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RICE FOR ALL

There is nothing more important to a nation than its ability to feed itself. In the Philippines and other rice-eating countries, this means growing enough rice.

Photo by Jophel Botero Ybiosa

Philippine Senate heeds policy recommendations of DA-BAR/SEARCA study

MANILA, Philippines—The findings and policy recommendations of the study titled *An Assessment of Smuggling of Selected Agricultural Commodities in the Philippines* funded by the Philippine Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) and implemented by SEARCA were presented at the Fifth Public Hearing of the Philippine Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, chaired by Senator Cynthia A. Villar, on 24 February 2014 at the Senate.

The presentation was delivered by Dr. Prudenciano U. Gordoncillo, the study team leader, on the invitation of the Committee so that it may be apprised of the findings and policy recommendations of the study, which can help in the crafting of “relevant legislation to stop rice smuggling in the country.”

With Dr. Gordoncillo at the hearing were other members of the study team, namely: Dr. Cesar B. Quicoy, Prof. Julieta de los Reyes, and Dr. Arvin Vista; all are faculty members of the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Economics and Management (UPLB-CEM).

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In the assessment of the nature of smuggling and the commodity flow of selected imported agricultural products, namely: rice, sugar, beef, onion, pork, chicken, ginger, and carrots and turnips, the data obtained were for 1986 to 2009.

The study found that the common forms of technical smuggling include misdeclaration, undervaluation, misclassification, and falsified documentation.

Moreover, the study found that “the estimated volume of technical smuggling considerably increased after 1995. This pattern is reflected in all the eight selected commodities. Not only did the volume of technical smuggling increase considerably, but also in most of the commodities, it increased at a faster rate.”

In terms of volume (in metric tons), the top five selected agricultural commodities technically smuggled between 1986 and 2009 are milled rice, refined sugar, beef meat, dry onion, and pork, in that order. In terms of value, the top five selected agricultural commodities technically smuggled between 1986 and 2009 are milled rice, beef meat, refined sugar, pork, and chicken meat.

In his presentation, Dr. Gordoncillo noted that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has three distinct but interrelated functions: revenue generation, trade facilitation, and safety and quarantine. The study recommends that the Philippines adopt the Singapore and Indonesia practice wherein the three functions are executed by different agencies. The study further recommends that the BOC should just be in charge of revenue generation, while the Departments of Agriculture (DA) and Health (DOH) should be in charge of safety and quarantine. Trade facilitation should be under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Modifications to the boarding protocol that would allow a primary role for the quarantine and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS)



Senator Cynthia A. Villar, Chair of the Philippine Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, requests Dr. Gordoncillo and his team to update the figures on volume and value of smuggling of the selected agricultural commodities to include data for 2010 to 2013.

functions of DA and DOH over the government’s revenue generation through the BOC were also recommended.

“These functions have inherent counter-checking. If you put this in one institution, counter-checking disappears. In other countries, they’re very strict, and have regular checking of accredited importers.... Safety and quarantine should be of interest. Revenue generation can come after,” Dr. Gordoncillo said.

He also emphasized the study’s recommendation to revive the procedure to have imported cargo certified by an accredited agency from the country of origin, as well as the operationalization and full implementation of the Single Window System (SWS).

Through SWS, application for import permit can be done online and can already be seen by all agencies involved in the importation process because information access is on real time. The required original documents can be sent later on to the concerned government offices. The SWS is already fully operational in all the major ports of Indonesia and this was made possible through the creation of a coordinating ministry that exercises administrative authority over all the agencies

involved in the monitoring and control of the import and export procedures. Their document tracking system has greatly improved and is now less prone to tampering, and therefore, smuggling.

Senator Villar requested Dr. Gordoncillo and his team to update the figures on volume and value of smuggling of the selected agricultural commodities to include most recent data. She said this is very important in the

Committee’s policy recommendation as they are taking a closer look at the correlation between the volume and value of smuggling and that of importation. The updated figures up to 2012 were later submitted by the study team to the Senate Committee. Dr. Gordoncillo also attended the Sixth Public Hearing on 11 March 2014 on the invitation of the Committee.

A SEARCA delegation led by Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Program Head for Knowledge Management, also attended the Fifth Public Hearing. With Dr. Cadiz were Ms. Nancy L. de Leon, Program Specialist for Project Development and Management; Mr. Henry M. Custodio, Program Specialist for Research and Development; and Ms. Leah Lyn D. Domingo, Public Relations Specialist.

The Fifth and Sixth Public Hearings were conducted pursuant to the “progress and issues on the implementation of recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture and Food in the Fifteenth Congress under Committee Report No. 763 (Rice Smuggling at the Subic Bay Free Port Zone and Port of Legazpi, Albay and the NFA-Private Sector Financed Importation Program)” and two Philippine Senate Resolutions. (LLDDomingo)



Dr. Prudenciano U. Gordoncillo (rightmost) presents to the Philippine Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food the findings and policy recommendations of the DA/BAR-SEARCA study titled *An Assessment of Smuggling of Selected Agricultural Commodities in the Philippines* on 24 February 2014.

THE SEARCA DIARY

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Indonesian economist conferred the 2013 Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award

MANILA, Philippines—An economist and former agriculture minister who played a key role in advancing agricultural and rural development in Indonesia was conferred the 2013 Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award in Agricultural Development, popularly known as the Umali Award.



Clockwise, from top left: Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr.; Mr. Ade Petranto; Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan; and Dr. William G. Padolina.

Prof. Dr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah received the prestigious award in rites held on 16 January 2014 at the New World Hotel in Makati City, Philippines.

Dr. Baharsjah, 80, is recognized for his efforts to promote food security in Indonesia through policies and measures, particularly the agribusiness approach, effectively increasing productivity of rice farms and uplifting the welfare of Indonesian farmers.

He is the first Indonesian and only the fourth to receive the Umali Award, which recognizes lifetime achievements of exemplary individuals who have advanced agricultural development in Southeast Asia.

The Umali Award is a collaboration among SEARCA, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) of the Philippines, and the Dioscoro L. Umali Foundation, Inc. (DLUF).

Dr. Umali was a renowned Filipino agriculture scientist, educator, and institution builder who had immensely advanced agricultural research and development in Southeast Asia. He was a National Scientist and the founding Director of SEARCA.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, led the conferment ceremonies and welcomed the guests led by Philippine Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General Arsenio M. Balisacan and Mr. Ade Petranto,

Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in the Philippines, who were also among the speakers.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Saguiguit said that at the institutional level, the Umali Award “projects the face of SEARCA, epitomizing our mandate and objective of promoting ARD in Southeast Asia.”

Dr. Balisacan commended SEARCA, NAST, and DLUF for their continued effort to search for and recognize distinguished individuals who have devoted a good portion of their professional career to the upliftment of the welfare of small farmers who are still the backbone of the rural sector.

The Umali Award “serves as an inspiration to young scientists who I now challenge to pursue their dreams not only for their own personal advancement but also for the benefit of the many,” Dr. Balisacan said.

Mr. Petranto recalled the key posts that Dr. Baharsjah had held, citing his extensive experience as an educator, college administrator, and government official. He said these were only a few of the many fields in which Dr. Baharsjah “has shared his brilliance, competence, and leadership to the people of the Republic of Indonesia and to the rest of the Southeast Asian region.”

“I am honored to express that his achievements serve as strong foundation to the efforts of the Republic of Indonesia for a sustainable and secured supply of the basic staple food for domestic consumption,” Mr. Petranto said.

The Umali Award was presented to Dr. Baharsjah by Dr. Saguiguit; Mrs. Nelia T. Gonzalez, DLUF President; and Dr. William G. Padolina, NAST President, after which the honoree delivered his lecture.

In his lecture titled *Dare to Turn Around: An invitation to turn back to farmers as change agents to achieve agricultural success*, Dr. Baharsjah asserts the need for a new agricultural policy in Indonesia that takes into account availability of natural resources and best agricultural practices developed. He advocates the shift from the Green Revolution model that pervades the agriculture sector in his country to the Blue Economy model, which is more suitable for the uplands and other more marginal lands.



