

ViCARRP Highlights

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Thirty two years of working towards making a difference in the lives of the famers, fisher folk and other stakeholders in Eastern Visayas.



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About the cover:

The ViCARP greets holding their trophies with DOST Secretary Mario G. Montejo (third from left) and PCARRD Executive Director Patricio S. Faylon. PhilRootcrops Director Julieta R. Roa holds the 2010 Tanglaw Award trophy won by PhilRootcrops. Next to her is VSU President and ViCARP-RRDCC Chair, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo holding his Pantas (Research Administrator) Award trophy. Extreme right is Dr. Roberto C. Guarte, VSU VP for Administration and Finance, holding his Pantas (Researcher Category) Award trophy. (See story on page 4).

Editorial

Who would ever believe that at 32 ViCARP will win the three major biennial awards of PCARRD—the Tanglaw Award, the Pantas (Research Administrator Category) Award, and the Pantas (Researcher/Scientist Category) Award—plus the Best Paper (Development Category) in the National Symposium for Agriculture and Resources Research and Development (NSARRD)?

The best part is that Tanglaw Awardee Phil Rootcrops is the home office of the VSU President, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, this year's Pantas (Research Administrator) awardee. Moreover, the Pantas (Researcher/Scientist) awardee is his current Vice-President for Administration and Finance, Dr. Roberto C. Guarte, an outstanding researcher and concurrent Dean of the College of Engineering.

So, the old folk's belief that "the year that ends with a closed number, like 8 and 0, is a lucky year" seems to hold true to ViCARP and, of course, to VSU, the lead institution of ViCARP, for in 2010, VSU has, again, produced topnotchers in the licensure and board examinations in veterinary medicine, agricultural engineering, agriculture, geodetic engineering and in education.

Likewise, in 2010, many ViCARP researchers won top awards in the DA-BAR's 22nd R and D Symposium held in October. Others also won best papers in symposia organized by professional organizations.

Yes! We won awards! Let us congratulate ourselves. But let us not forget to ponder on the real reason why we conduct research and generate technology. Let us not forget that the technologies we developed are supposed to reach our intended users, and that S & T products should find their way to the market and should help our stakeholders increase their productivity.

This is precisely the reason why ViCARP is putting up the TechnoMart and Pasalubong Counter (TMPC) Building. The aim is to step up the promotion and commercialization of S & T products in the region. Fortunately, and perhaps part of the 2010 luck, the ViCARP-RRDCC chair found two champions—Senator Edgardo Angara and Congresswoman Carmen L. Cari of the 5th District of Leyte and now City Mayor of Baybay. Both gave financial support for ViCARP to put up the TMPC building. Thank you very much, Sir and Madam. This country needs people like you.

So, 2010 ended with a BIG BANG for ViCARP. All these simply call for a celebration!


WOLFREDA T. ALESNA
Editor

ViCARP bests other consortia, grabs PANTAS-Research Administrator, PANTAS-Researcher and TANGLAW awards

The Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program has coveted the three major biennial awards - Pantas for Research Administrator, Pantas for Researcher/Scientist and the Tanglaw Award given by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD).

Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, VSU President and ViCARP-RRDCC Chairperson brought home the Pantas Research Administrator Award. He received a cash prize of Php100-thousand plus a trophy.

Dr. Roberto C. Guarte, VSU VP for Administration and Finance and Dean of the College of Engineering and an active researcher, also bagged the Pantas Researcher/Scientist Award. He also received a cash prize of Php100-thousand and a Php1-million research grant and a trophy.

The Tanglaw Award, on the other hand, was granted to Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center (PhilRootcrops) as the outstanding institution that has contributed significantly to the national research system. PhilRootcrops was awarded a Php1-million grant for station development, capability building and upgrading of facilities and a trophy.

The awards were given during PCARRD's 38th Anniversary Celebration on November 10, 2010 held at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City.



Dr. Jose Lastimosa Bacusmo is a researcher, academician and administrator rolled into one. As the President of the Visayas State University (VSU) since November 1, 2007 up to the present, Vice President for Academic Affairs from September 1, 2005 to October 31, 2007, Vice President for Research and Extension from February 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002, (First) Director of the CHED-Zonal Research Center for Region VIII from May 2000 to December 31, 2002, Director of ViCARP from January 1, 2000 to October 31, 2007, and as Director of the Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center (PhilRootcrops) from July 1, 1992 to June 30, 1995, Dr. Bacusmo has excellently demonstrated his management prowess. By skillfully employing the democratic-participatory style of management, he had won the respect and active support of his colleagues, staff and other stakeholders. This support had resulted to the generation of more R&D, infrastructure and academic programs/projects that brought in solution to farmer's problems, honor and more resources to the university and change lives of VSU and ViCARP's stakeholders.

