



North Korean staff conduct study tour at CA

Three senior field staff from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in North Korea conducted their study tour at the College of Agriculture (CA) last August 22. They were Ri Su Yong, deputy director general, livestock management, MoA; Jon Jong Nam, senior desk officer, external affairs department, MoA; and Pak Sin Won, management board chairman, Ryngho cooperative farm, Rakrang district, Pyongyang, North Korea.

As part of the project entitled “Support for Integrated Crop-Livestock Farming Systems” being implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in North Korea, in close coordination with the MoA, the study tour has the following objectives: a) study and analyze the farming system and collect information on modern farm technology; b) observe the practices to promote participation of farmers and other relevant stakeholders in the ecologically sustainable integrated farming system; and c) analyze the different aspects of integrated farming.

In a courtesy call to Dean Enrico P. Supangco, he was asked about the crop and livestock status of the country such as percentage of milk being consumed by Filipinos, tons of rice produced in an irrigated and rainfed area, number of bags of fertilizer applied in a hectare, among others. An audio-visual account of CA’s curricular programs, products and services was also presented to the visitors.

After the powerpoint presentation about the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB), Crop Science Cluster (CSC)’s programs and thrusts, the visitors visited the Plant Physiology Laboratory. They also had a glimpse of the SNAP hydroponics display and field legumes experiment just across the said laboratory.

At the BINHING PAMANA, an organic farm under IPB, the visitors toured the green houses with different crops (lettuce, hot pepper, string beans, cucumber) being produced using different kinds of organic fertilizers such as vermicast, azolla, fermented plant juice, and fermented fruit juice. They even requested for some vegetable seeds which they plan to bring home.

The last leg of their visit was at the Tissue Culture Facility of CSC wherein they were oriented on the *in vitro* production of some horticultural crops.

The visitors were assisted by Kim Chon Gil, secretary general, national committee for FAO, as their interpreter; Rizza Lorena P. Espenido, Technical and Operations, FAO; Gerard Neri B. Arañar and Virginia V. Villa of the Department of Agriculture, Quezon City.

The study tour is part of the 18-day visit to Asian countries for the purpose of understanding integrated farming system and collecting information on modern farm technology. (*Imelda M. Gesmundo*)

Malaysian faculty visit CA, explore possible collaboration

Three faculty members of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) visited CA last August 11. They were Dr. Fatimah Bt. Changgrok, dean, Faculty of Agro- Based Industry; Dr. Seri Intan Mokhtar, deputy dean of Research and Innovation; and Dr. Beatrice Beth Baikan, professor of agriculture attached with the Faculty of Agri-based Industry, UMK.

In a courtesy call to Dean Supangco, the delegates said that they want to link their program with that of CA especially in the area of product development. Likewise, they also expressed interest to invite potential staff and adjunct professors or lecturers from CA to join their faculty and help them develop their program. Moreover, an exchange program for faculty or



student and research partnership between UPLB and UMK is also one area of concern. Thus, Dean Supangco suggested a reconnaissance meeting with Dr. Simplicio M. Medina, director of the Office of International Linkages (OIL).

Dean Supangco also oriented the visitors about CA's curricular programs through an audio visual presentation. The meeting revolved more on the instruction function of CA, with the visitors raising some questions like student-faculty ratio (both in the undergraduate and graduate programs), strength of the faculty members, and job opportunities for CA graduates, among others. But one thing that the dean has emphasized is its focus on the BSA curriculum (getting accreditation from the ASEAN University Network).

At the Food Science Cluster (FSC), the instruction, research and extension functions of FSC were presented to the visitors by Prof. Rona Camille M. Lizardo and Prof. Florencio C. Reginio. A tour at the pilot plant immediately followed wherein they observed how bignay fruits are processed into wine. They were also familiarized with the different equipment being used in processing and packaging FSC products at the pilot plant. Agri-based products (popularly known at FSC as ube powder, calamansi juice, dried pineapple fruit and bignay wine) were also shown to them. The three visitors enjoyed the taste test of the bignay wine.

