



VICARP Highlights



What's Inside?

- FROM ACADEME TO LOCAL POLITICS : the transition of Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo /p4
- DOST-PCAARRD Innovation and Technology Center (DPITC) supports regional partners in Eastern Visayas Through Regional Agri-Aqua Innovation System Enhancement (RAISE) Program /p7
- DOST Secretary dela Peña second time in VSU /p8
- VSU Asst. Prof named top 1 for Mock Exam in Chemical Patenting /p9
- DAR turns over Samar land for former rebels /p10
- DAR confident to hit parcelization target /p11
- Widows among 33 agrarian beneficiaries installed in Ormoc /p12
- The DOST-Northern Samar presents the Carrageenan Plant Growth Promoter to LGU-Allen, Northern Samar for potential Technology Adaption /p13
- USec. Rowena Cristina Guevara Visits Samar State University for Project Monitoring /p14
- VSU PhilRootcrops promotes newly developed processing machines to Central Luzon /p15
- Southern Leyte State U conducts joint RI, extension services review, evaluation /p16
- Southern Leyte State U conducts training to SWFAI on producing chicken-based food products /p16
- VSU PhilRootcrops' New Mission in Basilan: Establishment of Rootcrops-based Livelihood Program /p17
- Ugnay Award Validation Visit /p18
- DOST-8 Leyte Finalizes Plans for CEST Project Highlighting Engineered Bamboo Processing with VSU-Villaba Campus /p22
- DOST-PCAARRD visits ongoing PCAARRD-funded technology transfer-related projects at Visayas State University /p23

Editorial Board

- EDITOR** Ms. Elmera Y. Banoc
- EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS** Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin
Dr. Maria Juliet C. Ceniza
Prof. Rosa Ophelia D. Velarde
Prof. Maria Aurora Teresita W. Tabada
Engr. Sean O. Villagonzalo
Ms. Melinda Petalcorin
CMI's Heads and Representatives
- NEWS/FEATURES CONTRIBUTORS** Ulderico B. Alviola
Margraf Von Jean G. Eslopor
Jose Alsmith L. Soria
Lourence Mae B. Alkuino
Mary Jane Acosta Serida
Mr. Noel Delator
Mr. Mark Lora
Mikaela M. Gongora
PASCOM
Dr. John Glenn Ocaña
Inna Mae Sto. Tomas
- GRAPHICS & LAYOUT ARTIST** Lourence Mae B. Alkuino
- PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS** Leorence U. Doloso
Tiffany P. Baguio
Lyra Katrina M. Malpas
Preilly Aguilar

JANUARY-JUNE 2022

Vol. 39, Issue 1



Official Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Program (VICARP)

The cover features the transition of Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo from Academe to Local Politics

FROM ACADEME TO LOCAL POLITICS :

the transition of Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo

Ulderico B. Alviola and Margraf Von Jean G. Eslopör



After spending four decades of his professional journey at the Visayas State University, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo is now ready to face a brand new challenge—a career leap from the academe to the world of local politics.

Popularly known to Viscans as “Sir Joe”, Dr. Bacusmo is the 5th President of the VSU system who served two consecutive terms from 2007 to 2015. As an administrator and agricultural scientist, he steered VSU to many institutional accomplishments that made it a premier state university of science and technology in the Visayas. Dr. Bacusmo was also an instrumental in many achievements of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Program (ViCARP).

Because of this, Dr. Bacusmo was accorded the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award by no less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in a special ceremony held in Malacanang on December 19, 2016. This recognition is touted as the highest award given to public servants working in government.

In terms of research and extension, Dr. Bacusmo was also included in the elite roster of 50 Men and Women of Science in 2008 given by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in their golden year anniversary.

Likewise, he is also a recipient of the Pantas Award in 2010 as the country’s most outstanding research administrator by DOST’s main sectoral council on agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources research called PCAARRD.

He also led many infrastructure and beautification projects like the new VSU Library, the construction of a gazebo at the Ecopark including a Japanese-inspired garden in the College of Engineering and Technology (CET) complex to solidify VSU’s brand as a ‘Very Scenic University’.

Continued to page 5...

From Academe.. (Continued from page 4)

Honed first as a prolific plant breeder and later on as an academician, politics was never part of Dr. Bacusmo’s lifeplan. He spent his life teaching, doing research, implementing extension projects in communities, and eventually as the chief steward of VSU.

Even after retirement in September 2021, Sir Joe refused to let go of public service by working pro-bono to complete some of the major research and extension projects that he led including a massive development program on recovery and rehabilitation after Typhoon Haiyan devastated the agricultural sector in Eastern Visayas.

“ I’m already retired, but I’m still active in helping with the many projects here to assist my colleagues with implementation and reporting. I do not get paid for this, but I still serve because this is part of my commitment as former project leader,” Dr. Bacusmo said. ”

Maybe retiring is just a technicality that he had to go through but in reality, Dr. Bacusmo would still want to make a dent, only this time he will be exploring it in another arena.



“ Being an academician, securing the support of many barangay captains was the least of my concerns when I was doing my community work for the many projects I led before. In fact, I’m only known to two barangay captains out of the 92 barangays of Baybay City. And these barangay captains I know are from Pangasugan and Guadalupe only because they are the surrounding communities of the VSU campus ”

“ Local politics as not part of the plan

Dr. Bacusmo admitted that he never thought about entering politics although his will to help people has always been at the core of what he does.

Sir Joe was a consultant to many government and private agencies, including the local government of Baybay City where he offered guidance on effective implementation of various agricultural development projects spearheaded by the current Mayor Jose Carlos L. Cari and former Mayor Carmen L. Cari.

But he also admitted that public service done in the academe is a bit different from public service when you are an elected official. For him, while the main goal is basically the same, the dynamics are a bit more competitive because you need to present yourself to the people and be known personally by them.

Dr. Bacusmo is undoubtedly an amateur in the arena of local politics and he recognized the many challenges that he might face as he takes on this new journey. He believes that local politics requires ground command and deep connections with the barangay officials who are the immediate responders of the community.

