ViCAARP Highlights

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2015

37 YEARS of MAKING USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN REBUILDING EASTERN VISAYAS

DR. OTHELLO B. CAPUNO

2015 PCAARRD *PANTAS*
Most Outstanding
Research Administrator Awardee

The official newsletter of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Program (ViCAARP)
Visayas State University, Visca, Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines

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About the **cover**

Dr. Othello B. Capuno garnered the prestigious award given by DOST-PCAARRDD. He was chosen as the 2015 PANTAS AWARDEE FOR MOST OUTSTANDING RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR. The awarding was held during the 4th year anniversary of PCAARRD on June 22, 2015 at the Philippine International Convention Center. He received a plaque of recognition, trophy and a cash prize amounting to PhP300,000.00.

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The Year of Changes: 2015

Called the Year of the Sheep in the Chinese calendar, 2015, is a lucky year for ViCAARP. It is not only the year when the Consortium director received in June 2015 the Pantas Award (Outstanding Research Administrator category) from DOST-PCAARRD, it is also the year of beautiful changes. These are the change of ViCARP's name into ViCAARP, which added Aquatic into the system. So, it is now Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Program (ViCAARP); and the change towards the end of the year of the host institution's leadership. Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, the president of the Visayas State University (VSU) ended his term in October and an outstanding scientist/researcher, Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin (the former VP for Instruction) took over as the new President and Chair of the ViCAARP Regional Research and Development Coordinating Council (RRDCC), starting in November 2015.

It is also the year when PCAARRD reengages with the country's R&D consortia, which means a renewed active support to all consortia from DOST-PCAARRD. A new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed during PCAARRD's anniversary celebration held on June 22, 2015 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

During the strategic planning workshop held in November in Los Baños, Laguna, new Industry Strategic Programs (ISPs) were added to each consortium. ViCAARP has additional three ISPs—bamboo, seashells and sago.

The Consortium members are happy to know that the new PCAARRD leadership believes that “the consortium is a potent mechanism to deliver the Council's deliverables based on its mandate and functions,” as emphasized by Dr. Edwin C. Villar in his keynote speech delivered during the ViCAARP-RRDEN Regional RDE Symposium on behalf of the new PCAARRD Executive Director. The Consortium concept which started in November 1978, for ViCAARP, has decentralized R and D management and empowered the regions. It has not only improved the capability of network members through R and D infrastructure development, it has also produced high-caliber scientists, and developed the “research culture” among the member agencies/institutions.

Now, it is not only the lead institution, VSU, that produces state-of-the-art technologies, ViCAARP members are also making their contributions toward “agrivolution.” Beautiful! Isn't it?

WOLFREDA T. ALESNA
VH Editor

VSU holds 26th Joint ViCARP-RRDEN Regional RDE Symposium

/Jesus Freddy M. Baldos

The 26th Joint ViCAARP-RRDEN Regional Research, Development and Extension Symposium was held on March 17, 2015 at the VSU Convention Hall. It was participated in by some 179 researchers and scientists from the different ViCAARP and RRDEN-member agencies in Eastern Visayas.

The participants were welcomed by Prof. Alan B. Loreto, VSU Executive Officer, on behalf of VSU President Jose L. Bacusmo who was attending the Regional Economic Development Committee Meeting in Tacloban City that day. Prof. Loreto shared to the participants his thoughts on what he learned from attending the Association of University Technology Managers in the United States of America as well as site visits to some leading universities in the US that would be relevant to what the researchers/scientists are doing. He relayed that the study tour that he attended, together with the other four participants from the Philippines, exposed him to study about technology commercialization done in the different universities in the US. He learned that the US researchers conduct research with engaging partners. "They don't do research just for the sake of doing research coming from the imagination of the researcher himself/herself," Prof. Loreto said.

The occasion was highlighted with a keynote speech delivered by Dr. Edwin C. Villar, Director of the Livestock Research Division of PCAARRD, for and on behalf of the new Executive Director of PCAARRD, Dr. Rey Ebora, who was on official travel in France attending an equally important function. He relayed that the new PCAARRD Executive Director used to be the Director of Biotech at UPLB and former Executive Director of then PCASTRD and now PCIERD, vice Dr. Patricio S. Faylon who chose to retire from government service.

Dr. Edwin C. Villar *(2nd from left),* keynote speaker, receiving a plaque of appreciation from Prof. Alan B. Loreto *(leftmost)*

In his message, Dr. Villar mentioned that Dr. Ebora has already laid out his platform of governance in R&D management which includes the revival of PCAARRD's active support and engagement with the consortia for he believes that the consortia are the potent mechanism to deliver the Council's deliverables based on its mandate and functions. "We will identify what are the specific PCAARRD expectations from the consortia and what they should deliver. We will also discern the benefits and costs to be derived from undertaking certain tasks and what

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Ribbon cutting of the paper and poter exhibits

Posters evaluators

Papers evaluators

From left to right: Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, Dr. Fe M. Gabunada, Dr. Rosario A. Salas, Dr. Felix M. Salas, and Dr. Othello B. Capuno

VSU researchers shine in the 26th Joint ViCAARP-RRDEN Reg'l Symposium

/Jesus Freddy M. Baldos

The papers of some VSU researchers bagged the major awards during the 26th Joint ViCARP-RRDEN Regional RDE Symposium held on March 17-18, 2015 at the VSU Convention Hall.

In the Search for the Outstanding RDE Project (Research Category), the paper of Dr. Fe M. Gabunada entitled "Supply Chain Improvement of Donkey's Ear Abalone (*Haliotis asinina*) in Eastern Visayas" was declared winner among the other eight best papers that were shortlisted for the competition. The paper of Dr. Gabunada and her colleagues: Alice Prieto-Carolino, Rowena Paz L. Gelvezon, Hanny John P. Mediodia, Ana Liza B. Recto, Fatima Roseli J. Sosmeña, and Cherry Pilapil-Añasco received a cash award of PhP10,000 and a plaque of recognition from the organizers—the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) and the Regional Research, Development and Extensions Network (RRDEN). As the regional winner, ViCARP shall endorse the paper to PCAARRD to compete in the National Symposium on Agriculture and Resources Research and Development (NSARRD).

In the Extension Category, the paper of VSU alumni who are now working at the Southern Leyte State University (Veronica L. Reoma, Nestor O. Morales, Tamar B. Mejia, Jr., Lieza Noelle Malinao, Dewoowoogen P. Baclayon, Prose Ivy G. Yepes) entitled "University School-On-Air (USOA) as a Vehicle for Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Development" was proclaimed winner and received a cash award of PhP10,000 and a plaque of recognition.

All the best papers that were presented during the symposium were also awarded each with PhP2,000 and a certificate of recognition.