They also met Dr. Elpidio M. Agbisit, Jr., director of the Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster, whom they expressed their interest of inviting MS graduates in Animal Science to teach and eventually take their doctoral degree at UMK.

At the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) of the CSC, the visitors were oriented about the projects and activities of IPB. They also toured the plant physiology laboratory of the Institute.

The visitors likewise visited the OIL (though it was not in their itinerary) with the intention of meeting its director to personally get the details for possible collaboration with UPLB. Unfortunately, the director was not able to meet them because he was attending a meeting at that time.

The UMK is a public university in Kelantan, Malaysia that focuses on entrepreneurship. *(Imelda M. Gesmundo, with information from Wikipedia)*

Thai faculty visits CA, attends lectures on horticulture

Dr. Nimmannoradee Promtong, a horticulturist and lecturer from the Faculty of Agriculture, Ubon Ratchathani University (UBU), Thailand, visited the CA last August 15-19.

As part of the staff exchange program between UPLB and UBU, Dr. Promtong attended lectures on horticulture at the CSC. Rea G. Lee, head of the Information Management Training Services of IPB and extension coordinator of CSC, oriented her about the IPB, CSC's programs and activities. She was also given a lecture by Proceso H. Manguiat, a researcher at IPB, about the seed production, processing, packaging and storage activities at the National Seed Foundation. There was also a tour around the facility, facilitated by Agripina O. Rasco, also a researcher at IPB. She likewise visited the plant physiology laboratory and was oriented about the projects being undertaken by the Plant Physiology Division through Jesse Descalsota, also a researcher at CSC.

On the second day, Dr. Promtong was given an overview and tour at the tissue culture facility of CSC by Dr. Evalour T. Aspuria, associate professor of CSC. Concluding the day's activity was a tour and a lecture on asexual propagation techniques at the Fruit Crops Nursery, through Prof. Norma G. Medina.

The third leg of the visit was highlighted by a presentation about the thrusts, projects and activities of the National Plant Genetic Research Laboratory (NPGRL), a national repository of important and potentially useful crops. The presentation was conducted by Maria Lea H. Villavicencio, researcher and head of NPGRL. Dr. Promtong also had a sneak peek at the laboratory/gene bank of different crops and a tour around NPGRL's vicinity where the field gene bank is located. She also went to the office of the dean where Dean Supangco oriented her about CA's curricular programs, technologies, products and services. Later in the afternoon, she had a mentoring at the Postharvest Horticulture Training and Research Center, CSC through Leonisa A. Artes, a university extension specialist. Dr. Promtong was also toured by Dr. Constancio C. de Guzman (coordinator for instruction at CSC) at the



Hardin de Hierba, a garden of herbs and medicinal plants, which are being used by horticulture major students for their research activities. Completing the day was also a tour at the International Rice Research Institute gene bank through its manager, Flora de Guzman.

To get fully acquainted about Laguna, Dr. Promptong visited the towns of Liliw, Lumban and Paete where she had the chance to buy souvenir items. (Imelda M. Gesmundo)

PSU students complete last 120 hours of OJT at ADSC

Four Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA) students from the Pangasinan State University (PSU), Alaminos City Campus completed the last 120 hours of their 200-hour on-the-job training (OJT) program at the Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster (ADSC) from July 26 to August 11. These students were Ronald R. Noma, Maricon R. Sarmiento, Angelica R. Caniedo and Charlene B. Asto. All the arrangement with CA-UPLB were facilitated by their adviser, Rose Dyan M. Lopez.

While at the ADSC, they joined the participants of the Basic Training Course for Dairy Farm Workers for one week. They attended lectures and the practicum activities on dairy production and management. For the second week, they worked at the Animal Nutrition Laboratory where they experienced routine activities at the laboratory and were able to assist in the conduct of some laboratory tests. On their last week, they worked at the ADSC poultry farm at the University Animal Farm in Tuntungin-Putho, Los Baños. (Myrna S. Galang, with full story posted at adsc.ca.uplb.edu.ph)

ADSC faculty/staff join Dairy Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting

Dr. Severino S. Capitan and Myrna S. Galang, faculty and researcher of the ADSC, respectively, participated in the Dairy Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting for CALABARZON area last August 23 at the Hacienda Darasa Garden Resort Hotel in Tanauan City, Batangas.