From Academe.. (Continued from page 5)



No less than the incumbent Mayor Jose Carlos L. Cari invited Dr. Bacusmo to give local politics a try. When he was officially offered a slot in the administration’s ticket, he said that there were only two things that motivated him to grab the opportunity.

First is that he cannot say no to Mayor Cari because the local chief executive has been very supportive of VSU during the time that he was the VSU President. And it was also Mayor Cari who took notice of Sir Joe’s heart for public service.

Second reason that motivated Dr. Bacusmo to enter local politics was he personally witnessed and admired the massive agricultural programs implemented by the current city officials of Baybay that mainly focused on increasing farmers’ yield and overall productivity from the grassroots level.

On this, Sir Joe also added that his vast network of connections with various line agencies of government will be beneficial for the local government when he gets elected as City Councilor.

Dr. Bacusmo is very confident that he can still provide more despite his age not only because he’s got the backing of Mayor Cari but also because his entire family are with him in this brand new career adventure.

But he also admitted to having experienced a major loss in their family with the recent passing of his youngest son, John Michael. He died two years ago at a very young age of 24. To say that Sir Joe was devastated was an understatement.

In fact, this tragic experience took a major toll on his mental wellbeing.

“ When my son died, I could not focus on work everyday. All I wanted at that time was just to lay low. I lost passion for work including the many things that made me enthusiastic in the workplace. I also lost interest in joining social events and it was really hard to make sense of it. ”

But for him, this new involvement in local politics has somehow reawakened his vigor, sharing that it made him more happy that it brought back his passion for public service.

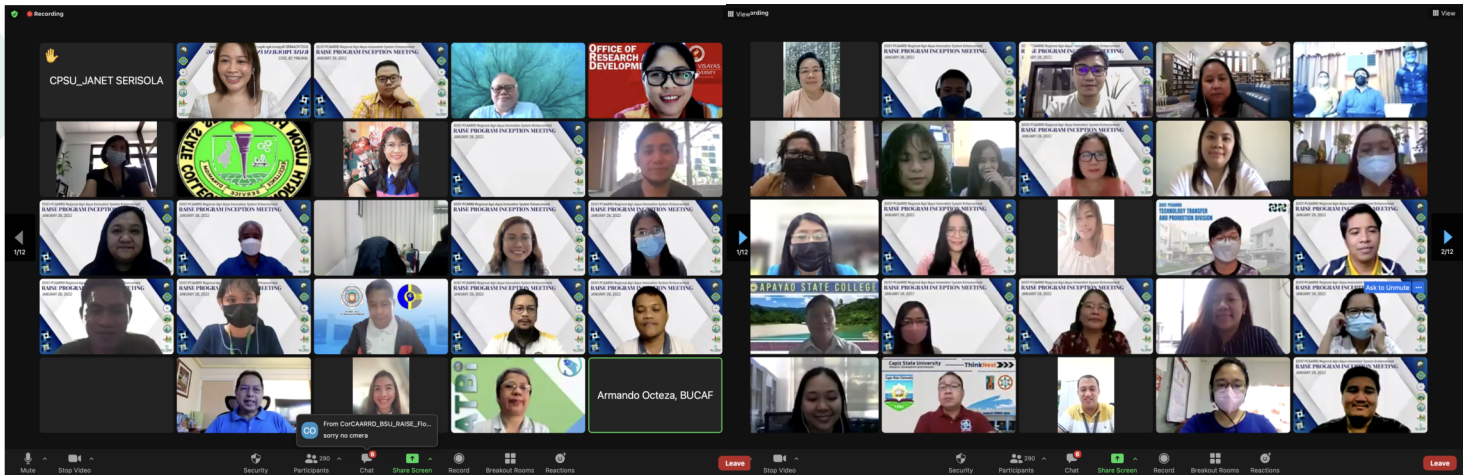
“The need to visit communities allowed me to know more people. And I think those I’ve worked with in the past can attest how much I love working with young people. Being with them energizes me and I’m sure that I will get to meet and work with more young people when I get elected. The energy brought about by meeting new people revitalizes me and I think this feeling provides me with a greater sense of purpose.”

Dr. Bacusmo is hopeful that despite his being new to local politics, he will get the support of Baybayanons in the upcoming May 9 polls.

He’s also banking on the many Viscans to rally for him as he prepares to transition from university work to local legislation for public good.

DOST-PCAARRD Innovation and Technology Center (DPITC) supports regional partners in Eastern Visayas Through Regional Agri-Aqua Innovation System Enhancement (RAISE) Program

Lourence Mae B. Alkuino



The Philippine Council for Agriculture Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) funded the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Program (VICARP) to implement the Regional Agri-Aqua Innovation System Enhancement (RAISE) program with a total budget of Twenty Two Million Three Hundred Seventy Three Thousand and One (PHP22,373,001.00) with total counterparts funds of Six Million Two Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty Nine and 40/100 (PHP 6,297,949.40)

The RAISE program aims to mirror the functions and initiatives of the DOST-PCAARRD Innovation and Technology Center (DPITC) in Eastern Visayas by providing assistance to VICARP on intellectual property management and transfer of technologies of consortia member institutions (CMIs).

Specifically, the RAISE Program aims to manage regional AANR technologies and intellectual properties, support regional partners in developing their respective technology transfer programs; provide capability building on technology transfer to R&D partners; provide a venue for convergence of regional AANR stakeholders from the academe, public, private sectors, NGOs and international partners,

facilitate public-private access to AANR technologies to improve the innovation ecosystem in the region and lastly to strengthen existing and forge new Public Private Partnerships for R&D Results Utilization (RDRU).

This also serve as a one-stop-information service shop and convergence hub for technology generators and users.

