



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 Forge Strategic Alliance

Leaders of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) and the Regional Research and Development and Extension Network (RRDEN) had forged a formal tie during the first quarter of 2003. During the first quarter meeting of the consortium, heads of the member agencies opted for a strategic alliance instead of choosing which RD/E network should stay.

Members of VICARP and RRDEN agreed to conduct joint quarterly meetings for both the technical working groups and the advisory councils. They also agreed to conduct joint R & D reviews, forums and other activities in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resources.

The group believed that the move will not only strengthen both networks' capability to manage RD/E in the region by pooling their resources, but also save time and efforts of members, most especially that those assigned to represent their respective agencies in ViCARP are the same people who represent their agencies in the RRDEN.

The first joint meeting of the ViCARP-RTWG and RRDEN-TWG was held on June 4, 2003 at the DENR-PAMB Lake Danao Nature Park Office located in Lake Danao, Ormoc City. The meeting was hosted by DENR.

The first joint meeting of the ViCARP-RRDCC and RRDEN-RAC was held on June 27, 2003 at the ATI-NTC Conference Room at the Leyte State University, Visca, Baybay, Leyte. ATI-NTC was the meeting's host.



The in-house reviews held at the Southern Leyte State College of Science and Technology (SLSCST) (left) and at the DA-RIARC Conference Room in Abuyog (right), participated in by RRDEN and ViCARP members, are just samples of the joint activities of ViCARP and RRDEN after they forged their strategic alliance.

317 Projects Presented in 2003 ViCARP In-House Reviews

A total of 317 projects were presented during seven separate R&D In-House Reviews conducted from April 28 to June 9 by ViCARP and RRDEN member agencies. Of this number, 273 were on-going projects while 44 were completed projects.

The Leyte State University (LSU) still topped in terms of the number of projects presented with 196 projects —179 on-going and 17 completed. The DA agencies ranked second with 32 projects presented — 26 on-going and 6 completed.

The groups led by the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP) and Eastern Samar State College (ESSC) had an almost equal number of projects presented, that is, 25 and 26 projects, respectively.

The LIT-SSPC-TTMIST group yielded 19 projects with 8 on-going and 11 completed. On the other hand, the group of SLSCST and PLGUs Leyte and Southern Leyte had presented 10 projects, 4 of which were on-going and 6 were completed.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had only nine projects which were on-going.

Table 1. Summary of papers presented during the 2003 ViCARP In-house Review

AGENCY	ON GOING	COMPLETED	TOTAL PRESENTED	DATE OF IN-HOUSE REVIEW	HOST VENUE
LSU	179	17	196	28 April-23 May 2003	LSU, Baybay, Leyte
DA	26	6	32	29-30 April 2003	DA, Abuyog, Leyte
SLSCST/PLGU--Leyte/PLGU-So. Leyte	4	6	10	27 May 2003	SLSCST, Sogod, So. Leyte
DENR 8	9	-	9	5 June 2003	DENR, Tacloban City
LIT/SSPC/TTMIST	8	11	19	9 June 2003	SSPC, Catbalogan, Samar
UEP/PLGU Samar	25	-	25	9 June 2003	UEP, Catarman, N. Samar
ESSC/SSCAF/-PLGU E. Samar	22	4	25	11 June 2003	SSCAF, San Jorge, Samar
TOTAL	273	44	317		

Improved Piglet Management for more Productive Sows

Hannah D. Abarico



Be kind to animals! Treat your piglets with extra care and expect more productive sows in the future!

Pigs are one of the most important livestock species raised by smallholder farmers. Through improved piglet management, the reproductive performance of smallholder sows is expected to improve. This is what Dr. Albert A. Taveros, Dr. Sulpecio C. Bantugan and Dr. Simon J. More of LSU's Department of Animal Science, found out after they conducted a field trial on piglet management. The trial was conducted to evaluate such hypothesis on improved piglet management.

Results showed that piglets treated with heated separation pens, vitamin injections, creep feeding and early weaning have a significant difference in the reproductive performance compared to the control.

