



DALAREICH POLOT
Writes for Greenfields

40

Anjanette A. Tadena, International Agriculture Education Awardee

AGRICULTURIZE

MAKING THE YOUTH, FARMERS



MICHELE GUMABAO

Beauty queen on going green

34



SECRETARY WILLIAM DAR

Reaps major awards

18

2020 Edition



No. 288

PEOPLE



CHARITA PUENTESPINA: Icon of the orchids, chocolate industries

30

INNOVATORS



When agriculture meets tourism

14

YOUTH



This 15-year old teaches farming

38

TRANSPORT



Why the BT-50 Pangolin is the young farmer's ride

44



AGILADRONE.COM

AGILA DRONE



Agila Drone CAAP and FPA registrations required

QUALITY DRONES FOR SPRAYING FERTILIZERS, FUNGICIDES & PESTICIDES

D10

Scan QR CODE to see D10 & M12 video on

YouTube



D10



M12



Specifications:

Tank Capacity: **10 L**
 Unfolded Size: **1650x1650x680 mm**
 Width: **4m**
 Daily Efficiency: **20 - 30 Ha/day**
 Single Flight Efficiency: **0.7 Ha**
 Spraying Flow Meter: **1.6 L/min**
 Recommended Spraying Height: **1.5 - 2.5 m**



Accessories:



2.4 G Remote Control



6pcs. 12000 mAh battery



Charger (2 ports)

M12

Scan QR CODE to download D10 & M12 brochure



Specifications:

Tank Capacity: **12 L**
 Unfolded Size: **1696x1696x536 mm**
 Width: **4m**
 Daily Efficiency: **30-40 Ha/day**
 Single Flight Efficiency: **0.8 Ha**
 Spraying Flow Meter: **1.6/3.2 L/min**
 Recommended Spraying Height: **2.5 m**



AMTEC TESTED

Accessories:



2.4 G Remote Control



6pcs. 16000 mAh battery



Smart Balance Charger (2 ports)



Charger Mate (5 ports)



BEST IRRIGATION SOLUTION FOR FILIPINO FARMERS

adapting and promoting the Indian and Israeli agriculture miracle to all Filipino farmers.

Email us for any inquiry on your irrigation needs harbesthydrobest@yahoo.com or text 0919-9923597

FREE CONSULTATION



Jain Tough Hose - Twin-Line®

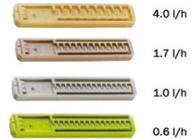


Rainport™ Micro Sprinkler



Jain LLDE® (Linear Low Density Polyethylene) Yellow Twin Line

12mm OD, 10.2mm ID, 0.9mm WT CL 2 YTL, 500mtr / roll
 16mm OD, 13.8mm ID, 1.1mm WT CL 2 YTL, 400mtr / roll
 16mm OD, 14.0mm ID, 1.5mm WT CL 3 BLK, 100mtr / roll
 20mm OD, 17.6mm ID, 1.2mm WT CL 2 YTL, 250mtr / roll
 25mm OD, 21.6mm ID, 1.7mm WT CL 2 YTL, 250mtr / roll
 32mm OD, 10.2mm ID, 0.9mm WT CL 2 YTL, 250mtr / roll



4.0 l/h
1.7 l/h
1.0 l/h
0.6 l/h

PROVINCIAL DEALERSHIP AND IRRIGATIONS CONTRACTOR INQUIRIES ARE WELCOME

Computer Controlled Timer

Rainport™ Micro Sprinkler Assemblies

Sprayheads & Jets

Filtration Equipment

Online Drippers for Twin-Line

* For Farms Nursery, Poultry & Piggery

WE DESIGN & INSTALL IRRIGATION SYSTEM FROM 1-100 hectares



Metro Manila

No. 5 Rosemarie Lane, Brgy. Kapitolyo Pasig City
 Tel.No.: 86717411 to 14, Fax: (02)86712239
 Email: sales@harbest.com.ph, harbestsales@gmail.com
 Kaibigan Hotline : 0922-8521843; 0917-5392683; 0998-9825058

La Union Branch

Brgy. San Vicente Norte, Agoo, La Union
 Tel.No.: (072) 607-7997
 Mobile No. : 0917-8173034; 0922-8858901
 Email : harbest_launion@yahoo.com.ph

Leyte Branch

Zone 3 Palo Villas, Brgy. Guindapunon Palo Leyte
 Mobile No. : 0917140767 ; 0949-7917218
 Email : harbest_leyte@yahoo.com

Bacolod Branch

Door No. 4 LIOC KUI Fraternity Inc. Bldg, 6th Street, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
 Tel.No.:(034)431-1038
 Mobile. No. :0905-4284691; 0922-8521842
 Email : harbest_bacolod@yahoo.com

Cebu Branch

2nd Floor AMS Solar Bldg. Simborio, Tayud Liloan Cebu
 Tel.No.:(032) 342-8873
 Mobile No. : 0917-8468506; 0943-2322136
 Email : harbest_cebu@yahoo.com

Panabo, Davao Branch

Brgy. Consolacion, Panabo City Davao del Norte
 Cel No. : 0917-9702350; 0922-8858930
 Email : harbestdavao@gmail.com

Ozamiz Branch

Unit 4, 3rd Floor, Infinity Business Center, Don Anselmo Bernard Ave. Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental
 Mobile No. : 0917-8518506; 0932-8458755
 Email : harbest.westmin@gmail.com

HARBEST AGRIBUSINESS CORPORATION

Taytay Office: Lot 1 Block 1 Rizal Techno Park Subd. Brgy. San Juan Highway 2000 Taytay Rizal Tel. No. : 8542-9212; 8260-5806; Mobile No. : 09178474861; 0919-9923597; 09228603522



ISSUE 288 • 2020

Editorial Board

Chairman of Editorial Board
Ranilo M. Maderazo

Editor-in-Chief
John C. Arayat

Managing Editor
Disnee Dioso

Associate Editor
Gregory E. Bautista

Social Media Manager
Lourdes E. Tribidino

Promotions Lead
Fe Maghinang

Creative Director
and Layout Artist
Aris L. Solis

Contributing Writers
Antonio G. Papa, PhD
Julio P. Yap Jr.
Jett G. Subaba

Greenfields Magazine is published by Planters Products Inc. with office at 4F Planters Products Bldg., 109 Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City • Phone 8818-2232 • Telefax 8818-2056.