Former Indonesian Agriculture Minister Dr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah (right) receives the prestigious Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award in Agricultural Development in Southeast Asia from Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, during the conferment rites held on 16 January 2014 at the New World Hotel, Makati City, Philippines. Looking on are Dr. William G. Padolina (second from left), National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) President, and Nelia T. Gonzalez (behind Dr. Baharsjah), Dioscoro L. Umali Foundation, Inc. (DLUF) President.

Dr. Baharsjah explained that the Blue Economy, as espoused by the distinguished scholar of agricultural development Gunter Pauli, recognizes the key role of farmers as change agents and promotes multiple cropping systems, processing and other value adding products, and ecology-friendly agricultural practices such as zero waste management.

He offered seven recommendations, namely: (1) expansion of food production areas from only irrigated to uplands and swamplands, (2) adoption of the principles of Blue Economy, (3) re-orientation of agricultural research focusing on uplands and swampland areas, (4) re-orientation of agricultural extension, (5) re-orientation of government approach to agricultural development, (6) reversing the roles of government and farmers, and (7) allocating development budget to support upland- and swampland-based agriculture.

Dr. Baharsjah was a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). In 2001, he was elected Chairman of the IRRI Board of Trustees. From 1997 to 2001, he served as Independent Chairman of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Council.

In closing, Dr. Padolina reiterated the need to bear in mind the quality of leadership and vision that Dr. Umali provided in the many different roles that he served in the name of agricultural and rural development and the farmer. He added that “we also remember the other distinguished personages who have been honored to receive this distinguished award. We take pride in all their achievements in this very difficult and complex drama of rural development and food security.” (LLDDomingo with report from BMBurgos)

36th SEAMEO HOM endorses SEARCA's Tenth Five-Year Plan

BANGKOK, Thailand—Vice ministers, permanent secretaries, and high-level education officials from the Southeast Asian countries met on 18-20 February 2014 at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel here for the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting (HOM).

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) is SEARCA's mother organization, whose highest policymaking body is the SEAMEO Council composed of the Ministers of Education of the 11 SEAMEO member countries.

This year's HOM endorsed SEARCA's Tenth Five-Year Development Plan (FY 2014/2015–2018/2019) to the SEAMEO Council for approval. The HOM also endorsed the amendment to the Enabling Instrument of SEARCA and the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (VOCTECH).

High in this year's HOM agenda was the education agenda in Southeast Asia after 2015, which marks



The SEARCA delegation to the 36th SEAMEO HOM was led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (rightmost), SEARCA Director. With him were (from right) Ms. Adoracion T. Robles, Executive Coordinator; Mr. Elmer G. Pandanan, Communications Assistant; and Ms. Adah Sofia A. Renovilla, Secretary, all of the Office of the Director.

the conclusion of the Education for All (EFA) movement that has been the flagship education agenda globally for the past three decades.

The HOM also endorsed three projects that focus on Southeast Asia on the themes of pre-primary teacher development, intercultural dialogues, and learning metrics. The projects were proposed by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to be implemented collaboratively with SEAMEO.

The opening ceremony held on 19 February 2014 was presided by H.E. Mr. Chaturon Chaisaeng, Thailand's Minister of Education, who addressed more than a hundred education officials and representatives from 17 countries and 28 international organizations and specialist institutions. The SEARCA delegation was led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director. With him were Ms. Adoracion T. Robles, Executive Coordinator; Mr. Elmer G. Pandanan, Communications Assistant; and Ms. Adah Sofia A. Renovilla, Secretary, all of the Office of the Director. (LLDDomingo)

2013 global status of biotech crops presented in media conference

MANILA, Philippines— Genetically modified (GM) or biotech crops continued to increase and provide benefits globally and locally in 2013 according to reports of experts during the *Media Conference on the Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2013* conducted by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), SEARCA, and the Biotechnology for Life Media and Advocacy Resource Center (BMARC) at Dusit Thani Hotel Manila on 6 March 2014.

Dr. Paul S. Teng, Chair, ISAAA Board of Directors and SEARCA Senior Fellow, presented the various aspects, status, and implications of food security and how biotech crops come into the picture. Dr. Randy Hautea, ISAAA Global Coordinator and SEAsia Center Director, discussed the global status, trends, and benefits of biotech crop adoption.

According to ISAAA's Annual Report, the *ISAAA Brief No. 46: Global Status of Commercialized*

Biotech/GM Crops in 2013, biotech crop adoption grew from 170 million hectares in 2012 to 175 million hectares in 2013. The principal biotech crops grown worldwide are soybean, cotton, maize, and canola. Adoption of biotech corn in the Philippines, meanwhile, increased from 750,000 hectares in 2012 to 800,000 hectares in 2013.

Dr. Segfredo Serrano, Philippine Agriculture Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, Research and Development, and Dr. Emil Q. Javier, former president of the University of the Philippines (UP) System and the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) of the Philippines, talked about policy developments for agriculture as well as biotech crops, how biotech crops and modern technologies are helping the country, and current issues such as the court case of Bt eggplant. Both also emphasized the safety of the technology and the rigorous safety assessments and national regulatory system for biotech products.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, closed the event, saying that the "benefits of



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (leftmost), SEARCA Director, reiterates the need for biotech education during the media conference. To his right are (from left) Dr. Segfredo Serrano, Philippine Agriculture Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, Research, and Development; Dr. Randy Hautea, ISAAA Global Coordinator and SEAsia Center Director; and Dr. Paul S. Teng, ISAAA Chair of Board of Directors and SEARCA Senior Fellow.

this technology and its potential to help increase agricultural production for increased food, feed, and fiber productivity in the Philippines and the region as a whole, though gaining fast recognition, must be followed up with continued aggressive promotion." He also said that the Center will continue to support biotech education and promotion, particularly in developing countries.

The conference was attended by journalists from print, TV, radio, and online media. Other participants were members of the academe, government agencies, private sector, nongovernment organizations, and local government units. The activity also served as a platform for the participants to discuss issues on biotech such as food and environmental safety, and education of the public. (SMMercado)

SEARCA, Brawijaya University co-organize LEAP SEA 5

MALANG, Indonesia—The fifth offering of the *Executive Forum on Leadership Excellence in Academe Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA)* was held on 20-25 January 2014 in the campus of Brawijaya University (UB) here. The forum was co-organized by SEARCA and UB.

This year's LEAP SEA had 12 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste. They included two university heads, an agriculture faculty dean and a vice dean, and eight heads of programs, departments or institutes, offices and a satellite campus in their respective universities.

LEAP SEA aims to provide these academic executives with new knowledge about leadership and management of higher education, especially those in agriculture, through their interaction with experts and eminent academic leaders. It also gives participants the opportunity to reflect on their common contemporary challenges and suggest appropriate solutions in higher education leadership/management in Southeast Asia. Participants also have a chance to write LEAP SEA cases as knowledge and learning resources appropriate for Southeast Asia.

The forum is expected to produce: (1) a cadre and network of highly competent academic leaders in Southeast Asia; (2) case stories highlighting 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; and (3) a list of potential synergies among such institutions.

The resource persons were:

- Dr. Paul S. Teng, Dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and SEARCA Senior Fellow
- Ms. Astri Wahyuni, External Affairs Manager, PT Unilever Indonesia Tbk and Vice Secretary General of Gabungan Pengusaha Makanan dan Minuman Indonesia (GAPMMI, Indonesian Food and Beverage Association)
- Dr. Cely S. Binoya, Professor of Central Bicol State University of Agriculture in the Philippines and President of Asia Pacific Association of Educators in Agriculture and Environment (APAEEN), as well as the Technical Coordinator of this LEAP SEA offering
- Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration and Regional Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS) of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)



Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas (rightmost), SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, and Prof. Dr. Ir. Yogi Sugito (second from right), UB Rector, sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between SEARCA and UB, as the LEAP SEA participants, resource persons, and guests look on.

