



## AUN-QA Network team evaluates BSA & BSF programs

The ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) Network team visited the College of Agriculture (CA) and the College of Forestry last January 23-25 to evaluate the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA) and the BS Forestry programs, respectively.

The evaluation team was composed of Associate Professor Le Quang Minh and Dr. Agus Setiabudi (assessors: Agriculture Study Program); Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti (AUN deputy director); Wilasinee Sittisomboon (AUN programme officer); and Prof. Wan Ahmad Kamil Mahmood and Dr. Ir. Johannes Pramana Gentur Sutapa (assessors: Forestry Study Program).

Once accredited by the network, opportunities such as student mobility, research collaboration and information sharing, faculty exchange, modern research facilities, and inter-cultural sharing of experiences could be explored.

The AUN-QA Network was established to promote quality assurance in higher education institutions, raise the quality of higher education, and collaborate with both regional and international bodies for the benefit of the ASEAN community. (Apolinario L. Lantican)

## FSTP is Gawad Pangulo awardee

CA's primary extension program, the National Corn-based Farmer-Scientists RDE Training Program (FSTP) was awarded the *Gawad Pangulo* for Excellence in Public Service last January 30 at the Executive House, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The award, bestowed by the UP System under the leadership of President Alfredo E. Pascual, recognizes FSTP's exemplary contribution to the fulfillment of UP's mandate to lead as a public service university.

Since its nationwide implementation in 2009 under Executive Order 710, the FSTP has already covered a total of 73 municipalities in 34 provinces from Regions 1 to 13. Approximately, there are already more than 12,000 farmer-scientists in the country who are equipped with scientific and entrepreneurial mindsets; thus, uplifting their socio-economic status.

It can be recalled that, in 2006, the FSTP bagged the Outstanding Extension Team and Program awards from both the CA and the UPLB. The highest award conferred to FSTP is the Presidential *Gawad Lingkod Bayan* given on September 21, 2006 by the Philippine Civil Service Commission.

The program is led by Dr. Romulo G. Davide, *professor emeritus* of CA and Ramon Magsaysay awardee. (Augustus Franco B. Jamias)

## Mais PAEP, a new corn variety

A new white glutinous corn variety was launched during the tribute to UP President Alfredo E. Pascual at DL Umali Hall, UPLB last January 24 and was named in his honor. It was called "Mais PAEP (initials of President Pascual)", short for "Mais na Pinagbuti Alay sa Ekonomiyang Pangkanayunan".

A native cultivar from the province of Abra, Mais PAEP is early maturing and with excellent husk cover, good ear fill characteristic and good eating quality. It is an open-pollinated variety with higher yield than that of the check variety in Luzon and Visayas; thus, it is recommended for commercial cultivation in these places.

This variety was developed by the maize breeding team of the Institute of Plant Breeding led by Dr. Artemio M. Salazar. Other members of the team are Dr. Tonette P. Laude, Villamor A. Ladia, Jefferson F. Paril, Ayn M. Beltran, Maria Alma B. Sanchez and Serafin B. Alcantara. (Laureano B. Lanosia, Jr.)

## CA staff attend seminar on FOI

Two university researchers, one university extension specialist and a university extension associate from the College of Agriculture Dean's Office, Crop Protection Cluster and Crop Science Cluster, respectively, attended a seminar titled, "UPLB and the FOI: Freedom of Information in the Academe" last January 12 at the IPB Seminar Room, UPLB.

The Freedom of Information (FOI), also known as Executive Order No. 2 of President Rodrigo R. Duterte, provides for full public disclosure of all government records involving public interest and upholds the constitutional right of people to information on matters of public concern.

In the message of Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, which was read by Vice-Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE) Rex B. Demafelis, the seminar in UPLB will enable its constituents to fully understand the scope of FOI in implementing the order in the academe.

Atty. Kristian R. Ablan, assistant secretary for policy and legislative affairs of the Presidential Communications Operations Office, served as the speaker; wherein he discussed the various aspects of FOI, giving focus on its implications to academic institutions like UPLB. Moreover, he explained the principles behind the FOI, who will benefit from the order, including list of exceptions to the right to access to information. He also emphasized that, since the FOI is an executive order, only administrative sanction can be imposed to those who will violate it. "However, once it becomes a law", he said, "offenders would face criminal liability".

The event was attended by UPLB faculty, researchers and staff who actively raised questions during the open forum.

The seminar was spearheaded by the Extension Section of OVCRE. *(Imelda M. Gesmundo)*

### FEEDBACK

For comments/suggestions, just e-mail:

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***We welcome articles from every CA constituent.***

## CSC dominates CA sportsfest

The Crop Science Cluster (CSC) won the overall championship in the CA Inter-cluster Sportsfest held last January 12-13 at the UPLB grounds, Copeland gymnasium and Student Union Building.