The implementation of the program started in January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2023 headed by Dr. Maria Juliet C. Ceniza, as Program Leader. It has four (4) projects, namely; Project 1- Regional Intellectual Property and Technology Business Management (IP-TBM) which focuses on IP management and technology commercialization headed by Engr. Raven C. Tabiongan of Samar State University (SSU); Project 2 –IP-centric Agribusiness Masterclass: Bridging Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the AANR Sector which focuses on activities and outputs under the socio-economic mechanism and technology pre-commercialization headed by Dr. Moises Neil V. Serião of Visayas State University (VSU); Project 3 - Regional Agri-Aqua Technology Business Incubator (ATBI) headed by Prof. Alan B. Loreto of Visayas State University (VSU); and Project 4 – Regional Knowledge Management, making knowledge that benefit society accessible to everyone led by Dr. Maria Juliet C. Ceniza of Visayas State University (VSU).

DOST Secretary dela Peña second time in VSU

Lourence Mae B. Alkuino



For the second time around, DOST Secretary Hon. Fortunato T. dela Peña and officials visited DOST-funded projects presently stationed in the Visayas State University on March 24, 2022.

The visit was part of their monitoring and evaluation activities to assess the developments and breakthroughs of Science and Technology in the Region.

During the visit, VSU and ViCARP took charge in presenting the projects, namely: 1) Food Value Chain for Vegetable and Tilapia Production in Region 8 headed by Prof. Alan B. Loreto, 2) RERC Energy Park headed by Engr. Eldon de Padua, 3) Technology Business Incubator Project headed by Prof. Alan B. Loreto, 4) Bamboo Tissue Culture Laboratory headed by Dr. Catherine Arradaza, 5) Horticulture GAP Project headed by Dr. Zenaida C. Gonzaga and 6) Tuklas Lunas Project headed by Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin and Dr. Maria Theresa P. Loreto.

Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, VSU president on his welcome address, "We are grateful for the generous support of DOST through their councils in the provision of financial and technical support to the different programs and projects that VSU is implementing."

"On faculty and staff development, VSU is grateful to DOST for granting and providing scholarships to our faculty for advanced studies through our membership with the Science Consortium. As well as the training of staff for better service delivery" he added.

He proudly highlighted, "We have produced a number of topnotchers, not just one, or two, or three topnotchers in science and technology courses. Just recently a DOST scholar ranked number one in the Mechanical Engineering Board Examination with a rating of 96%, a historic record for mechanical engineering."

"We are also thankful and deep appreciation to our DOST8 family for the untiring support and constant motivation". Dr. Tulin concluded.

Hon. dela Peña emphasized during his keynote speech "Dito namin talaga napatunayan na napaka laking bagay na mayroon kang magagaling na mga ka partners sa lahat ng mga proyekto at programa."

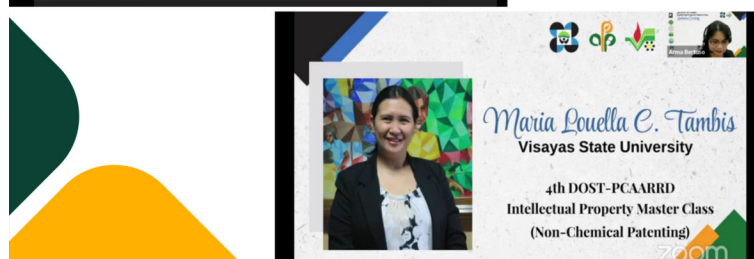
"Natutuwa kami kasi bagamat kami ay nag bibigay ng financial and other forms of support, and partner agency ay nag bibigay ng kanilang counterpart ay yan ang nakapagpapalaki sa resources devoted to Science and Technology.

He also commended VSU for the success of every research project and program. "Itong institution ninyo, ang aming haligi dito sa kabisayaan, ang Visayas State University po nakita ko naman ang napaka-laking pag lago at pag ganda ng Visayas State University."

As VSU extends help to more communities and families to improve their way of living through the implementation of research, development, extension and innovation projects, its partnership with DOST helps VSU pursue its Science and Technology Agenda to achieve the vision of becoming a globally competitive university in Science and Technology and Environmental Conservation.

VSU Asst. Prof named top 1 for Mock Exam in Chemical Patenting

Mary Jane Acosta Serida



Engr. Fernando Macabare III and Ms. Catherine Joie Carcellar, LPT of SSU; Dr. Marianne Agnes T. Mendoza and Ms. Charlene T. Parac of BiPSU; Mr. Dindo Duane S. Biscante and Mr. Venn Jerk L. Bato of EVSU; Dr. Maricris S. Estubio and Dr. Angel T. Sabusap of SLSU; Ms. Marivic L. Doncillo and Dr. Ida E. Esquierdo of UEP.

The 4th IP Master Class was attended by 110 trainees (chemical and mechanical) coming from 54 State Universities and Colleges in 7 regions of the Philippines and was organized by DOST-PCAARRD. Speakers and Lecturers were from the Association of PAQE Professionals, Inc (APP) .

Assistant Professor Oliver D. Semblante of the Department of Physics, Visayas State University (VSU), ranked Top 1 during the Mock Examination for Chemical Patenting. The award was given during the virtual graduation for the 4th DOST-PCAARRD Intellectual Property Master Class held on May 27, 2022.

Asst. Prof. Semblante was among the 57 participants in the Chemical Patenting of the IP Master Class. "IP Master Class is like trekking towards a mountain top. The program was not easy. It is like taking a hike. One small step at a time. There were times we paused, but we never stopped", he expressed.

The IP Master Class is one of the major activities for the implementation of the Regional Agri-Aqua Innovation System Enhancement (RAISE) Program-Eastern Visayas headed by Dr. Maria Juliet C. Ceniza funded by the Philippines Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD).

The successful graduates from Eastern Visayas included Prof. Oliver D. Semblante and Ms. Maria Louella C. Tambis of VSU;



DOST-PCAARRD... (Continued from page 7)

The Project 1 has five (5) collaborating CMIs, namely; Biliran Province State University (BiPSU), Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU), Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) University of Eastern Philippines (UEP) and Visayas State University (VSU).

This platform packages, promotes, and commercialize S&T creations to enhance the innovation ecosystem in the AANR sector. The program is centered on Intellectual Property (IP) and technology transfer mechanisms.

Furthermore, the RAISE Program helps to sustain initiatives on intellectual property and technology business management which will further contribute in sustaining our upward trend in the commercialization of agri-aqua innovations in the Philippines.