He is fondly dubbed as the "working or hands-on President," because he does not just delegate responsibilities to his deputies, he also spearheads the packaging of R and D/E proposals.

Under his stewardship from January 2000 to September 2007, as Director, he led ViCARP to become the most effective regional consortium in R&D planning and monitoring and evaluation, bagging two Ugnay Awards (in 2003 and in 2008) and maintaining its position as one of the Top 3 consortia in the country. He, likewise, made ViCARP a leader in the Strategic Alliance/Convergence Model at the period when there was a call for "there can only be one R&D/E coordinating body in each region." He welcome shared stewardship of the region's agricultural R&D/E but advocated for "harmonized" R&D/E program, for he believes that "diversity promotes sustainability." Through his advocacy, the region defied pressures and pursued "strategic alliance" between the consortium and the regional RD/E network, thus the decades of collaboration and cooperation between the Department of Agriculture and VSU, which are among the original six agencies/institutions who founded ViCARP in 1978, has not been broken, but only made stronger.



Left photo: DOST Secretary Mario G. Montejo (center) is flanked by (L-R) ViCARP Director, Dr. Othello B. Capuno; VSU President, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo; PCARRD Executive Director Patricio S. Faylor; and DOST 8 Regional Executive Director Edgardo Esperancilla.



The winners pose with DOST Secretary Mario G. Montejo (third from left) and PCARRD Executive Director Patricio S. Faylon (next to the Secretary). Holding their respective trophy are (L-R) PhilRootcrops Director Julieta R. Roa; Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, Dr. Roberto C. Guarte and the Ugnay winners from CVARRD.



The ViCARP team flank the big winners after the awarding ceremony.



PhilRootcrops is the nationally-mandated institution which is undertaking rootcrop research and development activities through the PCARRD program since 1975, even before its creation by virtue of PD 1107 in March 1977. Its mission is to spearhead the development of the rootcrop industry in the country by developing and introducing innovations that will provide opportunities and transform traditional inefficient rootcrop farming into technology-based production in different scales and for various industry and home-scale uses. For its achievements, PhilRootcrops received the Tanglaw Award in December, 1980. Moreover, the center was awarded the 1st Runner-up National Winner for the Best HEI Research Program Award by the Commission on Higher Education in December 17, 2008.

The tradition of excellence, diligence and commitment to develop rootcrops to benefit the rural poor continued despite the critical years in terms of resources when its key budgetary insertion for its operation, through the VISCA GOP regular appropriation, was abolished in 1987. It then indefatigably continued to source out local and external funds and mobilized these to conduct the avowed rootcrop RDE, applying novelty of concepts, and original investigations. Its banner cry of helping the poorest of the poor is now strategically directed towards creating wealth, and improving health and quality of lives of millions. This dynamism shown by PhilRootcrops needs to be recognized having been usually at the forefront of innovations development (i.e. both hard technologies and methodologies), and approaches testing.

To effectively perform its planned RDE and to source out needed resources, PhilRootcrops has been a catalyst for partnerships, local and international. Foremost among its partners include the International Development Research

Centre (IDRC-Canada), the International Potato Center (CIP), the UPWARD (Users' Perspective with Agricultural Research and Development Network), Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), International Foundation for Science (IFS), the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), the Dept. of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Dept. of Agriculture RFU 8, the Dept. of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Dept. of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Dept. of Science and Technology (DOST), Institute of Plant Breeding University of the Philippines Los Baños (IPB-UPLB), Philippine Council for Industry, Energy Research and Development (PCIERD), Commission on High Education (CHED), Agriculture Training Institute (ATI), the different local government units, farmers and women's groups, civil society and the industry sector. These support and collaborative partnerships provide evidence in the collaborative spirit and proactive stance of PhilRootcrops to achieve its objectives.

PhilRootcrops has a rich array of other technologies developed in rootcrop production and crop management, food products and processing machines. They continue to form the RDE agenda and investment portfolio for optimization of products/ processes, and technology transfer activities, respectively. They also represent the huge potentials of rootcrops in poverty reduction, food security, and agro-industry development.

