

# The SEARCA DIARY



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

VOL.46 NO.2 JUN 2017



## MUSEUM TO SHINE SPOTLIGHT ON AGRICULTURE

Soon to rise is the Southeast Asian AgriMuseum—SEARCA's innovative approach to promote awareness and draw attention to agriculture and its centrality in people's lives and national development.

## SEAMEO Council President leads SEA AgriMuseum groundbreaking, commends SEARCA

His Excellency Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, Minister of Education of Thailand and President of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council, led the groundbreaking of the Southeast Asian AgriMuseum and Learning Center on Agricultural and Rural Development on 19 April 2017.

The AgriMuseum will rise adjacent to the SEARCA Headquarters on the campus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

### First of its kind

The AgriMuseum is envisioned to deepen understanding and appreciation of agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia, the challenges it faces and how such may be addressed. The first of its kind, it will highlight the importance of agriculture and, thus, generate renewed interest in it as a field of study and course of livelihood.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 03 SEARCA proposes dev't of competency standards for ASEAN agri workers
- 03 ASEAN agri transformation project kicks off in Vietnam
- 04 Myanmar policy roundtable on rice, other crops convened
- 04 Carabao value chain probed to enhance industry competitiveness
- 05 Regional upland agri fellowships project wraps up
- 05 3 SEARCA scholars to attend summer schools in Germany
- 06 Cambodian higher education institutions train on public communication
- 07 SEARCA leads crafting of ASEAN strategic framework for climate change
- 07 Workshop sharpens researchers' knowledge-sharing skills
- 08 Pilot schools upscale school and home gardens project
- 09 Outstanding school and home gardens pilot schools awarded
- 09 Habito named new AJAD editor
- 10 Indonesian UC grantee tackles marine and coastal issues
- 10 UPLB, SEARCA convene symposium on ASEAN integration
- 10 Former SEARCA Director and scholar keynotes UPLB recognition rites
- 11 SEARCA affirms UPLB summa cum laude's view of agriculture
- 11 Special grad seminar features biochar research
- 12 Regional workshop tackles SE Asia food reserve management, policies
- 14 SEARCA hosts ASRF planning during ASEAN social forestry confab
- 15 SEARCA Director joins Global Forum on Agriculture
- 15 SEARCA hosts GNAM schools' field visit
- 16 Climate resilience and green growth in Mindanao pushed

## SEAMEO Council President/ from page 1

The state-of-the-art exhibition space is intended to extend SEARCA's work by promoting awareness of agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia, as well as appreciation of science-based knowledge and innovations in agriculture in an interactive setting.

Minister Teerakiat has expressed his support, in his capacity as SEAMEO Council President, to establish the AgriMuseum.

### SEARCA lauded for work in ARD

The Center was His Excellency's first stop in his first visit to the Philippines as Thailand's education minister and SEAMEO Council President.

He was received by the Center's officers and staff and scholars led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, who also presented an overview of the Center's programs and activities under its Tenth Five-Year Plan and its latest accomplishments.

In this message, the top SEAMEO official commended SEARCA's significant work in promoting agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia.

"I am reminded of the late King Bhumibol. His name means 'the strength of the land.' All his life's work has been what you have been doing—to promote the strength of the people, the strength of the land, agriculture, and environment," Minister Teerakiat said.

Reiterating that agriculture is the backbone of the economy of most of the countries in Southeast Asia, he was pleased to note that SEARCA has made significant contributions to enhance knowledge on ARD and to uplift the lives of the people.

His Excellency also remarked that while some 50-year-old centers may be running down, SEARCA seems stronger at 50 with all it has accomplished and its vision for the future.

"I wish all of you the best and I feel really honored to come here today to learn what you have done," he said.

The SEAMEO Council President also visited the SEAMEO Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (INNOTECH) and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Public Health, Hospital Administration, Environmental and Occupational Health (TROPMED-Philippines).

He also paid a courtesy call on Philippine Education Secretary Leonor Briones on returning to Manila after his visit to SEARCA and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños. (LLDDomingo)



From left: Director Margarita Consolacion C. Ballesteros, External Partnerships Services, Department of Education, Philippines; Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr.; Minister Teerakiat Jareonsettasin; Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, Deputy Director for Programme and Development, SEAMEO Secretariat; and Ms. Nongsilinee Mosika, Director, Bureau of International Cooperation, Ministry of Education, Thailand



Minister Teerakiat Jareonsettasin delivers his message during his visit to SEARCA on 19 April 2017.



Thai Education Minister Teerakiat Jareonsettasin (right), concurrent president of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council, and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit Jr., SEARCA Director, lead the groundbreaking of the Southeast Asian AgriMuseum and Learning Center on Agricultural and Rural Development on 19 April 2017.



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. presents a miniature replica of the SEARCA Growth Monument to Minister Teerakiat Jareonsettasin as a token of the Center's appreciation.

### THE SEARCA DIARY

Web: [www.searca.org](http://www.searca.org)  
E-mail: [post@searca.org](mailto:post@searca.org)  
Mail: SEARCA, College, Los Baños, Laguna 4031 Philippines  
Tel: (63-49) 536-2290, 554-9331 to 9336; (63-2) 657-1300 to 1302 local 1005  
Fax: (63-49) 536-7097

### Production Team

Editor: Leah Lyn D. Domingo  
Editorial Advisers: Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr.  
Adoracion T. Robles  
Graphic Designer: Edwin Robert A. Cortes

RE-ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL  
At College Post Office, Laguna.  
Under Permit No. 2012-22 on 29 March 2017



The SEARCA officers, staff, and scholars with the Thai Education Minister Teerakiat Jareonsettasin (seated, center), concurrent president of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council, and other guests.

## SEARCA proposes dev't of competency standards for ASEAN agri workers

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—SEARCA proposed a project to set competency standards for agricultural workers in the ASEAN region at a high-level meeting hosted by the Malaysian government here on 23-25 May 2017. ASEAN stands for Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, presented the concept at the *3rd High Officials Meeting on Southeast Asia-Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SEA-TVET)* convened by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the Brunei-based SEAMEO Regional Center for Vocational and Technical Education (VOCTECH). The theme was *21st Century TVET in Southeast Asia: Advancing towards Harmonization and Internalization*.

The meeting was a gathering of secretary generals on TVET of ministries of education, labor and training, science and technology, and higher education as well as policymakers and directors of TVET institutions from Southeast Asian countries, along with officials of international development agencies. They set out to chart regional policy directions and strategies to

advance and harmonize TVET education to meet the labor demands of the ASEAN region.

Dr. Saguiguit reiterated that agriculture remains the backbone of most Southeast Asian economies, with about 450 million people depending on it for livelihood, food, and trade.

This, he said, brings into sharp focus the need to develop competencies of agricultural workers in light of their important role in raising farm productivity and contribution to food and nutrition security as well as poverty alleviation in the region.