DAR turns over Samar land for former rebels

Jose Alsmith L. Soria



CATBALOGAN CITY, Samar – In support of the government’s Whole-of-Nation approach to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC), pursuant to Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) turned over to the provincial government of Samar the three-hectare lot intended for socialized housing for the Peace and Prosperity Village in Pinabacdao, Samar, last November 16, 2021 .

The Bureau of Land Tenure Improvement (BLTI) Director Romeo L. Reyes from DAR Central Office, assisted by DAR Eastern Visayas Regional Director Atty. Robert Anthony P. Yu, handed over the Deed of Transfer and the land title to Governor Reynolds Michael T. Tan.

This significant event was witnessed by Pinabacdao Mayor Teodorico S. Mabag and the members of the Provincial Task Force-ELCAC, during their regular meeting at the Samar State University, Catbalogan city.

The said lot is in Barangay Catigawan, an upland village in the municipality of Pinabacdao, which is about three kilometers away from the national highway.

Regional Director Yu emphasized in his message that this turnover event is a meaningful way for DAR to fulfill its constitutional mandate of promoting social justice, which happened to be in line with the objectives of the ELCAC.

He further highlighted how DAR was able to effectively attribute part of its existing budget in order to support and bolster the said Program by the government. He added that “DAR’s effort does not end here. DAR will continue to distribute farm lots to qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) which will include not only farmers but also farmer rebel returnees and agricultural graduates in the area.

RD Yu ended his speech by mentioning key DAR officials that made this project possible. These are, former Secretary John R. Castriciones; Acting Secretary Bernie F. Cruz; Under Secretaries Atty. Elmer N. Distor, Atty. Luis Meinrado C. Pañgulayan, and Atty. David D. Erro, and Assistance Secretary Engr. Joey G. Sumatra.

Governor Tan express his gratitude by saying, “I am very happy na yung pinag-uusapan natin years ago, even before the pandemic, finally narito na.” He assured the members of the PTF-ELCAC that “The provincial government, the office of Congresswoman Sharee Ann Tan, and of course the ever-supportive mayor will be working together for the realization of all the plans that we have laid out for our programs especially those relevant to ELCAC.”

Mayor Mabag, likewise expressed thanks to the DAR as well as to Governor Tan and Samar’s Second District Representative, Hon. Sharee Ann Tan, for the realization of the Peace and Prosperity Village in his municipality.

DAR confident to hit parcelization target

Jose Alsmith L. Soria



TACLOBAN CITY – With the cascading of the revised guidelines to field implementers of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), parcelization of landholdings covered by collective certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) is expected now to move fast and smooth.

During the first batch of the “Policy Orientation on the Revised Guidelines and Procedures on the Parcelization of Landholdings with Collective CLOAs” conducted in this city in mid-October this year through blended mode, many issues delaying the implementation of the project Support to Parcelization of Landholdings for Individual Titling (SPLIT), were addressed.

DAR Undersecretary for Field Operations Office Elmer Distor said, “I have full faith in the SPLIT project. With adequate team, we would be able to accomplish within the period of three years.”

Assistant Secretary and SPLIT National Project Director, Rene Colocar, disclosed that this project seeks to subdivide more than 1.3 million hectares of lands nationwide covered by more than 134,000 collective titles and eventually issue individual CLOAs to about 1,140,735 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) until year 2023.

For 2021, Regional Director Robert Anthony Yu shared that Eastern Visayas has a target of about 1,878 collective CLOAs covering a combined area of 29,176 hectares for parcelization, which according to Distor, is the biggest among 15 regions.

RD Yu stressed that about 15,310 ARBs in Region-8 awarded with collective CLOAs are expected to benefit this year by receiving their individual titles by yearend.

Meanwhile, Yu added, about 129,000 ARBs from this region awarded with collective CLOAs with combined area of 206,436 hectares are expected to be benefited upon the completion of the project in 2023.

“This policy orientation is intended to motivate us all and be in a united front as to how we will address this parcelization issue,” said Distor as he talked to participants from Central and Eastern Visayas regions.

Further, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Office, Virginia Orogo, motivated the field implementers by stressing the role the latter play. According to her, “What we are doing is a noble thing, a noble work, because we are helping our land to be productive, and we are giving land to people.”

“In this time of pandemic,” she added, “wala tayo ibang pupuntahan kundi lupa. Yan lamang ang nagbibigay sa atin ng pagkain. We continue to live because of the food we eat on the table, Orogo explained.”

This Php 24-billion SPLIT project is funded by the World Bank wherein 78 percent comprise the loan proceeds, while 22 percent serves as government counterpart.

Widows among 33 agrarian beneficiaries installed in Ormoc

Jose Alsmith L. Soria



ORMOC CITY – Mixed emotions was how widow Rosario Torlao felt when she was accompanied by a survey team from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to her late husband’s awarded lot under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) as she and 32 other agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) were physically installed early this month and take full possession of the land.

“Sobrang saya ko ngayon, ngunit nalulungkot din dahil hindi na naabutan ng asawa ko ito,” (I am now very happy, but at the same time sad because my husband never caught up with this.) said Rosario, 65.

She added “Noon pa sana ito nakatulong sa amin,” (This could have helped us long time ago.) as she could not believe her family now owns an almost three-hectare lot, which used to be a sugarland.

In 1997, Rosario’s husband, Vicente, became a recipient of a certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) covering a 2.9-hectare lot in Barangay Patag, formerly owned by the Larrazabals.

But Vicente, according to Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer (MARPO) Artheiriza Manalo, failed to take full possession of the said land due to several agrarian issues and disputes until he died in 2013.

Aside from Rosario, three other widows, Teresita Caliwan (71), Asuncion Agcang (78), and Trinidad Solayao (77) were also installed as they likewise took over the place of their late ARB-husbands during the installation.

The four widows were among the 33 ARBs, who now take full possession of their awarded lots after having been physically installed following DAR survey teams conduct of a perimeter survey. Many of them waited for this moment for more than two decades.