Interfarrowing interval of treated pigs had a median of 176 days compared to the 220 days of the control. Average number of liveborn over 2 litters was 11 versus 12, and average preweaning mortality over 2 litters was 0 versus 37%.

The researchers explained that, although these results are not unexpected because of our understanding of the important role of improved piglet management in sow production, these are direct proofs, nonetheless, of the effectiveness of such practices in the smallholder setting. Moreover, the low cost of treatments provided resource-poor sow raisers the opportunity to improve their inputs and achieve an increased output.

Although these treatments are just but simple changes in the life of the raised pigs, they offer an effective, appropriate and cost-effective means to improve their reproductive performance.

Being kind to animals will give us positive results after all. Piglets given extra care will surely grow up to be productive sows in the future. Early weaning, piglets in separation pens, vitamin injections and creep feeding had made the difference, the researchers concluded.

ViCARP Launches Bato TG Center

Raelleen S. Diaz



5th District Cong. Carmen L. Cari cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the Bato TG. She is assisted by (left to right) ViCARP Director Jose L. Bacusmo, Bato Municipal Mayor Luis Kuizon, LSU President Paciencia P. Milan, RETD Director Wolfreda T. Alesna and former RTPC Henry Y. Goltiano.

The Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) together with the municipal government of Bato, Leyte launched the Techno Gabay (TG) Center on January 19, 2003.

The launching of the Bato TG center officially marked the opening of the Techno Gabay Program in the said municipality. The program which was spearheaded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) primarily aims to provide modalities for efficient and effective dissemination of information and technology services to various clients particularly to farmers. One of these modalities is the TG Center.

The TG Center will help Bato farmers and other stakeholders gain knowledge on relevant information and technologies through IEC materials such as brochures, leaflets, comics, video CDs and tapes. At present, the center has a total of 40 different kinds of reading materials containing agriculture-related information.

The TG Center is located in the Bato Balay Lungsod grounds. It is being manned by the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist (Bato-OMA).

Bato is the fifth municipality that decided to implement the Techno Gabay Program. The other towns that are presently enjoying the program's services are Baybay, Abuyog, San Roque and Guiuan.

Taganas is new TG coordinator



As ViCARP's new RTPC, Ms. Hazel Grace T. Taganas, takes the lead in the promotion and implementation of the TG Program in Region 8. With her, is DENR-8's RTD for Research Mr. Edilberto Nasayao during a meeting to discuss the establishment of DENR-8 TG Program.

Ms. Hazel Grace T. Taganas of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) based at the Leyte State University (LSU), Visca, Baybay, Leyte has been appointed as the Regional Technology Promotion Coordinator (RTPC) of the TechnoGabay Program effective May 16, 2003. Ms. Taganas takes the place of Dr. Henry Y. Goltiano who was appointed School Administrator of the Southern Leyte Institute of Agriculture and Technology.

Ms. Taganas' immediate appointment was in line with ViCARP's aim to strengthen the TechnoGabay Program in the different municipalities of Leyte and Samar.

ViCARP has so far put in place five (5) TechnoGabay Centers in the region. These are in Guiuan, Eastern Samar; San Roque, Northern Samar; Abuyog, Baybay and Bato, Leyte. Promotion of the program in Calbayog City and other municipalities has been actively pursued.

The appointment of Ms. Taganas has provided a continuity to the TechnoGabay implementation. TechnoGabay, though, is not new to Ms. Taganas having been in the promotion and implementation of the program as an active REACTF member.

RACO holds 8th National Convention



ViCARP RACOs and ViCARP-RACO Coordinator Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna sing the Basura Samba during the regional presentation contest on the first day of the convention. ViCARP won the second place in the contest.



RACO conventioners of ViCARP pose with Ms. Concepcion E. Magboo of PCARRD (third from right) and Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna after the second day's lecture.

Regional Applied Communication Officers (RACOs) from all over the country gathered on May 20-22, 2003 at the Splash Mountain Resort in Los Baños, Laguna for the 8th RACO National Convention.

