



# InangLupa

Official Newsletter of the InangLupa Movement Inc.  
Vol. 3 No. 8 August 2015 Issue

"Nurturing an inclusive, science-based, resilient & market-oriented Philippine agriculture"



*InangLupa Movement President Dr William Dar served as one of major speakers at the 'Global Forum on Research and Innovation for Health, at PICC, Aug. 24.*

## Invest more in health, agri R&D

The Philippine government should continuously invest more in research and innovation in health and agriculture.

Thus is the call of Dr. William D. Dar, in his paper on "Adequate Nutritious Food from the Farm to the Table: Technologies and Mechanisms Ensuring Food Security at the Household Level," during the Global Forum on Research and Innovation for Health at PICC, Aug. 24-27, 2015.

The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), in partnership with the Philippine Department of Health and Department of Science and Technology, hosted the forum, with the theme, "People at the Center of Health Research and Innovation."

It was participated in by leading stakeholders from government, business, non-profit, international organizations, academic and research institutions, and social entrepreneurs. They discussed the major issues to create effective partnerships for action on research and innovation for health.

They also tackled the impact of research and innovation on health, and on national economic growth and sustainable development.

The forum has provided a platform where low and middle income countries took position in defining the global health research agenda, presenting solutions and creating effective partnerships for action. ###

## Brace up for strong El Niño

The El Niño weather phenomenon will strengthen further before the end of the year, and may persist until the first half of 2016, warned PAGASA in its latest advisory issued on September 7, 2015.

Climate models show that the 2015-16 El Niño event will be among the four most severe since 1950, 1972-73, 1982-83, and 1997-98, said PAGASA acting administrator Dr. Vicente Malano.

During August, PAGASA said the western sections of the country have shown near to above normal rainfall conditions.

But in most parts of the country, dry spell has set in 18 provinces, as they did not have enough rains, said PAGASA. They are Pangasinan, Isabela, Quirino, Tarlac, Aurora, Cavite, Quezon, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Bohol, Siquijor, Eastern and Northern Samar, Camiguin, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao Region (except Davao), SOCCSKSARGEN, and Basilan.

The dry spell also affected the provinces of Isabela, Camarines Norte, Eastern Samar and Surigao del Norte.

PAGASA said dry spell means three consecutive months of below normal rainfall (21% to 60% less from average) or two consecutive months of way below normal (more than 60% reduction from average) rainfall conditions.

Drought, on the other hand, means three consecutive months of way below normal rainfall (less than 60% from average) or five consecutive months of be-

low normal (21%-60% reduction from average) rainfall.

Provinces affected by drought at the end of August were: Quirino, Aurora, Quezon, Bohol, Siquijor, Camiguin, and Misamis Oriental.

PAGASA said most parts of the country will experience below normal rainfall during September. Moreover, patches of near normal rainfall are expected in the provinces of Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Batangas, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, and Surigao del Norte; while way below normal rainfall conditions are likely over the provinces of Ilocos Norte, La Union, Cagayan, and Sultan Kudarat.

The provinces of Aurora, Quezon, Camarines Norte and Bohol will likely experience drought, while 21 provinces may experience dry spell. These include Isabela, Sorsogon, Eastern Visayas (except Biliran), Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Compostella Valley, South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Basilan, Maguindanao and Sulu and Tawi-tawi.

Surface air temperatures are expected to be slightly warmer than normal in most parts of the country, PAGASA said.

It advised concerned agencies to take precautionary measures to mitigate the potential impacts of El Niño. ###



## InangLupa joins KATIPUNAN party

InangLupa Movement, led by its founding president Dr. William Dar, recently joined as one of the pioneer members of the country's newest political party, called "Katipunan ng mga Manggagawa at Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (KATIPUNAN)," during its launch on August 31, 2015, at the Knights of Columbus, Intramuros, Manila.

Several dozens of organized labor and farmers' groups, totaling about 2,000 participants, ratified the KATIPUNAN charter and by-laws of the new party and elected its officers.

