



Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program, Leyte State University, Visca, Baybay, Leyte, 6521-A, Philippines
 VICARP coordinates the agriculture and natural resources research and development in Eastern Visayas

VICARP, RRDEN Move Towards Integration of Programs



Techno Gabay Magsasakang-Siyentista Delia De la Calzada (far left) assists Abuyog-RIARC in conducting CPAR related activities

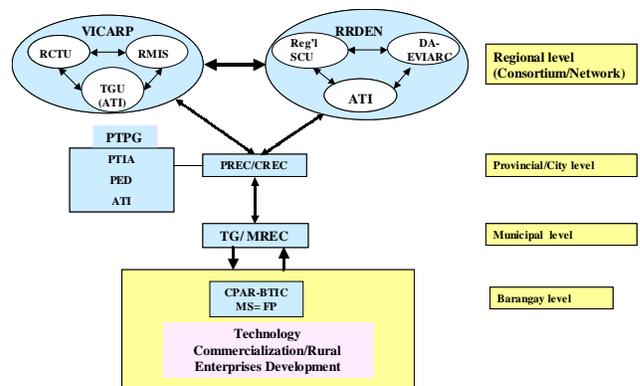
Key officials of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (VICARP) and the Regional Research, Development and Extension Network (RRDEN) agreed to integrate the former's Techno Gabay (TG) Program and the latter's Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR).

This move is in line with the RDE convergence initiatives and efforts of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Research and Development (PCAMRD).

TG and CPAR, banner programs of PCARRD and BAR, respectively, have interrelated objectives. Both programs aim to fast-track technology promotion and adoption in the countryside. The integration of the programs does not only ensure higher effectiveness in the delivery of information and technology but also save resources and efforts of the implementing agencies.

The plan is to establish a TG Center in areas where there is CPAR and to implement CPAR in every municipality where there is a TG Center. Also, the appointed farmer-partner in every CPAR site will automatically become the TG *Magsasakang-Siyentista* (MS) and vice versa.

 to page 8



The TG-CPAR Integration Framework where ATI will play a role as coordinator from the regional level to the barangay level

RDE Convergence Goes to the Visayas; ViCARP, LSU Serve As Hosts

The Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) and the Leyte State University (LSU) hosted the Visayas RDE Convergence, Consultation and Planning Workshop: Agriculture Sector on April 5-6, 2004.

This three-day workshop stemmed out from the continuing deliberations of the four agencies —DA (BAR and ATI) and DOST (PCARRD and PCAMRD) — on the convergence, complementation and integration of research, development and extension efforts. A similar workshop was also held in Luzon and Mindanao.

Key officials of Regions 6, 7 and 8 R & D consortia, RDE network, DA-ATI Network of Training Centers and Local Government Units (LGUs) participated in the workshop.

During the workshop, the participants leveled off the regional banner programs and gave feedbacks on the output of the six committees on the identified RDE convergence areas namely Unified RDE Agenda, Unified RDE Network, Program Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technology Delivery Program, Institutional Development and Information and Communications Technology. They also identified



Participants of the workshop listen to ViCARP Director Jose L. Bacusmo as he talks about ViCARP and RRDEN's convergence efforts and initiatives.

common and doable regional projects aligned to the convergence initiatives and the converged programs/commodities by region.

ViCARP and PCARRD shared resources for the realization of the activity. A Hula Party organized by ViCARP in the evening of April 5 made the activity even more memorable. 🌺



From serious discussions...



to fun. The RDE Convergence has it all for participants and facilitators.

Dr. Lina T. Villacarlos: *Researcher, Educator and Extensionist* *Rolled Into One*

Raelleen S. Diaz

Until I heard the news about her commendable contribution in the field of science, I never had the slightest idea that the woman I oftentimes see driving a bicycle on her way to work is one of the country's outstanding scientists.

Dr. Lina T. Villacarlos, professor in entomology of the Department of Pest Management (DPM) of Leyte State University (LSU) displays simplicity that conceals her real status in life. But when it comes to work, simplicity is not her thing. With her insatiable desire to be the best that she can be in whatever venture she undertakes, she refuses to give room to mediocrity.

This explains the many awards and recognitions that this multi-tasked professor received year after year.

In 2002, Dr. Villacarlos bagged the Most Outstanding Entomologist Award of the Philippine Association of Entomologists (PAE) in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the field of entomology. She discovered three of the eleven internationally recognized fungi under the family Entomorphthorales. A year later, she had again made a name for LSU for her fourth discovery, the parasitic fungus called *Entomorphthora leyteensis*.