Approved by the Department of Education as a reference material in agricultural arts for both teachers and students in the elementary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Entered as a third class mail matter at the Makati Central Post Office under Permit No. PS323-01 dated January 12, 2011.

The Publisher and Editor declare that they compiled this magazine carefully and to the best of their knowledge. However, no warranty or representation is made to the accuracy or completeness in this magazine. The Publisher and Editor assume no liability whatsoever for any damages resulting from the use of this magazine or of its contents.

Hall of Fame Awardee
Best Agricultural Magazine
Binhi Agricultural Awards
1985, 2002, 2006, 2010



[CONTENTS]

4	MESSAGE	5
	AGRICULTURIZING.	
	Making the Youth Farmers	
8	For Our Farmers	
	PH thrives	
	amid the Covid	
	pandemic	
	JUANA'S DELIGHT	9
	Seaweed Chips	
	from Tawi-Tawi	
10	LAGUNA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	
	Forging ahead with technology business	
	incubation in Laguna and beyond	
	CHAOREN POKPHAND	12
	FOOD PHILIPPINES INC.	
	Building communities through	
	advanced farming technologies	
14	From outstanding young farmer	
	to agriculturist extraordinaire	
	WILLIAM DAR GETS MAJOR AWARDS	18
	for local, international achievements	
20	SAVING OUR FORESTS	
	ONE SEED AT A TIME	
	CAVINTI CREAMERY	22
	Duty makes for a great bottle of milk	
24	ACETC sees need for water	
	conservation products in PH	
	The Beauty of solar-powered irrigation	26
28	PH halal goat industry gets boost	
	ICON of Orchids	
	and Cacao Agribusiness	30
34	THIS BEAUTY QUEEN IS	
	INSPIRING THE YOUTH TO GO GREEN	
	Michele Gumabao pushes	
	for the future of agriculture	
	Bamboo proves worth	36
	in boosting rural economy	
38	JAYA	
	This 15-year old trains	
	future farmers	
	OPINION	40
	Being a farmer is a vocation	
41	OPINION	
	'Hindi pwede sa bukid'	
	WELLISA FARMS	42
	Technology, sustainability and securing markets	
44	MAZDA'S BT-50 PANGOLIN	
	Move across the farm	
	in style, luxury	
	PREVIEW: NEXT ISSUE	46



RANILO M. MADERAZO

President & CEO
Chairman
of Editorial Board



MINETTE BATTERS, president of the National Farmers' Union (UK), says it with conviction that, and I quote, "Women have always been the backbone of a large majority of farming businesses and they have probably not had the recognition they deserve." I think it's true. Our Agriculture Secretary William "Manong Willie" Dar believed in women empowerment. There are now many women in agriculture and leaders in their own right.

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) also tells us that giving women farmers' access to the resources they need would lift up to 150 million people out of hunger.

Greenfields believes that agribusinesses will play a bigger role in Department of Agriculture's "New Thinking" to level up Philippine agriculture and promoting innovations like digitalization, which have the potential to help bridge the gender gap in the country.

In this issue and the succeeding issues, we will unveil Philippine agriculture's young faces that will take farming and fishing to the next level. According to them, agriculture is their wisest decision and pursuit because it is the most healthy, most useful and most noble employment.

Be inspired!

Enjoy reading.

SalaMAT po.



AGRICULTURIZING.

Making the Youth Farmers

By **RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO**

I F I WERE TO REWIND my life by 30 years, and were to choose a hero for my generation, Anjanette S. Tadena would be in my top five list.

Along with her would be the likes of 29-year old Doctor to the Barrio, Montana Amir Cheng Dominguez; United Nations Food Security Ambassador Cherrie Atilano; Michael De la Peña, youth leader of the Heads up PH and Positive Youth Development Network; and the Ateneo Student Council members.

What is common to these young people, of whom only two I have personally met, is their uncannily clear vision of what they want to do. What they want to do is to serve.

“We need heroes who are alive,” Anjanette or Anj, 26, told me in a pandemic-constricted Zoom interview. “A real hero is one who knows what is needed, gets it done so that it is felt. Our farmers are our heroes.”

Anj is an Agriculture graduate at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The course was not her first choice. She was teeter tottering between becoming an entrepreneur right after college or pursue a career. Besides the concept of the business she wanted did not exist in any of the academic disciplines. She dabbled in agriculture because at that time it “seemed to fascinate” her.

“I always wanted to build a business. I knew this

ever since I was young,” Anjanette said recounting how she looked at her pedicab pedaling father, always industrious but never abundant. This was a sticky note in her head.

“Our farmers are like my father. They work hard but they live in a cycle where they never have enough. So, when I took up agriculture, it became clear to me that I wanted to help break that cycle. I wanted to set up an agribusiness,” she said with a glimmer of euphoria.

Was that her eureka moment?

She stumbled upon her dream after graduation in 2014.

“As the eldest child in the family, I felt that I should also be responsible for sending my siblings to school, and so after graduation, was in a hurry to have a job,” the founder of the company Myco PH said.

While looking out for opportunities to bring forward this dream, she landed a job at the Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Soils and Water Management (DA-BSWM) where, because of the prodding of her mentor Dr. Gina Nilo, she became part of a team of Filipino agriculturists sent to an international workshop



ANJANETTE S. TADENA
Founder
Bayanihan para sa Magsasaka

“A real hero is one who knows what is needed, gets it done so that it is felt. Our farmers are our heroes.”



ANJANETTE TADENA'S

fascination for fungi led her to name her social enterprise, Myco PH. Since its founding in September 2019, Anja and Myco PH have made great strides.

A big part of her dream was realized when she joined and won the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Agribusiness Incubator Workshop Pitch competition. She pitched MycoPH and won \$10,000 to further incubate her agribusiness dreams.

where she would see the flash that lit her lightbulb.