Manalo disclosed that the landholdings where the ARBs were installed were formerly owned by the Larrazabals, Pongos and Pensergas.

Meanwhile, DAR Eastern Visayas Regional Director Robert Anthony Yu expressed thanks for the support and cooperation which led to the peaceful and successful installation of ARBs both on September 22 and October 1 this year to Philippine National Police Regional Director PBGEN Rommel Bernardo Cabagnet as well as Ormoc City Director PCOL Ramil Ramirez, Philippine Army’s 802nd Infantry Brigade Commander Zosimo Oliveros and to Ormoc City Mayor Richard Gomez.

Continued to page 13...

The DOST-Northern Samar Presents The Carrageenan Plant Growth Promoter to LGU-Allen, Northern Samar for Potential Technology Adaption

Noel Delator



On February 16, 2022, the DOST Northern Samar presented the Carrageenan Plant Growth Promoter (C-PGP) technology of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) to the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of Allen, Northern Samar during the coordination meeting for the proposed community-based project under the DOST's Grants-in-Aid (GIA) Program.

The Carrageenan PGP is extracted from red edible seaweeds and contains essential micro and macro nutrients that improves crop vigor. Additionally, this plant growth promoter has already been tested and was deemed compatible with farmers' practice on fertilizer application. Through the GIA Program, the DOST aims to empower the farmers of the Allen Organic Vegetable Raisers (AOVR) through the integration of the Carrageenan PGP in their respective farming practices to increase their yield on rice, corn, and vegetables by at least 15%, and increasing the farmer-members' gross income by at least 15%. In addition to the C-PGP, the project seeks to provide power sprayer equipment to the association to ensure the effective and efficient application of the C-PGP foliar fertilizer to the crops.

During the meeting, the Municipal Agriculturist, Ms. Judy P. Morado, commended the Carrageenan PGP Technology of the DOST, stating that this technology is the answer to achieving food sufficiency. The Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (PAFC) Chairman and AOVR President, Mr. Neal O. Florano, also added that once the community and the neighboring municipalities see the benefits of Carrageenan, the AOVR aims to establish itself as a retailer of the Carrageenan PGP who will uphold the responsibility of distributing the said foliar fertilizer to every farmer in the province of Northern Samar along with promoting food sufficiency awareness.

Widows among... (Continued from page 12)

A total of 58 ARBs have already been installed since September.

RD Yu, together with the police and the military, believe this activity would contribute to the government's End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) program.

Usec. Rowena Cristina Guevara Visits Samar State University for Project Monitoring

Mark Lora



Later that day, the visiting team went to SSU- Mercedes Campus to see the EVCCRD and the NICER project, another DOST funded project. A presentation for the NICER was done by Prof. Renato Diocton, project leader, and he talked about the development of the project as it moves to Phase 2. The program was followed by awarding of University Medallion to both Usec. Guevara and Dir. Sumagaysay, and certificate of recognition to the S4CP RD Lead. The team also visited the Hatchery Facility of SSU before going to Payao via motorboat for a lunch break.

The DOST Under Secretary for Research and Development, Rowena Cristina L. Guevara and National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) Executive Director, Marieta B. Sumagaysay and the S4C-PMO visited Samar State University on March 21-22, 2022 for a project monitoring.

Usec. Guevara and her key members arrived at the SSU on the evening of March 21, 2022 and was welcomed by the SSU University President and faculty. On the following day, Usec. Guevara was led to a tour of the SSU's Research and Innovation Center led by Pres. Cardoso. During the tour, the DOST funded projects TBI-LAMBAT (Technology Business Incubator, Local Alliance of Marine-Based and Food Technology) and WATCH HAB were discussed briefly. Usec. Guevara gave a positive remark as she commented that "the projects are doing well and that they should widen the scope to expand the projects' reach". The RIC organized an exhibit showcasing various food products and other on-going projects of the University.

In the afternoon, Usec Guevarra traveled to Tacloban to begin their project visit in Leyte. Meanwhile, the S4C-PMO and RD Leads did an interview with Prof. Diocton and a video shoot at SSU Mercedes Hatchery Facility. The Samar Project Visit officially concluded around 4:00 p.m., and the rest of USec. Guevara's team continued on to Leyte to complete their Region VIII project visit and monitoring.



VSU PhilRootcrops promotes newly developed processing machines to Central Luzon

Mikaela M. Gongora



Prior to the transport of machines to Central Luzon, all of the necessary refinements were done in the Center including the testing of the machines throughout the process of producing vacuum fried products.

A learning guide on how to operate the technologies was also given to the pilot cooperators beforehand. During the pilot testing, there were also important topics discussed such as Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP), varieties, and economics of vacuum fried sweetpotato processing.

The processing technologies were developed by Dr. Daniel Leslie S. Tan of PhilRootcrops. Processing of crops using improved technologies plays a vital role in adding value to previously less-known crops such as sweetpotato, cassava, and others. PhilRootcrops' pilot cooperators in Central Luzon will be producing value-added products from other essential agricultural commodities. Value addition facilitates the transition of the crops' original state into a more valuable one that would significantly bring the product to a bigger market and varied consumers.

PhilRootcrops, a national agency mandated to generate and promote innovative technologies for rootcrops, pilot tested the newly developed processing machines, the portable vacuum frying system and portable extruders in Central Luzon last February 25-26, 2022.

This undertaking is in collaboration with DA 3 for the project titled "Pilot testing of portable vacuum frying system for mushroom and portable extruders for rice-based products in Central Luzon" and with DOST-PCAARRD on the project "Enhancing the Development Sweetpotato Food value Chains in Central Luzon, Albay, Leyte, and Samar". Both projects are spearheaded by VSU PhilRootcrops.

The machines were designed to be portable and cost-efficient. The portable vacuum frying system costs a lot lesser compared to the existing vacuum frying system used in the food industries at present. It is much more affordable, especially for small-scale processors.