- Prof. Dr. Hendrawan Soetanto, Professor and Advisory Deputy of Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of UB
- Prof. Dr. Ratya Anindita, Professor and Director for Regional Development and Public Service Center, UB Faculty of Agriculture
- Prof. Dr. M. Aman Wirakartokusumah, Rector, Universitas Siswa Bangsa Internasional, Indonesia.

A ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement between SEARCA and UB was held during the opening program. Prof. Dr. Yogi Sugito, UB Rector, and Dr. Cardenas, represented UB and SEARCA, respectively. (NARamos)

3 LEAP SEA participating universities ink accord

In anticipation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, three universities represented in SEARCA's LEAP SEA 5 signed two bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on 23 January 2014.

Inspired by new ideas, challenges and issues ventilated by LEAP SEA resource persons, the Tribhuwana Tunggaladewi University (UNITRI) signed MOUs with the Western Philippines University (WPU) and Cambodia's University of Battambang (UBB). The signatories to the MOUs were Prof. Dr. Wani Hadi Utomo, UNITRI Rector and Dr. Elsa P. Manarpaac, WPU President; and Dr. Utomo and Ms. Sieng Emtotim, UBB Rector. The MOUs indicate the parties' intention to collaborate in mutually beneficial academic undertakings.

UNITRI is a private university in Malang that strives to provide broad access to quality higher education through 14 degree programs offered by five faculties and two postgraduate degree programs to a total of 3,000 students. Meanwhile, WPU, a state university in the Philippines, serves 8,000 students through its 24 undergraduate and nine postgraduate degree programs offered by seven colleges in seven campuses, along with four vocational/technical programs and nine pre-baccalaureate programs. On the other hand, the public-sector UBB serves 5,000 students through its academic programs offered by five faculties and one institute.

The MOU signing was witnessed by the LEAP SEA participants and organizers from SEARCA and UB, as well as UNTRI officials and senior faculty. A fellowship dinner hosted by UNITRI capped the event. (MCHCadiz)



The MOU signatories were (from left) Dr. Elsa P. Manarpaac, WPU President; Prof. Dr. Wani Hadi Utomo, UNITRI Rector; and Ms. Sieng Emtotim, UBB Rector.

SEARCA implements ASEAN-German project on promoting climate resilience in selected crops

PATTAYA, Thailand—SEARCA facilitated the kick-off meeting of the project *ASEAN Network on the Promotion of Climate Resilience in Rice and other Crops* held in Nong Nooch Garden Resort here on 20 January 2014. ASEAN stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

SEARCA was commissioned by the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC) to carry out said project in seven ASEAN Member States (AMS). The project is funded by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH through GAP-CC a program that aims to support ASEAN in further advancing the implementation of regionally coordinated strategies and policies for food security and climate protection within AMS in the agriculture and forestry sectors. Under the project, a series of regional forums will be convened to: (1) promote a common understanding of the climate change-related threat to the agriculture sector focused on

selected crops, namely: rice, maize, and cassava; (2) identify successful practices and policies at the AMS level for tackling these climate change-related threats that can be promoted and up-scaled; and (3) identify common concerns and capacity needs, and propose regional support strategies and instruments to address these in a coherent manner.

Project Kick-off Meeting

Ms. Myriam Fernando, GAP-CC Senior Advisor, provided an overview of the program and project background, while Dr. Lope B. Santos III, SEARCA Program Specialist and Officer in Charge of the Project Development and Management Department (ProDev), discussed the workshop objective of finalizing the methodology and workplan of the project. Mr. Douglas Black, Climate Sense Director and GAP-CC Consultant, facilitated the discussion on methodological approach and framework on value chains, climate impacts, climate profiling and adaptation options.

For his part, Dr. Felino P. Lansigan, Regional Agricultural Value Chain/Climate Resilience Expert, expounded on the agreements on sector selection, scope of analyses, current/future climate impacts, production systems, selection criteria, and best practices.

Also present at the workshop were Dr. Rizaldi Boer, Centre for Climate Change Risk Opportunity Management in South East Asia and Pacific (CCROM-SEAP) Executive Director; Dr. Teodoro Solsoloy, ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Research Development (ATWGARD) Focal Person for the Philippines; Ms. Imelda Bacudo, GAP-CC Consultant; and the National Team Leaders of the project composed of Dr. Men Sarom (Cambodia), Dr. Ferdinan (Indonesia), Dr. Outhai Soukhy (Lao PDR), Dr. Khin Lay Swe (Myanmar), Dr. Romeo V. Labios (Philippines), Dr. Attachai Jintrawet (Thailand), and Dr. Lien Do Huong (Vietnam).

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS CONVENED

In February and March 2014, a series of national consultative meetings were convened by SEARCA in the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam together with ASEAN, GIZ, partner institutions in each country under the auspices of the GAP-CC/GIZ-funded *ASEAN Network on Promoting Climate Resilience of Rice and Other Crops* project to support the regional initiatives of ATWGARD. SEARCA coordinated and facilitated said consultative meetings under the project.

Philippines

SEARCA facilitated the 1st Philippine National Consultative Meeting held on 17 February 2014 at the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), the country's focal agency for the ATWGARD, represented by Dr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy, DA-BAR Assistant Director.

Participants were representatives from DA-BAR, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), and DA-Corn Program, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The resource persons were Dr. Solsoloy; Dr. Felino Lansigan, Agricultural Value Chain/Climate Resilience Expert cum Team Leader; and Dr. Romeo V. Labios, National Team Leader for the Philippines.



Lao PDR

SEARCA and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) conducted the 1st Laos National Consultative Meeting on 21 February 2014 at NAFRI in Vientiane. NAFRI is the country's focal agency for the ATWGARD, represented by Mr. Pasalath Khounsy, Deputy of the Research Management Section, Planning, and Cooperation Division.

The meeting brought together national agricultural research think tanks from the Department of Agriculture (DOA); Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)/International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); GIZ Land Management and Rural Economic Development Programme (GIZ/LM-RED); and the Provincial Agriculture Offices of Xayaboury and Luang Prabang. Dr. Lansigan and Dr. Outhai Soukhy, Deputy Director, Northern Agriculture and Forestry College and National Team Leader for Lao PDR, served as resource persons and facilitators.

Cambodia

ASEAN, GIZ, SEARCA, and the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) convened the 1st Cambodia National Consultative Meeting on 21 February 2014 at Hotel Golden Sand in Preah Sihanoukville. CARDI is the premier government agricultural research and development institution in the country and focal agency for the ATWGARD, represented by Dr. Ouk Makara, CARDI Executive Director.

The meeting gathered key officials from CARDI, the Plant Protection and Soil Resources Departments of the General Directorate for Agriculture (GDA); Provincial Department of Agriculture of Sihanoukville and Takeo, Center for Livestock and Agriculture Development (CLAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Cambodia, Royal University of Agriculture (RUA); Prek Leap National School of Agriculture (PNSA); and CelAgrid, a private firm. The resource persons were Dr. Makara; Ms. Myriam Fernando,



Technical Working Group Meeting

Held back-to-back with the kick-off meeting was the ATWGARD Special Meeting held on 21-22 January 2014 also at Nong Nooch Garden and Resort.

The meeting brought together commissioned resource persons from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam who will undertake case studies on climate change impacts of the selected

sectors. Also present were the ATWGARD focal persons of the aforementioned countries (except Myanmar), Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia who have been designated to support the conduct of said national case studies. Also present at the kick-off workshop were representatives from Thailand's Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Ministry of agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC)-Rice Department, ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), CCROM-SEAP, Climate Sense, and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Mr. Arak Chantuma of the DoA Rubber Research Institute represented Dr. Suwit Chaikiattiyos, DoA Deputy Director General, and served as the Workshop Chair. Presentations were given by Dr. Lansigan, Ms. Fernando, Mr. Black, and Dr. Boer.

