

# InangLupa

Official Newsletter of the InangLupa Movement Inc.

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

## 9 point agenda to jump start an inclusive and modern Philippine agriculture



In a recent Board Meeting of InangLupa, which is the first for 2015, the Founding Chairman Dr. William D. Dar announced that it is now time for everyone to contribute to Philippine agricultural development.

He announced the importance of encouraging more to volunteer for the movement which has grown from 4 individuals meeting in ICRISAT to 500.

InangLupa as a social movement will continuously do advocacy work for its target the smallholder farmers, Dar said. He then proceeded to ask every board member to suggest possible areas for engagement. He said, this is not only a movement but an outright "War on Poverty" with InangLupa as the champion.

During the meeting, a nine point agenda was approved as follows:

First. **Congressional Forum on Agriculture and Fisheries:** Conduct of annual congressional conference and quarterly policy/technical seminar on specific topics to enhance the level of understanding of lawmakers and policy makers in agriculture and fisheries.

Second. **Yamang Lupa Expansion (Soil Rejuvenation as entry point):** Support YLP in advocating its activities like soil rejuvenation, nationwide soil health mapping, to include upgrading of regional soil laboratories, use of improved crop cultivars/animal breeds, improved delivery system, and links to market.

Third. **Knowledge Delivery System/Farmers Call Center:** Promote science and technology for the advancement of farmers thru ICT (GreenSIM and GreenPHABLET) and put up a farmers referral system where pool of experts will attend to the queries of farmers thru ICT platforms.

Fourth. **Dictionary for Science and Media Partnership:** Publish the "Dictionary for Science" to educate the media partners/journalists in writing agriculture articles. This was proposed by InangLupa volunteer Frank Hilario. Subsequently BAR has agreed to provide P 213,000 as a grant.

Fifth. **Co-convenorship of Relevant Conferences/Symposia:** Partnership with science-based organizations/professional societies, higher educational institutions and others in conducting conferences/symposia on relevant and specific topics.

Sixth. **Observance of International Year of the Soil 2015:** Champion and participate in the celebration of International Year of the Soil 2015 together with the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Soils and Water Management and other stakeholders.

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### Editorial

## I had a dream

Everybody has a dream in the windmills of their mind. A recurrent dream or a dream of wanting to be and/or wanting to see.

A *recurrent dream* to me is a volcano erupting with all its beauty with lava flowing down connecting to a myriad waterfalls but giving me fear every time it happens since it could be the end of ones life and that of his community or it could be new soil that will nurture the crops in the area.

The *dream of wanting to be...* the owner of a public land that I planted with trees but could not own as it is a government property.

And the *dream of "wanting to see"* — a nation of plenty where there is no hunger and abject poverty.

And how can this happen?

In a recent board meeting of InangLupa a nine point agenda was agreed for 2015 to reshape Philippine Agriculture under the leadership of Dr. William D. Dar along with topnotch scientists, academicians, social entrepreneurs and farmer leaders.

In addition the dream could be that the government has decided to support social entrepreneurship especially those initiated by the stakeholders with professional managers or industrialists as partners with the farmers as co-owners. This is instead of funding programs managed by its agencies that most often are not designed to service the needs of the stake holders in their communities and most often do not have the management capability.

That farmers have now clustered their farms to have the economies of scale as an aggregate to fully mechanized with common service facilities in land preparation, cultivation and harvesting and an appropriate size rice mill for value adding.

That professional agriculturists and managers are now harnessed to provide the technology and business management adopting the IMOD (Inclusive Market Oriented Development) developed by ICRISAT (International Crops Research for Semi Arid Tropics).

That farmer federations now own the super markets that sell their produce that is integrated with a processing and packaging plants powered by renewable energy to be able to sell at reasonable prices direct to consumers since they also no longer have to pay taxes.

That the farmers have already a way of maximizing the productivity of their lands after being issued a Soil Health and Credit Cards, Phablets with GreenSIM to provide them technical weather update and pricing information in real time.

I had a dream that the farmers no longer have to wait for assemblers to buy their produce but will only harvest upon the orders of a cooperative that markets his produce and share on the profits of his produce.

I had a dream.....for InangLupa. VLD

# Welcoming home the chosen father of *InangLupa*



Afternoon of Thursday, 29 January 2015, at the convention hall of the Bureau of Soils & Water Management (BSWM), we bid welcome back to the Philippines former Director General William Dollente Dar of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), based in India, where he served as DG in the last 15 years, 2000-2014. In my book, the 8th published by ICRISAT, I call those "The William Dar Years of ICRISAT."

