



# InangLupa

Official Newsletter of the InangLupa Movement Inc.

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May 2015 Issue

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

## Villar, Alcala lead IYS 2015 launch

Senator Cynthia Aguilar Villar and Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala led the ceremonial launch of the International Year of Soils (IYS) celebration — with the theme: "Healthy Soils for a Healthy Life"—at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), 9 am, May 25, 2015.

The IYS launch — a major component of the Farmers' and Fisherfolk's month celebration — kicked off with Senator Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, and Secretary Alcala unfurling a huge IYS banner hanging at one of the walls of the BSWM building. They were assisted by InangLupa Movement (ILM) president and former DA Secretary William D. Dar and Aristeo Portugal, assistant Philippine representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Sen Villar and Sec Alcala also led the ribbon-cutting of IYS exhibits at the BSWM lobby, where various projects and activities of the DA-BSWM on soil resources conservation and managements, including those of Yamang Lupa Program, a joint project of DA-BSWM, DA-BAR, ICRISAT, LGUs, SUCs, DA-RFOs and ILM were presented in several photo-essay panels.

The IYS celebration was formally launched with a fitting program at the BSWM conventional hall, where BSWM Dir. Silvino Q. Tejada, vice-chair of the national IYS celebration task force, welcomed the VIPs, guests, and DA and BSWM officials and staff.

Thereafter, the VIPs — led by Sen Villar, Sec Alcala, ILM Pres Dar, Assistant FAO Rep. Portugal, and DA Undersecretary Emerson Palad for field operations, chair of the IYS national task force, took turns in sharing their respective ideas and initiatives on how the government, the DA, FAO, ILM could help the country's achieving the IYS goals during the press conference.

(Pls turn to p2)

## DA-BSWM needs P500M to modernize soil labs

To rejuvenate the country's soil resources, the Department of Agriculture needs to allot an initial P500 million.

Thus is the recommendation of former agriculture secretary William D. Dar, during the launch of the International Year of Soils (IYS) celebration at the DA's Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), May 25, 2015.

The amount will be spent to upgrade and repair outdated laboratory equipment and facilities of national and regional BSWM soils laboratories, re-train technicians and field persons, and conduct soil



**'Pinoy' IYS Movers.** Senator Cynthia A. Villar (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) are flanked by the country's major movers in the observance of International Year of Soils: (from left) Agriculture Assistant Secretary Edilberto de Luna and BSWM Director Silvino Tejada, IYS National Task Force co-chair and vice-chair, respectively; Aristeo Portugal, FAO Assistant Representative in the Philippines; and InangLupa Movement, Inc. President William Dar. (Photo by Ardy Tompong, DA Info Div.)

## Sen Cynthia Villar supports soil, water initiatives

Philippine Senator Cynthia A. Villar vows to support programs and initiatives to preserve the country's soil and water resources. She made the commitment at the launch of the "International Year of Soils" or IYS celebration at the DA's Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), May 25, 2015.

As chairperson of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, Sen Villar will extend full support to allotting budget for soil mapping and

rain water harvesting projects in 2016.

She urged DA Secretary Proceso Alcala, BSWM Director Silvino Q. Tejada and other DA-BSWM officials to defend well their proposed projects for soil and water resources at the Lower House and the Senate, so they could secure the needed budget.

"I have been advocating and funding waste composting projects in Las Piñas, where households recycle 75% of their food and kitchen wastes, transforming and processing them into 55 tons of organic fertilizers every month", Sen Villar said.

She also mentioned that her family-owned Camella Homes donates the composting facilities in Las Piñas and other Camella housing villages in the country.

"We need to preserve and conserve our soil resources for future generations," said Sen Villar, who has a degree in Business Administration at the University of the Philippines, which recognized her as one of its distinguished alumni in 2004. She completed her Masters in Business Administration at the New York University.

Quoting an old adage, she said, "We did not inherit the earth's resources for our own, but merely borrowed them from our children".