On the other hand, the top five places for the Best R&D Poster were all grabbed by the VSU researchers. The VSU posters which won awards from among the 19 posters included: "Liquid Nutrient Formulations for High Value Vegetable Production" by Dr. Felix M. Salas and Dr. Rosario A. Salas, 1st Place (PhP5,000 plus Certificate of Recognition);

"Integrated Crop Management (ICM) to Enhance Vegetable Profitability and Food Security in the Southern Philippines" by Dr. Zenaida C. Gonzaga, Dr. Othello B. Capuno, Prof. Reny G. Gerona, Dr. Lucia M. Borines, Dr. Moises Neil V. Serenio, Mr. Hubert B. Dimabuyu, Ms. Rezel M. Sagarino, Ms. Bernardita I. Lauro, Ms. Glorybeth C. Castillo, Dr. Sandra Mcdougal and Dr. Gordon Rogers, 2nd Place (PhP4,000 plus Certificate of Recognition);

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PCAARRD's SUPPORT TO ViCAARP IS BACK

/Elmera Y. Bañoc

The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) revives its support to the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Program (ViCAARP) this year, 2015. This is to address the need to strengthen further such partnership to make Science and Technology development efforts more visible in the region and more appreciated by the policy-makers.

Dr. Edwin C. Villar, Director for Livestock Research Division of PCAARRD, formally announced as he graces the opening program of the 26th Regional RDE Symposium held last March 17-18, 2015 at the Convention Hall. He said that PCAARRD will revive and renew its engagement with the consortium. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing will be made in June 2015 during the PCAARRD's Anniversary with a theme "*Strengthening Partnership, Delivering Results*".

In his message, he further elaborated that Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebora, the new Acting Executive Director of PCAARRD, has laid out initially his platform of governance in Research and Development management which includes the revival of PCAARRD's active support and engagement with the consortia. Dr. Ebora believes that the consortium is a potent mechanism to deliver the Council's deliverables based on its mandate and functions. But certainly the engagement with the consortium will not be the business as usual type. "*We will identify particular tasks and specific management components which the Council can delegate to the Regional Consortia. For example, the consortium should include the conduct of a regional pest and disease/hazard surveillance as an added task including packaging programs on hazard mitigation and the crafting of a regional quick response mechanism*", he added.

Furthermore, he stressed that "*we will identify what are the specific PCAARRD expectations from the consortia and what they should deliver. We will also discern the benefits and costs to be derived from undertaking certain tasks and what are their relative importance for mainstreaming/ adoption purposes*".

PCAARRD's engagement with the consortium will be anchored on the Industry Strategic Programs based on the current 34 PCAARRD ISPs. It will look closely on the RDC regional priorities, the consortium member agency's current RDE agenda and the DOST's 8 Point Desired Outcomes.

There are more initiatives which PCAARRD had already put on the table citing their experiences in the recent past particularly on packaging programs and technology transfer.

With this initiative, VICAARP is set to bring more impact and change in the research and development scenario in Eastern Visayas.

The PCAARRD officials lead by Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebora revitalize and enhance its engagement with its regional partners. The RRDCC Chairs and Consortium Directors and FZC Representatives come up on stage after they have successfully signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

VSU hosts the Terminal Review of Jackfruit Regional R & D Program

/Elmera Y. Bañoc

Standing first row L-R: Mr. Allan B. Siano, ISP Manager for Jackfruit; Dr. Lorina A. Galvez, Head, Department of Food Science and Technology; Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna, DDC Professor; Dr. Lucy Borines, DPM Professor; Ms.Michelle Caparas, Staff ACD-DOST-PCAARRD. *Standing second row L-R:* Mr. Laureano U. Reyes, Staff CRD-DOST-PCAARRD; Dr. Othello B. Capuno, VP for Research and Extension; Dr. Calixtro M. Protacio, Director for Crop Science Cluster UPLB; Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, VSU President; Dr. Jocelyn E. Eusebio, Director for CRD-DOST-PCAARRD; Dr. Carlos S. dela Cruz, Jackfruit Program Leader from DA-RFO8; Dr. Ruben M. Gapasin, DPM Professor.

The Visayas State University (VSU) hosted the first terminal review of the Jackfruit Regional Research and Development Program which was held on May 22, 2015 at the OVPRE AV Room, VSU, ViSCA, Baybay City, Leyte.

Ten projects were successfully presented to the panel of evaluators from Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) to wit: Development of Baseline Data and GIS by Dr. Elvira C. Torres and Dr. Pastor P. Garcia; Supply Chain Improvement by Dr. Antonio P. Abamo; Integrated Pests Management by Dr. Ruben M. Gapasin; Nutrient Management and Fruit Load Regulations by Dr. Francisco T. Dayap; Jackfruit Processing by Dr. Roberta D. Lauzon; Technology Promotion by Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna; ACIAR-PCAARRD Tropical Tree Fruit Research by Dr. Othello B. Capuno; On-and Off-season Fruit Production by Dr. Dario P. Lina; STCBF on Jackfruit Production in Leyte by Ms. Hazel Grace T. Taganas and the Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Jackfruit Products through TechnoMart by Dr. Jose L. Bacusno.

The panel of evaluators was comprised of Dr. Calixtro M. Protacio, Director for Crop Science Cluster, UPLB and PCAARRD S & T Consultant; Dr. Jocelyn E. Eusebio, Director for CRD-DOST-PCAARRD; Mr. Allan B. Siano, ISP Manager for Jackfruit, CRD-DOST-PACAARRD; Mr. Laureano U. Reyes, Ms. Meliza Festero, and Ms. Michelle Caparas.

The terminal review is a mentoring exercise by peer and co-researchers in the Visayas State University (VSU), Department of Agriculture (DA8) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD). Furthermore, it aimed to assess the accomplishments of the different component projects vis-à-vis program objectives and Jackfruit Industry Strategic Programs targets.

After all the presentations, Mr. Allan B. Siano discussed and presented the remaining S & T gaps in the jackfruit technology chain which are viable basis for project proposal in the coming year to be funded by PCAARRD.

26th Joint...(continued from page 4)

what are its relative importance for mainstreaming/adoption purposes," Dr. Villar stressed.

Moreover, Dr. Villar said that PCAARRD's engagement with the consortia will be anchored on the Industry Strategic Programs (ISPs) based on the current 34 PCAARRD ISPs and will look closely on the RDC regional priorities, the consortium member-agency's current RDE agenda, and the DOST's 8-Point Desired Outcomes.

Villar added that PCAARRD will identify the consortium where the former members of the PCAMRD Fisheries Zonal Centers can affiliate and become members, if they are not yet part of the consortium, and work closely with the DOST's regional offices for effective delivery of the banner programs or outcomes

Dr. Villar further said that during the PCAARRD's anniversary in June, the occasion will be highlighted with the re-launching of the Consortia thru a MOA signing ceremony with the theme, "Strengthening Partnership, Delivering Results" and the announcement of winners of the "PANTAS" and "TANGLAW" awards in which there are nominees from ViCAARP.

Dr. Villar also posed a challenge to the researchers to ask themselves—"Where can my outputs contribute or make a dent to the globalized market?", "Are my research outputs enough to make 'earthshaking' contribution to the economy?" or "Are the outputs contributing merely to the publications (for recognition, promotion) which in many cases end up as such?" The speaker reminded the researchers that PCAARRD now puts premium on R&D that finds immediate application by the industry or farmers either resulting to productivity enhancement or cost reducing technologies.