The CSC Lemon Yellow team dominated in various events such as basketball, volleyball, table tennis, chess, scrabble, dama, athletics and tug-of-war (women). Right behind CSC are the Crop Protection Cluster (CPC)-Food Science Cluster (FSC) Magenta team, the Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster (ADSC) Sky Blue team and the Agricultural Systems Cluster-CA Dean's Office Peach team.

Other events included Philippine games, bowling, badminton, ballroom dancing and Videoke King and Queen contest.

With the theme, "Teamwork makes the dream work", this year's sportsfest also featured an Executive Run in the first day of the activity.

The sportsfest was aimed at developing camaraderie and physical fitness among CA constituents.

Dr. Elpidio M. Agbisit, Jr., ADSC director, served as the chair of the coordinating committee. *(AL Lantican, with information from LM Castillo)*

## Year begins with student visitors at CPC

As year 2017 enters, the Crop Protection Cluster (CPC) accommodated 120 BS Biology and BS Environmental Sciences students from Catanduanes State University, Virac, Catanduanes last Jan 9.

Coordinated by Karen Ardez, Ruby dela Cruz, Dr. Pablito Gonzales and Romnick Latina, the students were briefed at the Insect Pathology Laboratory, headed by Dr. Barbara Caoili (who is on leave for post doctoral studies); Insect Biological Control Laboratory, coordinated by Dr. Pio Javier and Host Pathogen Interaction Laboratory headed by Prof. Johnny Balidion.

The same laboratories were also visited by 40 BS Chemistry students from Bicol State University of Legazpi City, Albay last Feb. 3. *(Ruby G. dela Cruz, with report from Karen Ardez)*

## New OIC for NCPC

The newly restructured National Crop Protection Center (NCPC) has a new officer-in charge (OIC) in the name of Dr. Gil L. Magsino, weed scientist and extension coordinator of the former Crop Protection Cluster.

Dr. Magsino, whose appointment begins in February and ends in May 2017, is expected to restructure the NCPC programs in research training and extension in the next few months. (RG dela Cruz)

## FOREIGN TRAVELS\*

- ◆ **Norma G. Medina, Ryan Rodrigo P. Tayobong and Maria Charito E. Baladares**, assistant professors and university researcher, respectively, Crop Science Cluster (CSC); attended the Training on Edible Landscaping – Creating Landscapes Edible Plant Species in Singapore; January 9-17
- ◆ **Dr. Jose Nestor M. Garcia**, university researcher, Agricultural Systems Cluster (ASC); attended the Researchers Meeting and Conference and presented the status of land degradation and implementation of sustainable land management in selected sites of the Philippines in Bangkok, Thailand; January 9-13
- ◆ **Dr. Hayde F. Galvez**, assistant professor, CSC; presented poster papers titled “Pre-breeding in tomato for virus resistance through meta-genomics and associated Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technologies”, “Fine-mapping and functional annotation of a major Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) in corn (*Zea mays* L.) for downy mildew resistance towards precision-marker-assisted breeding”, “Hybrid approach for improved genome assembly of coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) to aid breeding tools” and “Genome-guided Eco Tilling towards improved fatty acid biosynthesis in coconut” during the Plant and Animal Genomes XXV Conference at Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California; January 14-18
- ◆ **Alma O. Canama**, university researcher, CSC; attended the Plant Genomes XXV Conference at Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California; January 14-18
- ◆ **Dr. Barbara L. Caoli**, professor; Crop Protection Cluster (CPC); currently a visiting Fulbright scholar in USA; January 13 to July 13
- ◆ **Ana Mithuzela D. Espigol**, university research associate, CSC; presented a paper titled “Postharvest Quality of Whole and Minimally Processed Fiddlehead Ferns (*Diplazium esculentum*) or “Pako” during the International Conference on Food and Agricultural Technologies” in Bali, Indonesia; January 16-18
- ◆ **Dr. Simplicio M. Medina**, associate professor and director, ASC and Office of International Linkages, respectively; attended the Sophia University ASEAN International Mobility for Students (SAIMS) Partner University Conference at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand; January 25-27
- ◆ **Dr. Nestor C. Altoveros**, associate professor, CSC; attended the physical meeting of the Ad Hoc Friends of the Co-chairs Group on Scope of the Multilateral System (MILS) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture (ITPGRA) in Rome, Italy; January 25-29

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“A griculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.”

Samuel Johnson

The **College of Agriculture Monthly Newsletter** is published through the Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture, UPLB, College, Laguna

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