“Dr. Nilo was my supervisor when I was still working for the DA-BSWM. She taught me a lot of things but the most important thing she taught me is how to stay humble and grounded. I consult almost every decision I made in life with her, and she was one of the very few public servants who really believe in what youth can do, especially in the workforce. She always encouraged me to explore and to think long-term on what can I do to improve the agriculture sector,” Anjanette shared.

As her learning curve peaked, so did the amount of work she needed to do. This, however, did not “even erase my dream to have my own business, and so I continued researching and laying the foundations of knowledge about business.” And as if by divine intervention, a directly proportional number of opportunities to grow and realize this dream happened.

The initial fulfillment of that dream came while still working for the DA and slowly developing the concept of mushroom farming as an initiative to help farmers augment their income.

Anj is also a full-fledged mycologist. The fascination for fungi led to her name to name her social enterprise,

Myco PH, and it became a formal organization in September 2019.

Just over a year running, Myco PH has succeeded in helping farmers in Pangasinan and Mindoro augment their incomes. It recently had an agreement with a Subic-based agricultural initiative to use bunkers, silos and other facilities in the decommissioned naval base for mushroom production. Outside of that deal, Myco PH now provides plant materials, training, and other inputs for mushroom growing.

The second part of her dream’s realization came when she joined and won the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Agribusiness Incubator Workshop Pitch competition. She pitched Myco PH and won \$10,000 to further incubate her agribusiness dreams.

She whispered that with this dream comes the desire to “agriculturize” the youth. By sending a message out that farming is no longer the backend work it used to be. Though there is no glitz, no airconditioned offices and fancy desks, the glamor comes from the realization that “farmers feed us all.”

By modernizing and digitalizing agriculture, building a base to constantly educate farmers, and



creating facilities to finance farmers better, she believes farmers and fishermen will become younger and the community more modern. However, a younger generation of agriculturists should be developed, and government and the educational community should be ready to activate them.

An inspirational boss

Not only does she work for the farmers, Anj is a model boss as well.

“She would always express her gratitude to us by saying that she appreciates our time and dedication to help and support the organization. She’s concerned about our well-being and would always check if we have problems that she can be of help,” said Ai Tadana, her younger sister and in charge of accounting at #ForOur Farmers.

“She’s very passionate about making a difference in the lives of the farmers. We see her overwhelming dedication and hard work to materialize our projects and she would work long hours just to make sure that everything will fall to its place,” Ai said.

“She leads with kindness, humility and a great

dream to help one farmer at a time. She is a dreamer and doer — almost always gets everything she sets her heart and mind into. She does not waste time and is very responsible. Someone like me feels so blessed to be working with a woman with a big heart for our farmers,” RezyJumawid, head of #ForOurFarmers operations in Misamis Oriental, narrated.

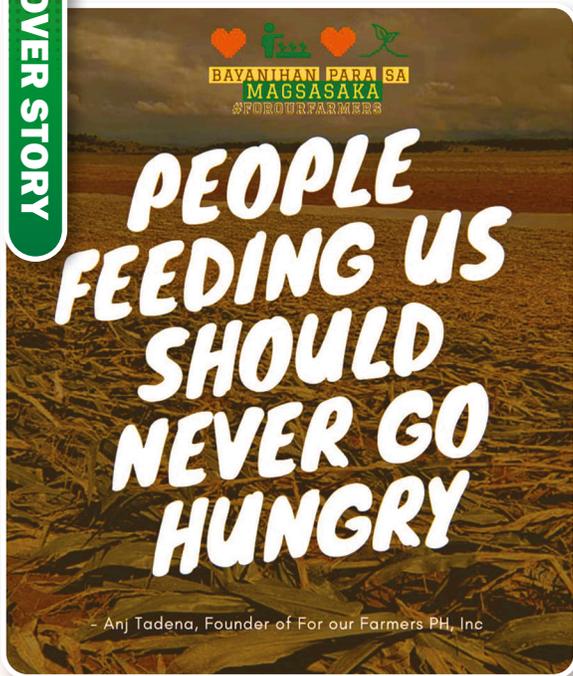
What is the future for #ForOurFarmers?

“I envision that we will have a wider reach as a non-profit organization and will reach more farmers all over the Philippines. We are aiming to partner with more individuals and organizations because we believe that we can do more when we do it together. And we are planning to launch sustainable programs that will uplift and empower farmers,” Anjanette concluded as she shifts back to thanking her parents.

“I would not be the person I am today without the help and guidance of my parents and mentors. My parents are my rock — they taught me how to be brave ever since I was young. They have been telling me that I can do anything, which really encouraged me and kept me going,” she exclaimed.

WHILE IT LOOKS like Anja is living a charmed life, she actually had a lot of responsibility on her shoulders as she was the eldest child in the family. Her family also remains her source of inspiration.

Her younger sister, Ai, is also part of Anja’s various initiatives to help farmers and make a difference in their lives.



For Our Farmers PH thrives amid the Covid pandemic

IN THE MIDDLE of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, Anjanette S. Tadena said she came across a lot of initiatives for the benefit of the medical community frontliners, “but there was none for the farmers,” she said with regret.

“It was sad,” Anja said. “Our farmers are also frontliners, there in the middle of the fields, tending their crops so that there will be food on our tables, yet in the middle of the pandemic, there was little food on theirs,” she added.

“I then thought to start an initiative, which aims to help and uplift our dear farmers amidst this pandemic. We started out as a Covid-19 response initiative and we started very small — just by giving grocery packs to the farmers, and buying these using our personal funds,” she enthused.

By personal funds, she meant money that she and members of her group, “Bayanihan Para sa Magsasaka” (<https://forourfarmers.com/>), established in March 2020, raised to buy an initial volley of food packs and groceries for farmers in the areas they cover. With just P50,000 in their pockets, it was a very modest action compared to the massive outpouring of money and goods from big companies and government agencies.

As their cause became heard, they received personal and organizational support from local and foreign individuals and institutions, which helped continue their activities, expanding from simple grocery packs to now include provide hermetic technology bags used for mushroom production, term life insurance, and even water bill subsidy. The support moved from Pangasinan, the province from which she hails, to Mindoro and later on to more parts of the country.

