adoption

Key stakeholders from the agriculture and other sectors of 18 countries in Southeast Asia and other regions discussed biotech crop adoption in developing countries during the *International Conference on the Adoption of Biotech Crops in the Developing World: Case Studies of Farmers from China, India and the Philippines* on 2-3 April 2013 at the Hyatt Hotel in Manila, Philippines.

The Conference was organized by SEARCA, the John Templeton Foundation, the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST Philippines), and the Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II (ABSP II). Results of the research project titled *Adoption and Uptake Pathways of GM/ Biotech Crops by Small-scale, Resource-poor Asian Farmers in China, India, and the Philippines* were discussed by key researchers from the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Indian Society for Cotton Improvement, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Development Communication (UPLB-CDC). Farmer-adopters from India and the Philippines also shared their experiences in growing biotech crops.

SEARCA sponsored participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam to give them an opportunity to learn from the country experiences in identifying the key adopters of biotech crops, factors that influenced their adoption, and the significant changes that have occurred in farmers' lives. Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, in his welcome remarks delivered by Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, said that the results of the studies and ISAAA's recent report on the increasing local and global biotech crop adoption may very well testify to the benefits and growing adoption of biotechnology in developing countries.



More than a hundred stakeholders from 18 countries participated in the international conference to learn about biotech crop adoption in developing countries.

He also said that the Conference would introduce the participants "to various adoption processes and understand constraints that play important roles in local agriculture."

The results of a related study were captured in a monograph co-published by ISAAA, SEARCA, and UPLB-CDC titled *Adoption and Uptake Pathways of Biotechnology Crops: The Case of Biotech Corn Farmers in Selected Provinces of Luzon, Philippines*, which details the patterns, dynamics, and uptake pathways of biotech crop adoption and the factors influencing such processes experienced by biotech corn farmers in the Philippine provinces of Pangasinan, Isabela, and Cagayan.

The conference explored the implications of research results to improve on biotech adoption in developing countries. The policy recommendations were derived from the research which identified the adopters of the technology, key factors that influence adoption, significant changes in the farmers' lives brought by biotech cultivation, and the innovation pathway of the adoption process from introduction, acceptance, and use.

[Agri stakeholders/ to page 14](#)

SEARCA BIC hosts ISAAA annual information network meeting

SEARCA's Biotechnology Information Center (BIC) hosted this year's annual meeting of the ISAAA global information network, the Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology (ISAAA-KC) and the Biotechnology Information Centers.

Forty-three participants from 16 countries participated in the meeting held on 4-5 April 2013 at Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel in Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan. The countries represented in the meeting were Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Uganda, and Vietnam.

The meeting updated the network on the science communication activities implemented by the BICs as biotech outreach to key stakeholders. The heads of the BICs reported the developments and impacts of their efforts in their countries. A workshop was also held by ISAAA-KC for new strategies to widen the BICs' reach on biotech information and education.

Ms. Jenny A. Panopio, Special Projects Coordinator and Network Administrator of SEARCA BIC, presented the Center's biotech information and education activities in 2012 to various stakeholders. She highlighted SEARCA BIC's outreach to policymakers at the Philippine House of Representatives through seminars and an exhibit; to high school and college

student writers through the Biotech Campus Journalism Contest; and to a wider general public through a weekly "Biotech-on-air" radio program.

SEARCA considers biotechnology as one of the key priority areas in its five-year plan. The Center supports its safe and responsible use by espousing science and educational communication and capability enhancement.

SEARCA BIC was established in 2000 as a joint collaboration between ISAAA and SEARCA to address the needs of the region for a highly credible, sound and factual biotechnology information center in the Southeast Asian region accessible to various stakeholders. It has been at the forefront of promoting agricultural biotechnology and educating the public by developing biotech information materials and organizing knowledge sharing activities for key stakeholders. (JAPanopio/SMMercado)



Ms. Jenny A. Panopio, Special Projects Coordinator and Network Administrator of SEARCA BIC, reports the Center's biotech information and education outreach activities in 2012 to various stakeholders.

Alumni Notes

NEW SEARCA REGIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS ELECTED

A new set of officers of the Regional SEARCA Fellows Association (RSFA) was elected at the close of a two-day alumni regional workshop which had the theme *Operation One ASEAN: Towards Food security in 2020* held on 28-29 May 2013 at SEARCA's headquarters.