Elected KATIPUNAN national officers were former Sen. Ernesto Herrera as national

(Pls turn to p2)

**InangLupa joins...** (from page 1)

chairman; former Sen. Joey Lina as national vice-chairman; former Exec. Sec. Ruben Torres as secretary-general;

Former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor as deputy secretary-general for education and information; Reynaldo Santos as deputy secretary-general for finance;

Former Sen. Heherson Alvarez as deputy secretary-general for international affairs; Rolly Capoquian as deputy secretary-general for organization; Milagros Ogalinda as national party treasurer;

Former Justice Narciso Nario as national party chief auditor; and Carmen Pedrosa as secretary for public information.

Dr. Dar serves as a member of the national KATIPUNAN advisory body.###



*InangLupa Movement President Dr. William Dar (2nd from right) and other InangLupa leaders are shown above at the launch of the KATIPUNAN Party (from left): Treasurer - Cheryl Natividad, Vice-President - Sonny Domingo, Adviser - Santiago Obien, and Communications Director - Noel Reyes.*

**President's Note:** We are giving space to two stalwarts of the KATIPUNAN Party, former Senator Ernesto Herrera and Carmen Pedrosa, on their respective thoughts on the newly formed political party of laborers and farmers. Below are excerpts of their respective columns published in *The Philippine Star* and *Manila Times*.



*Excerpts ... "From a Distance" on the topic: "A Nation Under God," Philippine Star, Sept. 5, 2015:*

"...National Assembly of the KATIPUNAN Party, with over five million card-bearing members, ratified the charter and by-

laws of the new party and elected its officers. It happened to be National Heroes Day.

"In less than a year since I arrived, the KATIPUNAN was formed, grouping the marginalized sectors into a political party that has the vision of a nation under God.

"The katipuneros are made up of God-fearing men and women like Ernesto Herrera, Joey Lina, Sonny Alvarez, Leonardo Montemayor, Ruben Torres, Willie Villarama, **William Dar**, Roy Seneres, Reynaldo Santos, Rolly Capoquian, Narciso Nario, Susanita Tesiorna, Milagros Ogalinda, Florencia Cabatingan, and countless others in the KATIPUNAN. BayanKo was swelled recently by Jocelyn Magcale and her organization of three million tricycle drivers. The list continues to grow and I pray good men like Raffy Alunan and Dick Gordon will soon join us.

"The movement is more important than any individual. The cause of the Lord must override all personal considerations. We must return to God and build a nation under God."

"Whoever wants to win needs the marginalized sectors. That means reaching an agreement with the KATIPUNAN, which is the only party with a mass base. If the KATIPUNAN organizes quietly all the way to the barangay level, it will tip the balance..."

by **CARMEN PEDROSA**

## A different kind of Katipunan



by **ERNESTO HERRERA**

*Excerpts from his Manila Times Column, Sept. 1, 2015:*

THIS is not the revolutionary organization founded by Andres Bonifacio to gain independence from Spain, although in many ways

this is also an independence movement with many of the same working class comprising it.

With an ideology, a vision and a clear road-map to help solve the country's chronic underdevelopment, poverty and injustice, the Katipunan ng mga Manggagawa at Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (KATIPUNAN), a nationwide multi-sectoral political party dominated by workers, farmers, fisherfolks, and workers in the informal economy, and with leaders among its ranks, was launched yesterday at the Knights of Columbus Gym, on Beaterio Street, Intramuros, Manila beside the Manila Cathedral.

I am honored to be part of it, along with former Agriculture Secretary and Party-List Rep. Leonardo Montemayor.

KATIPUNAN counts within its ranks a potential of more than 5 million card-bearing members.

It has a 10-point agenda for reform and development.

1. Modernization and industrialization of agriculture, with full implementation of agrarian reform, natural resources and fisheries reform, as keys to achieve food security, job creation,

poverty eradication, and balanced rural-urban development.

2. Rapid industrialization and employment creation through appropriate investments (including public-private partnerships), government spending, promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises and self-employment schemes.