SEARCA's proposed project aims to assess the development of competency standards for agricultural workers in ASEAN taking into account the Regional Model for Competency Standards in Agriculture and Aquaculture developed by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The SEARCA project will assess the current situation of ASEAN Member States (AMS) in developing such competency standards to identify gaps, challenges, and recommendations for action of the ASEAN Secretariat, SEAMEO, and the concerned AMS. (LLDDomingo with report from EGPandanang)



Dr Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (right), SEARCA Director, with Datin Dr. Yasmin Hussain (center), Director of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Education (SEN), and Ms. Hajah Noorzainab Abdulladi (left), Acting Director, SEAMEO VOCTECH, at the 3rd High Officials Meeting on SEA-TVET.

## ASEAN agri transformation project kicks off in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam—A national inception workshop held here on 27-28 April 2017 kicked off the *Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration in the ASEAN Region: Responding to Food Security and Inclusiveness Concerns (ATMI-ASEAN)* project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project is jointly implemented by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and SEARCA.

The workshop was jointly organized by SEARCA, IFPRI, and the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) of the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

The inception workshop aimed to enhance understanding of structural transformation and market integration as these relate to agricultural growth and food security in these countries. It sought to foster common appreciation of what the program intends to achieve and the roles of various stakeholders: ASEAN Member States (AMS), civil society organizations (CSOs), farmers' organizations, private sector, research

institutions, and project implementers. It also identified promising commodities for regional and global value chains.

The participants were 70 experts, directors, heads and representatives from MARD's International Cooperation Department, Field Crops Research Institute, Department of Processing and Trading Agricultural Forestry Aquatic Products and Salt, Department of Planning, Department of Plant Protection; Hanoi Trade Promotion Center for

Agriculture; Vietnam Institute for Trade, Domestic Market Department, Import-Export Department, and Market Management Department from the Ministry of Industry and Trade; the Agricultural Economic Department, Cooperative Department, and Central Institute for Economic Management of the Ministry of Planning & Investment; and the National Institution of Nutrition of the Ministry of Health.

ASEAN agri/ to page 14



Dr. Bessie M. Burgos (front row, fourth from right), SEARCA Program Head for Research and Development, with the workshop participants, resource persons, and organizers.

## Myanmar policy roundtable on rice, other crops convened

NAY PYI TAW, Myanmar—SEARCHA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) jointly organized a *Policy Roundtable on Rice and other Important Agricultural Commodities: Towards Evidence-Based Policy Formulation* held here on 1 April 2017.

Dr. Tin Htut, MOALI Permanent Secretary, opened the meeting and underscored the need for evidence-based policymaking to safeguard available resources and realize their potential.

Agriculture, livestock, and fisheries hold huge potential for strengthening food security in Myanmar and providing jobs and income for the rural population.

Rice, sugarcane, dry beans, fresh vegetables, and maize accounted for 81% of total crop production in 2014. Statistics also show that broiler chicken and chicken eggs accounted for 90% of all primary livestock, almost all of which were consumed locally. Fish products export in 2003-2014 amounted to about US\$536 million, making fishing an important source of livelihood as well as food.

Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) provided an overview of Myanmar's agriculture sector, including agricultural policies and strategic thrusts. The MOALI Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department discussed the National



Livestock Policy, while the MOALI Department of Fisheries presented its Integrated Paddy and Fish Program. The Myanmar Rice Federation tackled the need for inclusive and sustainable rice policy and the Myanmar Fisheries Federation talked about the need for inclusiveness and sustainability in the fishery sector and the challenges it currently faces. Perspectives from the private sector were shared by the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association and the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Dr. Ramon L. Clarete, Professor at the University of the Philippines School of Economics, discussed evidence-based policy formulation and its benefits. He cited the experiences of Indonesia and the Philippines in facing challenges in the livestock industry and import substitution,

particularly in the case of rice. The Vietnam experience in promoting rice as an export commodity was shared by Dr. Nguyen Duc Loc, Director of the Center for Agricultural Policy in the South, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD).

Dr. Devesh Roy, Research Fellow of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)-South Asia, discussed pulses trade in India, the largest producer and consumer of pulses, and elaborated on trade analysis relevant to Myanmar.

Participants to the roundtable were from various departments of MOALI, the private sector, a farmers' organization, and international organizations based in Myanmar, IFAD, IFPRI, and SEARCHA. (Report from CNGRogel)

## Carabao value chain probed to enhance industry competitiveness

In May 2017, SEARCHA completed the *Value Chain Analysis of Carabao and Carabao-based Products in Visayas and Mindanao* commissioned by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) to provide an overview of the carabao industry and analyze the value chains of selected carabao-based products.

Based on key findings, the project put forth specific upgrading strategies and policy directions to enhance the competitiveness of the industry in general, and specific value chains of selected carabao-based products in particular.

### Areas and products covered

Nine provinces in five regions engaged in carabao production were included in the study: Iloilo and Negros Occidental in Region 6 (Western Visayas), Bohol and Cebu in Region 7 (Central Visayas), Leyte in Region 8 (Eastern Visayas), Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental in Region 10 (Northern Mindanao), and Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Norte in Region 13 (CARAGA).

The study areas were regions or areas with relatively large number of carabao population in

Visayas and Mindanao, and also as suggested by PCC; (2) presence of SUC-based PCC centers and institutional dairy modules; and (3) presence of cooperatives and farmer's associations.

The analysis focused on carabao milk and milk products as well as carabao meat and meat products. The project selected on these carabao-based products in light of the increasing demand for high-quality dairy and meat products stemming from fast-changing consumer preferences, changing lifestyles, increasing human population, and increased household income in the country.

The data collected were analyzed using three techniques. One is trend analysis for time-series data collected. Descriptive analysis was used to present and describe value chain players and products produced and traded. Economic analysis was used to gauge the profitability of milk production and sale of carabao for meat. The latter was also used to compute the financial position of the different players in the dairy carabao and carabao meat value chains to determine who benefitted the most.

Stakeholders' consultation workshops were conducted in all the sites to validate the data collected and solicit comments on initial findings and suggestions on how to prioritize the constraints identified and upgrading strategies recommended.

### Project outputs

The project provided an overview of the situation of carabao and carabao-based products with emphasis on global, national, and regional production and product forms. It described the nature and structure of the industry, focusing on the players and their functions in the value chain, role of women in the value chain, product and information flows, economic analysis, and nature of inter-firm relationships.

Moreover, the project provided an analysis of markets and market opportunities of carabao products. It identified the support services required and description of a business enabling environment as well as the constraints and opportunities in the carabao industry.

[Carabao value chain/ to page 5](#)

## Regional upland agri fellowships project wraps up

The Southeast Asian Upland Agriculture Fellowships that benefitted 53 nationals of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam has wrapped up. The five-year project was a collaboration by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and SEARCA.

The project sought to build the capacities of Southeast Asians to address current issues and concerns related to food security in upland communities by providing scholarships for master's programs, supporting researches, and organizing conference-workshops.

The scholarships were granted in two cohorts and were tenable at four study posts: the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); and Kasetsart University (KU), Khon Kaen University (KKU), and Chiang Mai University (CMU), all in Thailand.

As of May 2017, 47 scholars have already completed their graduate programs, while five are in various stages of completing their master's studies this semester. One scholar was qualified

to pursue a Straight PhD degree in Agricultural Economics at UPLB due to her excellent academic performance. She is expected to finish her PhD in December 2017.