He echoed what the former PCAARRD Executive Director William D. Dar said, that the four pillars to reshape Philippine Agriculture is to make it inclusive, science-based, resilient, and market-based.

He also expressed his appreciation to ViCAARP, the consortium that has shown consistency in terms of the delivery of quality research output...output that has brought to the fore the winning of several recognitions and awards. "*Output na naramdaman ni Juan*," Dr. Villar said.

> "*ViCAARP delivers output na naramdaman ni Juan-EC Villar*"

VSU Researchers (continued from page 5)

"Value Chain Assessment of Indigenous Rootcrops Products: The Case of Binagol and Sagmani in Leyte" by Mr. Marlon M. Tambis, Dr. Julieta R. Roa, Dr. Dilberto O. Ferraren, Dr. Ladie Anne G. Palermo and Engr. Raljie S. Managbanag, 3rd Place (PhP3,000 plus Certificate of Recognition);

"Processing of Jackfruit into High Value Food Products" by Dr. Roberta D. Lauzon, Dr. Felix J. Amestoso, Dr. Lorina A. Galvez and Mr. Dennis Antonio C. Varron, 4th Place (Php2,000 and Certificate of Recognition); and

"Improved Postharvest Management of Fruit and Vegetables in the Southern Philippines and Australia" by Dr. Marilou Benitez, Dr. Eutiquio Sudaria, Dr. Analita Salabao, Mr. Aljay Valida, Mr. Michael Adonis Sudaria, Ms. Fatima Rose Rivera, Dr. Antonio Acedo, Jr. and Dr. Jenny Ekman, 5th Place (PhP1,000 plus Certificate of Recognition).

The criteria used in selecting the Outstanding RDE Paper Award ([Socio-Economics] Research Category) were as follows: Generation of new knowledge or innovativeness – 40%, Methodology (adequacy and innovativeness) – 35%, Presentation (written and oral) – 15%, and Poster presentation – 10%; while for the Best RDE Poster, the following criteria were used: Clarity of message – 40%, Results of project/service – 30%, and Visual impact – 30%.

Researchers receive reward for published work, outstanding studies

Some 54 VSU researchers received cash incentives for their published articles in local and international scientific journals and books from 2011-2013.

Besides certificates of publication, researchers who published books and research articles in ISI-listed international journals were given P25,000. A P10,000 check was given to those who authored chapters in internationally-published books and P5,000 for book chapters published in the country. VSU researchers with articles published in non-ISI international journals received P7,000, and P5,000 was awarded for non-ISI national journal articles.

Some 11 main authors received the highest incentive during the awarding ceremonies, March 6, at the PhilRootcrops Training Hall. These authors have published in journals such as The Philippine Journal of Crop Science, Journal of Natural Fibers, Small-Scale Forestry, Elsevier-published Industrial Crops and Products, The Asia-Pacific Education Research, among other journals. Some of these researches have impact factor rating up to 3. Impact factor reflects the average number of citations to the articles published in a journal.

Meanwhile, the study Development of dairy food products from carabao's milk by food technologists Dr. Roberta Lauzon and Ivy Emnace was adjudged Best Completed Research during the 2015 Research and Development and Extension Level II Cluster Review. Dr. Fe Gabunada's paper Supply chain improvement of Donkey's Ear Abalone in Eastern Visayas got the second place while the study Development of a twinning machine for the production of a 1-mm diameter of abaca twine by Engr. Feliciano G. Sinon landed third. Recognized researchers were given certificates and a chance to compete in the 26th Regional RDE Symposium on

Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, VP for Instruction, encourages and challenges the researchers to be more competitive especially with the ASEAN integration in the pipeline

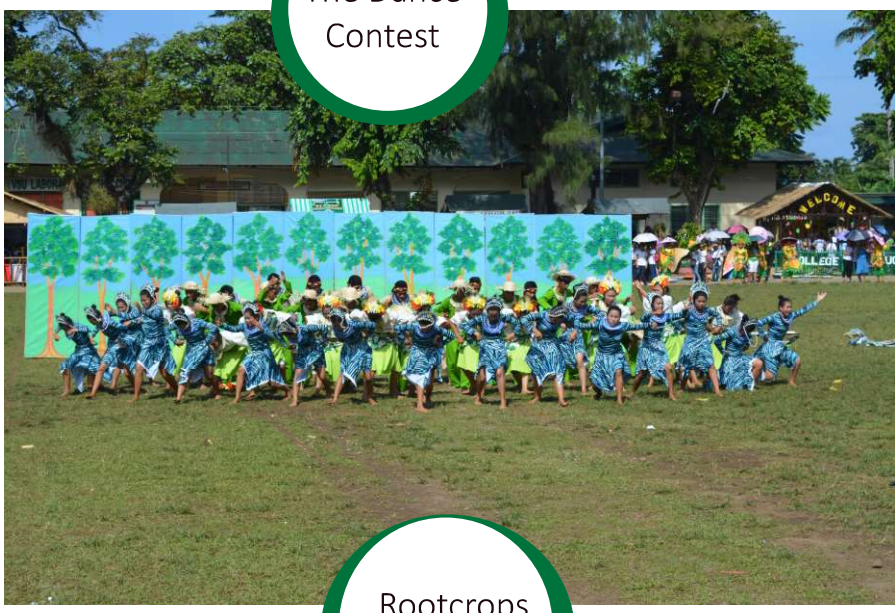
The Best Ongoing Research award was given to the team from the Food Science and Technology and Business Management departments led by Dr. Roberta Lauzon for their project on processing jackfruit into high-value food products. Dr. Marlito M. Bande's project on upscaling rainforestation technology in the Philippines was recognized as the Best Extension Project.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, a Presidential Lingkod Bayan Awardee last year for his research accomplishments, said that while the publication incentive provides motivation to researchers, the ultimate purpose is really to encourage sharing with people who need the results. The Vice President for Instruction challenged researchers to be more competitive especially with the ASEAN Integration in the pipeline. Tulin also said this amount of published articles is a huge leap from the number of publications in the previous years in VSU.

ROOTCROPS FESTIVAL 2015

One of the highlights of the 91st Visayas State University (VSU) Anniversary Celebration was the Rootcrops Festival. Guests and visitors happily participated in all the activities sponsored by the PhilRootcrops. These were: dance contest, cooking contest, poster making contest, group singing contest, and essay writing contest. Several products from rootcrops were aesthetically displayed at their booth and were shared to interested guests and visitors.

The Dance Contest



Rootcrops Rock

Fiesta Theme:

"Rootcrop Innovations for Health and Inclusive Growth"

TM JACKFRUIT TRAININGS

Training on Vacuum Fried and Dehydrated Jackfruit Processing

Training on Jackfruit Pastillas and Tart Making

The project entitled "*Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Jackfruits Products in Leyte through TechnoMart*" headed by Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo sponsored several trainings. These were participated in by stakeholders and farmers from 5 municipalities identified as partners/beneficiaries of the project, namely; Javier, Abuyog, Mahaplag, Baybay and Inopacan, Leyte.