"Magtulungan po tayo for our benefit and the benefit of our children and future generation of Filipinos," said Villar, who is married to former House Speaker and Senate President Manny

(Pls turn to p4)



**Yamang Lupang Program.** Inanglupa Movement, Inc. President William Dar (left) explains to Senator Cynthia Villar and Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala projects of Yamang Lupa Program (YLP), which are part of the photo-essay IYS exhibits at the BSWM lobby. Also shown are DA Undersecretary Emerson Palad, who chairs the IYS National Task Force, and FAO Assistant Representative Aristeo Portugal. (Photo by Ardy Tompong, DA Info Div.)

**DA-BSWM needs P500M to...**  
(From page 1)

mapping and other related services, said Dar, who recently retired as director-general of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), in India, after an unprecedented three five-year terms.

He said the DA-BSWM national and regional soils laboratories should analyze and determine not only the soil's primary nutrients notably nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, but also secondary and micronutrients, which are also important for plant growth. The secondary soil nutrients are calcium, magnesium and sulfur, while the micronutrients include boron, copper, iron, chloride, manganese, molybdenum and zinc.

"The DA-BSWM could then recommend to farmers the suitable crops, and the right kind and amount of organic and inorganic fertilizers, including micronutrients," added Dar, who now serves as President of InangLupa Movement (ILM).

For his part, BSWM Director Silvino Tejada said it is indeed high time for us to "save our soils."

"Kailangan na nating i-repair ang ating lupa, dahil hindi na malusog. Ibalik natin ang sustansya ng lupa upang ito'y lumusog uli," noted Tejada.

Dar noted that rejuvenated soils, modern and climate-resilient crop varieties, and scientific farming are the keys to adequately feed the country's population by 2050.

The FAO estimates that by 2050 global population would reach 9 billion, and to support their food needs, global agricultural production should increase by 60%, and

developing countries including the Philippines should have to double their agricultural production from current levels.

Further, Dar said 35 years from now, the country would need to source or produce 50% more water for agriculture.

"This is the enormity of the challenge we would be confronted with in the future," noted Dar, "and it all starts from the basics, which is soil."

Meanwhile, he also promoted among participants the vision and four pillars of Inanglupa Movement, namely: inclusive, modern and science-based, resilient, and market-oriented Philippine agriculture. ###

**Villar, Alcala leads IYS...**

(From page 1)

As the IYS launch was an integral part of the 'Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month' celebration, five outstanding farmers and national winners of the 2014 Gawad Saka Awards gave their respective testimonies on their trials, challenges, and triumphs, including the assistance extended to them by DA, BSWM, regional offices, and other DA agencies, enabling them to achieve record harvests and incomes.

Thereafter, Sen Villar, Sec Alcala and Pres Dar led the group in affixing signatures on a "IYS Covenant" signifying their support to the IYS key objectives and goals.

The InangLupa Movement, Inc. has forged an agreement on January 29, 2015 with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) to make the celebration of the International Year of Soils (IYS) in the Philippines as successful as possible, and help advocate other major initiatives that include "Yamang Lupa Program."

InangLupa founder and president Dr. William D. Dar said "we are privileged to partner with the DA-BSWM on the IYS celebration and other initiatives on sustainable soil and water management, as we jointly pursue efforts to realize our vision of an inclusive, science-based, resilient and market-oriented Philippine agriculture."

Under the MOA, InangLupa shall provide the BSWM with media linkage support in implementing the communication plan for the IYS celebration and with Congress in both houses, and a proposed international symposium on soils and food and nutrition security.

Further, InangLupa will assist the implementing groups of the Yamang Lupa Program to include soil health mapping, and upgrading of national and regional soil laboratories and in advocating policies and proposed legislation at the House of Representatives and Senate of the Philippines relevant to land use policy, land use conversion, soil and water resources conservation and management, and sustainable land management. ###



**IYS PressCon.** BSWM Director Silvino Tejada (seated, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) answers a query from members of the media who attended a IYS launch press conference, at the BSWM convention hall. Joining him (from left) are Ass't. Sec. Edilberto de Luna, FAO Assistant Representative in the Philippines Aristeo Portugal, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, Senator Cynthia Villar, Inanglupa Movement, Inc. President William Dar, and IYS national task force chair Undersecretary Emerson Palad. (Photo by Rino Resurreccion, DA Info Div.)

# UN-FAO enjoins countries to observe IYS

"We speak a lot of the importance of sustainable food systems for healthy lives. Well, it starts with soils."