Under the auspices of the project, "fellowship plus conference-workshops" were conducted in the Philippines in 2013, Thailand in 2015, and Cambodia in 2016. The 2015 event was conducted in partnership with CMU and merged with the *First International Conference on Asian Highlands Natural Resource Management (AsiaHiLand)*. The 2016 edition was merged with the *7th International Conference on Environment and Rural Development (7th ICERD)* in partnership with the International Society for the Environment and Rural Development and Cambodia's Royal University of Agriculture (RUA).

Upon graduation, the IDRC-SEARCA scholars are expected to contribute to the innovation and development of new programs and policies in their countries to improve upland agriculture in Southeast Asia. (Report from CJVENalbes)



Some of the Cambodian IDRC-SEARCA scholars at UPLB (from left): Mr. Ung Putheany (MS, animal science), Mr. Nget Raby (MS, agronomy), Ms. Chin Hunlay (MS, animal science), Ms. Vong Pisey (MS, animal science), Ms. Chheun Sreyneang (MS, agricultural economics), and Mr. Huot Long (MS, agricultural economics).

## 3 SEARCA scholars to attend summer schools in Germany

Three Southeast Asians supported by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)-SEARCA scholarships will participate in summer schools in Germany in September 2017. The summer schools are organized by DAAD.

Mr. Arsenio D. Bulfa, Jr., MS Soil Science student from the Philippines, will attend the *Summer School on GEOTRAINING: Environmental and Remote Sensing Data Analysis via Geospatial Technologies in Research and Teaching*, to be held in Goethe-University of Frankfurt/Main on 4-7 September 2017.

Meanwhile Mr. Saw Hto Lwe Htoo, PhD Horticulture student from Myanmar, and Trinh Quang Thoai, PhD Agricultural Economics student from Vietnam, will

participate in a course on *Project Development for Knowledge Transfer Training* to be hosted by Leipzig University on 4-29 September 2017.

After a competitive selection process with about 420 candidates, the three scholars are among the 58 who were selected to receive funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and partner institutions for their three-week stay in Germany.



ARSENIO D. BULFA, JR.



SAW HTO LWE HTOO



TRINH QUANG THOAI

The summer schools aim to prepare university students and junior researchers for the tasks of teaching and research in their respective institutions. The intention is to strengthen the students' scientific research and teaching skills, and provide them the opportunity to establish individual academic contacts with fellow scholarship holders and German scientists and students. (CJVENalbes)

## Carabao value chain/ from page 4

The project team recommended interventions and upgrading strategies based on the identified constraints and opportunities in the carabao industry.

Some of the major recommendations focus on the need to:

- Ensure a sustainable supply of forage grass and legumes;
- Enhance the productive and reproductive efficiency of carabao; S

- Secure registration and certification of carabao's milk and milk products from the Food and Drug Administration;
- Develop new or improved milk and meat products; and
- Intensify promotion, education, and information campaign.

The two-phase SEARCA-PCC collaborative project has produced a technical report for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Two monographs—one

on dairy products, the other on meat products in Luzon—are in the pipeline. The project also produced proposals for the *Carabao-based Enterprise Development Program of PCC* implemented by SEARCA through its Project Development and Technical Services.

The project was led by Dr. Flordeliza A. Lantican, a value chain analysis (VCA) specialist, from its first phase, which covered four regions in Luzon. (LAMCarandang)

# Cambodian higher education institutions train on public communication

SIEM REAP, Cambodia—"Effective communication results in having effective partners and collaborators." This was emphasized by H.E. Touch Visalsok, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) of Cambodia, at the opening program of the *Workshop on Developing Communication Skills for Higher Education Institutions in Cambodia* held here on 2-6 May 2017

Forty participants from the MOEYS and 18 higher education institutions (HEIs) learned how to plan a public communication initiative for universities and prepare simple communication materials.

Dr. Touch noted that poor communication leads to problems. Since internationalization is the aim of HEIs in Cambodia, their faculty and staff must be able to communicate effectively in English.

He said if HEIs have good public communication, they will gain better public recognition and more partners for their activities and programs.

He also lauded the partnership among SEARCA, MOEYS, and RUA. He noted that such collaboration benefits many Cambodians, especially those in HEIs.

With the integration of the ASEAN community, it is critically important for HEIs to build communication capacities of its faculty and staff for them to be able to actively communicate what their institutions are doing, what they can do, and what they can offer for partnerships, said Dr. Ngo Bunthan, RUA Rector, in his speech read by Dr. Mom Seng, RUA Vice Rector.

Speaking on behalf of the MOEYS Department of Higher Education (DHE), Dr. Nith Bunlay,



Participants listen to Dr. Navarro. Photo shows their articles and other workshop outputs posted on the wall for everyone's scrutiny.

DHE Deputy Director General, noted that in Cambodia's higher education plan, one focus is the internationalization of HEIs, where effective communication skills of HEI officials, faculty, and staff are crucial.

"The workshop is a unique offering of SEARCA because the Center did not initiate developing it independently; it was specifically requested from among the participants' ranks as a need that SEARCA and partners could address for human resource development in Cambodian HEIs," said Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, in his speech delivered by Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, SEARCA Program Head for Knowledge Management.

In coordination with RUA and MOEYS, SEARCA refined the design of the workshop as informed by participants' responses to a pre-workshop survey.

Dr. Rex L. Navarro, international expert in development communication and former Director of Strategic Marketing and Communication at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), led the team of resource persons from the University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Development Communication (UPLB-CDC).

The workshop is the third collaboration among SEARCA, MOEYS, and RUA to address relevant capacity development needs of Cambodian HEIs. In his remarks, Dr. Bunlay expressed interest to further the collaboration with two more learning events in the next academic year.

The workshop organizers from SEARCA included Dr. Cadiz; Ms. Nova A. Ramos, Program Specialist; and Ms. Maria Cristina L. Decena, Office Assistant; respectively. (NARamos)



Workshop participants pose with H.E. Touch Visalsok (second row, sixth from left), MOEYS Undersecretary of State, resource persons, and the training team from SEARCA, RUA, and MOEYS.

# SEARCA leads crafting of ASEAN strategic framework for climate change

BOGOR, Indonesia—SEARCA took the lead in drafting the proposed “ASEAN Multi-sectoral Framework for Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry Contributing to Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” as part of its commitment to implement the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) Strategic Response Fund (ASRF) for the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) III.

The first draft was presented by Dr. Juan M. Pulhin and Ms. Millicent Joyce Q. Pangilinan, team leaders and technical assistant, at the Technical Meeting for the AFCC Conceptual Framework on 27-28 April 2017 in Bogor.

Dr. Doris Capistrano, ASFCC Senior Adviser, stressed that the multi-sectoral framework is expected to facilitate dialogue and enhance collaboration across different ASEAN sectoral bodies and various working groups.



Review meeting participants from ICRAF, NTFP-EP, RECOFTC, CIFOR, SEARCA, ASFCC Regional Advisor, AWG-SF Secretariat, WRI, and the private sector.

She added that the results of the review will aid in the preparation of the final draft that will eventually be endorsed by relevant ASEAN bodies.