The new RSFA officers are Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon (PhD forestry, UPLB, 1998), President; Dr. Aulia Tasman (PhD agricultural economics, UPLB, 1997), Vice President; Ms. Jennifer P. Fronteras (MS biochemistry, UPLB, 2006), Executive Secretary/Treasurer; and Dr. Lorenzo C. Lapitan, Jr. (PhD forestry, UPLB, 1995), Public Relations Officer.

Also elected were RSFA country representatives, namely: Mr. Em Sorany, Cambodia; Dr. Sugeng P. Harianto, Indonesia; Dr. Oudom Phonekhampheng,

Lao PDR; Dr. Mohd. Salleh bin Haji Hassan, Malaysia; Ms. Khin Thanda Oo, Myanmar; Dr. Inocencio Buot, Jr., Philippines; Dr. Monton Jamroenpruckska, Thailand; Mr. Natalino Babo Martins, Timor-Leste; and Dr. Trinh Dinh Thau, Vietnam.

Dr. Gascon, who is President of the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) in the Philippines, said she considers her new position in the RSFA as both a privilege and a challenge particularly with the more active role that the SEARCA alumni will take on as partners of the Center in implementing its 10th Five-Year Plan.

The RSFA officers will serve a two-year term starting 2013 or until their successors are elected. (JSLaranas)



The newly elected Regional SEARCA Fellows Association (RSFA) officers are (from left) Dr. Inocencio Buot, Jr., Mr. Em Sorany, Dr. Oudom Phonekhampheng, Mr. Natalino Babo Martins, Ms. Jennifer P. Fronteras, Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, Dr. Aulia Tasman, Dr. Monton Jamroenpruckska, Dr. Lorenzo C. Lapitan, Jr., and Dr. Trinh Dinh Thau.

PATTISELANNO GETS SEARCA TRAVEL GRANT

Mr. Freddy Pattiselanno (MS animal science, UPLB, 2004), Lecturer at Universitas Negeri Papua in West Papua, Indonesia, was awarded a SEARCA travel grant to enable him to present a scientific paper at the *Institute of Foresters of Australia Conference 2013* held on 7-13 April 2013 in Canberra, Australia.

He presented a paper titled *Managing Tropical Forests for Indonesian Papuan's Livelihood*, which he co-authored with Ms. Agustina Y.S. Arobaya. It focused on natural resource management (upland and forest

ecosystem) and the effects of anthropogenic factors in resource extraction or modification.

Currently on leave from UNIPA, Mr. Pattiselanno is pursuing his PhD in Tropical Ecology at the James Cook University in Canberra.

Now in its seventh year, the SEARCA Travel Grants Program continues to reinforce the Center's efforts and resources in the promotion of agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management toward food security and poverty reduction in the Southeast Asian region. (HMCustodio/LDJReyes)

Agri stakeholders/ from page 13

An overview of public sector biotech crops was also presented by Dr. Frank A. Shotkoski, ABSP II Director. He highlighted the product demand-driven strategy of ABSP II and its strict compliance to biosafety regulations in each supported country.

Some of the biotech products in the pipeline that are currently supported by the project are the insect (fruit and shoot borer) resistant eggplant in the Philippines, India and Bangladesh; and the disease (late blight) resistant potato in Indonesia.

Dr. Shotkoski said the anticipated benefits of these projects include improved capacity for research, licensing and communication through hands-on training, and delivery of high quality seeds to resource-poor farmers.

The Philippines, India, and China hold an abundance of experience in biotech adoption. More than three-quarters (85%) of the 17.3 million farmers in the world who are planting biotech crops come from these countries. According to ISAAA, the Philippines reached 750,000

hectares of biotech corn adoption in 2012, from just 20,000 hectares in 2003. India and China, meanwhile, increased their planting of insect resistant biotech cotton to 10.8 million hectares and 4 million hectares, respectively.

After the conference, the participants went on a field visit to a biotech corn farm in Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines to see actual biotech corn crops. They were also given a briefing on the process of product development in the field. (JAPanopio/SMMercado)

Thesis Abstracts

EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND ENVIRONMENT-RELATED PRACTICES ON TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY OF PADDY FARMERS IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF THAILAND



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Rice is not only a staple food for a large part of the world population, it is also a main cash crop in the Thai economy. Of the total 24.86 million households in the Thai agriculture sector, 3.71 million represented paddy farmers.