This year's theme is "Information Communication Technology (ICT) with Information, Education and Communication (IEC): Connectivity, Convergence and Conversion". PCARRD-ACD Director Norma V. Llemit said this is a continuation of the 2001 RACO National Convention which theme was "Linking the Grassroots to ICT in IEC-based Agricultural Development".

Leading experts in Development Communication and Information Technology (IT) shared their hands-on experiences in the field. Mr. Zac B. Sarian, the agriculture editor of the Manila Bulletin was one of the resource persons.

Highlighting the affair was the regional presentations held during the first night of the convention. The ethnic Ilokos songs and dances presented by the RACOs from ILARRDEC was adjudged the best. The ViCARP RACO's interpretation of "Basura Samba", one of the environmental songs produced by ViCARP that advocates on solid waste management, got the second place. Third was the dance presentation of the RACOs from SMARRDEC.

The succeeding two days were spent for lectures, forums, fellowship gatherings and a field trip to Liliw, Laguna.

The Western Mindanao Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Foundation (WESMARDEF) and PCARRD sponsored this year's convention.

ViCARP Participates in Major Island Techno Gabay Convention

Raelleen S. Diaz

The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) held the Major Island Techno Gabay Convention (MITGC) (Visayas Cluster) on June 16-20, 2003 at the Aklan State University (ASU), Banga, Aklan.

The MITGC was participated in by the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP), Western Visayas Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (WESVARRDEC) and Central Visayas - Consortium for Integrated Regional Research and Development (CVCIRRD).

The ViCARP staff who participated in the convention were RACO Coordinator Wolfreda T. Alesna, RTP Coordinator Hazel Grace T. Taganas, Baybay Municipal Agriculturist Elena Siddiqui, Abuyog-RIARC Information Service Specialist Alice B. Bulawan, Abuyog Farmer-Scientist Delia dela Calzada, UEP Assistant Provincial Technology Promotion Coordinator Sarah Delorino and San Roque FITS staff Arnel Diodoco. ViCARP Director Jose L. Bacusmo headed the group.

In this five –day convention, the three consortia had an opportunity to share their experiences, accomplishments and lessons learned in TG Program implementation. They had also derived lessons from the presentation of case studies of operational Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) centers and from the field visits to FITS centers and *Magsasakang Siyentista* (MS) farms which they could possibly apply in their respective localities. Also, the convention had leveled-off each stakeholder's roles, activities and expectations in TG Program implementation.

Each consortium also came up with strategic plans towards TG institutionalization. Among ViCARP's future plans are; to continue sourcing funds that will be used in TG implementation, to start packaging the Municipal Agricultural Development Plan (MADP) with TG Program embedded and to strengthen the MS Program.

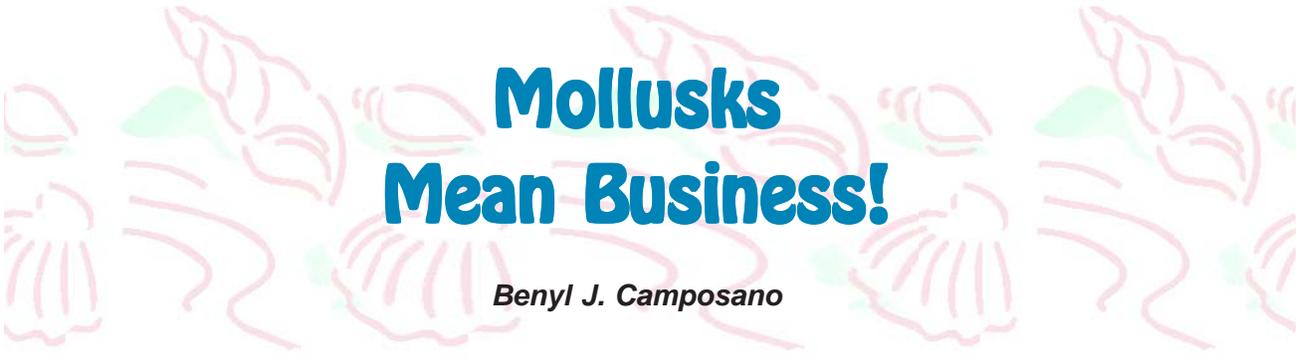
Attending the MITGC had an added bonus. Being held in Aklan, the convention provided the participants the chance to see and marvel at one of the country's most loved tourist destinations, the Boracay Island. For those who had gone to the place for the first time, attending the convention paved the way to the realization of a dream that was once improbable.