3. Ensuring that workers get just wages, security of tenure and working conditions as well as opportunities for profit and ownership-sharing in the enterprise.

4. Proper urban-rural development planning and implementation, with urban land reform, socialized housing and mass transport system.

5. Promotion of green and sustainable economy and implementation of climate-change adaptation and mitigation program.

6. Strong support to education, science and technology, inventions and innovation systems.

7. Implementation of universal and comprehensive social protection / welfare program, including improved conditional cash transfer, social security and crop insurance.

8. Shift to parliamentary and federal form of government.

9. Massive grassroots information, education, and effective representation and participation of basic sectors and their organizations in government policy-making and program implementation at all levels.

10. Active support for the defense of our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

## Dr. Dar shares food security agenda with academicians

InangLupa President Dr. William D. Dar has served as one of the speakers at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 1st High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology in Higher Education, at the PICC, August 13 – 14, 2015, where he discussed “Food Production and Security: Innovation in Higher Education, its Delivery Modalities and Strategies.”

Jointly hosted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the two-day event was part of preliminary meetings leading to APEC 2015 to be hosted by the Philippines in November.

It was attended by representatives from 21 APEC member-countries, particularly experts on higher education, science and technology, research and development, trade and industry, business, and academe.

Dar said the meeting discussed three priority areas, namely:

- a) Supporting inclusive and sustainable growth to address the social dimensions of globalization, including equality and needs of vulnerable groups;
- b) Enhancing human resource quality to meet supply chain demands; and
- c) Facilitating mobility of researchers, students, labor and skills development. Research collaboration can help tackle global issues and address costly, complex and multifaceted problems.

Under the three themes, he said the participants discussed: a) Food Production and Security; b) Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction and Response, Climate Change and Energy; c) Marine Resources/Systems: Economy, Biodiversity and Conservation; d) Smart Analytics and Engineering Innovations; and e) Health Systems. These themes are important for inclusive, resilient and sustained growth of APEC member economies.

The participants also affirmed the importance of enhancing the participation of women and other underrepresented groups in scientific and technological fields and in higher education. ###



**Dr. Dar is shown with DOST Secretary Mario Montejo and PCHRD Executive Director Jaime Montoya, at the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology in Higher Education.**



**Senator Cynthia Villar (center), chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, leads the ribbon-cutting at the 28th BAR Anniversary and 11th National Tech-no Forum and Product Exhibits, August 7, 2015 at SM Megamall. Joining her (from left) are: Anthony B. Obligado, BAR-Technology Commercialization Division chief; Dr. V. Bruce J. Tolentino, deputy director general for communication and partnerships of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); BAR Director Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar; Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala; InangLupa President Dr. William D. Dar; and BAR Assistant Director Dr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy.**

## Can the Philippines modernize its agri-fishery sector?

The Philippines cannot achieve inclusive growth if its agriculture workers continue to be among the poorest.

One would expect a booming agricultural sector in a country rich with vast fertile lands, but this seems to be not the case in the Philippines.

According former budget secretary Benjamin Diokno, the government should focus on the agricultural sector which employs a third of the labor force.

"It is cheaper to create jobs in agriculture than in other sectors," he told Rappler.

In addition, pushing for the sector's development will lead to inclusive growth, especially as agricultural workers are the poorest in the labor sector.

"Agricultural growth in the last 5 years was anemic," Diokno stressed. "If you pay attention to agriculture in the rural area, that's growth inclusive."

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show that there is no significant change in poverty incidence among farmers.

In a forum organized by Greenpeace Philippines, Nheden Sarne of the Agricultural Commodities Division of the National Economic and Development Authority said there are a lot more improvements needed before the country's agricultural sector achieves its full potential.

While the bulk of the programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) are commodity-centric, Sarne suggested that it would be better if policies and projects will also focus on priority areas that can boost the stability of the sector.

1. Encourage investments in agriculture that promote area-based development

by ensuring that each area in the Philippines is prioritized through specific development programs, there will no longer be a problem of getting left behind. Each aspect will be tapped, leading to inclusive agricultural growth and eventually, economic growth.