Participants of the team review meeting were from the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), The Center for People and Forest (RECOFTC), Center for International Forestry

Research (CIFOR), SEARCA, ASFCC Regional Advisor, AWG-SF Secretariat, World Resources Institute (WRI), and the private sector.

Dr. Capistrano presided over the plenary meeting and participants gave recommendations on the draft, especially on the operationalization of the framework and plausible courses of action. (XGBCapiña)

## Workshop sharpens researchers' knowledge-sharing skills

Tapping into shared experiences and transforming these into usable knowledge has become a potent avenue for growth and sustainability. This was the key takeaway of 23 researchers who participated in the *Knowledge-sharing Workshop on Processes and Outcomes of Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (ISARD)* conducted by SEARCA on 3-7 April 2017.

Though conducted to support SEARCA's project on piloting and upscaling effective models of ISARD in the Philippines, not all participants were Filipinos; others came from Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

Speaking to participants at the opening program, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said “we aim to equip you with know-how and skills in knowledge management (KM) and communication, which are integral to continuing success and sustainability of ISARD pilot projects.”

Dr. Jose R. Medina, the ISARD project coordinator who was also a workshop participant, pointed out that KM will play a big role to address the challenges of the project, which is organizing farmers in Inopacan, Leyte and Victoria, Mindoro



Asst. Prof. Aldo Gavril T. Lim (standing, right) of UPLB-CDC, advise workshop participants on how to tell their story via social media.

Oriental and empowering them to self-manage efforts to improve their agricultural systems.

He added that “we can integrate knowledge generated with the support of SEARCA and partner universities into a pool of knowledge together with local knowledge.”

As knowledge needs to be shared to be useful and further evolve, the training workshop enhanced the participants' communications skills, including crash courses on storytelling, photography, policy brief writing, social and online media writing, case and feature story writing, and KM

and communication planning. The photography workshop enabled the participants to take photos outdoors, which were later presented and evaluated.

Led by their dean, Dr. Ma. Theresa H. Velasco, with Asst. Prof. Winifredo B. Dagli, University of the Philippines Los Baños-College of Development Communication (UPLB-CDC) faculty members served as resource persons on theoretical foundation, principles, and exemplars on KM and communication and selected tools. (Report from DRGSantiago)

## Pilot schools upscale school and home gardens project

The *Training-Workshop on Scaling-Up of School Gardens* held on 17 May 2017 in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, Philippines involved 92 school heads and teachers from 11 school districts in the province of Laguna. It was hosted by Bagumbayan Elementary School in Sta. Cruz.

The trainers were coordinators of the School and Home Gardens Project (SHGP) implemented by SEARCA, the Department of Education (DepEd)-Laguna, and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Ms. Soledad Villanueva, principal of the host school, presented the framework of the SHGP and shared how she has mobilized resources to implement the project in Bagumbayan Elementary School despite not being one of the six pilot schools.

“When I was principal of Labuin Elementary School in Pila, a pilot school of the project, I was very fortunate to have attended the series



Participants from the school district of Paete, Laguna present their Strategic SWOT Analysis.



Participants from the school district of Sta. Cruz prepare their school garden layout.

of workshops and trainings conducted by SEARCA, DepEd, and UPLB. When I transferred to Bagumbayan, I made sure to apply the knowledge and skills I gained from the project,” she said.

Coordinators from the pilot sites took turns in giving lectures and facilitating sessions.

Ms. Michelle Samia, SHGP coordinator of Labuin Elementary School, delivered a lecture on edible landscaping—one of the distinct technologies introduced by the project. She gave an overview on the objectives, crop management, and elements of design that should be taken into consideration for an edible landscape.

Ms. Glenda Aruejo, SHGP coordinator of Crisanto Guysayko Memorial Elementary School, presented the process of strategic SWOT analysis. Participants then prepared and presented SWOT analysis of the school gardening in their respective school districts.

Meanwhile, Mr. Celso Masa, SHGP coordinator of San Andres Elementary School, discussed the concepts of garden layout construction. Participants then prepared sample layouts, which were exhibited through a participatory gallery walk.

The team of Ms. Leticia Germina, one of SHGP coordinators from Pedro Guevara Memorial National High School, cooked up nutritious recipes with ingredients that can be readily obtained from the school gardens.

The training-workshop was spearheaded by DepEd-Laguna through the initiative of Mr.

Lamberto S. Perolina, Education Program Supervisor in Agriculture.

In a message during the workshop’s opening program, Dr. Blesilda M. Calub, SHGP Project Leader and University Researcher from UPLB, was elated to note that the SHGP coordinators whom the project had trained are now the trainers themselves. (EINeGalang)



Ms. Ms. Soledad Villanueva, Principal of Bagumbayan Elementary School, presenting the framework of the School and Home Gardens Project.



Ms. Leticia Germina, one of the SHGP coordinators of Pedro Guevara Memorial National High School, demonstrates her recipe called “Lumpia con Tokwa’t Alugbati,” which makes use of vegetables harvested from the school garden.



## Outstanding school and home gardens pilot schools awarded

SEARCA, the Department of Education (DepEd)-Laguna Division, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), recognized the outstanding partner schools of the joint project titled *Participatory Action Research on School- and Community-based Food and Nutrition Program for Literacy, Poverty Reduction, and Sustainable Development*, or School and Home Gardens Project (SGHP) for short. The awards ceremonies were held at SEARCA on 24 April 2017.

### Best pilot school

Labuin Elementary School (LES) of the Municipality of Pila was awarded the Most Outstanding Partner School.

LES was cited for the most “successful implementation of the Project, which contributed significantly to the diversity and availability of food in the school and local community, and enhanced the knowledge and skills of students, their parents and teachers on sustainable food production and nutrition.”

LES also received the awards for Best in Local Government Unit Partnership, and Best in Community Extension.

### Other recognition

The other citations were as follows:

- Best in Farm Record Keeping and Best in Eco-friendly Innovations: Crisanto Guysayko Memorial Elementary School, Nagcarlan
- Best in School Feeding Program and Best in School Garden for Learning: San Andres Elementary School, Alaminos



Awardees of the School and Home Gardens Project.

- Best in Edible Landscapes: Majajjay Elementary School, Majajjay
- Best in School Garden in an Urban Setting: Cabuyao Central School, Cabuyao City
- Best Implementer of School Garden in a High School Setting: Pedro Guevara Memorial National High School, Sta. Cruz

The awards were determined after a school-to-school evaluation by the Project Management Team held on 22-24 March 2017 led by the Project Leader Dr. Blesilda M. Calub of UPLB.

Also recognized and cited for his dedication and contributions to the success of the Project was Mr. Lamberto S. Perolina, Education Program Supervisor for Agriculture of DepEd-Laguna.

On the other hand, Mr. Bembol Samia of San Antonio Elementary School, Pila, and Ms. Soledad

Villanueva of Bagumbayan Elementary School, Sta. Cruz were both recognized for adopting the SGHP in their respective schools on their own initiative.

The event was witnessed by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director; Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., UPLB Chancellor; and Dr. Margarita Consolacion Ballesteros, DepEd Central Office - External Partnerships Service Director.