Anja’s “humble” activities were noticed by Vice President Leni Robredo and she was guest in the vice president’s radio show BISErbisyong LENI, aired on DZXL. There not only was she congratulated by the vice president — she was also able to make

a call to action not only for donations to sustain their efforts, but also to the youth to participate in changing the agriculture sector.

Helping typhoon victims

After the interview with *Greenfields*, her group started to meet and partnered with more individuals, organizations and businesses “who helped us further expand our help to the farmers.” During the crises caused by the five typhoons, Quinta, Rolly, Siony, Tonyo and Ulysses, #ForOurFarmers was able to extend help through Project Sagip, an initiative that, as of this November 2020, has so far raised P600,000.

In July, #ForOurFarmers set up a scholarship for farmer’s children initially to procure materials for modular learning then later tablets and devices for high schoolers.

“We have now 71 scholars from all over the country and we are working very hard to reach more young farmers and farmers’ children,” Anj proclaimed. As of November 2020, the number of scholars has ballooned to nearly 100.

As she was doing it, she was also busy winning an award at the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (AASYP) Reset just this October. ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Reset is a virtual innovation challenge for university students, currently enrolled or recent graduates, as well as young professionals from the ASEAN and Australia to create and collaborate on socially emancipating projects that solve problems and foster stronger peer connections between youth in the region.

Their award comes from a Tinder-like app that connects youth to leaders and mentors.

JUANA'S DELIGHT SEAWEED CHIPS FROM TAWI-TAWI



AGRI PRODUCTS

A healthy alternative from a social enterprise

THERE IS A GROWING trend among foodies to seek healthy alternatives to the usual “junk food.” And for those who love to consume chips that are sometimes derided for their poor nutritional profile, there is a truly healthy alternative straight from Tawi-Tawi.

Straight from the southern tip of the Philippines are seaweed chips made by a social enterprise launched by Manila-based sisters 21-year-old Alyssa Sahali Tan and 23-year-old Dayang Iman Sahali just as the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic was wreaking havoc on the Philippines and many parts of the globe.

The social enterprise, Mangan by Iman, was established by the Tausug sisters to help local communities in their hometown Tawi-Tawi earn income sustainably through seaweed farming and value adding.

In Barangay Tongbangkaw, Tawi-Tawi, farmers produce seaweeds that are processed by mothers-housewives in the area. The finished product – Juana’s Delight Seaweed Chips – emerged as the social enterprise’s first product. It was named after the sisters’ maternal grandmother.

The finished products are delivered to social enterprise’s Zamboanga City headquarters for marketing and distribution.

“My sister and I hope to break barriers, change perceptions and continue to dream not only for ourselves. Wishfully, in the long run, we can expand our enterprise

to other municipalities and even perhaps neighboring provinces like Sulu and Basilan,” Tan said in an interview.

HEALTHY CHIPS

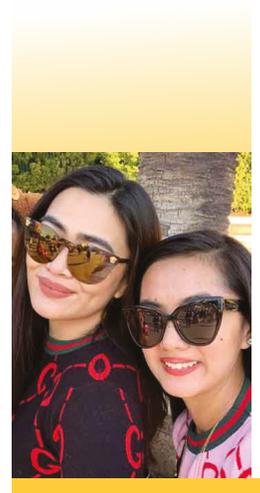
Juana’s Delight Seaweed Chips joins the roster of locally-manufactured chips that are touted to be healthy compared to commercially-produced counterparts. Among these healthy alternatives from local produces are kamote (sweet potato) and banana chips.

And to spice up the experience of eating Juana’s Delight Seaweed Chips, Mangan by Iman also offers a spicy vinegar product as a dip for their seaweed chips.

But what also makes Juana’s Delight Seaweed Chips a truly special product is each pack purchased also helps fund the education of indigenous children, especially the Badjao students in Panglima Sugala Sailing Boat School.

To inquire or purchase Juana’s Delight Seaweed Chips, visit the official Facebook and Instagram channels of Mangan by Iman. Nationwide orders are accepted.

Greenfields will also feature Alyssa Sahali Tan and Dayang Iman Sahali in the next issue.



SISTERS SUPPORT. The Sahali sisters Dayang (left) and Alyssa (right) support each other and the community of seaweed farmers in their native Tawi-tawi. (Photo from the Sahali sisters FB page)





Laguna State Polytechnic University

Forging ahead with technology business incubation in Laguna and beyond

WITH FOUR CAMPUSES strategically located in Laguna, the Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU) can definitely perform the role of development catalyst not only in the province but also beyond Calabarzon (Region 4A).

And while LSPU is currently offering courses for accountancy, computer sciences and criminal justice, its ongoing programs/projects for technology business incubation (TBI) for agriculture and agribusiness are making a big impact on livelihood generation and poverty reduction in Laguna and beyond.

Launched in November 2019 in partnership with the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), an agency under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Agri-Aqua Technology Business Incubation (AATBI) program has seen remarkable progress.

But even before the AATBI took off the ground, LSPU was already pushing various TBI projects across Laguna and beyond.

Among the most successful TBI initiatives of LSPU is “Kabute-ban” that pushes mushroom cultivation and value adding/processing, which was started in 2015 and has been successfully sustained by the university.

LSPU Vice President for Research Development and Extension Dr. Corazon N. San Agustin said raising mushrooms is both profitable and friendly to

the environment, as there is no waste generated in the production process. Conversely, the production of mushrooms utilizes farm wastes, particularly the discarded stalks and leaves of rice plants after harvest. This helps address the issue of farm wastes in the countryside.

And it so happened that the Siniloan campus of LSPU is surrounded with rice fields, providing an abundance of raw materials to make fruiting bags needed for mushroom production.

After five years, LSPU’s TBI for mushroom has spawned, literally, hundreds of “mushroompreneurs” in Laguna and beyond. This, in turn, increased the demand for fruiting bags for producing mushrooms.

“*Yon din ang unang tinuro ng university sa mga tao* (make fruiting bags). *Kulang kami ng production ng fruiting bags. Kasi habang dumadami ang incubatees or those who like to engage, kailangan dumami din ang fruiting bags* (The university also trained people to make fruiting bags as we cannot produce enough of those. Because as the number of incubatees or those who would like to engage in mushroom production increases, there is a need to increase the volume of fruiting bags),” San Agustin said.