The said meeting was sponsored and coordinated by the National Dairy Authority (NDA) South Luzon Department. According to NDA, the consultation with the different stakeholders of the dairy industry aims to keep all stakeholders informed and updated on potential impact in the dairy business and to come up with a Dairy Road Map for 2017-2022. (Myrna S. Galang, with full story posted at adsc.ca.uplb.edu.ph)

ADSC welcomes 240 visitors from Meldenfield Christian Academy

A total of 240 students from Meldenfield Christian Academy in Calamba, Laguna visited the Dairy Products and Technology Development Division of the ADSC last August 24 (first batch) and August 25 (second batch).

The visit was conducted to let the students explore and experience an environment wherein they can fully have an actual grasp of certain lessons. The main objective is to inform the students how a cow's milk can actually be transformed into different products and how a cow's milk is being withdrawn from a cow. (Jeddahlyn S. Baria)

ADSC faculty attends summer school program in Thailand

ADSC Associate Professor Veneranda A. Magpantay attended the three-week summer school program on "Climate Change and Food Security", hosted by Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand last July 25 – August 11.

The program was sponsored by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Studies and Research in Agriculture, Food Security Center of the University of Hohenheim, and Kasetsart University. The course tackled the impact of climate change on aquaculture and livestock production in developing countries. It also



highlighted Climate Smart Agriculture, particularly the application of precision farming in promoting more efficient production system.

There were 29 participants from 16 countries. Lecturers came from Kasetsart University, Dohne Agricultural Research Center in South Africa and University of Hohenheim. The mode of teaching included lectures, experiments, case studies, and field visits. (*Cisima P. Lavega*)

CPC experts train BCA researchers

Three resource persons from the Crop Protection Cluster (CPC) served as resource persons for the Seminar-Workshop for Bio-control Agents (BCA) researchers held last August 22-26 at the Century Hotel, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga.

Dr. Bonifacio F. Cayabyab dealt with efficacy test protocols for microbial control agents against arthropods pest, Dr. Pio A. Javier tackled efficacy test protocols for botanicals and Melvin D. Ebuenga handled efficacy test protocols for plant pathogens.

The seminar-workshop was conducted to train and create a pool of BCA experts that can provide research and development expertise to private and public sectors who may wish to submit their products for bio-efficacy testing against pests.

A total of 20 government researchers and consultants from DA Region II, Laguna and Davao City attended this activity which was organized and sponsored by the Bureau Of Agriculture And Fisheries Standards. (*Bonifacio F. Cayabyab/Ruby G. Dela Cruz*)

FEEDBACK

You may send your comments/suggestions to:

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FOREIGN TRAVELS*

- ◆ **Dr. Maria Lourdes S. Edaña**, assistant professor, Crop Science Cluster (CSC); presently attending a post doctoral associate program in Oklahoma State University, USA; August 4, 2016 to July 31, 2017
- ◆ **Sheba Mae M. Duque**, assistant professor, Food Science Cluster (FSC); attended the 18th World Congress of Food Science and Technology in Dublin, Ireland; August 18-28
- ◆ **Dr. Rommel C. Sulabo**, professor, Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster (ADSC); served as resource speaker during the 17th Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies (AAAP) Animal Science Congress and visited University of Nagoya in Fukuoka and Nagoya, Japan, respectively; August 21-30
- ◆ **Dr. Lucille Elna P. de Guzman**, university researcher, (CSC); presented a paper titled "Resilience in the Face of Changing Climate": The Case of Indigenous Bagobo Communities, Davao, Mindanao, Philippines" in the USR International Seminar on Food Security 2016 in Bandar, Lampung, Indonesia; August 22-26
- ◆ **Dr. Veneranda A. Magpantay**, associate professor, ADSC; attended the three-week summer school program on "Climate Change and Food Security", hosted by Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand; July 25 – August 11.

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"Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own."

Samuel Johnson

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