Dr. Santos; Ms. Imelda L. Batangantang, Program Associate; and Ms. Kristine Joy S. Villagracia, Regional Knowledge Platform Coordinator, all of ProDev, organized and facilitated the two events. (Reports from KJSVillagracia/ILBatangantang)

GAP-CC Senior Advisor; Dr. Lope B. Santos III of SEARCA; and Dr. Men Sarom, RUA Vice Rector and National Team Leader for Cambodia.

Vietnam

ASEAN, GIZ, SEARCA, and the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) convened the 1st Vietnam National Consultative Meeting on 11 March 2014 at IPSARD's headquarters in Hanoi. IPSARD is the country's focal agency for the ATWGARD, represented by Mr. Nguyen Kim Chien, Specialist, Technology and Environment Department.

Participants of the meeting were climate change and agricultural experts from the Plant Protection Department of Thai Nguyen Province, Department of Crop Protection; National Center for Agriculture and Fisheries Extension, National Maize Research Institute, SNV-Netherlands Development Organization in Nge An Province, GIZ/GAP-CC, IRRI-CCAFS, Vietnam National University of Agriculture (formerly known as Hanoi University of Agriculture), and Monsanto Vietnam.

The resource persons were Dr. Lansigan; Dr. Fernando; and Dr. Tran Cong Thang, Director, IPSARD Division of Strategy and Policy Research and SEARCA National Team Leader for Vietnam.

The outputs of the meetings will be consolidated into a sub-sector analysis for rice, corn, and cassava; documentation of good practices; and identification of priority needs which can be shared with other ASEAN Member States to determine regional support strategies and

tools for adaptation. The final country outputs will be presented in a second round of national consultative meetings to validate findings and recommendations. (Reports from KJSVillagracia/MMFelismino)



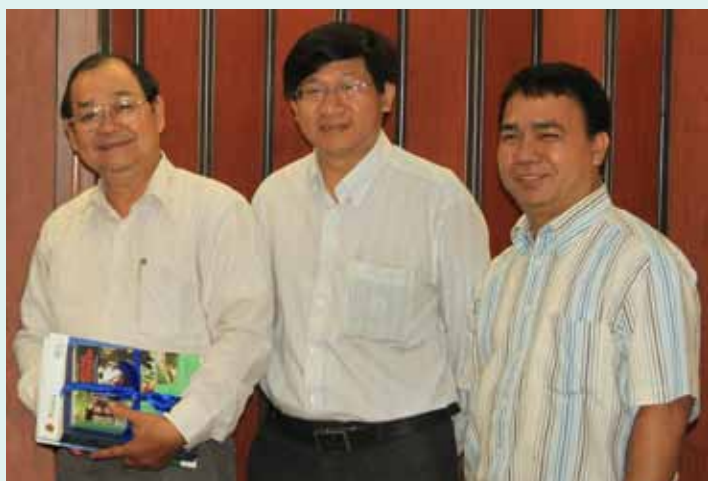
Snapshots



Dr. Aurelie Binot (center), Coordinator of the Research Network on Management of Emerging Risks in Southeast Asia, *Gestion des Risques Emergents en Asie du Sud-Est* (GREASE) Network of the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), and Ms. Helene Delille (right), Scientific Attaché, French Embassy in the Philippines, visited SEARCA and met with Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (left), SEARCA Director, on 29 January 2014 to discuss possible areas of collaboration between the GREASE Network and SEARCA.



Mr. Eddie Chew (second from left), Global Rice Corporate Affairs Business Partner and Asia Pacific Public Policy Manager of Syngenta Pte. Ltd. visited SEARCA on 21 January 2014 for a briefing on the Center's programs and activities, particularly those pertaining to food security and biotechnology. He was received by Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (leftmost), Acting Program Head for Research and Development; Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay (rightmost), Unit Head for Knowledge Resources; and Ms. Sophia M. Mercado (second from right), Project Management Associate of SEARCA's Biotechnology Information Center (BIC).



Prof. Dr. Le Quang Tri (left), Director of Can Tho University (CTU) Research Institute for Climate Change and National Project Director of CLUES, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Hieu Trung (center), Dean, CTU College of Environment and Natural Resources and National Project Coordinator of CLUES, visited SEARCA on 26 February 2014 for a briefing on its and its climate change adaptation activities. With them was Dr. Ngo Dang Phong (right), Post Doctoral Fellow, Crop and Environmental Sciences Division, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and IRRI Project Facilitator for CLUES. CLUES stands for Climate Change and Affecting Land Use in the Mekong Delta: Adaptation of Rice-based Cropping Systems, a four-year collaborative program of CTU and IRRI funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). They were briefed by SEARCA program and unit heads.



Dr. Saguiguit (right) was interviewed on camera by Ms. Alaysa E. Escandor of the News Research Section of the GMA Network's News and Public Affairs Department, on the issue of smuggling of agricultural products in the Philippines. Behind Dr. Saguiguit is Dr. Cesar B. Quicoy, a member of the research team tapped by SEARCA to conduct the study titled *An Assessment of Smuggling of Selected Agricultural Commodities in the Philippines* funded by the Philippine Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR). Dr. Quicoy was also interviewed by Ms. Escandor along with Dr. Prudenciano U. Gordoncillo, team leader, and Prof. Julieta de los Reyes and Dr. Arvin Vista, both also part of the research team who are all faculty members of the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Economics and Management (UPLB-CEM).



Dr. Manuel R. Reyes (seated, center), Professor of Biological Engineering in North Carolina A&T State University, visited SEARCA on 9 January 2014 to discuss prospects for collaborations on Conservation Agriculture in Southeast Asia. He was received by Dr. Saguiguit (seated, left) together with (standing, from left) Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Program Head for Knowledge Management; Dr. Ma. Cristeta N. Cuaresma, Graduate Scholarship Consultant; Mr. Henry M. Custodio, Program Specialist for R&D; Dr. Lope B. Santos III, Program Specialist and Officer in Charge of SEARCA's Project Development and Management Department; and Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel, Program Specialist for R&D. Dr. Victor B. Ella (seated, right), Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology (UPLB-CEAT), accompanied Dr. Reyes on his visit.



Dr. Francisco P. Fellizar, Jr., Vice President (Admissions, International Cooperation and Research Affairs) of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan, visited SEARCA on 27 February 2014 to meet with Dr. Saguiguit and SEARCA's program heads to explore possible areas of collaboration between SEARCA and his university, particularly in the programs and activities of the SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). Dr. Fellizar is a former SEARCA official, having served as SEARCA's Deputy Director for Administration from 1997 to 2002.

Local gov't units trained on geospatial applications, economic valuation for climate resilience

SEARCA and Ergons Project Marketing Consultants (EPMC) conducted a training on *Geospatial Applications and Analysis for Climate Resiliency, Mitigation and Adaptation Planning for Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL)* on 10-11 February 2014 in Antipolo City, Philippines.

The training is a component of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded project titled *TA-8111 PHI: Climate Resilience and Green Growth in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape: Demonstrating the Eco-town Framework*. The Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines serves as the project's implementing agency, while Dr. Ancha Srinivasan, Principal Climate Change Specialist of ADB Southeast Asia Department, supervises the project.

Geospatial applications training

With 25 key technical personnel from local government units (LGUs) of Antipolo City, Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay in Rizal province as participants, the training aimed to develop their technical skills in applying geospatial technology in the context of climate resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation.

Dr. Esteban C. Godillano, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist, and Mr. Allan Dela Cruz, GIS Assistant, delivered lectures on GIS remote sensing, Earth surfaces, global positioning system, and cartographic modelling. The training also featured problem solving, simulation, and group exercises. A field trip to the resettlement sites in Antipolo City and Brgy. Pinugay, Baras was also conducted to demonstrate the integration of geographic positioning system (GPS) in geospatial application.