LAGUNA STATE
Polytechnic University has a successful project to create products from native fruits. It currently markets juice concentrates and other processed native fruit products under the Anika brand.



She calls those who have gone into cultivating mushrooms “mushroompreneurs.”

Dr. Robert C. Agatep, campus director of the LSPU Los Baños Campus, who was instrumental in getting the Kabute-han project off the ground, said that thousands have already trained under the program, and the state university has conducted research to develop value-added products from mushrooms.

Among these value-added products are mushroom canton (noodles), *chicharon* and lately, *sisig*. He added that LSPU is now taking care of the intellectual property papers for its mushroom *sisig*.

Agatep said that the good thing about raising mushrooms is it does not create pollution.

“Yung ang gustong gusto ng mga nag-rai-raise ng mushroom ay yung pollution is wala, unlike pag-aalaga ng hayop, magrereklamo ang kapitbahay. Yung mushroom growing walang reklamo ang mga kapitbahay (What mushroom growers like very much is it causes no pollution, unlike raising animals, which can cause neighbors to complain. With mushroom growing, there are no complaints from neighbors),” he added.

Mushroom cultivation is also profitable, if not very profitable, according to San Agustin.

She explained that one fruiting bag that LSPU sells for about P135 each can produce mushrooms for four months. Production can be from one kilo per week or two weeks.

So, it is no wonder that LSPU’s Kabute-han project remains one of the most successful under the university’s AATBI program.

And LSPU’s other programs for creating more agri-aqua enterprises are getting faster off the ground because of the university’s partnership with PCAARRD.

PCAARRD’s crucial role

PCAARRD was once headed by Dr. William D. Dar before he was appointed for the first time as Agriculture secretary in 2000. And even before he was appointed for a second time as Agriculture secretary in August 2019, Dar strongly believed that SCUs should take a bigger role in developing local or rural economies, by assisting small

farmers and fishers, women and the youth to become agripreneurs by tapping science-based solutions.

Dar fondly calls this approach “research for development” or R4D that differs from research and development or R&D, which he said can result in scientific outputs just sitting on the shelves of research institutes and having no impact on the community. This in turn results in wasted public funds.

Fortunately, the advocacy that research should be for development, especially in the countryside, was never lost with PCAARRD, which has been actively partnering with SCUs since 2017 to create agri and fishery-based business through technology transfer and trainings, among others.

PCAARRD Supervising Science Research Specialist Noel A. Catibog said the agency started its partnership program for TBI in 2017 with six SCUs. As 2020 drew to a close, PCAARRD had 16 SCUs as its partners with nine from Luzon, three from the Visayas and four from Mindanao.

The DOST has consistently provided funding for the initiative or P135 million from 2017 to 2020.

“The DOST continues to provide funding to support agri-aqua TBIs,” Catibog said.

And with LSPU having PCAARRD as its partner to further its AATBI program, the SCU is in an excellent position to contribute more significantly to the development of Laguna and beyond.

Besides Kabute-han, LSPU has a project for the processing and value adding of native fruits like *santol* (*Sandoricum koetjape*), *bignay* (*Antidesma bunius*), *calamansi* (*calamondin*), among others. Its bignay and calamansi fruit juice concentrates are marketed under the brand Anika, and LSPU produces enough volume of such products to supply major markets like Metro Manila.

Agatep also disclosed that LSPU has 133 hectares of land under development in Sinoloan that will both serve as a future agritourism site and experimental station for the cultivation of various crops.

Big things are definitely ahead for LSPU in the agricultural and agribusiness fronts.

(Editor’s note: Watch out for more success stories in the future issues of Greenfields magazine about LSPU’s projects under its AATBI program.)



THE KABUTE-HAN PROJECT of the Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU) has spawned (literally) hundreds of successful “mushroompreneurs.”

THE PRESIDENT of LSPU, Dr. Mario R. Briones, holds the first two issues of Greenfields magazine.



Chaoren Pokphand Food Philippines Inc.

Building communities through advanced farming technologies



CHAROEN POKPHAND (CP) Food Philippines is part of one of Thailand’s largest private companies and one of the leading global conglomerates in food, feeds and aquafarming.

Internationally, CP has eight business lines mostly in the areas of food and food production with 13 business groups located in 21 countries. In China, it operates a business known as Zheng Da, and was the first foreign investor in that country after it opened its economy to outsiders in 1978. First located in Shenzhen, in the heart of the Guangdong province, it is now China’s single largest investor with over a fifth of the entire feed meal market. Its introduction of new methods and new investments have given it the right to say it has led China’s “Green Revolution.”

The extensive business of CP allows it to operate Southeast Asia’s largest 7-11 retail chain with over 12,000 stores across the region. This makes it the second largest retail base in the world after Japan’s 20,000 stores. CP also has interests in telecommunications through its subsidiary True Group in Thailand, which has over 25 million mobile subscribers.

In the Philippines, Chaoren Pokphand runs farms and feedmills in several locations in Tarlac, Bataan, Bulacan, Batangas, Laguna and all the way to the south in Cebu. The company’s major products are feeds, including swine feed, chicken feed, duck feed, shrimp feed and fish feed.

The animal feeds production also compliments its hatchery, poultry and livestock businesses. CP also has a chicken distribution business called “Chicken Star,” which is one of the most innovative franchising systems because it requires no franchise fee and claims no royalties. The business model is a viable option for returning overseas Filipino workers and local investors.

Chaoren Pokphand Food Philippines is also a community leader, having assisted frontliners in all the regions it is located

in, donating over 100,000 heads of live and dressed chicken to both medical frontliners, and to the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army units in Central Luzon and Bicol (Regions 3 and 4).

Committed to sustainability

Guided by a strong sense of responsibility for the environment and for sustainable production, it also applies policies of locally procuring raw materials and talent, helping farmers in the areas where they are located. CP imports only when local produce is insufficient or cannot meet standards, but even so, it strives to help local farmers and fishers to further develop their products to meet the company’s global standards. This also helps elevate the standards of farmers the company deals with.