(From left to right) Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna, Libertad, Antique Mayor Mary Jean N. Te, Baybay MAO Ellen Siddiqui and RTPC Hazel Grace T. Taganas. The ViCARP TG members visit the Techno Pinoy Center in Libertad, Antique.



Time to relax. Ms. Alicia Bulawan of Abuyog-RIARC, Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna and farmer scientist Ms. Delia de la Calzada take a break at the Boracay beach after the TG convention.



Mollusks Mean Business!

Benyl J. Camposano

There is more that we can get from conserving our mangrove areas! Aside from preserving its biological importance in the coastal environment, do you know that the molluscan fauna found in mangrove areas in our country can be a source of livelihood?

This was the finding of Ms. Helena T. de la Rosa of the University of Eastern Philippines in her “*Inventory Assessment of the Molluscan Fauna in the Mangrove Areas in Northern Samar.*”

Results of the inventory showed that the mangrove areas facing the Philippine Sea are rich in mollusk resource. She found 40 edible mollusk species. However, only 17 species are gleaned for food. These were: *Anadaria antiqauta* (Blood Cockle), *Gafrarium timidum* (Venus shell), *Haliotis ovina* (Abalone), *Lunella cineria*, *Monodonata labio*, *Nevita spp.* (Nerite shell), *Strombus spp* (Conch), *Tectus fenestratus* (top shell), *Telescopium telescopium* (Telescope snail), *Terebralia palustris*, *T. sulcatus* (Horn shell), *Trochus incrassatus*, *T. maculates*, *Turbo argyrostoma*, *T. crassus* and *Chiton*. These mollusks generate income to the mangrove users in Northern Samar. Besides food, some of these mollusks can be traded to the shellcraft industry in Manila.

However, the existence of these molluscan species is threatened by the alarming rate of deforestation caused by man’s irresponsible use of the mangrove ecosystem. These species may no longer exist if man continues to destruct their natural habitat.

Furthermore, the unregulated rate of harvesting the economically important mollusks species could outpace their reproduction rate. This uncontrollable exploitation will result in the depletion of the resource because supply is dependent on the wild stock population.

The researcher, therefore, recommended that these mollusks be cultured to improve food supply. She further recommended that a policy for their conservation be formulated. She said that conservation of these resources starts with the direct users or stakeholders.

She appealed to stakeholders not to destroy the mangroves and exploit their mollusks since they are very important resources.

Mollusks mean business and business means money. To achieve sustainability of these mangrove resources and continuous business flow, the direct stakeholders should help protect the mangrove ecosystem in this area, the researcher added.

ViCARP technovideos now in digital format

Technology videos in compact discs (CD) or digital format are now available at the ViCARP Secretariat.

This was announced by RMIS Coordinator Sean O. Villagonzalo. Engr. Villagonzalo pointed out that converting technology videos in VHS or analogue format to CD or digital format offers more opportunities for development stakeholders to get access to the technological information.

Since more and more rural folks are getting access to VCD/MP3 players because they are now sold at a very affordable price, ViCARP has to catch up with the trend. It started converting information in analogue format to digital format, Engr. Villagonzalo said.

The ViCARP Secretariat had already provided a copy each of the technovideo CDs to the five TechnoGabay Centers in the region.

Copies are now available at the VEOSIS at P200.00 each. This price already includes packaging and mailing.

For more information, please contact Ms. Pauline S. Caintic, ViCARP Secretariat, Leyte State University, Visca, Baybay, Leyte Telephone/FAX No. (053) 335-2615. E-mail Address: vicarp_lsu@yahoo.com.

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