In addition, an overview of the eco-town framework espoused by the CCC was given by Ms. Maria Lovella Segayo, CCC Development

Management Officer IV. Also present were Forester Alexis Lapiz, CCC Program Manager; Dr. Emmanuel Lleva, Natural Resource Management (NRM) Specialist of EPMC; and Dr. Lope B. Santos III, SEARCA Program Specialist and Officer in Charge of the Project Development and Management Department (ProDev).

Economic valuation course

On 20-21 February 2014, 15 key technical personnel from the LGUs of Antipolo City, Rodriguez, and Tanay attended a training titled *Economic Valuation for Climate Change Resilience and Green Growth: Benefit-Cost Analysis of Integrated Natural Resource Management UMRBPL* hosted by SEARCA.

Also conducted by SEARCA and EPMC, the training aimed to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of key technical staff of UMRBPL partner-LGUs and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) members in integrating economic variables in natural resource management for green growth and climate change resilience.

Dr. Nicomedes D. Briones, Natural Resource Management (NRM) Specialist, lectured on the status of the UMRBPL's natural resources and their contribution to the economy, particularly in the agriculture, water resources, and forestry sectors. Dr. Lleva, discussed forest resource management to enhance the integrity of water resources, while Dr. Rico Ancog, UPLB Professor, lectured on economic valuation. Forester Lapiz gave a brief overview of the eco-town framework. Mr. Rey Alo, Multimedia Specialist and Mr. Dela Cruz served as technical resource persons and process documentors. Ms. Jade Ayanna Fernandez, Research Assistant, and Ms. Hilda Ronquillo, Administrative Assistant, both of ProDev, provided technical and administrative support in both training courses. (JAAFernandez)

BIO-PHYSICAL IMPACT AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS ON PHL RIVER BASIN PRESENTED

The findings of the bio-physical impact and vulnerability assessments (VA) on the UMRBPL conducted by SEARCA in association with EPMC were presented by the project team to the CCC on 4 February 2014.

Dr. Godillano, GIS Specialist, presented the bio-physical impact assessment using available data from various national government agencies and LGUs, and the acquired satellite imagery integrated into GIS maps.

The assessment showed a fast land use change from 2004 to 2012, indicating threats of deforestation and built-up areas. The UMRBPL drains water to Lower Marikina down to Manila Bay.

On the other hand, Dr. Briones presented the VA of the forest, agriculture, and water sectors in UMRBPL, while Dr. Ma. Victoria Espaldon, Gender Mainstreaming and Capacity Building Specialist, presented the VA for the health sector.

The VA computed the exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity of the five LGUs in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The study showed that the LGUs have different levels of vulnerability in terms of drought, landslide, flooding, and soil erosion or combinations of these.

CCC was represented by Ms. Joycelyn A. Goco, Assistant Secretary, and Forester Alexis Lapiz, Program Manager. (JAAFernandez)



Dr. Esteban Godillano (standing), GIS Specialist, lectures on GIS remote sensing.

New SEARCA Program Head for Graduate Scholarship appointed



Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma took over the reins of SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Program effective 15 January 2014, succeeding Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, who retired after 27 years of service.

As Program Head for Graduate Scholarship, Dr. Cuaresma now leads all initiatives and projects under the SEARCA Graduate Scholarship Program, including its Institutional Development Assistance (IDA) Program; the Southeast Asian

University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC); Food Security Center project with the University of Hohenheim, Germany; European Union (EU)-funded Exchange by Promoting Quality Education, Research, and Training in South and Southeast Asia (ExPERTS) Consortium; and the Southeast Asian Uplands Fellowship Project funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

Dr. Cuaresma is no stranger to SEARCA as she has been a Consultant for Graduate Scholarship since August 2013. She also served as the UC

Coordinator of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) from 2005 to 2012 in her capacity as Graduate School College Secretary (2005-2011) and as Vice Chancellor for Administration (2011-2012). She is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics of the UPLB College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Cuaresma earned her BS, MS, and PhD in Mathematics at UP Diliman. She also attended the University of Western Australia in 2003 while working on her PhD dissertation under a sandwich program grant. (JSLaranas)

Alumni re-entry projects validated

SEARCA conducted the final validation of the implementation and field testing of two SEARCA Re-Entry Projects undertaken in the Philippines by Engr. Andres M. Tuates and Dr. Violeto N. Coronacion, both SEARCA graduate alumni. Engr. Tuates earned his MS in agricultural engineering and Dr. Coronacion his PhD in agricultural education in 2011, both under SEARCA scholarship.

SEARCA's Re-Entry Program aims to ensure immediate impact of the Center's capacity building program. As such, it is open to graduating SEARCA scholars and alumni whose project proposals, if accepted, will be undertaken in their country upon their return to their home institution. SEARCA provides financial support of up to US\$5,000 per project.

Biomass-based fuel briquettes

Engr. Tuates of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization of the Department of Agriculture (DA-PHILMECH) implemented a project titled *Utilization of Biomass Furnace By-products as Fuel Briquettes: Establishment of the Potential of Carbonized Biomass-based Materials for Fuel Briquettes*.

The project aims to determine the potential of using carbonized materials from biomass furnace in making charcoal briquettes. Engr. Tuates improved the designs of PhilMech briquetting machines to increase production volume and improve product quality. He then partnered with a charcoal manufacturer to test-run the machinery for improvement of input-output ratio and evaluate the product's marketability. When fully operational, the briquetting system can be integrated in rice grain processing which uses biomass furnaces in mechanical drying operations.

A simple test marketing showed that the briquettes were suitable for domestic cooking and small-scale industrial applications. Buyers included hotels, spas, and restaurants in Dagupan City, Pangasinan. Briquettes produce less smoke than standard charcoal, which makes them the preferred choice for indoor activities.

The next challenge posed by SEARCA to the researcher is to develop briquettes that are compact enough to withstand long-distance travel without sacrificing combustibility.

Organic agriculture center

In Infanta, Quezon, Dr. Coronacion of the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) is implementing a project titled *Establishment of Organic Agriculture*



Engr. Andres M. Tuates checks on the sun-dried fuel briquettes.

Center as a Tool to Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Research, Extension and Production Function of SLSU-Infanta Campus. The aim is to promote sustainable agriculture, particularly organic and integrated farming systems, to teachers, students, women's groups, and farmer organizations in the locality. Dr. Coronacion also hopes to mainstream the principles of sustainable agriculture in the tertiary curriculum of SLSU.

Training-workshops on sustainable, organic, and ecological agriculture (SOAE) were conducted. A demo integrated farm was also set up on campus to showcase zero-waste management and complete-cycle approach of farm by-products. Spent water from the small fish pond was used on vegetable crops, the trimmings of which were fed to earthworms in the vermi-compost used as planting medium and basal fertilizer. Unmarketable papaya and legumes were fed to free-range chickens. Lemon grass and oregano were intercropped with vegetables to repel insect pests. No chemical-based input was used.

Other re-entry projects are being conducted in the Philippines by Dr. Raquel M. Balanay (PhD, agricultural economics, 2011) of CARAGA State University and Dr. Michelle V. Paraso (PhD, environmental science, 2011) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños. (HMCustodio)

SEARCA organizes int'l benchmarking on livestock R&D

NAIROBI, Kenya—SEARCA coordinated an international benchmarking by six key officials of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) on 17-21 March 2014 at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) based here.

The PCC officials learned about strategies, programs, and platforms of international organizations working on livestock research and development. Specifically, the visit aimed to enable the PCC officials to identify relevant and specific international public and private sector program concepts and strategies that are applicable or can be refined and adapted to strengthen the genetic improvement, enterprise development, and research and development of the National Carabao Development Program in the Philippines.

SEARCA coordinated with Dr. Steve Staal, ILRI's Regional Representative for East and Southeast Asia, in organizing the study mission.

Dr. John Murray McIntire, ILRI Deputy Director General for Integrated Sciences, welcomed the PCC officials on behalf of Dr. Jimmy Smith, ILRI



Dr. Robert Skilton (leftmost), Team Leader for Capacity Building, orients the PCC officials on ILRI's Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa (BecA) Hub. The BecA-ILRI Hub is a co-creation of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NEPAD) and ILRI. This shared research platform enables African science leaders to solve some of Africa's key agricultural challenges, through the applications of modern biotechnology.