Aside from this, CP is dedicated to research for substitute raw materials. This mindset of diversification manages the risk of lack of supply due to seasonality or weather.

CP’s feedmills are equipped with boilers that use biomass such as husk, corn cobs, palm and firewood instead of fossil fuels to mitigate the effects of its operation on the environment. Moreover, it has installed dust filters and ozone management technology to reduce dust and odor from its production process that may impact surrounding community near its facilities.

Greenfields thanks Chaoren Pokphand Food Philippines for supporting its advocacy of elevating farming and fishing into an agribusiness. This, in turn, will help attract more of the youth in the Philippines into agriculture.



Charoen Pokphand Foods Philippines Corporation

KITCHEN OF THE WORLD





From outstanding young farmer to agriculturist extraordinaire

WITHIN THE COASTAL municipality of Jaro, Leyte once bombarded by the military to flush out insurgents rests an agritourism gem — a haven borne out of the perseverance and hard work of its villagers.

The Villaconzoilo Farm Resort, located at the upland Barangay Villa Conzoilo, is a farm-tourism destination that started in a small plot and eventually expanded into a seven-hectare integrated and diversified farm that produces livestock and salad-type vegetables. It also became the first farm in Leyte to be accredited by the Department of Tourism as a tourism camp.

At the heart of this bountiful agritourism paradise is board member and three-term Villa Conzoilo village head Alex Aborita, who in 1996 was awarded the Outstanding Young Farmer in Region 8 (Eastern Visayas), which led him to be chosen as part of the Young Filipino Farmers Training Program in Japan. He then trained in Japan for 11 months, focusing on hands-on farming techniques and technology that were then never-before-seen in the Philippines. While there, he also took part in the ASEAN Young Farmer Leaders Training Program. ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

“When I came back to the Philippines, I applied what I learned [from Japan], although we were not as high-tech. I first applied the Japanese discipline and techniques in farming,” Aborita said in Filipino as he excitedly recalled his overseas training.

“Their farming was already mechanized; while here [in the Philippines], we did not even have tractors — we were still using carabaos. Thankfully, nowadays, we are also slowly becoming mechanized,” he added also in Filipino.

Treating farming as a business

When asked about the other major differences between Philippine farming and that of Japan, Aborita explained in Filipino: “Before, farming here in the province was only for personal consumption, we did not see farming as a business, so that is one of the major differences — here, you only plant so that after three

THE SUCCESS of Villaconzoilo Farm Resort in Jaro, Leyte clearly demonstrates Alex Aborita's vast knowledge in modern farming technologies and trends, such as blending farming and tourism.



months or so you can harvest something to eat.”

“So, when the government sent me to Japan through the Department of Agriculture and the Agriculture Training Institute (ATI), I learned that farming in Japan was a business coupled with science and technology. But it is a good thing, especially amid the coronavirus pandemic, that our farmers are now seeing that farming is a business and that it’s a sustainable form of livelihood,” he added.

Aside from his training in Japan, Aborita was also sent as a delegate to other Asian countries, particularly South Korea and China. From his observations, he expressed confidence that despite falling short in terms of state-of-the-art technologies, the Philippines will be able to compete with Asian countries in the agriculture sector.

“I can say that, in a few years’ time, the Philippines will be able to catch up with neighboring countries, especially if the programs under Agriculture Secretary William Dar would continue. His concentration is to change the system and perspective of our farmers in terms of farming being a business. Our government also has ongoing support services, so we will definitely be able to compete

internationally,” Aborita said also in Filipino.

Aborita, who is a Department of Science and Technology-accredited “*Magsasakang Siyentista*” (Farmer Scientist), mentioned that some of the government’s programs that had a massive impact on local farming are those funded by the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), and various farm mechanization programs/projects.

“During my younger years, my peers and I were jealous of our neighbor countries as we did not have machines yet. But now we have a lot of machines, thanks to the government’s Farm Mechanization Program. The RCEF is also a great help, especially to our rice farmers. Our government now has a lot of other programs to support our farmers, unlike 20 years ago. There were also a lot of programs then, but most of the time they did not reach the countryside,” he said in Filipino.

Aborita’s determination to further contribute to the advancement of the local agriculture sector prompted him to establish the Villaconzoilo Community Farmers Association, which initially had 18 members but now has more than a million-peso worth of assets. The association has been recognized by various institutions

TOP PHOTO SHOWS
a group that underwent training at the Villaconzoilo Farm Resort in August 2018.

BOTTOM PHOTO SHOWS
Alex Aborita in one his foreign training trips to gain knowledge on the latest farming technologies.



THE VILLACONZOILO FARM RESORT is now a seven-hectare integrated and diversified farm that produces livestock and salad-type vegetables. It also became the first farm in Leyte to be accredited by the Department of Tourism as a tourism camp. And this agritourism site is helping farmers in Jaro, Leyte and beyond to gain more knowledge on modern farming, and help attract more of the youth to agriculture.

such as the Visayas State University for its “outstanding leadership, unity, hard work and entrepreneurship,” demonstrating that “upland agriculture can be productive and profitable as a solution to poverty through the adoption of sound environmental practices.”

The Villaconzoilo Farm Resort

As one of the first farms in Leyte that opened a farming school registered under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Villaconzoilo Farm Resort also became an extension service provider of the ATI. The Villaconzoilo Farm School, which currently offers seven TESDA-registered programs, boasts of producing not only agricultural extension workers and agricultural managers, but, more importantly, hands-on farmers.

“A lot of young people are interested in our agricultural skills trainings. Actually, there are major universities here in Leyte, but in our farm school — as a TESDA-accredited farm school — we produce youths who are actual farmers, youths who really want to farm. We have programs for youths who want to be a successful farmer,” Aborita, also the Villaconzoilo Farm School administrator, said in Filipino.

The Villaconzoilo Farm also offers free training programs for out-of-school youth such as the Adopt a Farm Youth Program, also supported by ATI.