2. Prioritize investments that can increase and sustain productivity

If the productivity of those working on the agricultural sector is developed, a lot of opportunities will open that can ensure growth. However, productivity enhancement should not only be on one or two aspects – it should cover the entire supply chain from production to marketing.

3. Ensure well-functioning irrigation systems and an efficient transport infrastructure

Irrigation systems have been a constant problem of the average Filipino farmer. If investments in a developed irrigation system is prioritized, it will make a huge difference.

Underscoring its importance Sarne noted that an improved irrigation system in any part of the Philippines can increase productivity by 15% to 20%.

4. Invest in programs that will increase resilience to climate risks and disasters, as well as pests and diseases

Farmers used to just face off with pests and diseases, and periodic typhoons, but as years passed by, climate change has contributed to the burden that hinders growth in the sector.

According to DA, farmers are the most affected by typhoons and other effects of climate change. Rehabilitation also takes time so developing resiliency is best.

(Pls turn to p5)

# Govt ready vs El Niño

No fear! The government is on top of the situation.

"We're preparing for this and the public should not feel alarmed," Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said.

"There will be no hoarding, and no one will take advantage of the situation, which is expected to worsen as the dry spell intensifies."

In a Cabinet meeting last month, President Aquino instructed concerned officials to prepare a "detailed road map" to address the El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to last until early 2016.

He said government is studying other options – not just water rationing – to cushion the impact of the severe dry spell, which is expected to begin later this year. He said the drought is likely to wreak havoc on food-producing areas.

But he stressed measures are in place to ensure adequate food supply as well as stable food prices.

Coloma disclosed earlier the creation of a Food Security Council led by National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) chief Arsenio Balisacan.

The council is composed of the Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry and Finance, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, National Food Authority, National Irrigation Administration and the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Another group has been assigned to help address the expected water shortage. Named "water czar" was Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson.

Singson's team is composed of representatives from the Local Water Utilities Administration, National Water Resource Board, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the National Irrigation Administration.

"The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council was also directed to coordinate with its local councils in preparing and implementing community-based water conservation and other mitigation programs," Coloma said.

Meanwhile, the Air Force is ready to conduct cloud-seeding operations to mitigate the impact of El Niño, using their LC-210 rainmaking aircraft is available for any cloud-seeding operation.

"We always make ourselves available. We have a long experience working with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)," Canaya said.

"With regard to cloud-seeding, we have that capability in case there is a need to do it," he added.

"Recently, we did a mission over Pantabangan Dam and Angat Dam. We had several sorties for rain-making when the water level of the dams supplying water to Metro Manila went down," he said.

Canaya noted that the BSWM is also tapping private aircraft for rainmaking efforts.– (Phil Star)



## Plant drought-tolerant rice varieties

To help farmers cope with and mitigate the extreme impacts of El Niño, PhilRice encourages farmers to plant drought-tolerant varieties and use El Niño-ready technologies on rice production.

PAGASA recently reported that the ongoing El Niño condition is likely to continue until early 2016 with chances of strengthening toward the end of the year.

For irrigated lowland, farmers may consider planting several early-maturing varieties such as PSB Rc10 (Pagsanjan), NSIC Rc130 (Tubigan 3) and NSIC Rc152 (Tubigan 10).

Pagsanjan matures in 106 days with a maximum yield of 7.5t/ha. Tubigan 3 matures in 108 days with a maximum yield of 7.6t/ha while Tubigan 10 matures in 109 days with a maximum yield of 8.7t/ha. Farmers may also plant NSIC Rc134 (Tubigan 4), an early-maturing variety (107 days) with a maximum yield of 9.8t/ha and NSIC Rc160 (Tubigan 14) also an early-maturing variety (107 days) with a maximum yield of 8.2t/ha.

For rainfed lowland, farmers may choose from NSIC Rc192 (Sahod Ulan 1), PSB Rc14 (Rio Grande), and PSB Rc68 (Sacobia). Sahod Ulan 1 matures in 106 days with a maximum yield of 5.5t/ha.