Also present were the district supervisors, school heads, school garden coordinators, and Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (EPP) teachers of the six (6) partner schools, representatives from Local Government Units, Municipal and Provincial Agriculture Officers, and UPLB professors and institute directors. (EINEGalang)

## Habito named new AJAD editor



Dr. Cielito F. Habito

an international refereed journal dedicated to the publication of information and analysis on topics within the broad scope of agriculture and development.

The AJAD was launched in 2004 and is published twice a year. As the official journal of SEARCA,

it specializes in the publication of articles drawn from empirical, policy-oriented, and institutional development studies, as well as articles on perspectives in agriculture and development, political economy of rural development, and trade issues.

A Professor of Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University and Senior Fellow at SEARCA, Dr. Habito agreed to join the AJAD Editorial Board in June 2017.

He is the second editor of the journal, succeeding Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, who is currently the Chairman of the Philippine Competition Commission. As such, SEARCA has the distinction of having two former Philippine Cabinet members, both having served as Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), at the helm of this prestigious journal.

Dr. Habito served as Director of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development for 11 years. He has also served on the boards of various private companies and foundations and is Chairman of Brain Trust Inc. and Operation Compassion Philippines. He also writes the award-winning weekly column “No Free Lunch” in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Dr. Habito holds a PhD and Master of Arts in Economics from Harvard University, Master of Economics from the University of New England in Australia, and Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics, Summa cum Laude from the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said “we are delighted that Dr. Habito has agreed to be Editor of AJAD and we look forward to seeing AJAD continue to grow with his expertise and leadership.” (LLDDomingo)

## Indonesian UC grantee tackles marine and coastal issues

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia—The SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) awarded Ms. Humayra Secelia Muswar, a travel grant to present two case studies on marine and coastal issues at the *Human Ecology International Conference* held here on 18-20 April 2017

An MS Rural Sociology student at Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Ms. Muswar represented her team to present the following case studies: “Political Ecology Analysis on Marine Ornamental Fish Eco-Labeling Case Study: Les Village, Bali, Indonesia” and “Coastal Agrarian Dilemma: Case Study of Coastal Communities Dusun Ujung Genteng and Sukabumi, West Java, Indonesia.”

Her presentations were well-received and the conference enabled her to interact with students and experts from a similar field. She said her experience taught her to “be brave on your research, because every single research is worth to be delivered, worth to be presented.”

Attended by more than 200 scholars from Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom, the conference was organized by the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Malaysia, a UC member.

The UC continues to support graduate students and faculty in the advancement of their studies and research milestones. It offers a host of grants, including faculty and student travel grants for research and conference/seminars, visiting professor program for teaching purposes, student travel grant for credit, student thesis grant, and the Tokyo University of Agriculture (NODAI)-UC Scholarships for Dissertation Doctorate Program.



Ms. Humayra Secelia Muswar, UC grantee from IPB, receives a certificate of appreciation for her paper presentations.

## UPLB, SEARCA convene symposium on ASEAN integration

SEARCA hosted and co-organized the *UPLB Symposium on the ASEAN@50* led by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) on 3 May 2017.

Titled *Transforming Lives, Strengthening Institutions: The Philippines in an Integrated ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)*, the symposium was timed with ASEAN's 50th anniversary and aimed to raise awareness on the significance of the ASEAN integration in the Philippines' pursuit of inclusive and sustainable economic development.

In his message, Dr. Saguiguit reiterated the benefits and challenges that AEC presents to the Philippines, particularly as it relates to the country's agricultural and rural development.

“Coming into the integration, it is important to ramp up investments in R&D, new technologies, infrastructure, and support services including extension and capacity building activities to ensure that various stakeholders—particularly

smallholder farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs—can competitively participate and maximize the benefits of borderless trade,” said Dr. Saguiguit.

The guest speakers were Dr. Zaldy B. Patron, Executive Director, Office of ASEAN Affairs, Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA); Dr. Cielito F. Habito, Professor of Economics at the Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) and Chief of Party of the USAID-related Assistance for Development; and Dr. Rogel Mari D. Sese, Program Leader of the National Space Development Program of the Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Dr. Patron presented the priorities and initiatives of ASEAN, particularly in view of the chairmanship of the Philippines in the 10-country bloc, while Dr. Habito discussed the imperatives and implications of AEC in the country. On the other hand, Dr. Sese shared the ASEAN initiatives and cooperation for sustainable space development. (EGPandanan)

## Former SEARCA Director and scholar keynotes UPLB recognition rites

Philippine Competition Commission Chairman Arsenio M. Balisacan (MS, agricultural economics, 1982, UPLB) was guest speaker at the *2017 Hooding Ceremony and Recognition Rights for Graduate Students* of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) held on 23 June 2017.

Dr. Balisacan was informed by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, that 48 PhD and master's students from all over Southeast Asia had completed their degrees this school year under a SEARCA scholarship. Of this number, 26 earned their degrees at UPLB.

Himself a former SEARCA Director, Dr. Balisacan was pleased to hear that the Center's graduate education program continues to contribute significantly to the capacity development needs of Southeast Asia.

Both Dr. Balisacan and Dr. Saguiguit are former SEARCA scholars. Dr. Balisacan obtained his MS in Agricultural Economics in 1982 under a SEARCA scholarship. Dr. Saguiguit was also a SEARCA scholar earlier completing the same



Photo courtesy of Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan

degree under a Netherlands government grant to the Center in the late 1970s.

Throughout his message, Dr. Balisacan reminded the graduates that with their higher education they now have “a greater capacity and more competence to contribute to the perpetual task of nation-building” and with it comes a duty to use such position to “act nobly and rightly” for they owe even the poorest of society who subsidized their education with resources that could have otherwise been spent for public goods that fulfilled their basic needs. (LLDDomingo)

## SEARCA affirms UPLB summa cum laude's view of agriculture

The lone summa cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) this year is a BS Agriculture student.

In his valedictory message during the 45th UPLB Commencement Exercises, Mr. Arnel B. Villancio, Jr. underscored the role of agriculturists in seeking ways to ensure food security.

He said farmers, not agriculturists, feed the world, but stressed that “the responsibility of agriculturists is to continuously find ways for the world to feed itself.”

This was affirmed by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, who noted that agriculture has evolved from the old concept of ox-and-plow farming to a dynamic field that employs modern technologies and business practices, and is one of the most important sectors in the economy.

Among the UPLB graduates were 27 of the 50 master's and PhD scholars of SEARCA who obtained their graduate degrees in various specialized fields of agriculture and related disciplines.

The 23 other SEARCA scholars completed their graduate programs at overseas study posts, namely: Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI); Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM); Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), both in Indonesia; and Kasetsart University (KU), Chiang Mai University (CMU), and Khon Kaen University (KKU), all in Thailand.

The degree programs of all 50 newly graduated SEARCA scholars were in the various specialized fields of agriculture and related disciplines. These include agriculture, agronomy, plant breeding, animal science, horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, soil science, agricultural systems management, food science and technology, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, forestry, rural development management, rural sociology, extension education, environmental science, natural resource conservation, and information technology for natural resources management.