“For 45 days, we teach youths from other towns on

how to farm and how to run a farm. After the program, we supply them with starter kits, which include tools and starter seeds. After three months, we conduct visitations to ensure that they truly applied what they learned from the camp,” Aborita explained.

Considered as a modern farm in terms of helping the poverty alleviation initiative of the government, the Villaconzoilo Farm Resort has helped more than 300 farmers’ associations in Leyte, or 2,000 to 3,000 farmers — about 100 of whom are young farmers.

As the average age of farmers in the Philippines now stands at 60, the 45-year-old agriculturist extraordinaire said he still sees himself farming 20 years or so down the line. With most of his life dedicated to the advancement of the local agriculture industry, Aborita hopes for more youths to be interested in the pursuit and appreciation of agriculture.

Once an outstanding young farmer himself, Aborita’s has this advice to the young ones who wish to follow, or maybe, even go beyond his steps:

“To the youths who want to go into farming, it is important to focus first on your community. When you start, you do not need huge capital — start with what you have, then, later on, you will realize that from every crop you plant, you can plant so much more. It is also important to collaborate with government agencies, especially the Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Training Institute, as they have so many helpful programs for our farmers.”



ALL CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT TRADING CORPORATION

A COMPANY STEERED BY EXPERTS, MANNED BY PROFESSIONALS



MASSEY FERGUSON



GT
Mfg., Inc.

IMPORTED FARM IMPLEMENTS



CORN PLANTER & POWER HARROW



SPARE PARTS



SMALL ENGINES PUMPSET AND GENERATOR SETS



PLATINUM
WATER-COOLED DIESEL ENGINE,
GASOLINE ENGINE & PUMPSET



KAIAO
AIR-COOLED DIESEL ENGINE,
PUMPSET & GENERATOR SET



YANMAR
WATER-COOLED, AIR-COOLED DIESEL ENGINE,
PUMPSET AND GENERATOR SET

OTHER FARM SOLUTIONS



Manila Office:

905 EDSA, Brgy. Phil-Am
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. No 1: (02) 7 622-3448
Tel. No 2: (02) 8 952-5648
Globe No. 0917-829-3564
Smart No. 0999-885-9215

Ilocos Norte Office:

National Hi-way,
Brgy. Magnuang,
Batac Ilocos Norte
Smart No. 0999-885-9207
Globe No. 0917-706-0957
Globe No. 0917-711-3704

Isabela Office:

Minante 1,
Maharlika Highway
Cauayan City, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 325-5498
Smart No. 0919-084-0563
Globe No. 0917-636-1639

Iloilo Office:

Ground Floor
ZDB Building
Mc. Arthur Drive,
Tagbak Jaro Iloilo City
Smart No. 0999-885-9209
Globe No. 0917-816-7979
Globe No. 0917-709-2281

Bacolod Office:

Espinosa Village 2
Circumferential Rd,
Brgy. Taculing, Bacolod City
Tel. No. (034) 707-8685
Globe No. 0917-816-4856

Davao Office:

ACETC BLDG.
Km.7, Mc Arthur Hi-way,
Bangkal, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 293-9477
Globe No. 0917-706-0948

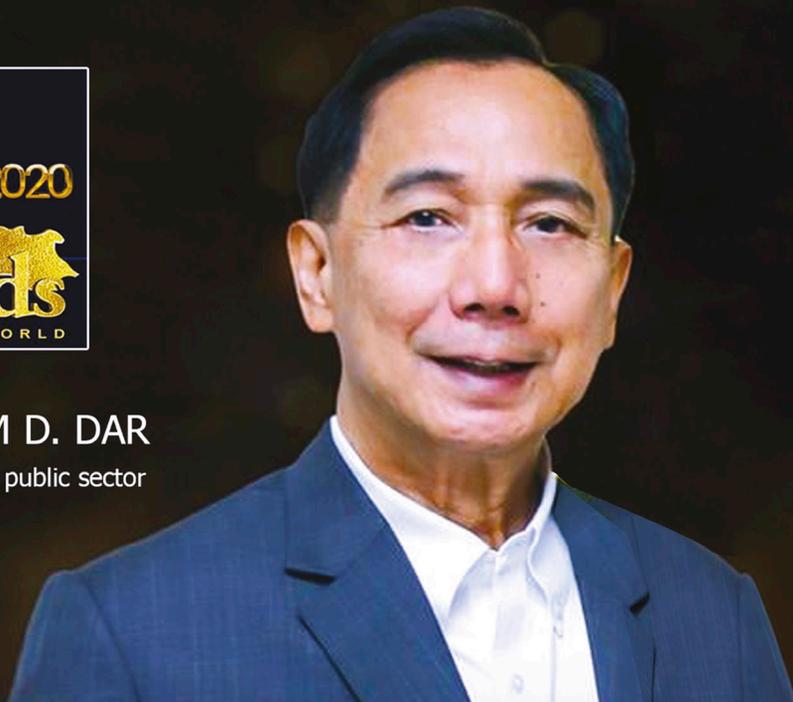
CDO Office:

Zone 5, Tin-ao, Agusan,
Cagayan De Oro City
Tel No.: (088) 880-0570
Globe No. 0917-716-2318



DA SECRETARY WILLIAM D. DAR

"Lifetime Contributor" awardee for the public sector



William Dar gets major awards for local, international achievements

By JOHN ARAYAT

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY William Dar received on November 20, 2020 the "Lifetime Excellence Award" given by the Asia Leaders Awards 2020, in recognition of his over four decades of dedicated servant leadership to attain food security both in the Philippines and in other parts of the world.

The Lifetime Excellence Award is the third that Dar received in 2020. The two others are the: "Lifetime Contributor Award" from the Asia CEO Awards; and "Presidential Award" accorded by the University of the Philippines Los Baños Alumni Association (UPLBAA).

"Being a son of farmers in the north, I had never imagined holding a top position in government with the opportunity to serve our farmers and fishers and change their fate," Dar said in his acceptance speech.

"I had also never imagined garnering this Lifetime Excellence Award, a prestigious recognition from the Asia Leaders Awards 2020. There is so much more I intend to do for our agriculture sector. Nonetheless, I'm very thankful for recognizing my efforts — and the collective achievements of the Department of Agriculture (DA) — thus far," he added.