Southern Leyte State U conducts joint RI, extension services review, evaluation

PASCOM



The Office of Extension Services in collaboration with the Office of Research and Innovation conducted a two-day activity on "Joint Research and Innovation Review and Evaluation and Extension Services Review and Evaluation" on May 17-18, 2022, for the selected faculty members from the College of Computer Studies and Information Technology (CCSIT), College of Engineering (COE), and College of Technology (COT).

The activity sights to review and evaluate the new and ongoing Research, Innovation, and Extension Services programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) of the said three colleges. Further, it seeks to refine and align these outputs to the needs of the community.

The offices of Extension Services and Research Innovation aims to generate Research, Innovation, and Extension Services PPAs with particular emphasis on meaningful poverty alleviation programs, women empowerment, and the provision of expert services needed by the communities in the service area.

This is the university's stride to empower the faculty members to be more functional in facilitating projects and programs that will benefit the community at large.

Southern Leyte State U conducts training to SWFAI on producing chicken-based food products

PASCOM



The College of Technology (COT) of the Southern Leyte State University conducted a capacity building on chicken-based product with lecture on food safety and coaching on costing and pricing on April 26-27, 2022 participated with Sogod Women's Forever Association Inc. (SWFAI).

The training includes the methods in producing chicken-based nuggets, longganiza, tocino, chorizo and ham, and a lecture of basic knowledge in food safety and current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP). This initiative is to stop production of pork-based products due to the potential presence of African Swine Fever (ASF) in pork.

In her speech, DTI Division Chief Ma. Aurora Sabalo emphasized the importance of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and food processor in the Philippine economy.

"Empowering our MSMEs will help reducing poverty because we creating job for the country's growing labor force. When MSMEs are given much attention, it will stimulate economic development in rural and far-flung areas," Chief Sabalo said.

The training is in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry to support meat processors in producing chicken-based food products.

VSU PhilRootcrops' New Mission in Basilan: Establishment of Rootcrops-based Livelihood Program

Mikaela M. Gongora



The Modelling Inter-LGU Alliance in Basilan (MILAB) project of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG) deliberated the establishment of a livelihood program as a subject or focus for their alliance building in the western part of the province of Basilan, especially since one of the major crops in the area, the coconut, has been affected by the infestation of the Cocolisap.

The IAG-MILAB, which focuses on alliance building and on how it benefits the allied parties, has already formed the Western Basilan Alliance (WBA) which would be the recipient of the planned livelihood program. WBA is currently composed of 4 municipalities which are the Maluso, Lantawan, Sumisip and Tabuan Lasa. Among the other subjects for the alliance building are resources protection, peace promotion, improved communication, etc.

The establishment of a rootcrops-based livelihood program has been considered by MILAB as rootcrops, especially cassava, are already a staple food in Basilan. In fact, there is already an existing value chain for basic food like the puto (pyuto) made from cassava. However, concerned stakeholders reported gaps like the low shelf life of its raw material, the panggi, or the semi-dried grates that only last for a week.

With this, MILAB reached out to PhilRootcrops and asked for technical assistance. As a response, a team from VSU PhilRootcrops went to Basilan to help assess and plan how to improve the food value chains of cassava and other rootcrops in the area.

"Gusto na po namin mag-graduate sa panggi." (We want to graduate from panggi.) This has been stated by one of the members of WBA.

The need to expand the value chains has sparked from the necessity of the locals to innovate from panggi and other food products from rootcrops, as well as due to the Cocolisap infestation in the area that affected their coconut industry, and the need to enhance the peace and order situation in the area.

The center plans to enhance the value chains by extending the shelf life of the primary/intermediate products such as grates and making them storable and more tradable like dried grates and flour. The center will provide its technologies and machines developed for the utilization of cassava and other rootcrops into high-value processed products.

The initiative will be a partnership effort of the VSU PhilRootcrops, the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), the Provincial Government of Basilan, and the formed alliance among the municipalities in the Western part of the province or the WBA. The parties agreed during the meeting to have piloting of rootcrops production area, training on production and processing of rootcrops, and capacitate the players in the value chain. Among the other things discussed was the possible establishment of PhilRootcrops extension in the Bangsamoro region or to be one of the ministries under the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARRM).

ViCARP ranks top 3 for the 2022 Ugnay Award



The Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Program (ViCARP) hosted by the Visayas State University (VSU) ranks Top 3 out of 15 Regional Consortia of the Philippines for the 2022 Ugnay Award during the 2nd phase of evaluation.

ViCARP has been consistently in the top 5, the country's best-managed research consortium for years. It won the prestigious UGNAY Award in 1995, 1997, 2003, 2008, 1st runner-up in 2013, and in 2020 in recognition of its outstanding management of agriculture and natural resources research and development in Eastern Visayas. This prestigious Ugnay Award is a national recognition honored by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), one of the three sectoral councils under the Philippines' DOST.

On May 5, 2022, ViCARP made it to the top 3 among the top 6 Regional Consortia that were evaluated for Oral Presentation of Major Accomplishments. ViCARP is one of the finalists that advanced to the last phase of external evaluation – the field validation that was conducted on June 20-23, 2022.

Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, VSU President and ViCARP-RRDCC Chairperson, Dr. Maria Juliet C. Ceniza, VP for Research, Extension and Innovation and Director for ViCARP, together with the heads and representatives from the active Consortium Member Institutions (CMIs), welcomed the 2022 Ugnay Award External Evaluation Committee (EEC)

headed by Dr. Edwin C. Villar with members Dr. Ramon Razal, Dr. Zubaida Basiao, Dr. Julius Caesar Sicat, Dr. Juanito Bataon, and Dr. Melvin Carlos, together with Ms. Mia Nuñez from the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD). The external field validation was conducted to monitor and evaluate the several projects' highlights, accomplishments and impacts, especially those projects funded by DOST-PCAARRD.

The EEC first visited and validated the project entitled "Rootcrop Value Chain Development" located in Marabut, Samar on June 20. The Project leader, Prof. Marlon Tambis together with the Marabut women's association members, took EEC for a tour of the major infrastructures of the project and explained thoroughly the entire project. The overall project had a significant impact on the lives of the people which provided them a sustainable livelihood opportunities, especially in Western Areas of Samar that are vulnerable to calamities.