Director General. ILRI arranged all of the group's institutional and field visits.

The benchmarking was conducted by Dr. Liza Battad, Chief of Planning and Special Projects; Dr. Annabelle Sarabia, Chief of Operations; Dr. Arnel del Barrio, Center Director of PCC at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB);

Dr. Eric Palacpac, Chief of Knowledge Resource Management and R&D Coordinator; Dr. Claro M. Mingala, Scientist and Lead Researcher for Animal Health, and Dr. Libertado Cruz, former Executive Director. They were accompanied by Ms. Nova A. Ramos, SEARCA Program Specialist for Knowledge Management. (NARamos)



TOKYO NODAI AND SEARCA TO UPSCALE COLLABORATIONS

SEARCA and Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI) have agreed to upscale their ongoing collaborative activities to include research, when Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (left), SEARCA Director, visited the university on 25 February 2014. Photo shows Dr. Saguiguit presenting SEARCA's institutional symbol titled "Growth" to Dr. Takano Katsumi, Tokyo NODAI President, as a token of appreciation.

The Japanese university is an associate member of the SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). It also has a joint scholarship program with SEARCA.

Also present during the SEARCA-Tokyo NODAI meeting were Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma, SEARCA Program Head for Graduate Scholarship; Ms. Adoracion T. Robles, SEARCA Executive Coordinator and Officer in Charge of SEARCA's Management Services Unit; and Dr. Hironobu Shiwachi and Shinichhi Iwai, both of Tokyo NODAI. (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA joins ASFN's social media webinar

As a new member of the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), SEARCA participated in a webinar on social media for forestry practitioners, which had three sessions of two hours each on 24, 25 and 28 March 2014.

The ASFN Secretariat and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) organized the webinar to optimize the use of social media in promoting the activities of the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) for the ASFN focal points and ASFCC partners.

The ASFN webinar covered an overview of all available tools or the "social media plethora" in the first two sessions. The last session looked at specific issues, questions, and suggestions on the use of social media within the work environment.

Mr. Peter Casier and Mr. Samuel Stacey, both online media consultants who have worked with CIFOR, facilitated the webinar. (MVTicsay)

133 agrarian reform beneficiary organization members trained

Members of Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organizations (ARBOs) in the provinces of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, Philippines participated in training courses organized and facilitated by SEARCA under the project titled *Agrarian Reform Community Connectivity and Economic Support Services (ARCESS)*. The project is funded by the Philippine Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and implemented by SEARCA in the two provinces.

Business enterprise management

The training on *Business Enterprise Management Plan of Common Service Facilities (CSFs)* was conducted in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on 20-21 January 2014, while the training on CSFs *Business Enterprise Operation and Management* was held in Malolos, Bulacan on 29-30 January 2014.

Both training courses were for a second batch of participants, which numbered 32 from seven ARBOs in Nueva Ecija and 35 from eight ARBOs in Bulacan.

Topics covered by the training in Nueva Ecija were marketing information; plotting behavioral pricing of commodities; financial analysis; and fee for use of the CSFs covering regular maintenance, operations, repair costs, and depreciation. The training also outlined the essential concepts, principles, and elements of business operation and management. It reviewed and updated current and applicable practices of ARBOs pertaining to CSF use, business operation, and management.

On the other hand, the training in Bulacan included the following sessions: overview of business enterprise and steps in the decision-making process, economic principles in business management, importance of record keeping and setting up a record system, and business analysis.

Internal guidelines for the ARBO on the business operation and management of the CSF were also developed during both training events.

The project team leaders for each project site, Prof. Jimmy Williams for Nueva Ecija and Dr. Prudenciano U. Gordoncillo for Bulacan, served as resource persons at the training activities. With them as resource persons were other members of the project teams: Dr. Cesar B. Quicoy and Dr. Merlyne M. Paunlagui.

Officials from the DAR Provincial Office were also present during both training events.



Members of ARBOs in Bulacan who attended the training on Integrated Production Management System.

Integrated production management

A total of 66 members of eight ARBOs in Bulacan participated in two runs of the training on *Integrated Production Management System for Rice and Vegetables* held on 27 February-1 March 2014 in Malolos, Bulacan.

The training courses were jointly organized by SEARCA and DAR-Region 3.

The training included an overview of rice and vegetable production, rice and vegetable propagation techniques and growing methods,

types of fertilizers, farm pest management, organic farming, and farm mechanization.

Mr. Ernesto B. Cayaban, Jr. of the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Agriculture and Ms. Juanita G. Calibo of the Bureau of Plant Industry-Los Baños National Crop Research and Development Center served as lead resource persons. Dr. Quicoy; Dr. Paunlagui; and Dr. Jose Nestor M. Garcia, Crops Specialist, provided technical inputs. Mr. Pete Santos, DAR Senior Agrarian Reform Program Officer-Provincial Office, was also present during the event. (Reports from MBAmanza/SGLQuiñones)



INTEGRATED PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT COURSE HELD

A total of 94 participants from the ARBOs in Nueva Ecija attended a training-workshop on Integrated Production Management System for Rice and Vegetables. Photo shows some of the training participants. Organized and facilitated by SEARCA on 17-20 March 2014 at Central Luzon State University in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, the training gave an overview of rice production and propagation techniques, farm pest management, organic farming, farm mechanization, as well as vegetable production in rice fields, including production management plan and pressing issues. The learning event was conducted under the SEARCA-implemented ARCESS project.

CLMV representatives discuss possible cooperation on CCAM in agri, fisheries

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—Policy roundtable participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) agreed to review and build on a proposed regional project of the Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) titled *Fostering cooperation to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on agriculture and fisheries sectors to maintain food security and eco-tourism in CLMV*. The project was endorsed during the 35th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) held on 26 September 2013 in Malaysia.

The agreement among CLMV representatives was articulated during the *Tenth Policy Roundtable on Building Capacities for Agricultural Competitiveness of Transition Countries in Southeast Asia* held in Phnom Penh on 6-7 February 2014, which SEARCA co-organized with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) and the MAFF General Directorate of Agriculture. Participants were 29 senior government officials and policy researchers from CLMV as well as University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) faculty members and SEARCA program heads.

Two views in mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) into development plans and investments were presented by Dr. Juan M. Pulhin, Professor and Dean of the UPLB-College of Forestry and Natural Resources, who also serves as Coordinating Lead Author for Working

Group II of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. One view decides on adaptation based on technology and projected climate change impacts, while the second view grounds adaptation planning on vulnerability assessment. He advocated a participatory and holistic approach to mainstreaming CCA.

Dr. Pulhin presented three mainstreaming frameworks advocated in the development community and the Philippine experience in mainstreaming CCA from national policy to an eco-town approach. He also discussed the challenges and prospects for mainstreaming CCA, specifically in terms of communicating and coordinating it vertically and horizontally from national to sectoral to local levels, financial support, capacity strengthening, and ensuring political will, with due emphasis on the importance of robust and reliable R&D.

Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, SEARCA Acting Program Head for Research and Development, and Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, SEARCA Program Head for Knowledge Management, collaborated to deliver Philippine Climate Change Commissioner Naderev M. Saño's presentation on *Financing CCA*. He outlined the principles in climate financing, the financial architecture for CCA



Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, SEARCA Acting Program Head for Research and Development, presents information on financing climate change adaptation during the policy roundtable.

and mitigation (CCAM), online sources of more information on climate financing, and tips on sourcing funds for CCA.

The CLMV country presentations revealed varying extents of CCAM mainstreaming integrated with disaster risk management and green growth in national policy, strategy, and action planning down to local levels, each with unique experiences and practices to share. A common need for capacity strengthening and climate financing emerged.

