



# COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*activated. updated.*

July 1-31, 2016

Official Publication of the UPLB College of Agriculture

Volume 5 No. 7

## Assoc. Dean Laude leads NAST's awardees from CSC

**D**r. Tonette P. Laude, CA associate dean and assistant professor of the Crop Science Cluster (CSC), is this year's Outstanding Young Scientist, as conferred by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) last July 14 at the Manila Hotel.

Dr. Laude was cited for her outstanding research in identifying superior populations of white corn with high quality protein, particularly IPB Var 6 (NSIC CN 2008-244) which has been commercially released and preferred by many consumers.

Her master's thesis on the genetics of inheritance for grain quality traits led to national research programs using high protein corn. This thesis is also among the first studies that directly used quality maize protein populations in corn breeding in the country.

Meanwhile, Dr. Erlinda S. Paterno, *professor emerita* of the Agricultural Systems Cluster, was recognized by NAST for the Outstanding Scientific Paper entitled "Biogenic synthesis of gold nanoparticles by plant growth promoting bacteria isolated from Philippine soils" which she co-authored with Drs. Lilia M. Fernando and Florinia E. Merca.

Likewise, Dr. Fe M. Dela Cueva and Aira F. Waje, both from CSC, won the Best Poster Award for their presentation entitled "Unraveling the cost of bacterial crown rot of papaya in the Philippines". (Apolinario L. Lantican, with information from UPLB website)

## CA promotes publications in Farm Tourism Conference

**A** number of staff of the CA Dean's Office actively promoted the publications of the college, particularly *TheAgriTourist* magazine, during the 4<sup>th</sup> Farm Tourism Conference held last July 14-16 at the Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City.

The group, composed of Apolinario L. Lantican, Venecia B. Batain, Ramon Abaño and Neciforo A. Jimenez from the Dean's Office, conducted book sales and exhibit during the annual event which attracts over 350 delegates from across the Philippines in the fields of agriculture, tourism and investment. They also established marketing network with potential customers and financiers of the magazine.

The publications of the college, particularly the magazine, were warmly patronized by buyers from various sectors.

The conference has been organized by the International School of Sustainable Tourism to raise awareness on the benefits of farm tourism, promote destinations and products throughout the country, and share best practices from the experts in the field. (Apolinario L. Lantican)

## ADSC inaugurates research & training lab

**T**he Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster (ADSC) formally opened a new building for the Advanced Animal Science Research and Training Laboratory last July 25.

Attended by no less than Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., the new building was blessed by Fr. Loreto Estomo from St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish. A short program followed right after the inauguration which was also witnessed by Dean Enrico P. Supangco; Dr. Alfonso A. Uy, chairman of the Philippine Foremost Milling Corporation (PFMC); ADSC faculty and staff; PFMC staff; and other guests from UPLB. Ribbon cutting and unveiling of the marker also highlighted the event.

The aforementioned building was reconstructed from the old building of the then Swine Division, Department of Animal Science. The funds for this project, which also includes a provision for laboratory equipment, were donated by



the PFMC through an Academic Research Cooperation Agreement between UP President Alfredo E. Pascual and PFMC Chairman Alfonso A. Uy.

The ADSC is a center of excellence in the art, science and business of producing quality animal products through high standards of instruction, research and development, and public service towards a vibrant animal industry. The PFMC, a member of La Filipina Uy Gongco Group of Companies, is a private corporation engaged in the business of manufacturing feeds and flour. Both parties agreed to engage in a public-private partnership activities to enhance research and education for mutual benefits of the academe and the industry. Specifically, they agreed to collaborate and cooperate in conducting animal research and development programs and trainings on various fields in animal science; facilitating exchange of academic and industry information, data and materials; and organizing joint conferences and the like. (Nenita L. De Castro)

## IPB conducts OJT for PSHS-Bicol

**T**en high school student-interns from the Philippine Science High School (PSHS)-Bicol Region Campus, Goa, Camarines Sur have undergone an On-the-Job Training (OJT) at the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB), Crop Science Cluster from July 18 to 29.

These students were divided into two groups: entomology and plant pathology. For the entomology group, activities centered on studying Asian Corn Borer (ACB), weevil, cutworm, mango fruitfly, coconut scale insect and other insect pests. Furthermore, they were taught how to prepare a diet for ACB rearing, bioassay technique and native corn screening. A visit to an experimental farm was done to familiarize themselves with insect pests of various crops.

On the other hand, the research activities done by the plant pathology group included bacterial and fungal isolation, DNA dilution and quality check, Agarose and Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technique, and culture media preparation.

On the last day of the training, they had a powerpoint presentation and a written report about the research activities they conducted. (Laureano B. Lano-sia, Jr.)

## Training on cocolisap held at Romblon & Oriental Mindoro

**T**o educate farmers and other major stakeholders on the invasive coconut scale insect (*Aspidiotus rigidus* Reyne) and its natural enemy (*Comperiella calauanica*), the National Crop Protection Center-Crop Protection Cluster, in collaboration with the College of Agriculture, Romblon State University (RSU) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Regional Training Center (RTC)-MiMaRoPa, conducted two trainings last July 19 and 21 at the Community Outreach Center-RSU, Odiongan, Romblon and ATI RTC, Barcenaga, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, respectively.