On June 21, the EEC evaluated several projects located in Capoocan, Leyte, Calubian, Leyte and Cabucgayan, Biliran, respectively.



Continued to page 19..

Ugnay Award...(Continued from page 18)



The project adapter, Marag-Ing Agri Ventures Inc. in Capooan, Leyte, which was represented by Dr. Leo Blanco, the enterprise President, and Mr. Kenneth Blanco, the enterprise Manager, together with Project leader Dr. Catherine Arradaza, assisted the EEC team as they conducted the field validation. Dr. Arradaza showed the the demonstration field trial of tissue-cultured bamboo species under the Project 2 "Development of Tissue Culture Techniques(s) for Mass Production of Selected Bamboo Species where the performance of the five species of tissue-cultured bamboo can be seen. Dr. Arradaza explained to the team that the Marag-Ing Agri Ventures, Inc, was the first adopter of the bamboo tissue cultured technology.

On the other hand, Dr. Leo Blanco showcased the Dairy Project assisted by the Department of Agriculture and with technical support from National Dairy Authority (NDA). The project has now an increasing number of dairy animals and started a milk feeding program in partnership with the Department of Education.

The EEC also validated the Coconut Seed Garden site implemented by the Marag-Ing Agri Ventures, Inc. in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). The seed garden raised seednuts of dwarf "Catigan" coconut variety. Some of these seednuts were planted in a one-hectare area of Marag-Ing demo farm. The projects are a piece of working progress and still improving with the help of its partner agencies along with ViCARP-VSU as the lead agency.

The project entitled "The Flourishing Cassava Enterprise of Fatima MPC: An Upshot of PhilRootcrops' Integrated Extension Program on Rootcrops" was visited in Calubian Leyte. The team was welcomed by the coop officers, Ms. Maria Theresa A. Geneston – FMPC General Manager, Mr. Marlon Malicay - Agribusiness Operations FMPC Manager and Mr. Roger Buscay- FMPC Branch Manager. Through the project, the cooperative ventures into various businesses including banking, water refilling, pension houses, lending and agribusiness, specifically focused on cassava processing with San Miguel as their main buyer of cassava chips for feeds. It was noted that the FMPC has been successful in achieving its goals. The project has helped improve the economic condition of vulnerable rural folks not only in the Calubian, Leyte but also in the different areas in region 8.

The evaluators then proceed to the Rainforestation site in Cabucgayan, Biliran. The project entitled "Rainforestation in the Philippines" under the leadership of Dr. Marlito Bande. One of the adopters of the Rainforestation technology is Prof. Efren B. Saz, the former Director for Extension of VSU. He proudly concluded the benefits and the success of the project in terms of growth which is also adopted by the KALAHI- CIDSS with more engagement of farmers as beneficiaries.

The DOST-PCAARRD-VSU Agri-Aqua Technology Business Incubator Phase 2 was also evaluated on June 22. Prof. Marlon M. Tambis, OIC-Project Leader of TBI and Prof. Alan Loreto, Director for Innovation of VSU gave an overview of the project.



Continued to page 20...

Ugney Award...(Continued from page 19)



As introduced, VSU TBI first established a technology Business facility in 2017 and began the implementation of the first phase entitled "DOST-PCAARRD National Agri-Aqua Technology Business Incubator (ATBI) Program " in 2018 and began implementing the second phase entitled "DOST-PCAARRD-VSU Technology-based Business Acceleration Program" in 2021. . One of the incubates shared that despite the tragic landslide happened at Brgy. Bunga that caused their entire property gone away, they expressed their gratitude and shared their experiences on how the project has helped them. Meanwhile, TBI is now looking for solutions to help the incubatees get back on their feet.

The EEC continued to validate the project entitled "Semen Quality Evaluation of the Philippine Native Boar" at VSU-College of Veterinary Medicine Laboratory. Project Leader, Dr. Santiago Peña articulated the importance of the study and the intensive parameters with regards to the capacity of the Gasa, which goes beyond the usual motility test. The project is now halfway to accomplishing its expected outputs. Dr. Peña expressed his gratitude for the support from VSU and ViCARP, especially for the endorsement made to the funding agency which is the DOST-PCAARRD.

EEC headed to VSU RDE Hall for the virtual presentation of Samar State University (SSU) NICER Project and Eastern Samar State University (ESSU) Native Pig Project, respectively.

The SSU NICER Project entitled "Establishment of Eastern Visayas Fisheries and Aquatic Research and Development Center" headed by Prof. Renato Diocton. Dr. Diocton successfully presented the outputs and major accomplishments of the project through audio visual presentation (AVP). The project team expressed their gratitude to DOST for the funding support to be able to continue what they have started.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rhodora Mendoza, the Vice President for Research and Extension of ESSU presented the Native Pig Project entitled "Conservation, Improvement and Profitable Utilization of the Philippine Native Pig in Eastern Visayas". The AVP highlighted the advantage of native pigs in contrast to commercial pigs in terms of resiliency to climatic conditions, such as typhoons.

The EEC Team had a quick visit to the ViCARP Secretariat Office.

Due to bad weather, the team didn't proceed to Cabintan, Ormoc City to validate the vegetable project. Instead, the project team headed by Dr. Zenaida Gonzaga presented the overview and accomplishments of the project. She highlighted the importance of the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) system which promotes organic farming. Dr. Gonzaga highlighted that the project does not end in just developing training modules only but as well as to guiding and assisting the farmers through the Farmers Field School on Stepped Good Agriculture Practices on Vegetable Production.