Thus said José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO), as he enjoins FAO member-countries and non-members alike to conduct appropriate activities, programs and initiatives to commemorate "International Year of Soils" or IYS.

"We need healthy soils to achieve our food security and nutrition goals, to fight climate change and to ensure overall sustainable development. You can count on FAO's commitment and active participation in this effort," said da Silva in its FAO website, promoting the IYS.

"The multiple roles of soils often go unnoticed. Soils don't have a voice, and few people speak out for them. They are our silent ally in food production," he added.

"We now have adequate platforms to raise awareness on the importance of healthy soils and to advocate for sustainable soil management. Let us use them," as he urged FAO member-countries, which now count 198.

The Philippines is among the 34 founding members of the UN and FAO in October 1945.

The UN during its 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in December 20, 2013, has declared 2015 as the "International Year of Soils" and December 5, 2015 as "World Soil Day."

The FAO takes the lead in the worldwide observance of IYS, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and in collaboration with governments and the secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The specific objectives of the IYS 2015 are to:

- Raise full awareness among civil society and decision-makers about the profound importance of soil for human life;
- Educate the public about the



FAO Director General Graziano da Silva (left) shakes hands with DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano to acknowledge the Philippines support to 2015 International Year of Soils, during Serrano's visit to FAO in Rome. (Photo from DA and FAO)



**IYS Covenant Signing.** Senator Cynthia A. Villar (middle) and Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcalá lead the signing of an International Year of Soils covenant of continued partnership and commitment to promote sustainable soil and land management towards ensuring productive food systems, improved rural livelihood and farm incomes, and a healthy environment. Looking on is Inanglupa Movement, Inc. President and former Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar. (Photo by Ardy Tompong, DA Info Div.)

crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;

- Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;
- Promote investment in sustainable soil management

activities to develop and maintain healthy soils for different land users and population groups;

- Strengthen initiatives in connection with the SDG process (Sustainable Development Goals) and Post-2015 agenda;
- Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national). ###

## ICRISAT to conduct AeDM training workshop in RP, June 23-25

As part of the implementation of Yamang Lupa Program (YLP), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in collaboration with the DA's Bureau of Agricultural Research and Bureau of Soils and Water Management will conduct a training-workshop, entitled "Agro-ecosystem Development and Management (AeDM) for Building Climate Resilient Communities," on June 23 to 25, 2015 at the DA-BSWM, Quezon City, Philippines.

Participants of the training course are implementing and management group members of YLP pilot sites (Regions IV-A, VIII and IX), YLP adopters (Ilocos Sur, Nueva Vizcaya & La Union), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), DENR-Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB) and PhilRice.

The training is designed to learn options in building climate-resilient communities by understanding better the impact of climate change in agriculture, integrated natural resources management, significance of ecosystem services and their interaction towards sustainable

development.

It will have three technical sessions: (1) overview of AeDM; (2) impact of climate change to ecosystem services and natural resources; and (3) best-bet strategies and options for integrated AeDM. Thereafter, workshops will commence.

Participants are expected to gain and/or enhance their understanding on:

- (1) concepts and impacts of global warming and climate change, and their effects on agricultural productivity;
- (2) policy guidelines and institutional arrangements for integrated AeDM;
- (3) best-bet strategies and options for AeDM;
- (4) strategies and approaches in managing natural resources and assessing ecosystem services; and
- (5) developing strategic plans on building climate-resilient communities through integrated natural resources management. ###



Senator Cynthia A. Villar (left) urges the DA-BSWM to display a photo-essay IYS exhibit at the Senate of the Philippines to inform her colleagues on the importance of soils, and gather their support for legislating and funding programs on soils and water conservation and management. (Photo by Rino Resurreccion, DA Info Div.)

## Farmers' month calls for healthy soils

This month of May, the Department of Agriculture celebrates the contribution of the agri-fishery laborers to the growth of Philippine agriculture and present economic status of the country.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcalá led the Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month festivities, during the launch of the International Year of Soils (IYS) celebration, May 25, 2015, at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM). The Farmers' and Fisherfolk's month is aimed at giving recognition and credit to farmers and fishers who remain the backbone of countryside development.