-Excerpt from PhilRootcrops justification to Tanglaw award



Dr. Roberto C. Guarte

Dr. Roberto C. Guarte is a total and versatile scientist, excelling in research, extension, teaching, and administration. As a researcher, he has made significant contributions in the field of Agricultural Engineering, Postharvest, and Energy Technology. In the last five (5) years, he was able to implement at least seven (7) major research projects with funding from local, national, and international institutions including the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, DAIMLER-CHRYSLER, BSH Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances Group, and EURONATURE, among others. The implementation of these projects resulted in the institutionalization of three (3) major research facilities in the University: the Plant Oil Technology Center, the Natural Fiber Processing Center, and the Renewable Energy Center. It also led to the development of at least 10 postharvest processing equipment, one (1) of which is submitted for patenting, the others are mostly adopted by cooperatives; and the development of 10 new Makapuno-based food products which are currently promoted by the National Coconut Research Center-Visayas, and production of technical papers, posters, manuals, and leaflets that are useful both for research and instruction. These researches enabled him to garner numerous awards including two (2) National AFMA Best R & D Paper Award one (1) for Adaptive Research (1st place) and the other on Applied Research (2nd place) awarded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research in 2007 and 2009, respectively; the 2008 Regional Gawad Saka Award for Outstanding Agricultural Scientist awarded by the Department of Agriculture, Regional Office VIII; two (2) Regional R&D project awards in 2008, one (1) as an Outstanding Regional R&D Project and one (1) as Best Regional R&D Project, both in Development Category, awarded by the Regional Research and Development and Extension for Agriculture and Fishery (RRDEAF) and the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP); three (3) Best Regional R&D Poster awards, two (2) in 2008 and one (1) in 2007; and the 2006 Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Adviser Award for Physical Sciences Category awarded by the Phi Delta Honor Society of LSU. He also received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Saint Joseph College, his High School Alma Mater, in February 2008 for his outstanding achievements.

As an extension worker, Dr. Guarte established a number of community based projects using the different technologies he developed that included the Solar-based Romblon Fiber Processing Center of the Iyusan Weavers Association in Iyusan, Biliran with financial support from DOST and TESDA, to produce high quality Romblon-based handicraft; the Herbal Medicine Processing Center of the Franciscan College of Immaculate Conception (FCIC) in Baybay City, Leyte to alleviate the malnutrition and minor sickness problems of children in selected barangays in some municipalities of the Western Part of Leyte through the financial assistance from Kindersmissionswerk of Germany; the Village Level Coconut Oil Processing Center in Barangay Ciabu, Baybay City, Leyte through the financial support from Local government of Baybay City and the BSH Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances Group of Germany; the Abaca Fiber Processing Centers in Barangay Tabgas in Albuera, Leyte and in Barangay Cienda, Baybay City, Leyte; and the Solar Power Battery Charging Systems in the hinterland Barangays of Balugo, Capoocan, Leyte and Monterico in Baybay City, Leyte that provided electricity to 30 households in each barangay; and established four (4) distribution centers for the pilot marketing in the Leyte of the environment-friendly stove Protos.

-Excerpt from Dr. Guarte's justification to Pantas award

ViCARP's entry to NSARRD wins first place

The first placer in the Best Paper (Development Category) during the 22nd ViCARP-RRDEN RDE Symposium held in August 18-19, 2010 at the VSU Convention Center in Visca, Baybay, Leyte also bagged the First Place at the National Symposium for Agriculture and Resources Research and Development (NSARRD) held on November 9 at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City.

The paper entitled "Rural Enterprise Development Through Innovative Goat Production System" by Dr. Wilson A. Cerbito, et al. of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. 8 (DA-RFU-8) was adjudged the best and was awarded a trophy and one hundred fifty thousand pesos (P150,000.00) cash.

The NSARRD is held every year as one of the highlights of PCARRD's founding anniversary. Each of the 14 R and D consortia in the country submits an entry each for the basic research and development categories. PCARRD through an evaluation committee chooses the Top 3 papers for each category, however, only two from each category will be made to present at the NSARRD to vie for the first place.

It should be recalled that during the 22nd ViCARP-RRDEN RDE Symposium this paper of Dr. Cerbito did not only win first place in the development category, it also won the first place in the poster contest. 🌱



DA-RFU 8 RTD for Research, Dr. Wilson A. Cerbito (third from left) poses with the other winners of NSARRD. Extreme right is Dr. Edwin C. Villar, Director of the Livestock Division of PCARRD.