ViCAARP Secretariat Staff and training participants

Training on Simple Bookkeeping, Costing and Pricing

Signing of Marketing Agreement

A good story to tell:

The 2015 Pantas Awardee—Dr. Othello B. Capuno

/Mike Laurence V. Lumen- DDC Senior Student and Elmera Y. Banoc

"Nothing worth having comes easy".—Anon.

This adage may hold true to the lives of many, especially to the successful ones. But how do you measure it?

Many would measure success by money. Some people would say success comes with power. But many would disagree. I, in my opinion, would have to say that success only depends on how people see it based on their experience. When setting goals, we personally identify what success means to us personally so that when it comes, we will know it.

Talking about a successful man, the Visayas State University has a lot of them. One of whom is Dr. Othello B. Capuno, the VP for Research and Extension.

How busy Dr. Capuno is as VP for R & E? If you think it's easy to be a VP at VSU, well, I would say it's not.

One of his functions as VP for R & E is to spearhead the university's RDE strategic program planning, policy studies and formulation. He exercises general supervision, coordination and monitoring in the implementation of the university's research, development and extension (RDE) programs. Also, he supervises and ensures functionality of outputs of the different technical support units for RDE and spearheads the packaging and dissemination of the university's RDE program/project proposals for interagency collaboration/partnership. Aside from that, he, too, forges, strengthens, and sustains RDE intra and interagency linkages.

How successful he is despite of all of his duties and responsibilities? Well, one of the successes he attained was when he was hailed as Pantas Awardee for Most Outstanding Research Administrator

by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD). They bestowed the award during the PCAARRD Awarding Ceremonies on June 22, 2015 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The Pantas Award was given to Dr. Capuno for his outstanding accomplishments in the following areas: resources generated and mobilized for R&D in the past five years; agency output generated for the past five years; linkages forged through memorandum of agreements; trainings/workshops conducted/organized locally, nationally and internationally over the past five years; human resource development and management;

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A good story ...(continued from page 12)

innovations and new systems/initiatives introduced that enhanced the effectiveness of the agency; awards received as administrator, and length of service as administrator.

This is just one of the handful awards that Dr. Capuno received. But how were his beginnings before he became what he is now?

"Sir Othee", as Dr. Capuno is fondly called, graduated as cum laude in the then Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA) now VSU, taking up BS in Agriculture, major in Agronomy. After he finished his baccalaureate degree in 1977, he took his Master's Degree in Agronomy (Plant Breeding) at the University of the Philippines Los Baños starting in June 1978 and finished it in 1981. Five years after, he completed his PhD in Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics at the Iowa State University, USA.

Dr. Capuno, aside from being a VP, is also a Professor of Plant Breeding and Program Director of the Philippine Higher Education Research Network (PHERNet), Philippine Project Coordinator of ACIAR Horticulture Project program and ViCARP's Consortium Director. Can you imagine how busy he is for handling lots of positions but still manage to do research and trainings? No wonder he received different prestigious awards.

What awards am I talking about?

In 2012, Dr. Capuno, together with other study leaders, won the Outstanding Development Project and Best Paper for a research entitled Development of Cost-Effective Protected Vegetable Cropping System in the Philippines. He, together with the study leaders, had also won the Best Poster Paper on Protected Vegetable Cropping: Heaven Sent, during the ACIAR-PCAARRD Fruits and Vegetables Programs in the Southern Philippines Review. He also received a Plaque of Recognition from PCAARRD and certificate of recognitions also from PCAARRD and from the then VSU Radio Station DYAC. Certificates of Appreciation were also given to him from different award-giving bodies like Tau Gama MU Fraternity, Local Government Unit and from the Provincial Agriculturist of Cebu.

He was also awarded as Outstanding Carmenanon in the Field of Agriculture in 1993.

His latest award received was the Pantas Award for Most Outstanding Research Administrator.

"If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse," Dr. Capuno said.

Dr. Capuno surely finds ways to do his jobs. He never quits. He always gives it a try when time and health allows. He may be working hard in silence, but he lets his success be his noise.

When asked what he felt about his achievements over the years, he said, "I'm extremely happy because at least my efforts have paid off and been recognized. I am inspired and motivated to do more research and administration-related works. Hard work is important and so is the power of prayer". Hard work and prayer, for me, are the formula to success, the 2015 PCAARRD Pantas Awardee pointed out.

> *"Hard work and prayer, for me, are the formula to success-Dr. Capuno"*

Celebrating the back-to-back success

Article and Photo Credit:
Irish Jane Calungsod and Prince Darius Lina

In his eight years of shared stewardship of the great institution, he mentioned in his address the accomplishments as well as the promises he made in his previous speeches. He enumerated the different accomplishments his administration has done for eight years. He even asked the students and the faculty and staff if they could remember those promises. He jokingly said, "I myself could hardly remember."

Now, looking back, in an exclusive interview with Sir Joe, the man behind the desk for eight years, he confesses of what it was like to be a president. He said that VSU has grown a lot in the past eight years.

In his speech, he recalled and evaluated the university whether it has propelled to greater heights from 2007- when his stewardship began, to 2015- when his stewardship ended. Base on the facts and figures Dr. Bacusmo presented, the university has experienced progress in different areas, such as: increased enrollment, improvement of branch campuses, more infrastructures, increased number of scholarship grants, increased annual government appropriation, acquisition of a number of academic positions, awards received each year and many others to count.

"But all of the accomplishments and improvements were because of the people, faculty, staff and students. All of them helped achieve all of these," Sir Joe said. He wished to thank the people who gave their support during his term, those who contributed to the improvements in VSU.

It was also Sir Joe's term that there were emerging complaints in the offices for serving without smiling or showing grumpy faces. And so, the term "Service with a smile" was born. "We should serve with a smile because our students are our primary customers. So, we should serve our customers with a smile," Sir Joe explained. Indeed, it was effective.

When asked about the most difficult decision he had made as a president he answered, "For the decisions, it was a joyful ride. There was no difficult decision for me." There may be oppositions during his administration but he saw it as beneficial for it made them more careful in their moves.

It was also noted that some were emotional in his last Convocation Address. He never meant and expected it to be that way. "I am not leaving the university. For me, presidency is just another assignment that I worked for. There's not much sadness in my heart to leave this position. This is just the position as a chief steward", Sir Joe said.