In a workshop, the participants summarized what they learned, identified gaps, and discussed ways forward for research, capacity development, policy, and governance. They also identified financial instruments to fund mainstreaming efforts. (MCHCadiz)

Bay alliance validates plan, develops programs for 2014-2015

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines—SEARCA and WorldFish facilitated the *Planning Workshop and 5th Executive Meeting* of the Iligan Bay Alliance in Misamis Occidental (IBAMO) held here on 26 February 2014.



Hon. Herminia M. Ramiro, Misamis Occidental Governor and IBAMO's Honorary Chairman, speaks at the IBAMO event on 26 February 2014.

The event was graced by Hon. Herminia M. Ramiro, Misamis Occidental Governor and IBAMO's Honorary Chairman. She extended her deepest gratitude to the alliance and other supporting institutions that contributed resources to realize and strengthen IBAMO's undertakings and goals.

The activity was also attended by IBAMO's top local government executives from its member municipalities, namely: Hon. Francisco T. Paylaga, Jr., Mayor of Panaon and IBAMO Chairman; Hon. Diego Ty, Mayor of Plaridel and IBAMO Vice Chairman; Hon. Estela Obut-Estano, Mayor of Tudela and IBAMO Secretary; Hon. Rosario Kais Balais, Mayor of Jimenez and IBAMO Treasurer; and Hon. Cris Mahilac, Mayor of Sinacaban and IBAMO Executive Board Member.

The activity brought together local executives and officers from the Provincial Planning and Development Office, Municipal Agricultural Offices, Municipal Planning and Development Offices, Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices, Sangguniang Bayan, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, and Philippine Maritime Institute.

A workshop was conducted to develop and validate IBAMO's plan and programs for 2014-2015. Other workshop participants were IBAMO's Technical Working Group for the committees on information, education and campaign; law

enforcement; habitat enhancement; institutional capacity building; and monitoring and evaluation.

In the presentation of programs, various collaborative activities were highlighted by the different national government agencies in Region 10, namely: Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) as well as the Departments of Science and Technology (DOST), Tourism (DOT), and Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The Mindanao University of Science and Technology (MUST) also presented their initiatives related to IBAMO. SEARCA and WorldFish likewise shared the prospects for projects with IBAMO that will form part of the Agri-Aqua System (AAS) Project of WorldFish.

Dr. Angelito A. Alolod, WorldFish Consultant, facilitated the activity, while Mr. Alvin G. Tallada, SEARCA Project Management Associate, and Mr. Ronald Salazar, SEARCA Administrative Assistant, provided technical and administrative support. (AGTallada)

Christian Aid explores partnership with SEARCA

ILOILO CITY, Philippines—In a learning and development meeting on *Engaging Intergovernmental and Regional Platforms for Building Resilience* held here on 10 February 2014, Christian Aid International explored possible collaboration and complementation with SEARCA and other relevant regional initiatives. Christian Aid is an agency of Christian churches in Britain and Ireland mandated to work on relief, development, and advocacy for poverty eradication.

Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, SEARCA Program Head for Knowledge Management, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the work of SEARCA, specifically in terms of enhancing climate resilience in agriculture and how potential

partners can link up and access the wealth of knowledge and services that SEARCA can offer. She presented SEARCA's Knowledge Center for Climate Change Adaptation in Natural Resource Management and Agriculture in Southeast Asia (KC3) and its role as a thematic node for agriculture of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN). She also talked about SEARCA's institutional mandate on capacity development, zeroing in on learning and KM initiatives advancing climate resilience.

Christian Aid focal persons requested SEARCA's help in matching research needs in agricultural communities with researchers, graduate students, and academic institutions that can pursue such studies.



Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (center) learns about Christian Aid's work in Myanmar from its partner in the country.

With Dr. Cadiz on the first day of the three-day meeting was Ms. Rosario M. Bantayan, SEARCA Program Specialist for Knowledge Management. (MCHCadiz)

PHL top rice-producing provinces highly vulnerable to climate risks – SEARCA study

A study conducted by SEARCA showed that most of the top rice-producing provinces in the Philippines are highly vulnerable to combined climate risks of increased temperature, more intense rainfall, and typhoons.

This was revealed by Dr. Felino P. Lansigan, Professor of Statistics at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and project team leader, during the focus group discussion (FGD) on the initial findings of the project titled *Impact of Climate Change on the Philippine*

Rice Sector: Supply/Demand Projections and Policy conducted by SEARCA on 24 March 2014 at its headquarters.

Funded by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and implemented by SEARCA, the project aims to develop a modeling framework for assessing the effects and impacts of climate change and climate variability on rice production in the Philippines. More specifically, the project analyzed location-specific climate risks in relation to the rice production situation by province, and assessed the suite of climate change adaptation measures in rice production.

Dr. Lansigan presented the indicative findings and highlights of the study. He explained that the effects and impacts of climate change on rice production can be evaluated using crop simulation under different plausible climate scenarios.

Since the top-rice producing provinces, especially the northern part of the country, are highly vulnerable to climate risks, Dr. Lansigan said climate risk management strategies and measures should be implemented or enhanced in those areas.

Moreover, Dr. Lansigan asserted that climate change adaptation has to be mainstreamed in the rice production system supply chain to manage climate risks, ensure crop production, and enhance food security.

The FGD involved 24 representatives from UPLB, Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Philippine Statistics Authority (formerly known as Bureau of Agricultural Statistics), and SEARCA. (LLDDomingo/JDABaculfo)

SEARCA food security and safety thrusts align with CIRAD “One Health” approach

HANOI, Vietnam—Links have been observed between food security and food safety thrusts of SEARCA and a risk-based “One Health” approach of a Bangkok-based network of the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). These were noted at the second Annual Scientific Seminar of CIRAD's Research Network on Management of Emerging Risks in Southeast Asia, *Gestion des Risques Emergents en Asie du Sud-Est* (GREASE) held here on 17-18 March.

The seminar emphasized holistic, problem/risk-based, action-oriented, and transdisciplinary approaches to research that draws on interactions among the disciplines of animal health and biodiversity sciences, environmental sciences, public health, and social sciences. Animal health risks pose not just direct risk to human health, but also compromise food security and food safety.

The GREASE event had 89 participants from nine countries who included professors and researchers, mostly in veterinary medicine and animal science. Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, SEARCA Program Head for Knowledge Management, participated in the seminar.

Of the presentations that elaborated on various facets of the “One Health” approach espoused by

GREASE Network, one presentation deemed of interest to SEARCA by the meeting organizers was on an international Master of Science program titled *InterRisk: Assessment and Management of Health Risks at the Human, Animal and Ecosystem Interface*. It will be offered jointly by Kasetsart University in Thailand, the Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse in France, and CIRAD starting September 2014. The degree program presents a good model for developing similarly holistic, interdisciplinary degree programs in agriculture/food security. It promotes community-based participatory actions and innovative active learning approaches through real case problem-solving, field visits, computer-based modules, internships, and student interaction with professionals from the private agricultural sector, international organizations, governmental agencies, nongovernment organizations, and research institutes. (MCHCadiz)

New publications on biotech crop adoption launched

MANILA, Philippines—New publications on biotech crops in the Philippines were launched during the *Social and Economic Dimensions of Biotech Crop Adoption: Book Launch and Media Conference* jointly organized by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) and SEARCA on 6 February 2014 at Dusit Thani Hotel Manila.