Ormoc City Mayor urges more LGU's support to researchers



More support from the local government units (LGUs) should be given to researchers, so that their research findings could reach the intended users especially the farmers. This was the gist of the keynote speech of Ormoc City Mayor, Honorable Eric Codilla, during the opening of the 22nd ViCARP-RRDEN RDE Symposium held on August 18-19, 2010 at the VSU Convention Center, Visca, Baybay, Leyte.

“Unsung heroes”

The Ormoc City mayor had all praises for the researchers. He called them the “unsung heroes of today.” He said he knows that even with meager budget so many of our researchers are still able to generate good technologies. Many of them even reap national or international awards, he stressed.

However, the mayor said, many of these technologies though have not reached the intended stakeholders. So, he encouraged the researchers to “think outside the box” and link with the LGUs. He said: “You should not end your work

after getting the awards. Recognition is not enough.” At the same time, the mayor called on other LGUs to support the researchers, just like what Ormoc City has been doing under his administration, so that they could bring the technology to the farmers' doorstep.

The Ormoc City mayor was proud to report that he had successfully implemented agricultural production projects in support of the government's food security program. This made Ormoc City one of the finalists in the Galing Pook National Award. He said that Ormoc City's accomplishment in improving rice production has become a pride of PhilRice and the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. 8 (DA-RFU 8).

The mayor said he has been working with government agencies and private organizations in the implementation of development projects. Because of this achievement, he was elected as Focal Person for the Millennium Development Goal of the League of Cities of the Philippines. Moreover, the honorable mayor said, he also developed a state-of-the-art solid waste management project that made Ormoc City No. 7 in the whole country as the Most Business Friendly City.

Mayor Codilla also shared with the participants of the RDE symposium how he encouraged the farmers to increase their palay production without resorting to dole out. He proudly said that he goes to the field and personally talks to farmers telling them they will get more farm production support if they reach the production target.

Ormoc as partner

The mayor wound up his speech with an offer to researchers--to make the City of Ormoc as their partner in showcasing the technologies that they have developed. He informed them that the City of Ormoc “starting today will be a member of ViCARP,” as he will sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the city government and the Consortium after the opening program. 🌱

Ormoc City is the 24th member of ViCARP

The City Government of Ormoc in Leyte became the 24th member of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) after the city mayor, Honorable Eric Codilla, signed on August 18, 2010 the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the city government and the Consortium.

Early this year, the City Government expressed its desire to become a member of the Consortium by asking the ViCARP Director to send a representative to attend a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture to explain to the Committee members ViCARP's mandate, the benefits that the city could get as a member, and how the city could become a member.

Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna, Coordinator of the ViCARP Regional Communication and Training Unit (RCTU) attended the meeting on behalf of the ViCARP Director who was on travel. She briefed the Committee on the consortium's mandate, who are ViCARP's members, and what the Consortium has achieved through the years.

She pointed out that, as regards membership, all the city government will do is to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Consortium. In fact, she said that signing the MOA will just be a formality that will seal the

city government's relationship with the Consortium, because both have already been jointly implementing the Techno-Gabay Program (TGP) in Ormoc City through the City Agriculture Services Office (CASO).

The RCTU coordinator stressed that an LGU does not have to be a member to enjoy the benefits that the Consortium could give, for instance, through joint project implementation. However, the Consortium will be happy to welcome LGUs to ViCARP, she added.

The Committee brought up the problem of the Ormoc City coconut farmers because a beetle (*Brontispa longissima*) has infested many coconut farms. The RCTU coordinator has assured them that she will inform the top management of ViCARP and the Visayas State University (VSU) so that immediate action could be taken.

The Agriculture Committee had endorsed to the City Council the city government's membership to ViCARP. They filed a resolution authorizing the city mayor to sign the MOA on the city government's behalf. 🌱



(L-R): Dr. Samuel S. Go (former VSU president), Mayor Eric Codilla, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, Dr. Wilson A. Cerbito and Dr. Othello B. Capuno pose for a photo after the MOA signing.