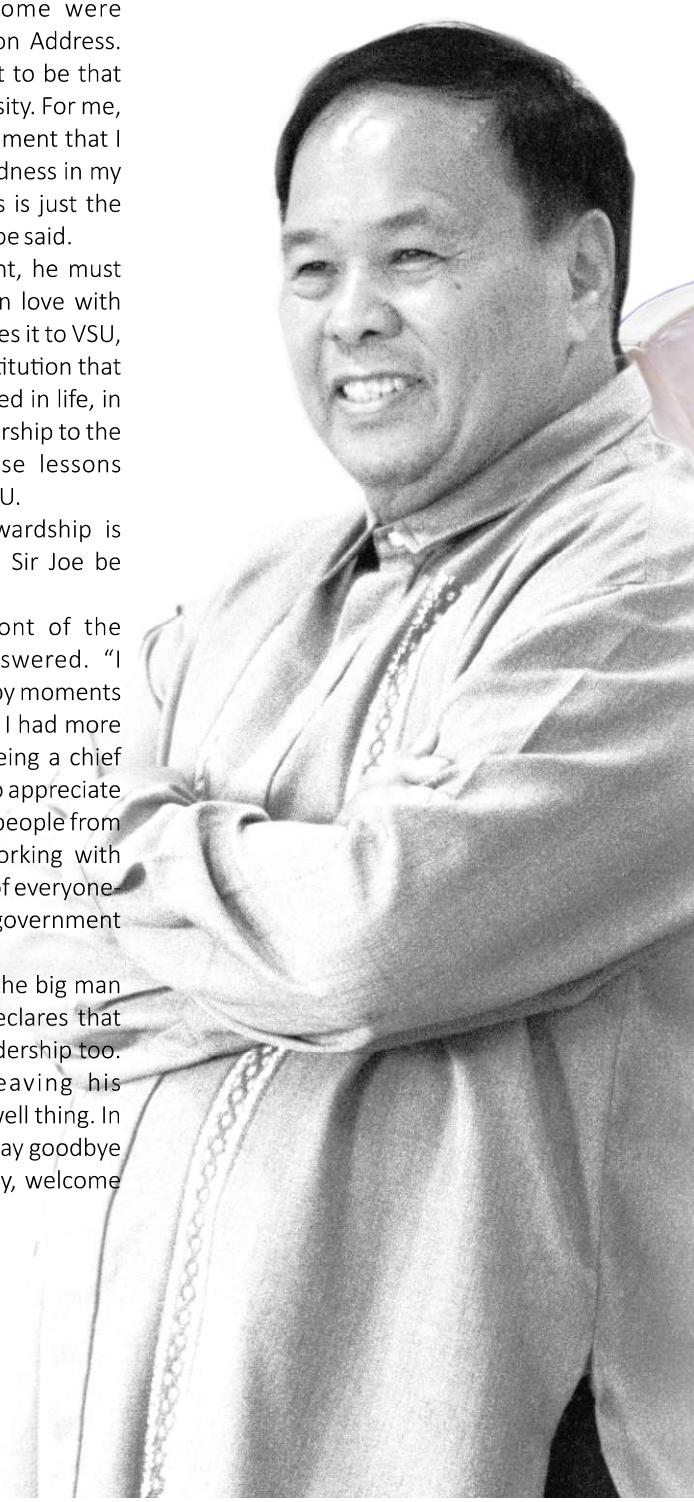
Based on Sir Joe's statement, he must have loved VSU. Indeed, he is in love with VSU. What he is right now, he owes it to VSU, his beloved alma matter- the institution that gave him opportunities to succeed in life, in his career. He also owes his leadership to the previous administrations whose lessons became his guide in governing VSU.

Eight years of shared stewardship is quite long and what things will Sir Joe be missing?

"The power to sing in front of the students," Sir Joe happily answered. "I probably be reminiscing the happy moments I had. Meeting a lot of students. I had more interactions, I am very happy being a chief steward because I learned how to appreciate what people do. I've met a lot of people from other universities. I enjoyed working with people, teamwork, and support of everyone- in the community, and the local government units," he added.

He may have missed being the big man behind the desk, but he also declares that stepping down is part of the leadership too. For Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, leaving his presidency is not more of a farewell thing. In his last words he said, "So don't say goodbye for I will still be here, instead say, welcome back Joe to where you belong!"

Infact, he is still the Big Man working at ViCAARP as Research and Development Cluster Coordinator (RDCC). The passion to serve continues as he performs his main task to assist the consortium director in the formulation of short, medium and long term regional research and development plans.



and welcoming great responsibilities

The Big Man of VSU has served his term as President and ViCAARP-RRDCC Chairperson for a good eight years. He has now stepped down, and turned over the chair to the former Vice-President for Instruction, Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin.

It would not be surprising if you aren't familiar with, 'the sixth president of VSU'. He hasn't exactly been singing along with the students very often. However, you will find that this man also has some equally interesting things about himself.

Dr. Tulin was a graduate of VSU. Yes, he enjoyed daily treks to the mountains just like us. He majored in Agricultural Chemistry, and pursued a career in research. He finished his Master's Degree in the University College of London in 1984. And in 1993, he earned his PhD in Bioreaction Engineering at the Nagoya University in Japan. He has since then acquired an impressive and extensive track record.

Dr. Tulin is a multi-awarded researcher. He currently has two patents to his name, along with seven international awards, 19 national awards, and 23 regional/institutional awards. It would be considerably tiring to enumerate all of them. But, let's take into consideration that among those awards are:

'The Visayas State University's Exemplary Academician Award, 2007'

'The Eduardo Quisumbing Medal for Outstanding R & D Award for Basic Research, 2007'

'The 2008 Norman Borlaug Fellow for Agricultural Biotechnology of the United States Department of Agriculture' (Dr. Tulin was the first Filipino to receive this)

'The 2009 PNHRS National Mentor Award for Health Research' (Dr. Tulin was the first National awardee)

'First placer for PCAARRD Outstanding Basic Research in 2006, 2008, and 2011' (Ye, Thrice!)

'The 2014 Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award' (The highest award attainable by a government official of the country).

Service-wise, Dr. Tulin has also been instrumental in the operations of the university. He has served as the Vice-President for Planning and Resource Generation from 2009-2013, and as the Vice-President for Instruction from 2014-2015.

Dr. Tulin is also well-loved as an instructor among his students. His undergraduate thesis advisees have constantly produced papers that earned various awards. Notable of which are the Phi Delta Honor Society's Outstanding Thesis Awards for Basic and Applied Research from 2003-2006, and 2008-2011. He has not, however, limited his expertise into the college level only. Dr. Tulin has also produced award-winning research advisees in the high school and elementary level. This only shows that his passion for teaching extends far beyond his office.

I suppose this is why our former president has so much confidence in him. While it is true that awards are not the sole measure for effective leadership, these things show that the man in our Administration office is someone competent and capable. For the next years, the stewardship of our beloved university rests on the shoulders of one Edgardo E. Tulin. In him we have the highest of hopes.

There are more challenges ahead for the new VSU President and ViCAARP-RRDCC Chair. With his brand of leadership though and with his charm and gentle way of dealing with people, he will never be alone in the road towards the fulfillment of the institution's vision, mission and goal.

A Soil-less Culture for Growing Crops

/Marelie O. Dacera

Are you tired of pulling out those weeds and practice dirty, and muddy cultivation of crops? Worry no more! Because you can now cultivate your crops in a soil-less way through Hydroponics.

Hydroponics is a technology for growing plants in nutrient solutions that supply all nutrient elements needed for optimum plant growth with or without the use of an inert medium such as gravel, vermiculite, rock wool, peat moss, saw dust, coconut fibre to provide mechanical support. Hydroponics is a technology of soil-less culture for growing crops.