In his welcome remarks, Director Silvino Tejada of the BSWM said, "Every farmer has a home of his own. William Dar is home from his wanderings. We extend our warmest welcome. Returning home after 15 years of managing ICRISAT, it is a double honor to have him with us. We thank you, Sir, for coming home."

Fortunato Battad, currently Chair of the Board of Agriculture of PRC, and President Emeritus of CLSU, among other distinctions, said:

If you could only get his virtue as a transformational leader ... This is what leaders should be in this country, a servant leader. "I am here to serve and not be served." He served ICRISAT, he served India; I am glad he is coming back to serve and not to be served.

Battad also said, "The other asset I would like to emphasize – he has a very good project in InangLupa. Please extend your cooperation to this program. He is a great Ilocano, a great Filipino."

Santiago R Obien, former Director of PhilRice and Nicomedes P Eleazar, Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) also gave their welcome remarks.

On this occasion, while the MOA was being signed between InangLupa and BAR, I was asked by Noel Reyes of the DA to tell the audience about my book project, the Dictionary of Science for Journalists. I explained that I submitted a proposal to InangLupa and BAR is funding the production and printing. The book is meant to translate technical language into layman's language, or what I refer to as high school English – the targets are journalists who must write their stories with understanding and local content, as well as junior and senior high school students to be able to understand the terms so that they can teach their parents who may not have gone to school. You cannot write or teach science if you don't talk or teach at the level of the language of the ones you want to talk to or teach.

Speaking in English and Ilocano, I told my audience to look at page 3 of the newsletter of InangLupa distributed for the occasion. I'm a fast reader, so I immediately saw what I wanted to explain. I gave examples from the newsletter: "Inclusive. Science-based. Resilient. Market-oriented. Ania ngay ti kayat nga sawen dagita?" (So what do all those want to say?) I said,

we understand them, but our audience themselves must understand what we're talking about.

The program sheet said at the top, "WELCOME HOME Dr. William D. Dar, International Agriculturist." We were welcoming, as Battad said, "a great Ilocano, a great Filipino." Never in the history of an international center under the CGIAR has there been a tenure as long as this. How come he lasted that long as DG? As he delivers his response, the image in the background says it for all:

A welcome party for Dr. William D. Dar.  
Kudos to a great man!  
Great to have you back.  
From the BSWM Family

He was great. He saved ICRISAT as an institution from slow suicide and brought it to fast recovery and, beyond that, he made ICRISAT #1 among the 15 CGIAR international centers of research in agriculture. To go to the top, one of the meaningful things he did was help the staff find new meaning in life as an institutional body doing "Science with a human face." Not simply science to advance scientists' agenda, but science to advance the poor farmers' welfare, especially those in the drylands of Africa and Asia, where ICRISAT works, up to and including emancipating them from poverty. Of the Four Freedoms of Man articulated by US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his State of the Union Address before Congress on 08 December 1941 – speech, worship, want, fear – one in fact refers to poverty: freedom from want means freedom from poverty.

Notwithstanding its local name, InangLupa is not simply new and improved agriculture, not simply "Science with a Filipino face." First of all, it is a social movement, more than teamwork; it is "Science with a social face." InangLupa is theoretical agriculture applied by real people with real people with real problems brought about by lack of freedom from want.

For Philippine agriculture to raise the poor farmers to the level above poverty and sustain themselves up there, 4 things are necessary; William Dar calls them the "Four Pillars of Agriculture," requiring that agriculture be:

(1) Inclusive. The social process of growth must include the poor farmers in defining problems and searching for solutions. No one can help the farmers except when they learn to help themselves.

(2) Science-based. There is room for folk wisdom but even that must be tested true by science. Technologies and systems must be evolved and must prove their economies of small scale for the small.

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## Electronic trading for farmers

(A reprint of Business and Leisure Column by Ray Butch Gamboa from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, March 20, 2010)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is going high-tech with new marketing set-ups that include warehousing schemes as well. This should be good news to our farmers who have always wanted to have a set-up similar to the sugar central. The DA has looked into the electronic trading system and agricultural commodities exchanges of other countries that have worked well for their farmers and adapted the system here. Called ACES, or Agricultural Commodities Exchange System, it allows for direct contact between buyers and sellers, a set-up acceptable at all levels to both camps. The only affected sector here, of course, is the middle men because the system eliminates the need for these traders. Farmers can get direct access to quotes, and because this effectively eliminates wasteful cost, the consumer is the ultimate winner because he gets to enjoy lower prices. Internet-based electronic trading system gives both farmer and consumer more efficiency in the market.