Out of the 35 MS and 15 PhD graduates, 25 were supported by the joint collaboration with the International Development Centre (IDRC) of Canada, while six were supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and one by the UC-Tokyo NODAI joint scholarship.



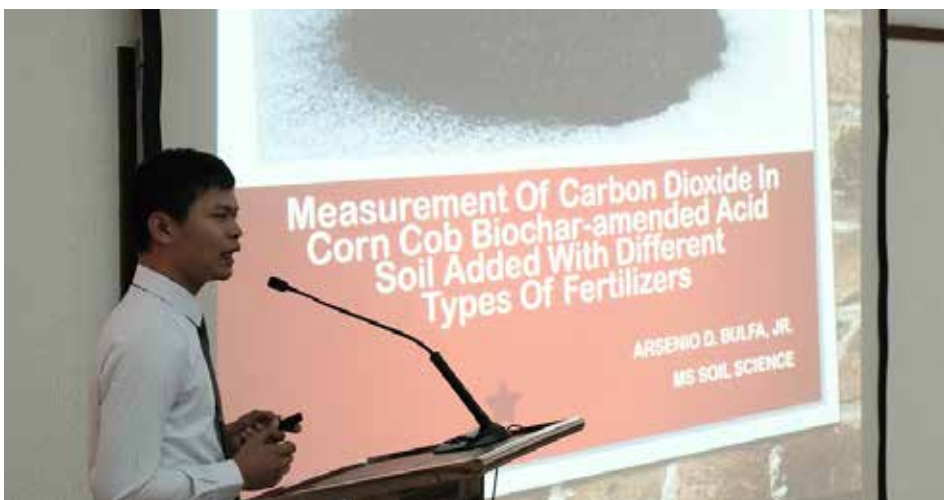
Some of the SEARCA scholars who joined the UPLB graduation rites with Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (center), SEARCA Director, who is flanked by Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma, SEARCA Program Head for Graduate Education and Institutional Development, on his right and Dr. Josefina T. Dizon, a SEARCA alumna and Professor at the UPLB College of Public Affairs and Development on his left.

During a testimonial program in which SEARCA honored its graduating scholars, Dr. Saguiguit enjoined the scholars to put their knowledge and skills to good use for the benefit of their respective families, home institutions, and countries.

Dr. Saguiguit also asked the new graduate alumni to remember SEARCA and “take every opportunity to support and contribute to the Center’s mandate and development goals.”

The graduates joined the pool of some 1,400 SEARCA graduate alumni spread across Southeast Asia. Among them is Philippine Competition Commission Chairman Arsenio M. Balisacan, who was guest speaker at the 2017 UPLB hooding and recognition rites (see related story on page 11). (LLDDomingo with report from CJVENalbes)

## Special grad seminar features biochar research



The results of a research titled “Measurement of Carbon Dioxide in Corn Cob Biochar-Amended Acid Soil Added with Different Types of Fertilizers” conducted by a SEARCA scholar for his MS thesis were bared at the SEARCA Graduate Seminar Series held on 14 June 2017.

Biochar technology and its prospects for agriculture was discussed by Mr. Arsenio D. Bulfa, Jr., MS soil science student at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), who is pursuing his graduate studies with support from SEARCA and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Mr. Bulfa also reported that biochar, which is relatively new in the Philippines, has good potential in sequestering carbon dioxide. He said biochar can prevent carbon dioxide from

escaping to the atmosphere and contributing to global warming.

Mr. Bulfa’s research was also selected as one of the paper presentations at the International Conference on Agriculture in the Tropics (OgraTrop) to be held on 20-24 August 2017 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

“Such recognition proves the capability of SEARCA scholars to produce quality research that would have significant value in the field of agriculture,” said Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma, SEARCA Program Head for Graduate Education and Institutional Development.

SEARCA’s Special Graduate Seminar Series showcases outstanding researches conducted by SEARCA scholars. (Report from CJVENalbes)

## Regional workshop tackles SE Asia food reserve management, policies

SEARCA hosted the *Regional Workshop on Food Reserve Management and Policies in Southeast Asia* on 6-7 April 2017, which it co-organized with the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) and the Food Security Center (FSC) of Germany's University of Hohenheim.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit Jr., SEARCA Director, welcomed the participants and informed them that the workshop builds on the gains of the Center's project titled *Food Reserves: A Comparative Study on Food Reserve Management and Policies in Southeast Asia* under its umbrella program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia (FANSSEA).

He also encouraged everyone to learn from each country's experience and pursue opportunities for possible collaboration towards food and nutrition security in the ASEAN region.

In discussing the rationale and workshop mechanics, Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, SEARCA Program Head for Research and Development, emphasized food availability as an important dimension of food security, and in turn, food reserves and stockpiling as important determinants of food availability.

She said the workshop structure, which comprised plenary paper presentations and group breakout discussions, aimed to develop common understanding of food stockpiling in the context of food security management in the ASEAN region, which are valuable inputs in shaping recommendations and possible courses of action to improve food stockpiling.

### Context of food reserves

Dr. Paul S. Teng, Professor of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and SEARCA Senior Fellow on Food Security, set the context for food reserves and its role in food security management.

In the spirit of "learning by sharing," he shared the initial findings of the food reserves project survey, focusing on food stockpiling and food security in Southeast Asia. He cited the two faces of food security in Asia—the region's "spectacular economic growth and higher incomes" and "many still poor and undernourished" (6.1 million or 9.6% of the population in SEA in 2015).

He also said "ASEAN relies heavily on imports to meet its food needs; imports more from outside ASEAN than from within the region, and exports more to outside ASEAN than to the region."



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (seated, fifth from right), SEARCA Director, with workshop participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam representing nine ASEAN Member States.

A background paper on regional food reserves presented by Dr. Roehlano M. Briones of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) provided the importance of domestic and regional food reserves. He emphasized the importance of cooperation among countries in the region in the deployment of stocks, and the need to implement trust-building measures.

Other resource persons presented plenary papers on specific topics. Ms. Ermina V. Tepora and Ms. Juditha C. Perido from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) discussed methodologies on rice and corn stocks inventory at household and commercial levels in the Philippines. They stressed the need for grain stocks monitoring, particularly for national food security, production policies, and possible import requirement and timing of importation.

Mr. Chanpithya Shimphalee, General Manager of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) talked about the status and prospects of ASEAN food reserve and the changing regional trade regime. He presented the status of self-sufficiency and stock-to-use ratios in ASEAN Member States (AMS). These ratios are key indicators of ASEAN food security. With production of 115M tons and consumption of 103M tons, he said "quantitatively, for ASEAN as a whole, there is no food security problem."

He also discussed APTERR's mechanism and achievements as a regional food reserve, and the impact of global trade regime on national food reserves.

Dr. Ramon L. Clarete of the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman School of Economics discussed the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and its implications on food reserves in Southeast Asia. He expounded on why and how food price volatility at domestic and international levels relate to food security and the economy, and the economics of food reserves. He also talked about the Asian Trade Forum, a food security policy think-tank of the ASEAN.

These plenary papers were informative and educational presentations that also strengthened and substantiated the discussions during the open fora and group breakout sessions.