There are many reasons why hydroponics is much better in growing crops than on a conventional way. Through hydroponics, some of the problems experienced in conventional growing of crops can be reduced. These are the presence of disease-causing organisms and nematodes, unsuitable soil reaction, unfavourable soil compaction, poor drainage, degradation of nutrients due to erosion, continuous cultivation of crops resulting to poor soil fertility, poor crop yield and quality, involves large space, lot of labour and large volume of water. Hydroponics technology also offers opportunities to provide optimal conditions for plant growth, also offers a means of control over soil-borne diseases and pests, enhances a clean working environment, and hiring labour is easy.

For the mean time, there are specific crops which can be grown in hydroponics that are suitable in your garden, such as: lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.), pakchoi (*Brasica rapa var chinensis*), kale (*Brassica oleracea*), pechay (*Brassica rapa*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), sweet pepper (*Capsicum annuum*), and cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*).

There are two types of hydroponics, the Liquid System and the Aggregate System. In Liquid Hydroponic System, the roots of the plant are bathed directly in the nutrient solution and there is no supporting medium for them. One example of liquid hydroponic is the Nutrient Film Technique (NFT). On the other hand, Aggregate System utilizes a particulate material which provides support for the roots. Some of the aggregates that have been used as medium for hydroponics are volcanic cinders, perlite, vermiculite, rock wool, coarse sand, and coco-coir dust.

In making your own hydroponic, you will need the following materials: Styrofoam cups (8 Oz capacity), nutrient solution, growing Styrofoam boxes, benches or stand, rain shelter, and plastic drum.

Now, here are simple ways in making Hydroponic. Arrange the growing boxes on the bench under the shelter then take off the cover/lid. Next, fill each growing box with around 4-liters of nutrient solution then put back the cover of the box. Place the seedling plugs on the holes of the cover. See to it that all cups are "inserted" uniformly or level from one another and also see to it that the bottom of the box is touching the nutrient solution at most 1 inch deep, not any deeper. If not, add more water until the desired level is reached. Examine the boxes for leaks and make some troubleshooting.

Visit the set-up every morning as early as you can to catch any insect larva that may eat the plants. Expect the nutrient solution level to go down when the plants are much bigger than they were still seedlings. Replenish the solution when more than one inch from the cup bottom has been depleted. NEVER allow the level of the solution to reach the bottom of the cup. Replenish until the ½ inch below the cup's bottom.

It is more practical to prepare the nutrient solution in a drum and then just distribute the prepared solution to each growing box and then leftover solution for replenishing.

Hydroponics is an open system, wherein the nutrient solution that is delivered to the plant roots is not re-used. To conserve, the Department of Horticulture headed by Rosario A. Salas in the Visayas State University, developed the Re-circulating Aggregate Hydroponic System (RCAHS), a simple system which is provided with a mechanism for recycling of nutrient solution. RCAHS is a system that consist of G.I. sheets (30 cm wide, 2.2 m long, and 10 cm deep). It has pans that are lined with plastic sheet. Pans are filled with aggregates consisting of two parts coarse sand and one part coco coir dust. The nutrient solution is delivered from a plastic drum by gravity to the aggregates through a system of PVC pipes provided with a small holes. Seedlings are planted into the aggregates in the pan. Each of the pan is provided with a hole where excess solution drains into a container then recycled manually back into the drum.

See? There's always a solution for everything! It is not impossible to plant without using any soil. Through hydroponics, your yield will be cleaner, greener, and easier!

Research Credit:
Dr. Zenaida C. Gonzaga, et.al
Department of Horticulture

Extinction of our Timber Trees: how we can make an action?

/Joramay Morales

Biodiversity conservation particularly on trees is for economic and environmental reasons. Eversince, trees provide quality timber and other forest products necessary for our country's economic development. Because of over-exploitation, important trees are now threatened and vulnerable to extinction due to natural and human interferences. But how can we ensure the conservation and preservation of these trees especially timbers?

Important timber trees such as dipterocarps, premium hard woods and other commercially important non-dipterocarps species are used for many purposes. They may be used for building houses, electric posts, etc.

The scarcity of some important species particularly the bigger diameter affected the planting material needs in nursery growers all over the country. In fact, with the implementation of the National Greening Program (NGP), the need for seeds to produce high quality planting materials is also affected. Seeds coming from phenotypically superior mother trees are highly needed for an increase survival and to improve growth.

A project led by the group of Dr. Antonio N. Polinar, from the Visayas State University (VSU) entitled, "Phenological Studies on Important Timber Tree Species in Mount Pangasugan", has been continually studying important timber tree species for identification and mapping of the best phenotypic ally superior mother trees found in Mount Pangasugan.

Phenological studies on timber tree species are rarely conducted due to technical and financial constraints. Hence, their study was conducted to locate and identify the potential trees of important species in Mt. Pangasugan and describe the phenotypic and phonological characteristics of identified mother trees.

According to Dr. Polinar, one of their goals for the study is to collect and maintain herbarium specimen of identified mother trees.

As part of the project implementation, the College of Forestry and Environmental Sciences' (CFES) herbarium room and its specimens are maintained. Schedule of cleaning were maintained to monitor the condition of stocked herbarium specimens.

Initially, before the project was implemented, the monitoring of the flowering and fruiting of some timber trees like toog, narra, antipolo, kalumpit and banuyo were noticed that they have recovered earlier from the Typhoon Yolanda while some others, as observed, are still recuperating from stress. However, few months after it was observed, some trees are now on flowering state.

The implementation of the project gave a number of significant contributions to the information requirement needs of nursery growers, academe, NGO's, PO's and other individuals in the region.

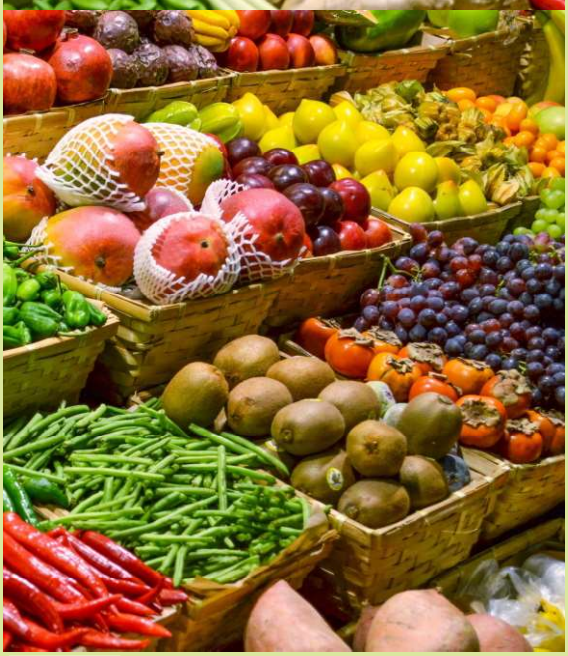
Protection and conservation of the mother trees could be a challenge for those growing in the natural forest. Illegal loggers usually choose the largest and best-formed trees both of which are characteristics of superior mother trees. There should also be marks and tags attach to these trees to deter timber poachers from cutting them down, a more effective and sustainable approach to apply. For example, a community-based mother tree protection approach could be adopted in which locals will be highly involved in protecting the mother trees in their respective communities.