With ACES, the user also has the ability to project raw material cost by buying forward. On the part of the farmer he can sell on a forward basis as well-if the current market price is too low, he can commit to sell a couple of months later when the price is better. The commodity is first stored in a warehouse of the National Food Authority (NFA has special designated warehouses for this scheme) until such time that the buyer can take possession of the goods purchased.

The logistic support provided by the NFA gives an unqualified assurance to the buyer that, at the designated time of sale, there will be physical delivery because the commodities are accepted and stored in an accredited NFA warehouse. For deferred sales, the buyer need not worry about non-delivery because of the logistic capability of the NFA. That's a great way of marketing agricultural commodities. DA consultant Mr. Gregorio Tan enjoins farmers and buyers to patronize this system that is most beneficial to all parties and help pave the way for a successful electronic agricultural trading system in the country.

The corn farmers are certainly welcoming this new system. There is a dire need for better infrastructure for corn farming in the country, and this could be the start. Speaking of corn, El Niño has damaged hundreds of corn lands in Region 2. They speak of about P4 billion in damages. The country's livestock has corn requirements of over one million metric tons, and of this, Region 2 provides some 600,000 to 700,000 metric tons. Since Region 2 is one of the most severely damaged, expect a serious shortage of corn. This translates to higher prices of corn and consequently, higher prices of livestock which includes hogs and chicken.

The government's reaction to this shortage is to import feed alternatives. Wheat is the more viable substitute for corn. We asked Mr. Isidro Acosta, vice president of Philmaize Federation Inc. if they have any projections on the wheat importation. Mr. Acosta said it is difficult to cite figures now because even livestock farms and poultries have been affected by El Niño, and as we speak, these farms are suffering losses.

Anyway, the corn farmers are already bracing themselves for this wheat importation. Though they have not been advised, they are pretty sure some of the wheat feed have landed because the price of corn has significantly gone down in a matter of days, which means that wheat feed has been dumped in the market.

Just recently, the corn farmers were set to sell at P13 which, they say, is already a good price. Now, they can only sell their produce at P11.30. In two weeks' time, the prices dipped.

As early as December, the corn farmers already foresaw the deadly effects of El Niño and requested the DA for cloud seeding, though these exercises were unsuccessful. They also requested for other mitigating measures like shallow tube wells. To their credit, the DA responded positively, but due to bureaucracy, the funds were released too late. The pumps are now being distributed, though they cannot be used for corn planting anymore. The federation is advising corn farmers to consider crop diversification instead and plant short maturing crops to counter El Niño.

## Gov Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya meets SMART and InangLupa executives

MAKATI – Gov. Ruth Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya recently met with executives of the InangLupa Movement Inc (ILMI) to map out the connectivity of their farmers using SMART communications facilities with a GreenSIM and GreenPhablet developed by International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Padilla said that she has been looking for partners to give weather information and real time price to their farmers to avoid the exploitation of traders on their produce and to outsmart the debilitating effects of climate change.

The meeting started with SMART Public Affairs Manager Mon Isberto asking “why is rice farming unsustainable”. Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) President Florentina S. Dumlao pointed out several factors like poor soil fertility, inferior seeds, varietal constraint and many others.



L-R Ms. Jill Lava, Engr. Ed Sabado, Dr. Florentina Dumlao, Mr. VL Sonny Domingo, Ms. Glai Pajela, Mr. Apollo Domingo, Ms. Cheryl Caballero, Dr. William Dar, Gov. Ruth Padilla, Mr. Mon Isberto & Mr Darwin Flores

SMART Community Partnership Head Darwin Flores joined in by saying that the cost of production is so high that rice farming requires a subsidy and the connectivity of the farmers to the market.

What came out as a problem during the meeting was the credibility of the content and source of information if the connectivity will be put in place through the SMART-ICRISAT-InangLupa networking with the political will of the LGU under Gov. Padilla.

Dr. William D. Dar, President of InangLupa added by saying that ILM will champion said initiatives.

ICRISAT ICT scientist Guntuku Dileepkumar said in a teleconference that the way to go about the credibility of the information on pricing is to connect it initially to the export price of the commodity and refer it to the data base which should now be the basis of programming the ICT for the LGU and the farmers.

Dr. Dar added that if the farmers connectivity (FarmConnect) when establish in Nueva Vizcaya will be the first in the Philippines and will be a trailblazer in this area where ICT is key in empowering the farmers of the province. This will serve also as the model for the whole country.