"*Marapat lamang po na kilalanin natin ang ating mga bosing sa palayan at palaisdaan, at lahat ng katulong natin sa pagpapalago ng sektor ng agrikultura,*" Alcalá said.

"These heroes continue to be sturdy and consistent partners of the Philippine government in attaining food self-sufficiency and sustainability for all," he added.

May, was declared as Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month via Proclamation No. 33, signed by then President

Corazon C. Aquino in 1989, to give highest priority and regard to the men and women who toil tirelessly to bring food not just on their own table, but more importantly for the consumption of the entire nation.

This year, the celebration coincides with the campaign launch of the International Year of Soils (IYS) – an undertaking led by the Food and Agriculture Organization – with the theme: "Healthy Soils for a Healthy Life."

The FAO said "healthy soils are the foundation for food, fuel, fiber and even medicine."

"The multiple roles of soils often go unnoticed," said FAO Director General Jose Graziano da Silva in their FAO website,

He adds, "healthy soils are essential to our ecosystems, playing a key role in the carbon cycle, storing and filtering water, and improving resilience to floods and droughts." (Please see related story.)

IYS 2015 aims to raise awareness among civil society, policy-makers and the general public on the importance of soil for human life, specifically in food

security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

In the Philippines, the DA's Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) headed by Director Silvino Q. Tejada is the lead agency in charge of creating massive awareness on the importance of soil in abundant and progressive farming.

As such, BSWM has launched the "Save our Soils" campaign to encourage all stakeholders to take an active role in soil conservation and management.

Before the culmination of the year-long celebration on December 5, FAO and partner –countries would have developed a set of policies and action plans for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.

"As we pay tribute to our farmers and fishers, let us be conscious of the dirt under our feet. Let us come together and save the very foundation of any successful agriculture endeavor in crop production," Alcalá said.

The agri chief added that the soil is a non-renewable resource and "it's all up to us to take care of it."

"As we take care of our farmers and fishers, we pledge to take care of our soils for the future of agriculture and rural development," he said.

Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month is being celebrated across the nation thru the regional field offices of DA. (by Oda Rodriguez, DA-AFID)

### Sen Cynthia Villar supports...

(From page 1)

Villar in 1975.

She also urged BSWM Dir. Tejada to put a similar IYS exhibit at the halls of the Senate to inform her colleagues on the importance of soils, and gather their support for legislating and funding programs on soils and water conservation and management.

"There are still a lot of barren lands that we could develop into productive agricultural farms. All we need are investments to develop them", she said.

As chairperson of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, she has authored and sponsored several major legislative measures, which are listed in her website (<http://www.cynthiavillar.com.ph/as-senator/>):

- Accelerated Irrigation Act – to promote rural development by providing for a six-year accelerated irrigation program for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation projects and for other purposes, filed on July 1, 2013;

- Philippine Corals and Marine

Treasures Protection – an Act to further protect Philippine corals and marine treasures, amending for the purpose Sections 91 and 97 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, filed on July 1, 2013;

- Livestock Development and Indemnification – an Act providing indemnification for owners whose livestock are affected by highly communicable diseases, amending for the purpose Presidential Decree No. 914 (an Act creating the Livestock Development Council, ...), filed on July 2, 2013;

- Philippine Onion Research Institute – an Act creating the Philippine Onion Research Institute, prescribing its powers, functions, and duties, and providing for the necessary funds for its operations, filed on July 2, 2013;

- Hydroponics Agriculture – an Act promoting hydroponics agriculture as an instrument to solve problems of food security, and as a mechanism of wise use of scarce land resources, filed on July 2, 2013; and

- Pesticide Food Safety Act – an Act to regulate pesticide chemical residues in food, filed on July 2, 2013. ###



## InangLupa Newsletter

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**\* Note from Dr. Dar, InangLupa Newsletter Adviser:**  
Starting this May 2015 Issue, we are designating NOEL O. REYES as Editor-in-Chief. One of the pioneer volunteers of InangLupa Movement, Inc., Noel formerly served as Director of the DA Information Service. Upon his early retirement, he joined Ploughshares, Inc., an agri-NGO, as a consultant. He currently sits as vice president of the Philippine Agricultural Journalists, Inc. (PAJ), serving as committee chairman of the Binhi Awards, a yearly agricultural journalism contest.