Rice production in Thailand has increased over the past decade mainly because of the expansion of planting areas. However, the past few years saw a decline in planting areas and yields from 11.23 million hectares in 2007 to 11.10 million hectares in 2009. This could be attributed to the planting of energy crops and other cash crops in place of paddy. The high cost of inputs was another important problem confronting Thai farmers. As a result, the average rice yield in Thailand amounts to 2.88 metric tons per hectare, a comparatively lower capacity within each variety and among other rice producing countries.

The study aimed to investigate technical efficiency and identify the factors affecting technical inefficiency of paddy farmers for the crop year 2009/2010 in the central region of Thailand. Data collection was based on stratified random sampling from 384 farmers who used broadcasting method in operating their farms. Collected data was categorized into four sets of variables: (1) production variables, (2) demographic and socioeconomics variables, (3) agricultural extension variables, and (4) environmental variables. Both non-parametric (Data Envelopment Analysis) and parametric (Stochastic Frontier Analysis) techniques were applied in the analysis. The former explored the determinants for farm inefficiency through Tobit regression model, and the latter identified the factors influenced by inefficiency effect model by Battese and Coelli (1995).

Descriptive statistic results showed that most farms are small, averaging 4.7 hectares each. Of the total area, 75.3 percent were rented for cultivation. Findings showed that 77.8 percent of production inputs were procured by credits while the rest were self-financed. Most farmers (77.5%) were male aged 51 on the average. Moreover, 77.2 percent of the farmers received

only compulsory education but had more than 30 years of experience in rice farming.

The technical efficiency level obtained by Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) varied between 0.30 to 100 percent. The mean technical efficiency was equal to 51.6. This implied that, on average, farmers could reduce their input use by 48.4 percent to enhance efficiency level. The empirical findings indicated that there was a positive relationship between farm efficiency and family labor as well as farm size.

Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA) ranged between 49.99 to 97.17 percent with the mean efficiency at 85.32 percent. Although 76.3 percent of farms showed their performances above 80 percent, hypotheses testing indicated that there was still inefficiency effect in rice farming. The factors which statistically and significantly contributed to higher performance were gender, farming experiences, land tenure, good agricultural practices (GAP), and cropping intensity.

In conclusion, technical efficiency can be different depending on which estimated techniques were used. Both DEA and SFA affirmed that there is an inefficiency effect on rice farming. However, farm efficiency may be improved by reducing input use and eliminating the factors affecting technical inefficiency. Farmers will benefit from acquiring knowledge on GAP and adopting GAP in their farm activities. Accessible linkages to extension officers is needed for continuous exchange of knowledge and experience, especially between successful farmers and ordinary farmers to improve farm efficiency. In irrigated areas, government support is needed to ensure that farmers can increase their planting capacity to more than once a year, and to use certified seeds of high-yielding varieties to enhance their income and contribute to the overall rice production.

INTEGRATING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TO DETECT AND MEASURE FOREST DEGRADATION



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Forest degradation in the context of carbon emission is difficult to detect and measure. Forest degradation can be defined as "persistent reduction of carbon stocks due to human activities but which does not result in the conversion of forest to non-forest land." Changes within forests may not easily be detectable via usual remote sensing (RS) approaches. While

remote sensing data remains to be the primary material for forest degradation assessment, other sources of data must be explored to enhance detection and estimates. In this study, remote sensing, high-resolution Google Earth imagery (HRGEI), GIS ancillary data, field measurements and observations, and local knowledge were integrated to assess forest degradation. Local knowledge refers to information about the forest structure and the changes it has undergone over a specified time period.

The case study area is a landscape whose land cover has been transformed from predominantly closed canopy forest to fragmented forest due to agriculture. RS (Landsat TM and ETM+), HRGEI, and GIS ancillary data were designated as spatial information technology-based datasets. Local knowledge was collected from individuals whose familiarity with the area of interest was established on the basis of land ownership, length of stay, and actual use of the land. Use of local knowledge was centered on reference land cover polygons which have great value in accurately assessing land cover classification.