Aside from her research achievements, Dr. Villacarlos is also applauded for her teaching prowess. She handles undergraduate and graduate courses in biology, entomology, pest control and plant protection. With the desire to share her knowledge, she prepared lecture and laboratory guides which included topics and experiences she gained from the researches



she had conducted. In 2001, she was awarded the Philippine Agriculture and Resources Research Foundation, Inc. (PARFFI) Professorial Chair for her distinguished performance both in teaching and research.

Dr. Villacarlos also performs extension activities. She trains technicians and DA extension personnel even when it means spending her personal funds. She also serves as one of the experts in the DPM Plant Pest Clinic and visits farmers who need her assistance. She is also the chairperson of LSU's Sanitation and Waste Management Committee.

With all these achievements and contributions, one can definitely say that, Dr. Villacarlos, behind the simplicity she wears, is indeed, a research, instruction and extension prodigy. For this, she was awarded the LSU Academician of the Year for 2004. 🌟

ViCARP Conducts IT-related Training

The Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) conducted on May 26-28 and June 2-4, 2004 a training on "Determining Application Requirements, Database Design and SQL Evaluation of .NET for Projects".

Held at the Department of Computer Science and Technology (DCST) of the Leyte State University (LSU), the training was participated in by representatives of ViCARP member agencies and LSU's satellite campuses.

SQL or Structured Query Language is a standard interactive and programming language for getting information from and updating a database. The training aimed at helping participants build, update, add and delete data from a database based on the database requirements of participants' respective agencies.

To learn SQL, training participants were required to create or design a database through hands-on exercises. For the .NET applications, the participants were required to build a list of requirements for a database system using the data from the training on SQL.

A bank programmer from England, Mr. Philip David Symons, served as resource person for both SQL and .NET applications. 🇯🇵



Mr. Philip David Symons delivers one of the lectures.



Engr. Alan B. Loreto gives his impression about the training.



Prof. Rosa Ophelia D. Velarde (standing, center) assists LSU's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Manuel K. Palomar (standing, second from left), in the distribution of certificates.

ViCARP, RRDEN Jointly Conduct 2004 In-house Reviews; LSU Presents the Most Number of Researches

Member agencies of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) and the Regional Research and Development/Extension Network (RRDEN) conducted five separate R & D In-House Reviews from April 26 to June 4, 2004. Just like in the past years, the Leyte State University (LSU) presented the most number of papers.

LSU conducted its in-house review from April 26- 29, May 6-7 and May 13-14. The University's researchers presented a total of 141 papers—that is 64.68 percent of the 218 researches actually presented. Of this number, 123 were still on going. Only 18 were already completed.

The University of Eastern Philippines (UEP) of Catarman in Northern Samar hosted the May 25-27 in-house review for the four (4) provincial local government units (PLGU) of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran and Northern Samar; and five (5) state universities and colleges (SCUs) such as the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU), Eastern Samar State University (ESSU), Salcedo State College of Agriculture and Forestry (SSCAF), Biliran National Agricultural College (BNAC) and University of Eastern Philippines (UEP). The participating agencies/ institutions

presented a total of 27 projects, 24 of which were on going and three were completed.

The Department of Agriculture (DA-8) agencies hosted on June 3-4 at the RIARC in Abuyog, Leyte the in-house review for DA researches, Fiber Industry Development Authority (FIDA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA-EV), and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Some 27 researches were also presented, 25 of which were still on going. Only two (2) were completed.

The Tiburcio Tancinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology (TTMIST), Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) and Samar State University (SSU) had their in-house review on May 28 at the EVSU Campus in Tacloban city. The group had reviewed 16 researches. Of this number, four (4) were on-going and 12 were completed.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-8) conducted a separate in-house review on June 4. Of the seven (7) reviewed, five were on-going and two were completed. 🌱

Table 1. Summary of member agencies' on going and completed researches

Agency	On going		Completed		Total	
	PP	AP	PP	AP	PP	AP
LSU	133	123	19	18	152	141
UEP/SLSU/ESSU/SSCAF/ BNAC/ PLGU-Leyte/ PLGU- Southern Leyte/PLGU- Biliran/PLGU-Northern Samar	35	24	10	3	45	27
EVSU/SSU/TTMIST	4	4	12	12	16	16
DA/FIDA/BFAR/PCA	31	25	3	2	34	27
DENR-8	5	5	2	2	7	7
TOTAL	208	181	46	37	254	218

*PP-programmed for presentation
AP-actually presented*

Mangoes Can Grow Even in Type IV Climatic Condition, Expert Says

Professor Paciano T. Quirol, a mango expert from the Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Leyte State University showed proof that mango can be productively grown even in areas with Type IV climatic condition like that of LSU.