### Food stockpiling in different countries

ASEAN delegates, who are part of the food reserves project, presented country reports that highlighted their respective country's experiences and initiatives on food reserve management.

Their presentations gave an overview of food stockpiling in their country, with focus on rice; grain stocks monitoring; relevant legislations and enabling policies; advantages and disadvantages of food reserves and stockpiles; community stockpiling; issues, gaps, and challenges encountered; potential areas for investment or collaboration; and proposed actions.

Thailand has legislations and programs related to rice stockpiling, including rice pledging program or rice subsidy scheme and small rice silo or store house pledging program. Existing public

Regional workshop/ to page 13

## Regional workshop/ from page 12

food stockpiles are predominantly for export purposes.

The commodities stockpiled in Vietnam are grouped into five categories based on purpose, and include food and non-food items particularly for disaster preparedness. Public food stockpiles are of two types: “backbone” or newly established stockpiles; and “inherited” or those from old stockpiles.

In the case of Myanmar, there are existing policies and plans related to food security but no specific law yet for food stockpiling. Rice trading is dominated by the private sector.

The Government Food Reserve System in Cambodia was established in 2012 to provide food and seed support to the people, particularly at times of natural disasters or food crisis.

In the Philippines, as mandated by law, the National Food Authority (NFA) maintains strategic rice reserve (SRR) for food security purposes, and government rice buffer stock (GRBS) for price stabilization purposes and for consumption during lean periods.

Indonesia has specific laws and regulations governing food and nutrition security, in addition to other policies related to food reserve management. For rice stockpiling, the government rice reserve is managed by the Bureau of Logistics (BULOG).

Rice stocks are stored at the BULOG warehouses, and in rice barns (lumbung) at community level. These stocks are used to meet domestic demand and for emergency situations. There is also rice for the poor (raskin) or subsidized rice.

On the other hand, Malaysia’s public rice stockpile is managed by the private sector through BERNAS, Malaysia’s national rice corporation. The rice reserve primarily aims to ensure sufficient rice supply for a certain period of time and to stabilize price.

The government of Lao PDR has started a National Rice Reserve Programme (NRRP) under the State Accumulative Department, in cooperation with the private sector. Enabling policies governing accumulative stock have also been decreed since 2013.

To analyze the implications of a changing regional trade regime on a country’s food stocks and the impacts of individual countries’ food reserves on regional stockpiling mechanisms, the participants were split into two groups during the breakout session. The groups came up with



Group breakout sessions

recommendations and plausible courses of action.

### Synthesis

Dr. Teng, who is also the food reserves project adviser and workshop technical coordinator, summed up what transpired in the two-day event, noting the very rich discussions among the participants on the workshop theme.

He reiterated that “the learning by sharing paradigm is so powerful and the spirit of working together expresses itself in a regional cooperation, making sure that no country really suffers in times of need.”

One challenge that he posed to participants was to think of ASEAN as a big warehouse, as a big community where—notwithstanding each nation’s own laws and rules—the community still thinks of each other.

He said conclusions that could be drawn from the presentations and discussions, include the following:

- Rice is still the most important commodity in the ASEAN region.
- Even though there is more trade, the ASEAN region still needs stockpiles.
- At the national level, governments need to be assured that there are food reserves from stockpiles in times of need.
- Recommendations reinforce learnings from APTERR’s experience.

Dr. Teng added that while the project has achieved its two major activities, namely: the country surveys on status of food reserves and stockpiles in SEA countries and this regional workshop. The way forward is its third activity—knowledge repository or publications.

He posed the greater challenge to the participants of translating the survey results and this workshop’s recommendations into policy briefs for their respective government ministers, and extracting shorter publishable reports, including one for the newspapers.

In closing the workshop, Dr. Burgos expressed SEARCA’s appreciation to the participants and resource persons for all the shared experiences, information, and ideas, which exceeded the organizers’ expectations.

The food reserves project team, jointly led by Dr. Teng and Dr. Burgos, and assisted by Ms. Bernice Anne C. Darvin, SEARCA Project Associate, coordinated the conduct of the regional workshop. Technical and administrative support were provided by Mr. Henry M. Custodio and Ms. Rochella B. Lapitan, SEARCA Program Specialist and Program Support Staff, respectively; and Ms. Blessie P. Saez, SEARCA Graduate Education and Institutional Development Associate. (SSLIIao)

## SEARCA hosts ASRF planning during ASEAN social forestry confab

CHIANG MAI, Thailand—SEARCA convened the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) Strategic Response Fund (ASRF) Program Steering Committee (PSC) here on 13 June at the sidelines of the 7th AWG-SF Conference held here on 12-14 June 2017.

SEARCA implements the small grants facility that is ASRF, which is a flexible funding mechanism for the government sector of ASEAN Member States (AMS). It is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

ASRF is designed to provide leaders and focal points on social forestry of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) with seed fund to enable them to respond to immediate needs or catalyze strategic actions to address emerging issues and opportunities.

### Charting the future

Chaired by Dr. Doris Capistrano, ASFCC Advisor, the PSC discussed plans for implementing the ASRF under the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) Phase 3 (2017-2020).

Others at the meeting were Mr. Orlando Panganiban, focal point for the Philippines; Mrs. Wilawan Wichienopparat and Dr. Komsan Ruengritsarakul, leader and focal point for Thailand; Mr. Juergen Blaser of SDC; Ms. Sagita Arhidani of the AWG-SF Secretariat; and Ms. Amy M. Lecciones and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos of the ASRF project.

The pilot phase of the ASRF commenced in April 2014 and operated for 35 months until February 2017. During the pilot phase, 19 projects were approved and implemented in eight AMS, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.



The ASRF PSC members and resource persons during the meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The ASRF under ASFCC Phase 3 is redesigned to make it more efficient and effective in responding to the needs of the AMS in the areas of food security, poverty alleviation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Other features of ASRF under ASFCC Phase 3 were presented in the meeting. One is support to ASEAN in developing policy frameworks and guidelines for cross-sectoral collaboration. Another is gap analysis on social forestry as basis for prioritizing the ASRF interventions. The third is drafting a business plan to transform ASRF into a self-sustaining grant making facility on social forestry to build on the experience from the pilot phase.

### Community forestry-based enterprises

Through its travel grants facility, SEARCA also supported the participation of Dr. Phyu Phyu Win, Assistant Director of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Policy and International Affairs at Myanmar's Ministry of Industry, in the 7th AWG-SF Conference. She presented a paper and served as moderator in the conference.

Titled "Promoting Productivity, Technology, and Innovation: Examples of Successful Community Forestry-based Enterprises in Myanmar," Dr. Win's paper gave an overview of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSME (ACCMSME) and the vision of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development 2016-2025 (SAP-SMED) to have globally competitive and innovative SMEs.

Dr. Win underscored the potential of social forestry (SF) as a mechanism to realize the goals and targets of SAP-SMED.

She also cited the best practices of Myanmar, which revolved around four key activities: nationwide greening of dry zones and forest landscape restoration, promotion of biodiversity, mangrove rehabilitation and coastal management, and reform strategy to boost private sector investments in social forestry/community forestry.