GIS served as tool and medium for integrating the various datasets. A new approach called "vector approach" was explored. Vector was coined from the terms "vector" and "raster," the two data formats in GIS. It requires transformation of all spatial data into a grid cell format.

Aboveground biomass (AGB) was used as proxy to carbon stock. In vector technique, a land cover classification scheme is needed to show change in carbon stock over a specified time period, where a change from low-carbon category to high-carbon category represents forest degradation.

Results from the vector models were compared to those of regression models. A total of 59 spectral variables were used to create AGB models. The resulting 15 models have widely varying estimates and most of them performed poorly against ground data and expected map output. The model whose independent variable was only the fourth band of the tasseled cap transformation had the closest landscape AGB estimate to that of the vector model.

The study showed that over a 20-year period, the landscape has lost approximately 27 percent of its AGB (125,000 tons), which translates to about 56,250 tons of carbon. Credibility and integrity of this estimate is vouched for by high overall accuracy ratings of land cover classification for all datasets, robust field measurements, and spatial information based on local knowledge, and agreement of land cover information between Landsat data-based analysis and HRGEI-based analysis.

Brunei Education Minister receives SEARCA, other SEAMEO delegates



H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong (center), Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, received a SEARCA delegation led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (second from right), SEARCA Director, who paid courtesy call on the Minister along with other SEAMEO centers based in Indonesia and Brunei on 3 April 2013. With Dr. Saguiguit were Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (leftmost), Acting Program Head for Research and Development, and Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco (second from left), SEARCA Senior Fellow and Institutional Development Consultant. Also in the photo are Dr. Bambang Purwantara (third from right), Director of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (BIOTROP), and Mr. Haji Sharifuddin bin Haji Mohd Salleh (rightmost).

The SEARCA delegation led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, was among the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) centers received by H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, on 3 April 2013 at the Ministry of Education.

With Dr. Saguiguit were Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Acting Program Head for Research and Development, and Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, SEARCA Senior Fellow and Institutional Development Consultant. Others present were officials and representatives of three SEAMEO centers based in Indonesia and Brunei.

During the courtesy call, they continued discussions on enhancing agricultural education in Brunei initiated during the Minister's visit to said SEAMEO centers in 2012. SEARCA and the other SEAMEO centers also reported their observations on the previous day's visit to Wasan Vocational School and dialogue with the school's teaching staff and other Ministry of Education officials, particularly at the Department of Technical Education.

In a statement, the Ministry of Education said the courtesy call saw a discussion between the Minister and the delegation on enhancing agriculture programs in Wasan Vocational School, agricultural education in secondary schools, promoting agriculture as a rewarding career and enterprise, identifying niche areas, and future initiatives on staff training and knowledge exchange through the expertise of the centers involved.

The meeting capped the SEARCA mission to Brunei Darussalam on 1-3 April 2013 to explore opportunities for collaboration between SEAMEO and the Ministry of Education in the effort to mainstream agriculture in the country. Prospects include developing innovative learning materials on agriculture for primary schools, capacity building and curriculum improvement to enhance Wasan Vocational School's entrepreneurship program, and strategic planning at the Ministry level to develop domestic agriculture for food security and regional/global markets. (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA Director invited to APO Governing Body Meeting

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, attended the 55th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in Tokyo, Japan on 21-23 May 2013. He joined a select group of observers from the International Labour Organization (ILO); ASEAN-Japan Centre; Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific; and the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey invited to the meeting.

APO is a regional intergovernmental organization that aims to contribute to sustainable socioeconomic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity. Its annual Governing Body Meeting is attended by APO Directors and their advisers from 20 member-countries to discuss APO's accomplishments in the past year as well as its strategies and directions.

The meeting also served as a venue for exchanging views and ideas on regional productivity issues at the highest level. These discussions were of particular relevance to SEARCA as it is also promoting productivity, specifically in the agriculture and rural sectors as a take-off for economic growth, sustainable development, and food security.

Dr. Saguiguit said that SEARCA's participation in the meeting was an opportunity to build up its collaboration with APO in areas of common



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (center) with APO Secretary-General Ryuichiro Yamazaki (right) and APO Agriculture Department Director Joselito Cruz Bernardo.

interest, including development of small and medium enterprises, promotion of green productivity, productivity research, and institutional development. (EGPandanan)