Rio Grande matures in 110 days with a maximum yield of 6.1t/ha. Sacobia matures in 116 days with a maximum yield of 4.4t/ha.

These varieties are also known for their drought-tolerant properties preferable in areas where El Niño is expected to hit worst.

Drought-tolerant varieties for the uplands include PSB Rc80 (Pasig), PSB Rc9 (Apo), and NSIC Rc23 (Katihah 1). Pasig can yield up to 8.7t/ha and matures in 112 days. Apo matures in 119 days with a maximum yield of 5.6 t/ha while Katihah 1 matures in 108 days with a maximum yield of 7.6t/ha.

Farmers can also use water-saving technologies such as controlled irrigation or alternate wetting and drying (AWD), aerobic rice, drip irrigation, and reduced tillage technology.

Meanwhile, PhilRice continues to roll-out information materials on El Niño. Said communication resources are available for download from the institute's website ([www.philrice.gov.ph](http://www.philrice.gov.ph)).

Farmers can also contact the PhilRice Text Center (0920-911-1398) should they want to know more about El Niño and the technologies that they can use to reduce the losses brought about by the phenomenon. ###

## DA-BSWM joins int'l soil confab



Director Silvino Q. Tejada (middle) of the DA-Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) together with DA-BSWM Organic Agriculture Program Focal Person Ms. Karen Salandanan-Bautista (left) recently attended the 2015 International Soil Conference (ISC) in Thailand, on August 18-21, to mark the International Year of Soils (IYS).

This year's ISC aims to exchange views and experiences from each participating countries regarding the proper management of our soils and other soil-related matters through the implementation of various programs in every country, to develop and adapt certain technologies which may be applicable to other farm-lands in relation to sustainable uses of soils to secure food production.

In the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture has designated the Bureau of Soils and Water Management as the lead agency to implement related activities and projects in observance of the IYS in partnership with the UN FAO.###

## Soil guide book, anyone?

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has produced a guide book titled Simplified Keys to Soil Series to provide farmers accurate soil identification through qualitative analysis of the soil's basic properties: color, texture, pH (measure of acidity and alkalinity), and coarse fragments.

Wilfredo Collado, senior science research specialist of Agronomy, Soils and Plant Physiology Division (ASPPD), said that the tool will not just provide better approach towards agro-technological transfer but will also help enhance agricultural productivity in a farming area.

"Once the soil is identified, most suitable crops can now be selected and planted, and at the same time, proper soil management recommendations can be devised," Collado explained during a seminar titled "Key to Soil Series: A Tool for Improving Agricultural Productivity," on 22 July.

Collado also said that farmers will also be guided on soil fertility and management, and appropriate technology requirements for a particular crop. Soil identification follows simple methods from soil sampling, color determination, pH and texture determination.

The steps under these methods are detailed in the guide book. A soil series guide book for each of the major rice producing provinces of the country (Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Iloilo, Pampanga, Tarlac, Aklan, Antique, Bataan, Bulacan, Pangasinan, Zambales, Aurora, Cagayan, Negros Oriental, and Negros Occidental) is also available.

The seminar was organized in celebration of the International Year of Soils in 2015. Farmers, extension workers, or anyone interested may contact the PhilRice Text Center (0920-911-1398) should they want to know more about the guide book. ###

### *Can the Philippines... (from page 3)*

Farmers should be taught on the various ways they can mitigate and reduce climate risks. If possible, climate-resilient crops should be made available.

5. Promote greater private sector investments and support

Connection with the private sector can be made through agri-business schemes such as contract farming.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines contract farming as "agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers." Conditions then are set between the two parties regarding certain aspects such as quantity of crops to be produced.

The FAO added that both farmers and private institutions can benefit from contract farming. The farmers are guaranteed buyers of a specific quantity of their crops. Meanwhile, the private institution will then have adequate supply at agreed-upon price.



*Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan (left) is greeted by InangLupa Movement Vice President Sonny Domingo and OASP Vice President and InangLupa Business Manager Dr. William Medrano, at the 1st National Organic Agriculture Scientific Conference, BSU, La Trinidad, Benguet.*

## Organic agri may ease hunger

"The production of organic products through organic agriculture may contribute to food security and the distribution of healthy food to every person resulting to a healthier lifestyle; thus, lessening hunger."

Thus said Dr. William D. Dar, president of InangLupa Movement, when he discussed "Organic Agriculture and Food Security: Perspectives, Challenges and Opportunities," during the 1st National Organic Agriculture Scientific Conference, at Benguet State University, La Trinidad, on July 8, 2015. He was represented by InangLupa vice-president, Dr. Sonny Domingo.

Dar said there are still major challenges confronting the adoption organic agriculture in the country. These include population explosion, water scarcity, poverty and hunger, land degradation, and climate change.

"Organic agriculture is a system that respects the natural capacity of plants, animals, and the landscape. It aims to optimize quality in all aspects of agriculture," stated Domingo during the plenary session.

He added that organic agriculture dramatically reduces use of chemo-

synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals.

But challenge is great as the per capita world food production has grown by 25%, and global food prices have fallen 40%, making food cheaper and affordable.

He added that despite the increases in average per capita consumption of food, 36 countries still have an average per capita calorie consumption of less than 2200 kilo calories per day. This food requirement is still under the minimum level considered for maintaining good health.

However, Domingo emphasized that some 852 million people are still hungry all over the world.

"This current situation only shows that there is a need to further increase food production to lessen hunger," said Domingo.

Hence, he said InangLupa Movement advocates for organic farming to help address hunger, rural poverty, climate change, and land degradation.

In all, Dr. Dar noted in his message that organic agriculture cannot feed the world's hunger in a blast, but it could help the world to lessen hunger. (*Phoebe Aludos*)

### **Reforms needed**

Beyond programs that aim to uplift the current situation, Sarne suggested revisiting certain agriculture-related policies revisited to test their effectiveness. If proven to be ineffective, these should be reconsidered or at least, revised.

One of these laws include Republic Act 8178, or the Agricultural Tariffication Act.

"Dapat may close monitoring na maayos pagdating sa importation ng agricultural products," Sarne stressed. "Hindi iyong import lang nang import;

dapat maayos ang proseso rin."

(There should be close monitoring when it comes to importation of agricultural products. there should be a proper process, not just always importing.)

In addition to land and water reforms, Sarne also encouraged reforms at the National Food Authority.

He said the NFA should maximize the productivity of the local farmers by increasing domestic palay procurement. The NFA's role should also cover buffer stocking or ensuring a vast supply of rice. (*Rappler.com*)

## Enrolment in agri continues to dip

Enrollment in agriculture and related courses continues to go down despite the increasing demand for food and other farm products in the country, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) said on Wednesday.

SEARCA said enrollment in agriculture courses declined by 1.5 percent on average each year, citing findings of a comprehensive study on trends, prospects and policy directions in higher education in agriculture published in 2013 by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD).

This information was shared by SEARCA during the Congressional Committee on Higher and Technical Education (CHTE) meeting on August 18 to which the center was invited to present its position on House Resolution 589.

The resolution, authored by Rep. Estelita Suansing of the First District of Nueva Ecija, urged the conduct of an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the decreasing number of licensed agriculturists and students pursuing a career in agriculture with the end view of maintaining the country's rice sufficiency.

"The downward trend in enrollment in agriculture courses poses a serious concern to the agriculture sector, which is responsible for supporting the country's growing demand for food, fuel and feeds," Suansing said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the study conducted by PIDS and PCAARRD also showed that while unemployment among graduates of agriculture, forestry and natural resources (AFNR) is high, other college graduates also have the same problem.

SEARCA said it agrees with PIDS and PCAARRD that the limited employability of AFNR graduates is less likely a supply problem than a result of a shifting demand in the job market as the country's agri-based economy becomes more industry- and service-oriented.