Our future depends upon our human interferences. So, as earlier as possible, let us conserve our trees for the sake of humanity. We should learn to treat them as an asset and, later, we will realize appreciation not depreciation. We need to be responsible in managing our own natural resources because we are nothing without them. It is a natural material available in limited amount. So, how about you? How can you preserve our trees in your own little way?

Research Credit:
Dr. Antonio N. Polinar, et.al
College of Forestry and Environmental Sciences

Safe coatings as Shelf-life Enhancers

/Chresterdel R. Derecho



Having problems with your fruit and vegetable's short storage life? Worry no more, especially for our farmers who experienced great loss in their income because of their harvested fruits and vegetable's high perishability rate.

Here's a good news that will actually solve that problem. A study conducted by Felix M. Salas, Rosario A. Salas, Vivian N. Pole and Marcelo A. Quevedo, researchers of the Visayas State University in Visca, Baybay City, Leyte revealed that phytochemical extracts coated in some fruits and vegetables during storage helps enhance its free radical scavenging activity (FRSA) and can prolong its shelf-life.

Phytochemicals are chemical compounds (as beta carotene) that occurs naturally in plants. The phytochemicals extracts were derived from the cat's whiskers (Orthosiphon aristatus (Blume) L), hagimit (Ficus minahasse Miq.) and turmeric (Curcuma longa L.). The phytochemicals of these sources were extracted using a distilled water, ethanol and acetic acid solvents through a method called percolation. Its concentration as coating solutions was set at 1% and the fruits and vegetables were coated at a dipping time of 1 minute only. The researchers also determined the FRSA of the samples using a 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazil (DPPH) assay with Trolox as standard. They used uvvis spectrophotometer as the instrument for FRSA analysis.

We all know that high perishable harvest will affect the marketability and the profitability to all our farmers and to the fruit and vegetable industries. To answer this problem, the researchers evaluated the shelf-life of the coated vegetables and found out that the ethanolic cat's whiskers and the ethanolic hagimit extracts improved and increased the storage life of the bitter gourd for 7.5 days and 7 days, respectively. The hagimit extract also extended the storage life of the muskmelon (Cucumis melo) of the gourd family for 10 days at ambient condition.

The process starts with the harvesting and the collection of the vegetables and fruits that will be used as sample products for the study. The samples are then coated with phytochemical extracts and then followed by the evaluation of its shelf-life. The FRSA of each sample products are also evaluated for the data to be analyzed thereafter.

The result of the study implies that the significant difference of the shelf-life of the coated products will be a great help to all our farmers as it reduces possible loss to their profit. The study also revealed that the free radical scavenging activity of freshly harvested bitter gourd that is usually lost upon storage was gradually reduced with the use of the phytochemical coatings.

The free radical scavenging components of fruits and vegetables must be preserved during storage because it plays an important role as a health protecting factor. The researchers pointed out that the application of the phytochemical extracts in fruits and vegetables as coating solution is safe and will not do harm to human health. They ensure that the treated products would still be fit for human consumption.

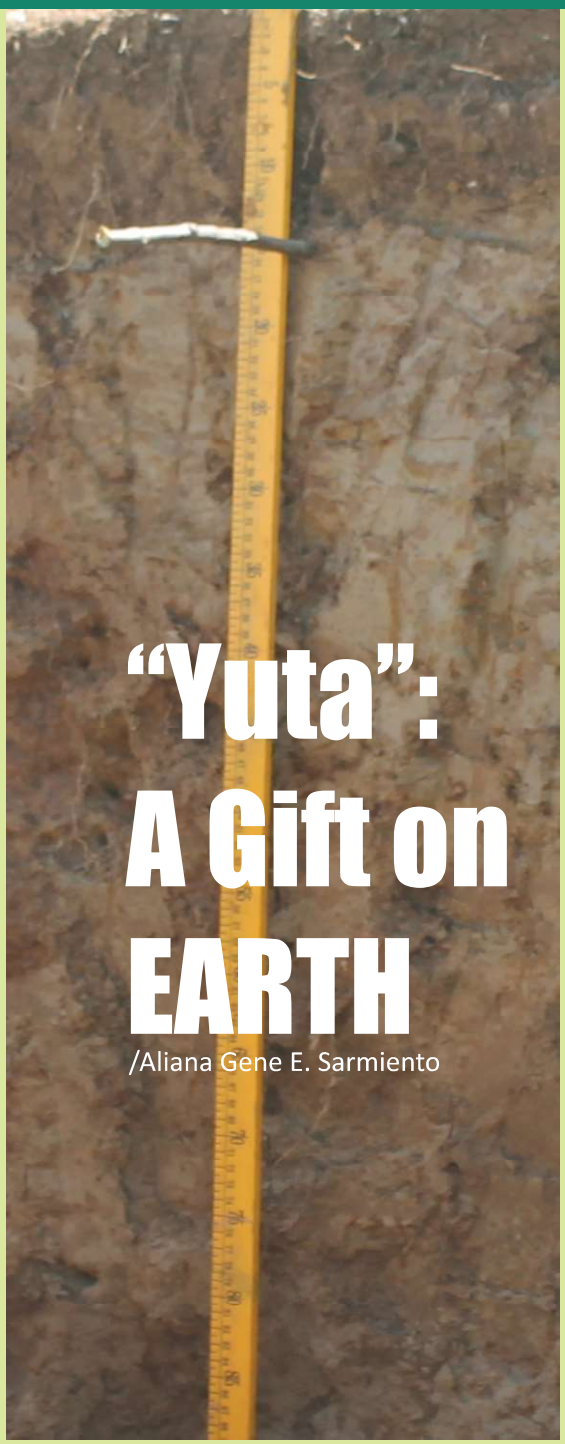
The researchers of the study recommend the evaluation of other plants with potentials of enhancing the shelf-life and maintaining the free radical scavenging activity (FRSA) of fruits and vegetables through its phytochemical extracts. They also recommend assessing the shelf-life of other high perishable vegetables using the same phytochemical extracts and lastly they recommend the estimation of the maximum free radical scavenging activity of the bitter gourd fruits coated with phytochemical extracts during storage.

Isn't it amazing? Instead of worrying on rotten fruits and veggies, you can just sit in your dining area, stress-free and enjoy a safe, fresh and healthy food serve in your tables. This is a great saving to all our farmers who suffered great loss before due to high perishable goods. Prolonged products shelf-life means high profit. Now is the right time to apply these safe coatings that will enhance your fruits and vegetables storage life.

Research Credit:
Dr. Felix A. Salas, et.al.
Department of Horticulture

"Yuta": A Gift on EARTH

/Aliana Gene E. Sarmiento



Do you ever wonder what the soil is made of? Have you considered knowing about the soil before utilizing it? I guess not every one of us is knowledgeable on testing the soil before its use. That is why soil degradation and ecological problems occur because knowing soil characteristics is always taken for granted.