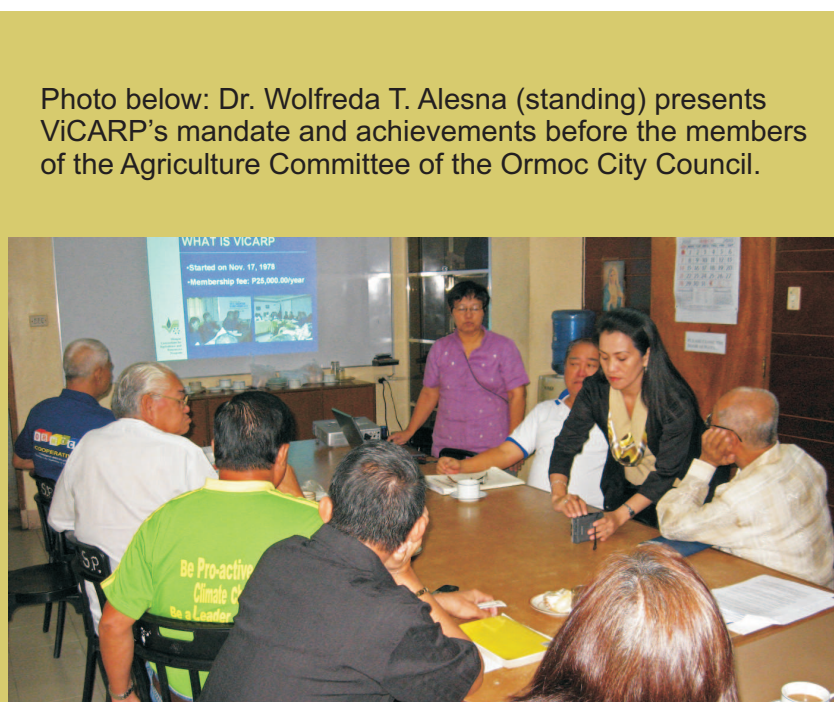


Photo below: Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna (standing) presents ViCARP's mandate and achievements before the members of the Agriculture Committee of the Ormoc City Council.

RCTU trains TG staff, focal persons and selected ACES

During the second half of the year, the Regional Communication and Training Unit (RCTU) of the Consortium conducted two requested trainings, one on basic photography and the other on process documentation research (PDR).

The training on basic photography dubbed “Arts Thru the Lenses” was held on August 5 to 7 while the training on PDR was conducted in three phases: Phase I- October 27 to 29 (Basic Tools of PDR); Phase II October 30 to December 5 (Field Practicum); and Phase III December 7 to 8, 2010 (Presentation and Critiquing of Reports).

Participants of “Arts Thru the Lenses” were the Techno-Gabay-ISS from the Office of the Provincial Agriculture (OPA)-Eastern Samar, OPA-Leyte, local government units (LGUs) of Jaro (Leyte), Hernani (Eastern Samar), Isabel (Leyte), Ormoc City, and Bato (Leyte); and from the Provincial Agricultural Services Office (PAgSO)-Southern Leyte. Other participants were staff and students of the Visayas State University (VSU).

To inspire the participants, the training management gave awards to the best photographs. For the individual entries, the Best Photograph Award was won by the participant from Ormoc City, Ms. Elena Mendoza, with her The Lonely Woman entry. For the group category, Group I which was composed of participants from OPA-Leyte, DENR 8, OPA-Eastern Samar, TG-Bato and ViCARP-TG won the Best Table-Top Photograph.

Arts Thru the Lenses was organized by ViCARP in cooperation with the Department of Development Communication of VSU and the Magnum Oppus Photography Club, an organization of VSU students who are photography enthusiasts, to help TG staff improve their skills in photo-documentation.

Continue on next page...



The winning photo of Ms. Elena Mendoza, “The Lonely Woman.”



The winning photo of the Table-top photography.

Snapshots from the Basic Photography Training

Play with Light: The participants experiment on lighting effects and photo composition using their modified studio.



Art and Beauty: Mr. Jude Sales (right) demonstrates techniques and trade secrets in making the subjects appear more appealing in the pictures.



On the other hand, the PDR Training, which was participated in by 13 TG staff, TG focal persons and selected applied communication experts (ACES) from OPA-Leyte, DENR 8, Eastern Samar State University (ESSU-Borongan), Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU), CASO-Ormoc, Southern Leyte State University (SLSU), Department of Agriculture's TG-Abuyog, FITS-Baybay, TG-Isabel, OPAS-Eastern Samar and TG-Jaro, was aimed at developing the capability of the TG team on how to capture the processes involved in the implementation of the

different components of the program and how to monitor and evaluate the program's impact through the Most Significant Change (MSC) Story Approach.

Both trainings were sponsored by ViCARP and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), one of the councils of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).



Photographer of the group: (R-L) Ms. Elena Mendoza (extreme right) poses with Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna, Engr. Sean O. Villagonzalo and an MOPC member. Ms. Mendoza's photo was chosen as best individual output.

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