The first training entitled “Cocolisap Infestation Management and the Use of Parasitoids” focused on major topics such as Cocolisap infestations and management in CALABARZON, Basilan and Orani, Bataan; host plants of *A. rigidus* and its implications to local quarantine measures; and rapid collection, production and strategic release of *C. calauanica* to control *A. rigidus*. It was facilitated by Dr. Julio Romeo T. Chavez, RSU faculty. In the second training, ATI-RTC Director Pat Andrew B. Barrientos discussed vegetable pests and diseases management, including that of cocolisap. Dr. Bonifacio F. Cayabyab, the key speaker, shared the cocolisap invasion in CALABARZON and how recovery was achieved through the help of parasitoids. He also discussed the different major pests of onion and tomato and its management. On the other hand, Randolph N. Candano presented the major pests of eggplant with emphasis on integrated pest management and the different host plants of *A. rigidus* and its importance in quarantine measures. The cocolisap infestation in Orani, Bataan was discussed by Don Serville R. Reynoso.

More than 150 students, faculty, farmers, agricultural extension workers, and state universities and colleges personnel from Marinduque, Mindoro Oriental and Occidental and Romblon participated in the said trainings. (Bonifacio F. Cayabyab/Ruby G. Dela Cruz)

*“Agriculture is the most tranquil, healthy and independent occupation”.*

Thomas Jefferson

## FOREIGN TRAVEL\*

- ◆ **Imelda B. Veluz**, college librarian, Crop Science Cluster (CSC); joined the Agricultural Librarians Association of the Philippines in its educational visit to well-selected state-of-the-art libraries in Hongkong; July 4-7
- ◆ **Dr. Perlita A. Nuevo**, research assistant professor, CSC; attended the Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative program workshop on horticulture and presented a paper titled "Application of Improved Postharvest Handling in Philippine Postharvest Industry" in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; July 5-9
- ◆ **Dr. Nestor C. Altoveros**, associate professor, CSC; attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended working group to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Inter-regional consultation in Geneva, Switzerland; July 9-16
- ◆ **Sherry B. Marasigan**, associate professor, Agricultural Systems Cluster; presented a paper titled, "Negotiating the Role of Heirloom Rice in Food Security: Narratives of the Contested Views of the Ifugaos" in the Third Forum of Sociology in Vienna, Austria; July 10-14
- ◆ **Dr. Susan May Calumpang**, scientist I, Crop Protection Cluster (CPC) and assistant to the vice-chancellor for research and extension; attended benchmarking for research activities in South Korea; July 20-24
- ◆ **Veneranda A. Magpantay**, associate professor, Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster (ADSC); presently attending Food Security Center-University Consortium Summer School Program 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand; July 24 to August 12
- ◆ **Dr. Rommel C. Sulabo**, professor, ADSC; served as resource speaker during the European Animal Feed Resources Scientific Meeting in Spain; July 3-10
- ◆ **Dr. Agapita J. Salces**, assistant professor, ADSC; conducted farm visitation and learned technologies in dairy processing in Suncheon City, Jeollanam-do, South Korea; July 4-8
- ◆ **Dr. Rommel C. Sulabo**, professor, ADSC; served as resource speaker on "Science and Art of Piglet Nutrition" in Vietnam; July 11-15
- ◆ **Dr. Maria Cynthia R. Oliveros**, associate professor, ADSC; participated in the Sakura Exchange in Science in Japan; July 18-27
- ◆ **Dr. Pablito M. Magdalita**, professor, CSC; attended the workshop for the project titled "Promotion of neglected and underutilized indigenous crop species for food security and nutrition in Southeast Asia and the European Union" at the University of Battambang in Cambodia; July 19-23
- ◆ **Dr. Christian Joseph R. Cumagun**, professor, CPC; attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Science Editors' Conference and Workshop 2016 in Seoul, South Korea; July 19-23
- ◆ **Dr. Erlinda I. Dizon**, adjunct professor, Food Science Cluster (FSC); attended the workshop on "Promotion of neglected and underutilized indigenous crop species for food security and nutrition in Southeast Asia and the European Union"
- ◆ **Catherine Hazel M. Aguilar**, university researcher, CSC; attended the Global Environment Facility-Satoyama Project Indicators of Resilience Training for Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot in Chang Mai, Thailand; July 24-27
- ◆ **Dr. Lucille Elna P. De Guzman**, university researcher, CSC; participated in the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Interim meeting and presented updates on organic agriculture in relation to land degradation in Myanmar; July 27 -August 1
- ◆ **Dr. Jose Nestor M. Garcia**, university researcher, ASC; participated and presented status of land degradation in selected sites of the Philippines to the ELD Interim Meeting
- ◆ **Dr. Fe. M. Dela Cueva**, university researcher, CSC; attended the American Phytopathological Society (APS) Annual Scientific Conference and met with collaborators in the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, Salinas, California, USA; July 27 to August 1

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The **College of Agriculture Monthly Newsletter**

is published through the Office of the Dean,  
College of Agriculture, UPLB, College, Laguna

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