Through the project entitled "Off-season Production of Mango Through Flower Induction" that was funded by the LSU-Land Bank of the Philippines Technology Promotions Center (LSU-LBP TPC), Professor Quirol had demonstrated that mango growers in this area could really make money. The project had a big return of investment (ROI).

To promote the technology, ViCARP conducted from January 15 to April 20, 2004 a season-long training for its member agencies and interested local government units (LGUs).

The training aimed to share with the mango growers in Region 8 knowledge on how to improve mango production and increase their productivity through off-season production.

Areas of Type IV climatic condition are those that do not have distinct wet and dry periods. Hence, it is almost impossible to grow mango productively. However, with the new technology on flower induction, mangoes could already be made to fruit even off-season.

Participants of the training were taught the flower induction technique, fruit bagging and harvesting techniques.

Culmination activities were timed during the last day of harvest for everybody to see the results of the season-long training and demonstration. 🌱



Dr. Quirol speaks about the pains and gains of growing mango during the closing program of the Season Long Training on Flower Induction to Harvesting of Mango. The training participants proudly pose with their newly harvested mangoes. With them is ViCARP Director Jose L. Bacusmo (4th from right). Beside him are RCTU Coordinator, Dr. Wolfreda Alesna (right), and the mango expert (left).

VICARP Launches Capoocan Techno Gabay



Dr. Paciencia P. Milan (top photo) and Director Leo P. Cañeda (above) grace the launching of Capoocan Techno Gabay.

“ f Mohammed cannot go to the mountain, let the mountain go to Mohammed.”

LSU President Paciencia P. Milan quoted this during the launching of the Capoocan Techno Gabay Program on March 20, 2004 pertaining to the program’s aim of providing Capoocan farmers, traders, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders a venue where they could view, read, get or buy information, education and communication materials in agriculture and natural resources.

Aside from the provision of IEC materials, Techno Gabay will also help Capoocan farmers have a ready market for their products by pushing the production of a commodity, that they could commercialize. The municipality is still on the process of identifying the commodity.

To strengthen the information and technology transfer in Region 8, the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) and the Regional Research, Development and Extension Network (RRDEN) agreed to integrate PCARRD’s Techno Gabay Program and DAR’s Community-based Participatory Action Research Project (CPAR). Capoocan, being a recipient of the CPAR project, is the first municipality to benefit from the integration.

The launching of the program was made possible through the joint effort of ViCARP, Local Government Unit of Capoocan, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit-8 (DA-RFU-8), Leyte State University (LSU) and Agricultural Training Institute in LSU. 🌱



The Techno Gabay Center is located at the second floor of the Capoocan municipal hall. One of the activities that town officials conduct in relation to TG program implementaion is technology video showing every Wednesday.

RDC Endorses Two Projects of ViCARP

The Regional Development Council (RDC) endorsed in January 2004 two development project proposals of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP). One was on the establishment of an Agri-Science Centrum at the Leyte State University (LSU). The other is the Development of LSU as Tourists Destination and Nature Park.

ViCARP Director, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, presented the Establishment of an Agri-Science Centrum at LSU. ViCARP –RCTU Coordinator, Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna, presented the second project.

The Agri-Science Centrum will showcase advance agricultural practices and technologies such as mechanization of agricultural production and use of robotics. It will feature state-of-the-art greenhouses, diagnostic center, zootrone, mechatronics, a virtual learning center, a natural science museum and a science theater.

On the other hand, the second project which is the development of a botanic garden and nature park that is partly patterned after the Botanic Garden of Singapore, will feature a Rainforestation Farm and Arboretum, an Orchidarium, Bromeliad Kiosk, Ornamental Groove, Palm Valley, Butterfly Sanctuary, Herbarium, Wildlife Sanctuary that includes the birds, tarsier and turtle sanctuaries, and a marine park. It also includes the rehabilitation of the old hydro pond into either a boating rink or a swimming pool. Near it will be the Molave Hill Picnic Area.