An MOU will be developed to establish a tri-partite partnership between the LGU to use the GreenSIM and Phablet the SMART Communications Inc to provide the tools for connectivity and the InangLupa with the NVSU to provide the content.

*Welcoming home...from p2*

(3) Resilient. This has something to do with the advent of climate change – not to mention livestock, crops must be able to grow well and yield well despite either lack of rain or too much rain, either drought or flood, either higher or lower temperature in the surroundings.

(4) Market-oriented. The aim must always be to make farming profitable to the farmers, young or old. That is to say, farming must be run as a business, not simply a hand-to-mouth existence.

Pillars. A pillar is a free-standing, vertical support (American Heritage Dictionary) and therefore firm, solid. I understand the nature of William Dar's analogy: 4 pillars – if 1 pillar is missing, the whole structure will fall. "A house divided against itself cannot stand" – Jesus Christ. I get the metaphor. "A house subtracted from itself cannot stand" – Frank A Hilario.

Notwithstanding, since I'm a writer, and Pope Francis just passed by us, I'd love to call them The Four Languages of Being in Agriculture, following Pope Francis' excellent pronouncement about the Three Languages of the mind, heart and hand, when he told the youth in Manila during his visit (18 January 2015. [en.radiovaticana.va](http://en.radiovaticana.va)).

What is (the) most important subject you have to learn in life? To learn how to love. This is the challenge that life offers you: to learn how to love. Not just to accumulate information without knowing what to do with it. But through that love, let that information bear fruit.

For this the Gospel offers us a serene way forward: using the three languages of the mind, heart and hands – and to use them in harmony. What you think, you must feel and put into effect. Your information comes down to your heart and you put it into practice. Harmoniously. What you think, you feel and you do. Feel what you think and feel what you do. Do what you think and what you feel. The three languages.

Applying Pope Francis' advice, in uplifting the state of the poor farmers in the Philippines, we must apply the 4 languages of Being Inclusive, Being Science-Based, Being Resilient, and Being Market-Oriented.

Why Being? Because it's a process. Why Languages? Because, as in verbal languages, it has to be learned by the head, heart and hand. We have to think; as we think, we have to feel; as we feel, we have to do. Because the expression of the languages of being will vary according to the circumstances, the situations – science has to adapt to them. The expression of science, which is either in the form of a technology or system, is not like prescribed medicine, where you have to follow doctor's orders exactly; the expression can always be improved upon. To be friendly and therefore welcome, the expression of science must depend on the user of that science – it must have a human touch.

Precisely, I myself want to improve the language of science journalism in this country – and in the world – by teaching science journalists the very language they don't learn in any school of journalism:

The Language of Science with a Human Touch.

(Frank Hilario - <http://amagazinecalledlove.blogspot.com/>)

YLP Corner

## YLP updates

Yamang Lupa Program (YLP) will conduct a review and planning workshop on April 2015 to be organized by DA-BAR. It will be participated by the YLP steering committee, program management group and technical working groups of the three pilot regions.

Expected to attend are experts from International Crops Research Institute for Semi- Arid Tropics, executives from DA-High Value Crops Development Program, DA-National Rice Program, DA-BAR, DA-BSWM, DA-ATI, DA-BPI, DA-Regional Field Offices (Regions 4A, 8 & 9), State Universities and Colleges and Local Government Units, and working/management group members of the consortium partners.

The main objective of the workshop is to review the progress of YLP, and assess the strengths and constraints during the initial implementation stage of the program. Also, part of the workshop will be the planning and developing of more appropriate strategies for effective implementation and management of the program. Lastly, the YLP group must prepare detailed action plans for implementation in the next two years to meet the expected outputs and achieve its goal.

Focal persons from the satellite programs of YLP that includes Sustainable Intensification for Prosperity and Growth (SIPAG) in Ilocos Sur, Building Resilience and Rural Livelihood Program (BRRLP) in Nueva Vizcaya, and Improving Productivity and Building Resilience Program (IPBRP) in La Union will also be invited in the workshop to share their experiences in their respective areas.

*InangLupa spells out...from p1*

Seventh. **Strategic Communication/ Marketing for InangLupa:** Create video presentation and other materials of InangLupa activities and projects for distribution worldwide to include prospective donors.

Eighth. **InangLupa Scholarship/Fellows:** Sponsorship to deserving students of smallholder farmers embracing the vision of InangLupa.

Ninth. **Capacity building of Food Security Warriors:** Produce well-rounded volunteer trainers by organizing various trainings on agriculture, agri-business, farmers sustainability, environmental protection, soil conservation, etc.

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