The titles launched are:

- *Adoption and Uptake Pathways of GM/Biotech Crops by Small-scale, Resource-Poor Filipino Farmers* – a monograph co-published with the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Development Communication (UPLB-CDC) and authored by Dr. Cleofe S. Torres, Mr. Romel A. Daya, Ms. Ma. Teresita B. Osalla, and Ms. Juvy N. Gopela, all of UPLB-CDC.
- *Socioeconomic Impacts of Bt Eggplant: Ex-ante Case Studies in the Philippines* – a book on market prospects and potential economic, health, and environmental impacts of Bt eggplant in the Philippines. The chapter authors are Dr. Sergio R. Francisco of the Philippine Rice Research Institute; Dr. Jinky Leilani Lu of UP Manila; Dr. Miriam R. Nguyen of the UPLB-College of Public Affairs and Development (UPLB-CPAf); Dr. George W. Norton of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Dr. Cesar B. Quicoy of UPLB-College of Economics and Management; Mr. Panfilo G. De Guzman of ISAAA; Ms. Catherine Aragon-Chiang, Ms. Agnes R. Chupungco, Ms. Samantha Geraldine G. de los Santos, Ms. Dulce D. Elazegui, Ms. Cristeta A. Foronda, Ms. Susan S. Guiya, Mr. Eldy Z. Martinez, and Ms. Macrina G. Umali, all of UPLB-CPAf.
- *Cadres of Change: Transforming Biotech Farmers in China, India, and the Philippines* – a monograph on how biotech crops positively changed the lives of small farmers in the three countries. It also highlights the findings of the ISAAA research project on *Adoption and Uptake Pathways of Biotech Crops by Small-scale Resource-poor Asian Farmers: Comparative Studies in China, India, and the Philippines* funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

In his welcome remarks delivered by Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, reiterated that the Center considers biotechnology as an important innovation for increasing food production and addressing other concerns in realizing food security.



Guest speakers at the book launch were (from left) Dr. Saturnina C. Halos, Chair of the DA Biotech Advisory Team; Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration; Dr. Frank A. Shotkoski, ABSP II Director; and Dr. Randy A. Hautea, ISAAA Global Coordinator and SEAsia Center Director.

“Hopefully, the lessons and research results captured in the books would serve as useful tools to help stakeholders make informed decisions about biotechnology, and hopefully encourage adoption of more biotech crops in the Philippines,” Dr. Saguiguit said.

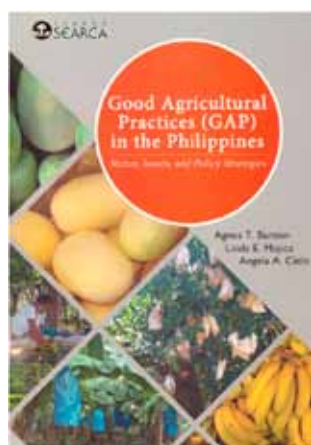
He also said the country should be more open to similar promising biotech products such as the insect resistant Bt eggplant with already more than a decade of successful and beneficial biotech corn adoption.

Meanwhile, Dr. Randy A. Hautea, ISAAA Global Coordinator, said the publications focus on questions about the technology which are on welfare benefits to farmers and the society.

He also explained that the *Socioeconomic Impacts* book is part of the responsibility of UPLB and the Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II (ABSP II), a collaborator to the Bt eggplant project, to help define the focus of the research in terms of its potential impact, while the *Adoption* monograph validated how biotech corn improved the lives of small-scale farmers, their families, and their communities. (SMMercado)

New SEARCA publications off the press

SEARCA has released a number of new publications, many of which present findings of research studies conducted by the Center.



One new publication is a book titled *Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in the Philippines: Status, Issues, and Policy Strategies* by Dr. Agnes T. Banzon, Ms. Loida E. Mojica, and Ms. Angela A. Cielo.

Three of the new titles are Agriculture and Development Notes on Climate Change Adaptation

- *A Transdisciplinary Approach to Climate Change Adaptation* by Dr. Maria Emilinda T. Mendoza, Engr. Vicente G. Ballaran, Jr., Ms. Jamie Kim B. Arias, and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos

- *Flood Early Warning System: Viable Low-cost Adaptation for Lakeshore Municipalities in the Sta. Cruz River Watershed* by Ms. Jaimie Kim B. Arias, Ms. Rowena A. Dorado, Dr. Maria Emilinda T. Mendoza, and Engr. Vicente G. Ballaran, Jr.
- *Adapting to Climate Change: The Cordillera Experience* by Dr. Roberto Sandoval, Jr. and Dr. Stephan Baas
- *Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in the Agriculture Sector in Southeast Asia: Challenges and Lessons Learned* by Juan M. Pulhin

The above titles are distributed for free and may be downloaded from the SEARCA website.

On the other hand, the *Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development (AJAD)*, an international refereed journal published by SEARCA, also released two new issues: AJAD Vol. 9 No. 3 Special Issue: Proceedings of the 7th Asian Society of Agricultural Economists (ASAE) International Conference and AJAD Vol. 10 No. 1. These are available for subscription and may also be purchased per issue.

Indonesian, Filipinos top 2013 SEARCA photo contest

An Indonesian and three Filipinos won the 2013 SEARCA Photo Contest focused on food security.

With “Southeast Asia in Quest of Food Security” as its theme, the photo contest was open to nationals of the 11 SEAMEO member countries.

Mr. Andi Muhammad Imran of South Sulawesi won the top prize with his entry showing a group of Indonesian farmers harvesting rice on an early misty morning.

Mr. Romado F. Javillonar of Antipolo City, Philippines bagged the second prize with his entry depicting two young women preparing *suman* (rice-based delicacy) in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City. It typifies the richness of Filipino cuisine as exemplified by traditional rice-based recipes.

The third prize went to the photo of Mr. Aldrin Cuadra of Montalban, Rizal showing a woman preparing smoked fish (*tinapa*) in Rosario, Cavite, Philippines.

A special prize dubbed “People’s Choice” that was selected through online voting went to the photo of Mr. Jaime Sumugat Singlador of Antipolo City. It shows a woman in Bulacan, Philippines holding her hat filled with chili pepper.

The winners received cash prizes and plaques of recognition.



First prize, Andi Muhammad Imran

The entries were among 1,513 submitted by 442 photography enthusiasts from nine SEAMEO countries. These depicted the efforts that Southeast Asians do to ensure that there is affordable, nutritious, and safe food on their tables.

SEARCA was after photographs that emphasize all the livelihood activities along the food supply chain—from scientists who develop agricultural technologies to input dealers (banks as well as seed, pesticide, and fertilizer dealers), farmers and fishers, transporters of harvest, food processors, food sellers and distributors, and consumers—that contribute to a food-secure Southeast Asia.

The SEARCA photo contest, which began in 2006, aims to catch a glimpse of the contemporary issues in agriculture and rural development in the SEAMEO region, through quality photographic images that easily capture the current state and future endeavors of the SEARCA’s major stakeholders: the agriculture and rural communities in Southeast Asia. (LLDDomingo)



Second prize, Romado F. Javillonar



Third prize, Aldrin Cuadra



People’s Choice, Jaime Sumugat Singlador

PHL Climate Change Commission learns from SEARCA KM practices

Representatives from the Information and Knowledge Management Department of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines visited SEARCA on 28 March 2014 to conduct a key informant interview about the Center’s knowledge management (KM) framework and practices.

The CCC is the sole policymaking body of the Philippine government tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the programs and action plans of the government relating to climate change. The Commission is an attached agency of the Office of the President of the country.

According to Dr. Lorenzo F. Templonuevo, GIZ Consultant for the Support to the Climate

Change Commission Project and lead interviewer, the Commission aims to learn from SEARCA’s vast experience in knowledge management to aid in the development of its own comprehensive and effective KM system. GIZ stands for *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH.

With Dr. Templonuevo were Ms. Donna Lyne Sanidad, Information Technology Officer of CCC, and Ms. Frances Mara Mendoza, Public Relations and Communications Advisor of GIZ.

Dr. Templonuevo also expressed their interest to understand KM-related concerns from organizations like SEARCA that tackle climate change-related issues.

Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, SEARCA Unit Head for Knowledge Resources, gave the visitors an overview of SEARCA’s mandate including the Center’s future directions toward Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ISARD). She also introduced SEARCA’s Knowledge Center on Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Resource Management in Southeast Asia (KC3) as one of the Center’s means of sharing information and knowledge related to climate change.

In addition, Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, SEARCA Program Head for Knowledge Management, shared her insights on KM as an important tool in realizing the Center’s mission in building the capacities of Southeast Asian institutions working toward ISARD. (MVPAranas)