The RDC endorsement is critical since the two proposals will seek foreign funding. ViCARP has already been furnished by NEDA, the RDC Secretariat, with the endorsement letter signed by Leyte Governor Remedios L. Petilla, the RDC Chair. 🌱

(ViCARP, RRDEN...continued from page 1)

The integration of TG and CPAR is only one area of convergence that ViCARP and RRDEN identified. After the two coordinating bodies forged a strategic alliance in 2003, they already started conducting joint meetings, in-house reviews, fora and symposia, sharing responsibilities in monitoring and evaluation of programs and establishing joint regional commodity teams and joint programs on capability building. 🌱

NFA and DOH Join Hands to Push Food Fortification Law in Region 8

Mary Agnes R. Militante, NFA-8

Eastern Visayas has been tagged as among the regions having the most and highest incidence of underweight preschoolers nationwide and that various forms of malnutrition continue to affect both children and adults.

As nutritional intervention to this malnutrition problem, the National Food Authority and the Department of Health signed in June 2004 a Memorandum of Agreement to boost the two agencies' partnership in the implementation of Republic Act 8976, the Food Fortification Law of 2000.

The law, which is meant to combat malnutrition among Filipinos, calls for the mandatory fortification of staples such as rice, flour, sugar and cooking oil effective November this year. Food fortification is the addition of micronutrients in the food items widely consumed by specific at-risk groups to correct a deficiency.

Under the signed MOA, the two agencies shall jointly formulate the rules and regulations as well as procedures as to advocacy, training, licensing, laboratory analysis, labeling of fortified rice, imposition of administrative sanctions and other activities necessary for the effective implementation of the rice fortification programs.

In the agreement, the NFA shall ensure that rice industry players are licensed. These include millers, importers, traders and distributors of rice -iron premix.

An approval from the DOH-Bureau of Food and Drugs will be a prerequisite for

the granting of a license by the NFA.

The agreement also requires that the NFA shall establish and ensure that the quality assurance system for the NFA iron-fortified rice shall be in accordance with the Food Fortification Regulatory Monitoring and Quality Assurance System of the Food Fortification Program.

The NFA shall report to the health department the names and addresses of millers and other concerned grains businessmen covered by the program that were issued with licenses/registration certificates, inspected/monitored and other data and status of compliance with the rice fortification program.

Moreover, the health department shall coordinate with the NFA in planning, formulation and issuance of rice fortification policies and updates thereof, standards of rice fortification, guidelines and procedures and review of the program.

The health department shall conduct promotional and advocacy activities for rice fortification and may join the NFA in the conduct or training/seminars for concerned grains stakeholders.

NFA Assistant Regional Manager Benjamin B. Marta said that the MOA was signed by Agriculture Undersecretary for Luzon Operations and NFA Administrator Arthur C. Yap and Health Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit. 🌱

Hot Water Dip: An Effective Method for Storage of Fruits

Valerie C. Udtuhan



Mango and banana growers can now increase their income and smile as they say goodbye to a costly, complicated and harmful treatment to control ripening and disease of their harvests.

Hot water dip (HWD) is a breakthrough for an effective yet safe and simple solution to maintain the freshness and quality of their fruits.

A major constraint in the marketing of mangoes and bananas is high perishability. That is why the researchers of the Department of Horticulture of the Leyte State University in Baybay, Leyte led by Dr. Antonio L. Acedo Jr., conducted a research on improving postharvest quality and storage life of these fruits. They came up with the simple heat system or the HWD.

In their study, they found out a lot of advantages of using HWD treatment, for both banana and mango.

A banana treated with HWD (10 min 47 – 49 degrees Celsius) significantly delayed ripening for 2-3 days later than untreated ones. It also markedly reduced the number of diseased fruits and the severity of infection, compared to banana that was untreated.

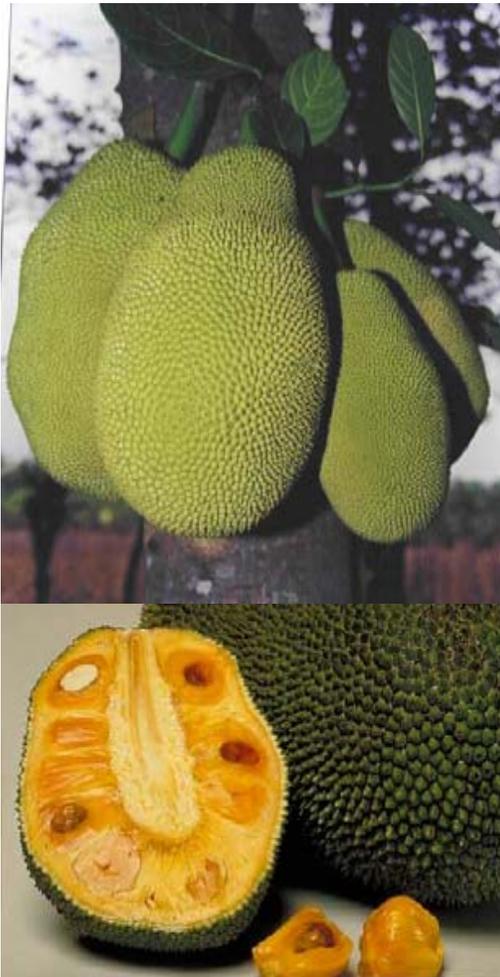
On the other hand, the mango also delayed ripening for longer periods to reach ripe-soft stage as compared to that of untreated fruits. Disease incidence was also lower compared to the untreated one.