It advocated for agricultural education in the country to become more focused on creating business opportunities from agriculture and developing the technical and entrepreneurial skills of students.

"The time has come to move up the value chain of agriculture to cover the entire agribusiness commodity system and not limit its domain to just farm-level production," SEARCA said.

"Broadening the domain of agriculture would also count in favor of the Philippines as it faces the Asean Economic Community 2015, where production and trade will be borderless, therefore, the perspectives and expertise of agriculture graduates should encompass the whole value chain, not just production," SEARCA added.



**DA-BSWM Assistant Director Sonia M. Salguero (2nd from left) receives an award for the Philippines as the Asian Network for Sustainable Farming Technology (ANSOFT) "Outstanding Country," during the AFACI Program Workshop on Basic Agriculture, in Hanoi, Vietnam, Aug 18-22, 2015.**

## Phl named as 'Outstanding Country' at AFACI workshop in Vietnam

The Philippines took home pride and honor as the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Soils and Water Management (DA-BSWM) represented the country during the Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) Program Workshop on Basic Agriculture last August 18-22 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Philippines topped other Asian countries for its outstanding accomplishment for the Asian Network for Sustainable Farming Technology (ANSOFT) under AFACI, which was presented by DA-BSWM ass't. director Sonia M. Salguero.

The program workshop aims to create high-impact results on the basic agriculture programs being implemented in each country, wherein it also served as a venue for the BSWM to impart its knowledge about the high impact results of the Organic Agriculture and Agri-Pinoy Corn Program and other plans for the remaining project time frame.

Moreover, BSWM Executive Director and the Head of ANSOFT-Philippines, Dr. Silvino Q. Tejada shares his overwhelm-

ing gratitude not only for being hailed as the "Outstanding Country" but also because of the acknowledgement of the hard toil of the BSWM and its staff.

"This award for our country recognizes the labor of the people behind this ANSOFT to serve our country with utmost effort to provide technology and new ideas to make farming in the Philippines as competitive as other Asian countries," he said.

It was in September 2014 when the formal launching of the ANSOFT-Philippines was carried out in Camiguin Province where organic model technologies were adopted and aligned with concept in all municipalities of the province to declare itself as an organic province.

BSWM intends to allot the US\$2,000 award it received for outstanding ANSOFT project for the training workshop of fresh college graduates to open new opportunities to the youth and to increase the development of organic agriculture, particularly in Mindanao. ###

SEARCA's suggested improvements on the curricula used in agriculture courses include the application of new information and communication technologies to agriculture data analytics, agricultural technology and to solutions for agricultural development; and providing space for transdisciplinary, problem and practice-based approach to learning agricultural science and entrepreneurship.

"Partnerships with government agencies and the private sector will also give students opportunities for collaborative research and expose them to real world applications of science and technology," it said.

The research institute said it can conduct studies that focus on curricular reforms in agriculture or AFNR, in partnership with universities undertaking research and development in inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development. *(Business Mirror|by Mary Grace Padin)*



### InangLupa Newsletter

Editorial Board

<p>William D. Dar <i>Adviser</i></p> <p>Junel B. Soriano <i>Managing Editor</i></p> <p>Paul Vincent M. Anareta <i>Copy Editor</i></p>	<p>Noel O. Reyes <i>Editor-in-Chief</i></p> <p><i>Editorial Consultants:</i> Francis J. Flores Cheryl Natividad-Caballero William C. Medrano Zosimo M. Battad</p>
---	---

*Website:* <http://inanglupa.weebly.com>

*E-mail:* [inanglupa@yahoo.com](mailto:inanglupa@yahoo.com);  
[w.dar38@yahoo.com](mailto:w.dar38@yahoo.com)

*Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/inanglupa>

*Tel No:* +63 (02) 654 5415;  
+63 906 4104 023;  
+63 917 6512 711

*Office Address:* InangLupa Movement, Inc. Office  
DA-BSWM Building, Diliman,  
Quezon City, Philippines