She shared that Myanmar's successful community forestry initiatives included innovations in value-adding for traditional products like Thanaka, bamboo, palm and toddy, coconut, plum and tamarind, and organic tea.

Over 200 participants from government, civil society organizations, development partners, the private sector, and academic institutions in ASEAN Member States (AMS) were in attendance. The conference was hosted by the Royal Forest Department of Thailand and co-organized by AWG-SF Secretariat and the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC).

This year's theme is "Social Forestry in Forest Landscape Restoration: Enabling Partnership and Investments for Sustainable Development Goals." (Reports from XGBCapiña/PPWin)

## ASEAN agri/ from page 3

Valuable inputs were also provided by representatives from the Farmers Union, Vietnam Poultry Association, Women's Union, Vietnam Standard and Consumers Association, Action Aids, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO), Asia Foundation, World Bank, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), French Agricultural Research Centre for

International Development (CIRAD), Helvetas, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

The focus of the national inception workshop was on how to strengthen the current value chains of Vietnam's high-potential products, including but not limited to, livestock, coffee, and cash crops.

The SEARCA team for Vietnam included Dr. Bessie M. Burgos and Mr. Henry M. Custodio, Program Head and Program Specialist at SEARCA's Research and Development Department, respectively; and Mr. Jimmy B. Williams, ATMI-ASEAN Project Support Unit Coordinator. (HMCustodio/BACDarvin)

## SEARCA Director joins Global Forum on Agriculture



assessment of the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in ASEAN. The results of the research work form part of the ASEAN-OECD project titled *Building Food Security and Managing Risk: A Focus on Southeast Asia*, which is the focus of this year's GFA.

The global forum tackled the issue on overconcentration on rice sufficiency in Southeast Asia.

According to Dr. Saguiguit, “the prescription of the forum is to diversify crops of smallholders and concentrate on high-value ones in which there is comparative advantage.

This will also make farming more profitable and arrest the tendency to move away from agriculture.”

Dr. Saguiguit noted that said consensus at the OECD forum discussions affirms SEARCA's focus on inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development (ISARD), value chains, and agribusiness, among others. (EGPandanan)

PARIS, France—Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., (inset and rightmost at far right row), SEARCA Director, joined high officials of national governments and development organizations from all over the world in the Global Forum on Agriculture (GFA) convened here by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 3 May 2017.

The annual forum is a venue for exchanges of views to address emerging agricultural policy issues as well as to evaluate and strengthen the process of policy and trade reform through forward-looking analysis.

Dr. Saguiguit's participation in the forum is related to the SEARCA-implemented OECD-commissioned research on the review and

## SEARCA hosts GNAM schools' field visit

SEARCA hosted a field visit of 17 graduate students from the Global Network for Advanced Management (GNAM) Schools on 14 June 2017. Their visit was part of a one-week course on ASEAN integration at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) based in Makati City. ASEAN stands for Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

With the students was the course facilitator Prof. Federico M. Macaranas of the AIM Washington SyCip Graduate School of Business. The course explored ways to harness and maximize available opportunities brought on by regional integration from the perspective of management science.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, received the delegation along with program officers and staff.

The highlight of the visit were discussions on global value chains and environmental issues in agriculture. Specifically, the group was briefed on two SEARCA research projects: Value Chain Analysis of Carabao and Carabao-based Products in the Philippines funded by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) and Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration in the ASEAN Region: Responding to Food Security and Inclusiveness Concerns (ATMI-ASEAN) funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). (Report from EGPandanan)



The AIM students and Prof. Federico M. Macaranas (front row, seventh from right) with Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, on his left, SEARCA program officers and staff, and Mr. Jimmy B. Williams (second row, second from right), Adjunct Professor and ATMI-ASEAN Project Support Unit Coordinator.

# Climate resilience and green growth in Mindanao pushed

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—The Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines and the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) called for the adoption of climate resilience and green growth approach for the development of Mindanao at the *Conference on Climate Resilience and Green Growth in Mindanao: Road Map to Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development* held on 9 May 2017 this city. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and a consortium of SEARCA supported the initiative.

The conference was supported by ADB and the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR)-funded project titled “Climate Resilience and Green Growth in Critical Watersheds,” which was implemented by CCC and commissioned to a consortium composed of SEARCA as lead organization, CTI Engineering Japan, Woodfields Consultants, Inc. (WCI), and ERGONS Project Management.

The joint statement read by the CCC Commissioner Noel Gaerlan, together with Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist ADB, and representatives of Secretary Abul Khayr Dangcal Alonto of MinDA and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, states that they shall “pursue holistic and integrated climate resilience and green growth road map, based on principles of ecosystems-based development planning, environmental protection, utilization of green and low emission technology, adaptive infrastructure development, consideration for women, children and indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities, and creation of livelihood options and green jobs to uplift the lives of our people in the Philippines in general and Mindanao in particular.”

Commissioner Gaerlan said “there is an urgency to approach local development planning at three fronts: climate and disaster risk preparedness, environmental stability and economic growth, in the light of the changing and worsening climatic



Seated from left: Mr. Roly Pinsoy of MinDA, Dr. Ancha Srinivasan of ADB, Mr. Abul Khayr Amalon Alonto II of MinDA, Commissioner Noel Gaerlan of CCC, Dr. Candido Cabrido of the SEARCA TA 8493 Team, and Ms. Araceli Dela Fuente of DENR; standing from left: Dr. Takayuki Hatano and Ms. Nellfor Jo Atienza of CTI, Mr. Julius Francisco of WCI, and Dr. Lope B. Santos III of SEARCA during the press conference held on 9 May 2017.

conditions, which are important ingredients in ‘building resilience’ thus saving lives.”

He further emphasized that “CCC is aggressively promoting risk- and science-based approach, convergence and integration of various government efforts towards development of climate-adjusted national and local development plans.”

Secretary Alonto, in his keynote speech delivered by MinDA Chief-of-Staff Abul Khayr Amalon Alonto II, emphasized that Mindanao as a food basket is threatened by the impact of climate change, that recent heavy flooding in several areas in Mindanao has claimed lives and properties and has become a serious concern to everyone.”

Alonto revealed that MinDA’s strategic priorities include climate change adaptation and mitigation, promotion of clean and green technologies, sustainable management of natural resources and critical ecosystems, and promote

public awareness and capacity building for environmental sustainability.”

Dr. Srinivasan noted in his opening remarks that “by integrating locally appropriate and gender-responsive climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in comprehensive land use and development plans, Mindanao and its LGUs can lead others in simultaneously addressing poverty and climate change and in achieving sustainable development goals by 2030.”

Dr. Saguiguit said in his message that “Mindanao has vast potentials for agro-industrial development, which can contribute to our nation’s food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation, however, these potentials are confronted with the adverse effects of climate change.”

He emphasized that “agriculture remains to be the driver of Mindanao’s development and a major backbone of the Philippine economy, and our best option against this challenge is to adapt and heighten the resiliency of agriculture to the effects of climate change.”



Delegates to the conference representing local government units, national government agencies, private sector, academe, nongovernmental and people’s organizations, and development partners.