In general, both mango and banana showed favorable responses to HWD treatments.

So, why settle for less? Use hot water dip (HWD) treatment. It is easy, simple, cheaper and very effective. 🌱

Save Your Jackfruit from Hungry Pests

Jerissa U. Panilag



You are so excited. You could imagine its mouth-watering smell. How you wanted to cut it into pieces and chop its sweet, soft and juicy tissues in your mouth. Suddenly, you were dismayed! Pests had attacked the fruits you had been waiting to ripen. How disgusting!

Pests are irritating. They can turn your smile into a frown. Pests can kill your crops. You might get so upset, but relax! Getting angry with them will not drive them away. Tame them instead. Face those pests and get to know them. Knowing them will help you determine the best control strategy to stop them.

Fruit fly is reported to be the most destructive pest of jackfruit especially at older stage of fruit development. However, in his study on Biology and Control of Jackfruit Fruit Borer, the late Mario Martinez of the Department of Agriculture in Region 8 identified two equally important insect pests of jackfruit at fruiting stage. These were the *pyraustid* and the *curcullionid* fruit borers.

These reported pests are very destructive because they attack the fruit at younger stage by boring into the tissues of the fruits, preventing the young fruits to develop and making the old ones rot. These pests also attack your breadfruit, camansi, marang, antipolo and other fruits related to the jackfruit family. So, beware of these pests! They attack your crops before you even know it.

The best way of preventing them is to stop them before they attack. In his paper, Martinez reported that early bagging of fruits, about 2 weeks after fruit setting, is an effective measure to prevent their attack. His study showed that early bagging of fruits using plastic sack effectively lowers the insect infestation to an average of 5% in all varieties tested.

Furthermore, his study proved that this control is more effective than applying pesticides. He reported that application of insecticides showed only an average of 30% infestation. Pesticides cannot completely kill your pest enemies, it could even kill you instead. Pesticides are well known for their destructive effects to the environment and human health. Moreover, pesticides are expensive, therefore, not recommended as best control measure.

There is, however, no best control for all pests. Just know your enemies and eradicate them at the right time. Early bagging is still so far the best, the researcher stressed. 🌱

VICARP-RMIS Rewires Telephone System, Improves Members Interconnectivity

The Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP)- Regional Management Information System (ViCARP -RMIS) had rewired the consortium's telephone system.

This was announced by the ViCARP -RMIS Coordinator, Engr. Sean O. Villagonzalo.

With the rewiring, Engr. Villagonzalo said, ViCARP members and the Leyte State University constituents who are connected to the Local Area Network can easily get access to the ViCARP database through a remote connection. ViCARP members will just dial-up to LSU-AFRDIS to connect.

The rewiring will enable the ViCARP members to download information related

to ViCARP members' activities. They can also get access to antivirus updates and at the same time communicate with experts in LSU for consultation via messaging services in the intranet.

On the other hand, ViCARP's membership to the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Research, Education and Government Information Network (DOST-PREGINET) has greatly improved the consortium's interconnectivity not only with member-agencies but also with national agencies such as PCARRD, DA-BAR, DOST-ASTI and other agencies that are linked to the PREGINET. LSU faculty, staff, administrators and students have now a 24-hour access to the Internet. 🌐

Editorial Staff

Editor

Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna

Layout Artist

Raelleen S. Diaz

Editorial Consultants

Dr. Paciencia P. Milan
Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo

Production Assistants

Anilfa L. Abenoja
Arsenia M. Posas
Pauline S. Caintic
Tamar L. Mejia Sr.

Contributors

Raelleen S. Diaz
Mary Agnes R. Militante
Aynee L. Triunfante
Valerie C. Udtuhan
Jerissa U. Panilag



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Leyte State University (LSU)
Visca, Baybay, 6521-A Leyte, Philippines
Tel. No. (053) 335-2615
E-Mail Address: vicarp_lsu@yahoo.com

TO
