



College of Agriculture and Food Science

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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CAFS Green Hunters are co-champions in Palarong UPLB

In a showcase of prowess and adrenals, the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS)' Green Hunters emerged as co-champions in Palarong UPLB 2017 held last March 27 to April 7.

The Green Hunters finished at first place in the student division by garnering 1,805 points while the College of Arts and Sciences' Blue Champs topped the faculty and staff division with 1,170 points.

The Green Hunters overpowered the Royal White of the College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology (CEAT) which placed second with 1,693 points. The Yellow Raptors of the College of Veterinary Medicine came in third with 1,464 points.

Meanwhile, the Green Hunters' faculty and staff garnered a total of 1,123 points behind the Blue Champs in the faculty and staff division; followed by the Yellow Raptors (composed of the Colleges of Forestry and Natural Resources, Human Ecology, and Veterinary Medicine) at third place with 1,096 points.

With this year's theme, "Gear Up", Palarong UPLB 2017 featured various sports events and other contests such as ballroom dancing, Filipino games and DOTA. This was hosted and organized by the CEAT and the UPLB Sports and Recreation Committee. (Imelda M. Gesmundo with information from www.uplb.edu.ph)

Myanmar's DA- MOAI visits CAFS

Seven delegates from the Myanmar's Department of Agriculture (DA)-Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI), headed by Deputy Director General Aye Ko Ko, visited the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) last April 3.

In a courtesy visit to Dean Enrico P. Supangco, the visitors were oriented about CAFS through an audio visual presentation. Dean Supangco also informed them about the renaming of the College of Agriculture into the CAFS. He said that the recent restructuring of the college from clusters gave rise to five degree-granting institutes and four research, development and extension (RDE) institutes/centers.

Danilo J. Lalican and Ann Mylalulex A. Magnaye, two rice breeders who are involved in rice varietal development in the Institute of Crop Science, were also present to answer their queries since the interest of the visitors is on rice.

On the question of the visitors about researches on rice in the country, Dean Supangco replied that PhilRICE is the government agency that focuses primarily on rice research although the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the UPLB also take part in doing rice breeding. Moreover, he said that UPLB has a strong linkage with IRRI wherein scientists serve as members of the committee of local and foreign students enrolled at the UPLB Graduate School and who are conducting research at IRRI.

As regards exchange program of UPLB with other countries, Dean Supangco said that UPLB has a Memorandum of Agreement in universities all over Asia and this is mostly about exchange student research wherein a lot of graduate students from Myanmar are currently enrolled at the Graduate School.

The other delegates who accompanied Aye Ko Ko were: Dr. Nyi Nyi, Moe Khaing and U Min Zaw Aung, assistant directors; Dr. Yin Minn Tun, deputy staff officer; and Aung Myo Wai and Htwar Maung, staff officers. (IM Gesmundo)

NCPC seminar series kicks off

As its first salvo after the college-wide restructuring, the National Crop Protection Center (NCPC) launched a seminar series last April 24 at the NCPC auditorium. The first topic titled "Bioecology and Distribution of *Comperiella calauanica* Barrion et. al. (*Hymenoptera:Incyrtidae*)" was discussed by UP Scientist Mario V. Navasero.

As a regular extension activity, the seminar series aims to spread the RDE programs and activities of the center and is open to anyone interested in crop protection, pest management, biological control and technical services.

The NCPC seminar-series is a project of the NCPC Public Service Division led by Valeriana Justo and coordinated by Melissa Montecalvo and Ruby G. dela Cruz. (RG dela Cruz)

FEEDBACK

For comments/suggestions, just e-mail:

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We welcome articles from every CAFS constituent.

NCPC conducts overseas training on pest surveillance & pest list development

The National Crop Protection Center (NCPC), College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS), assisted by the Plant Health Component Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia, is currently conducting a training course on Pest Surveillance and Pest List Development from April 24-May 16.

The three-week training consists of lectures in the classroom, hands-on practicum in the laboratory, and field work in the experimental stations and farmers field. Technical officers, namely: Roen Vanna, Uk Phearin, Chheng Rasey and Mang Soheat are being trained by lecturers from NCPC, Institute of Weed Science, Entomology and Plant Pathology (also from CAFS), Bureau of Plant Industry, Regional Crop Protection Centers III and IV-A, and a consultant.

Such activity was conceptualized to train plant health staff of the Plant Protection Sanitary and Phytosanitary Department of the General Directorate of Agriculture to produce a credible pest list and update this as the need arises. The maintenance of a national specimen based pest list is a must to underpin pest risk analysis, support trade negotiations and manage domestic plant pest and disease problems.

At the end of the training, the participants are expected to acquire knowledge and skills on pest surveillance and pest list development; develop better relationship, mentoring, networking and joint collaborative research between the UPLB trainers-lecturers and the Cambodian trainees that will enhance future harmonization and awareness of international sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

The NCPC Project Management Unit is headed by Dr. Gil L. Magsino as the over-all training coordinator; ably assisted by Dr. Bonifacio F. Cayabyab, Melissa P. Montecalvo, Gideon Aries S. Burgonio, Randolph Candaño, Loreta del Mundo, Elvie Cuervo, Alice G. Aquino, Emma Perez, Genaro Katimbang and Fredelino Peñalba.

Dr. Tonette P. Laude, CAFS associate dean for instruction, represented Dean Supangco during the opening day of the training. (RG dela Cruz, with report from BF Cayabyab)

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IPB joins Summer Garden Show

The Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) participated in the summer garden show which ran from April 21 to May 1 at the UPLB Seniors Social Garden.

With the theme "There's GOLD in Recycling", this 11-day event raises awareness on everyone's role on protecting the environment through recycling by showcasing the creativity of turning up scrap materials for use in landscape design.

The garden show was organized by the Los Baños Horticulture Society and participated by the society's members as well as several institutions and groups. Landscape designs by famous landscapers in Los Baños and nearby towns were shown and awards for outstanding booths and plants were given.

IPB displayed tarps highlighting its mandates, major programs, crops, products, and services. It also sold assorted vegetable seeds, *Sinta* papaya seedlings and asexually propagated fruit trees. Other groups displayed technologies on crop production, handicrafts and food products. There were plant sales and free lectures. (Laureano B. Lanosia, Jr.)

FOREIGN TRAVEL*

- ◆ **Rainie Rich Chucky S. Yambao**, university research associate, Dairy Training and Research Institute (DTRI); attended the training on RNA Sequence Analysis at University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, USA; April 1-10
- ◆ **Dr. Amado A. Angeles**, OIC director and assistant professor, DTRI; attended the training on total mixed ration at the University of Georgia, USA as part of the research project "Philippine Local Forages as Sustainable Feed Alternate for Dairy Cattle"; April 1-15
- ◆ **Dr. Desiree M. Hautea** and **Mark Gabriel S. Sagarbarria**, research professor and university research associate, respectively, Institute of Plant Breeding; attended the 4th Annual Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress in Hongkong; April 9-11
- ◆ **Dr. Sheryl A. Yap**, assistant professor, Institute of Weed Science, Entomology and Plant Pathology; visited and conducted research at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) and the Lee Kong Chain Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) in Paris, France and National University Singapore, respectively; April 20-May 30
- ◆ **Noel B. Lumbo**, assistant professor, Institute of Animal Science; attended the Pig Feed Quality Conference in Vietnam; April 24-27

*Prepared by:
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