Ugnay Award...(Continued from page 20)



EEC also visited the Sweet Potato Ice Cream and Dehydrated Jackfruit Processing Plant in Baybay City. The project was an offshoot of the Value Chain Development initiative funded by DOST-PCAARRD on the Developing Sweetpotato Value Chains in Leyte-Samar during the years 2016-2018. This was later on facilitated by the VSU Philrootcrops through the implementation of the project entitled "Support to Rootcrop-based Action" to enhance the impact of the IEPR program. The project expressed their gratitude to DOST Region VIII, a member of ViCARP, for providing them with an ice cream maker which they are using for ice cream production from the sweetpotato puree. Also, the Baybay City Local Government Unit poured their full support for this project by providing building facilities. The processing plant has added enhancement to its product by innovating different flavors such as double-dutch, mint chocolate, cheesy makapuno, etc. The facility also processed high-value products like Sweetpotato chips, Sweetpotato cheesecake, and cookies, among others. Baybay Women's Association mainly benefited from the project as this served as their sustainable livelihood.

EEC team visited the City of Agriculture Office, Ormoc City, and was welcomed by The City Agriculturist, Ms. Maria Elena Mendoza.

She narrated the specific projects undertaken by the Office namely; vacuum fried jackfruit, tomato surplus converting it into ketchup, tomato paste, marmalade, extraction of oils from Ilang-Ilang, bamboo production, etc. These projects had affected the lives of women in Ormoc City significantly since this has been their source of livelihood. These projects were made possible through the support of ViCARP member institutions.

Last project visited was the "Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita" Project at PCA Grounds, Palo, Leyte on June 24. EEC team had an informative discussion with Mr. Francis Ocado, Project Assistant of DA – Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) together with the DA Staff, Ms. Ma. Edna Labenia and Regional Manager of the Philippine Coconut Authority Region 8, Engr. Joel Pilapil. Ms. Lina E. Bretenia and Garsona, both beneficiaries, narrated the benefits they received from the project. Currently, DA, ViCARP and PCA worked hand in hand to be able to help vulnerable farmers through Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita project.

ViCARP is challenged to continue the winning streak of the consortium for more research, development, extension, and innovation projects and be able to extend help to more communities and families to elevate their way of living. ViCARP vows to bring back the Ugnay Award title this year.



DOST-8 Leyte Finalizes Plans for CEST Project Highlighting Engineered Bamboo Processing with VSU-Villaba Campus

Dr. John Glenn Ocaña



Last January 27-28, DOST-8 through its Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) – Leyte met with the Visayas State University (VSU) Villaba Campus OIC – Director Dr. Ma. Jehan Libre to finalize plans on the implementation of the recently approved Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Project, 3rd Congressional District of the Province of Leyte.

In close collaboration with the Office of Cong. Vicente Sofronio “Ching” E. Veloso III, the said project will be implemented at Villaba, Leyte, entitled: “Establishment of Technology Center for Bamboo Processing,” that will entail the adoption of engineered bamboo technology of DOST’s Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) with beneficiary group Samahan ng Munting Magsasaka sa Cagnocot (SAMUMACA). The CEST project will also aim to strengthen the S&T education among the youth by providing units of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) and Versatile Instrumentation System for

Science Education and Research (VISSER) to strategically selected primary and secondary schools in the area. Designed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS is a stand-alone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources. It contains thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats (text and video/audio) placed in specially design “pods” set in a user-friendly interface. On the other hand, VISSER was developed by the University of the Philippines - Diliman with funding from DOST. It is a science kit that allows students to conduct over 50 science experiments in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering without the need for a physical laboratory setup. The meeting was concluded with an ocular visit the following morning to Brgy. Cagnocot, Villaba, Leyte where the bamboo processing will be established.



DOST-PCAARRD visits ongoing PCAARRD-funded technology transfer-related projects at Visayas State University

Inna Sto Tomas Vidal



On May 23-24, 2022, Ms. Mary Ramzelle Pasang and Mr. Alexander Paul Batalon of the Technology Transfer and Promotion Division conducted face-to-face monitoring and evaluation of PCAARRD-funded technology transfer-related projects at Visayas State University.

The team initially went to the Marabut Native Delicacies Vendors' Association in Marabut, Samar, to speak with members about the state of their processing and association. Ms. Teresita Valdez, the association's president, is in charge. Cassava Cookies, Cassava Chippy, Cassava Macaroons, Yuca Puff, and soon sweet potato vacuum-fried are among the items that the association is currently processing. There are 22 active members in the organization.

The following day, TTPD representatives had a meeting with the head of the RAISE program, Dr. Maria Juliet Ceniza, and the components of the program. Prof. Alan B. Loreto, Director for Innovation and outgoing VSU-ATBI project leader, Prof. Marlon M. Tambis, Assistant director of Philrootcrops and incoming project leader of RAISE project 3: ATBI, Dr. Moises Neil V. Serioño, Dean of the College of Management and Economics

and project leader of RAISE-Project 2: Regional Agribusiness Hub, Ms. Maria Louella T. Tambis of RAISE project 1: IP-TBM, Julie Bee M. Aguinaldo of DBM and VSU-ATBI project staff, Divina L. Villaber, Jedan A. Cavero, Inna Mae A. Sto. Tomas, Dindo M. Valeroso, Romnic A. Cabelin, and Mary Jane A. Serida, project support staffs.

They also check the offices of the PCAARRD-funded projects after the meeting.

Mr. Mark Anthony T. Cinco and William A. Cruz of 2C Organic Products, Joshua Lanutan and company of Guilang Tableya, and Jorlita R. Morales of Bunga Women Workers Association, VSU-ATBI incubatees were interviewed by Ms. Pasang and Mr. Batalon. Mr. Dindo M. Valeroso and the VSU-ATBI team also presented the ATBI year 2 successes. The team then heads to two barangays after the presentation to interview two (2) more incubatees. The Baybay Food Processors Association in Brgy. Cogon, Baybay City, Leyte, and Five Shepherds Planting materials and agriculture products in Brgy. Can-ipa, Baybay City, Leyte.

After the interview and site inspection, the TTPD staff were escorted to Villaconzuelo, Jaro, Leyte, where they will continue to monitor and evaluate their initiatives at Samar State University.

ViCARP Consortium Member Institutions



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 collaborative 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 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.



VicARP Highlights is the Official Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Program (ViCARP)

Visayas State University

Visca, Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines

Tel/fax No. (053) 563-7458

Email address: vicarp_lsu@yahoo.com
vicarp@vsu.edu.ph