Soil is one of the most important things on earth that keeps us alive. It is where we plant and grow our trees and vegetation for food; where we pasture our livestock animals and where we build our houses and other infrastructures. It is also where we walk and take every step of life, no matter how stony or perfect the path is. Thus, the late Franklin D. Roosevelt is right when he said that *"When we, the nation destroy our soil, we destroy ourselves."*

To promote the importance of understanding basically the components of the soil, Dr. Maria Katrina Piamonte, Dr. Victor B. Asio and Dr. Suzette B. Lina from the Department of Agronomy and Soil Science at the Visayas State University conducted a study on the morpho-physical and chemical characteristics of strongly weathered soils in Silago, Southern Leyte, Philippines.

The study found out that previous researches like Barrera's in 1954 and Simon's in 1975 were still the only major sources of soil information which classified Philippine soils into soil series and types. This means that past studies focused more on crop production and fertilization in relation to soil cultivation rather than the soil characteristics for its proper utilization. The researchers emphasized that the failure of low crop yield and reforestation projects is due to improper soil management. The improper use is attributed to poor understanding of the soils.

The town of Silago is located in the province of Southern Leyte in the region of Eastern Visayas. It has large mountainous areas which are considered as biodiversity hotspots. The province is one of the six provinces in Region VIII bounded by the province of Leyte to the north, by Surigao Strait to the east, Bohol Sea to the south, and Canigao Channel, across from Bohol, to the west. It covers one-fourth of the island of Leyte with its total land area of 1,734.8 sq. km., characterized by flat lands along the coastal areas and mountainous toward the interior.

Among the findings of the study is that the Silago area is composed of central highland volcanic rock formation of Miocene age consisting of andesite and basalt, with pyroclastic materials. The province has two types of climates according to Corona's Classification: Type II and Type IV. The first type is characterized by very wet season from November to January. This type prevails in the study site in Silago. The seven sites in the different villages in Silago are well drained and considered as secondary forests. The soil profiles possess Ah-Bw-Bt-C sequence of horizons. This type of horizon may be due to deep weathering caused by eroded soil materials. Fine coarse roots can be found on the surface horizons but can no longer be observed in the lower portion and most of the horizons also show a clear smooth boundary.

Results show that the soils are prone to liquid movement at this indicated water content, which can happen during heavy storms. Also, most of the soils have high cavity clay with either montmorillonite or mixed mineralogy. All soils have negative pH indicating that the soil colloids have net negative charge and they possess cat ion exchange capacity. Results revealed that organic materials are high in the upper horizons. The studied soils have colors ranging from yellowish brown to yellowish red.

Land use like logging and shifting cultivations replaced the original forest in the area. Local inhabitants do intensive cultivation and farming that trigger changes to natural vegetation and lead to resource degradation. In addition, the heavy rainfall, high temperature and steep slope gradients increase the erosion of topsoil, leading to low soil fertility. The residents should be aware of the harms of the soil's over use. This study wants the policy makers to guard and promote the importance of the soil in the locality and let every farmer and resident be aware that, aside from climate change, our irresponsible activities and lack of knowledge make us responsible for soil degradation.

Research Credit:
Dr. Victor B. Asio, et.al.
Department of Soil Science

So, let's give a twist to Roosevelt's quote by saying it this way: *The nation that gives importance to its soil, builds itself for the better.* Our development will always start by giving importance to the place we live in. By appreciating the existence and the use of our soil, we will be able to sustain the environment for the future generations. Let's be aware and act for our soil. Make yourselves responsible dwellers.

VSU researchers win outstanding RDE paper and poster

Dr. Lucia M. Borines *(2nd from left)* with Ms. Lady Fatima G. Palermo, receive the award on Best RDE Paper in behalf of Dr. Erlinda A. Vasquez. With them are (L-R) Dr. Othello B. Capuno, ViCAARP Director and Dr. Elvira C. Torres, RTD for Research and Regulations, DA-RFO8.

Ms. Zenaida T. Ecleo (*center*) together with Ms. Clarisse Mariel D. Poliquit, and Ms. Jojane D. Atok receive the award for Best RDE Poster in behalf of Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin. With them are (L-R) Dr. Othello B. Capuno, ViCAARP Director and Dr. Elvira C. Torres, RTD for Research and Regulations, DA-RFO8.

The paper on "Management of Cassava Phytoplasma Disease (CPD): Survey, Diagnosis, Characterization and Control" by Dr. Erlinda A. Vasquez, Dr. Lucia M. Borines, Prof. Algerico Mariscal, Dr. Andrea Inocencio, Mr. Danilo Dannug, Resa M. Dacera, Lady Fatima G. Palermo, and Mr. Ricardo A. Maranguit, won the Outstanding RDE Research Paper during the 27th Joint ViCAARP-RRDEN Regional RDE Symposium held on December 3-4, 2015 at the Sabin Resort Hotel, Ormoc City. They received a cash award of Php10,000 and a plaque of recognition.

The study aimed to do mapping on the incidence of CPD for the implementation of strict quarantine, develop a protocol on the detection, diagnosis and identification of cassava phytoplasma, and find out antibiotics that can effectively control phytoplasma and resistance inducers to fight against phytoplasma.

Moreover, the study on "Molecular Discovery Project from Selected Philippine Indigenous Medicinal Plants for Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus" by Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, Dr. Anabella B. Tulin, Prof. Ma. Teresa P. Loreto, Dr. Beatriz S. Belonias, Ms. Clarisse Mariel D. Poliquit, Ms. Zenaida T. Ecleo and Ms. Jojane D. Atok, bagged the Outstanding RDE Poster. They received a cash price of PhP5,000 and a certificate of recognition.

Under the 2015 guidelines, the outstanding paper is selected from each of the three categories – research, development and extension with a rating of at least 96%. ###*Sheila Marie C. Lemos*

REGIONAL RDE SYMPOSIUM

Dr. William D. Dar delivers his keynote speech

Dr. William D. Dar cuts the ribbon to open the poster exhibit

ViCAARP-RRDEN Member Agencies

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VSU, Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin-President, RRDCC Chairman
DA-BAR, Dir. Nicomedes P. Eleazar-Director
DA-ATI, Dir. Asterio P. Saliot-Executive Director
PCA- Region 8, Mr. Joel O. Pilapil-Regional Manager
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Come and Visit ViCAARP-RRDEN...

TECHNOMART and Pasalubong Counter

Visayas State University
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines

ViCAARP

MANDATE

To set up a mechanism for coordination and management of agriculture and natural resources research and development in Eastern Visayas in the areas of production, processing, socio-economic and communication with emphasis on commodities of major importance in the region.

MISSION

To vigorously initiate, effectively coordinate collaborrative RD & E and actively mobilize knowledge and technology to achieve more productive, profitable and sustainable fisheries and natural resources in Region VIII.

VISION

A region where quality of life of farmers, fisher folk and processors is improved through more productive, profitable and sustainable agriculture and natural resources management emerging from collaborative regional research and development/extension.

ViCAARP Highlights
37 YEARS of MAKING USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN REBUILDING EASTERN VISAYAS
JANUARY-DECEMBER 2015

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To: _____

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