"Servant-leadership is how I have led in the past four decades, and how I will be leading the DA in the next two years as we continue to lay a solid foundation for a productive, globally competitive and climate-resilient agriculture," Dar said.

"Guided by our 'new thinking' to modernize and industrialize the Philippine agri-fishery sector, we, at the DA, will continue to unlock the sector's vast untapped potentials

and gear it up as one of the country's primary engines of economic growth. Agriculture will be an attractive sector as a source of income and a hotbed for honing technological sophistication," he said.

Dar was appointed as the first director of the DA's Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in 1987 by then Agriculture Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez 3rd. Thereafter, he headed the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), and was appointed acting Agriculture secretary in 1998.

He went on to become the first Filipino to lead a global agricultural research center, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), based in India, serving an unprecedented three five-year terms as director-general.

For his remarkable leadership at ICRISAT, the government of India conferred on him the MS Swaminathan Award, India's version of the World Food Prize.

When he returned to the Philippines in 2014, he founded the Inang Lupa Movement that advocated for the modernization and industrialization of Philippine agriculture.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY William D. Dar received on November 20, 2020 the "Lifetime Excellence Award" given by the Asia Leaders Awards 2020, which recognized his over four decades of dedicated servant leadership to attain food security both in the Philippines and in other parts of the world.



Facing numerous challenges

He was appointed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte in August 2019 to his current position, and immediately confronted several challenges like the spread of the African swine fever (ASF), birth pains related to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), and falling *palay* (unmilled rice) prices, and in early 2020, the eruption of Taal volcano, followed by the global coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, and, recently, a series of destructive typhoons that altogether exacted a heavy toll on the country's food production, supply and affordability.

Despite the numerous challenges faced by the agriculture sector, it became the Philippine economy's saving grace, as it grew by 1.6 percent in the second quarter of 2020 and 1.2 percent in the third quarter.

He is one of this year's 23 recipients of the Asia Leaders Awards (ALA), whose judges include Gerard Ho, Singapore ambassador to the Philippines; Norman Mohammad, Malaysian ambassador to the Philippines; Hang Dong-man, South Korean ambassador to the Philippines; Abdulgani Macatoman, Department Trade and Industry undersecretary; Edward Ling, president of the Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines; and Elton See Tan of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The ALA is one of the largest and respected award-giving bodies from the Philippines with awardees from the Asia-Pacific region. It recognizes the exemplary achievements of technocrats and leaders who make a difference in their own organizations, and go out of their comfort zone to help those in need.

Asia CEO Awards

Dar received the Lifetime Contributor Award by the Asia CEO Awards on October 5, 2020.

"Truly, it is beyond me why I was chosen to receive the Asia CEO Award for the public sector, seeing many

colleagues in government who work as committed as I do. Nonetheless, I am truly honored," Dar said, as he dedicated the recognition to the hardworking Filipino farmers and fishers.

The board of judges for the 11th Asia CEO Awards include noted economist Dr. Bernie Villegas; former Pag-IBIG Fund chief executive officer Darlene Berberabe; former president of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Don Felbaum; world-renowned architectural design and planning expert Jun Palafox; former Management Association of the Philippines president Marife Zamora; and Richard Mills, former president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. Mills chaired the 11th Asia CEO Awards.

Award from UPLB

Dar was also adjudged as 2020's recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award by UPLBAA for his outstanding achievements in agricultural development and management, during the 102nd UPLB Loyalty Day celebration on October 10, 2020.

Dar, in his acceptance speech, thanked his alma mater and fellow UPLB alumni for recognizing him "as a leader who made an impact in the lives of small farmers, fisherfolk and agripreneurs, both here in the country and other parts of the world."

"This (award) inspires me to work harder and with greater sense of purpose as we at the Department of Agriculture continue to battle the protracted pandemic and address its impact on our food production and distribution systems," he added.

Dar also congratulated the new UPLB Chancellor Dr. Jose Camacho Jr. and challenged him to vigorously upscale relevant technologies to enhance productivity in the countryside, and continuously develop the human capital needed to lead the transformation of Philippine agriculture to a modernized and industrialized level.

RIGHT PHOTO

Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar received the Lifetime Contributor Award by the Asia CEO Awards on October 5, 2020, which also gave tribute to his achievements at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) based in India, serving an unprecedented three five-year terms as director-general.

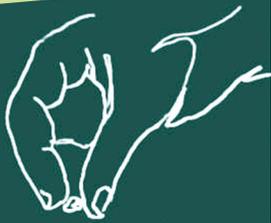
LEFT PHOTO

Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar was also adjudged as this year's recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award by the University of the Philippines Los Baños Alumni Association (UPLBAA) for his outstanding achievements in agricultural development and management. The award was given during the 102nd UPLB Loyalty Day celebration on October 10, 2020.



Saving our forests One seed at a time

By JULIO P. YAP, JR.



There is freedom in being able to express.

THROUGH MAKE A DIFFERENCE Travel or simply MAD Travel, Rafael “Raf” Dionisio is also pushing for the planting of more trees nationwide. Raf said the country needs 30 million trees more to help fight the climate crisis.

OFTENTIMES, one of the mistakes that people make is not to assume that we all know what others really need.

According to Rafael “Raf” Dionisio, our leaders, including us, need to develop this kind of understanding. Also, context is always important, more so when it comes to poverty of the environment and people. So, Raf believes we need an advocacy that can move our hearts for individual transformation and change of behavior, to benefit both humanity and our planet.

Determination

More importantly, our determination can help solve the challenges of the present generation, such as poverty, deforestation and the ill effects of climate change. He said that if we feel that the temperature is humid, we can ask ourselves “why isn’t there enough shade to cool us off?”

We might have all said this at one point in time – and Dionisio kept saying this when he was trekking along the volcanic ash-laden valleys of Zambales. According to him, temperature of places with trees and those without it can have a variance of up to 13 degrees Celsius, based on his personal statistical recordings. The shade and forest cover also creates a water cycle that has been the basis of life since the beginning of time – only to be disrupted by humanity in the past 200 years.

“I really hope that everyone can plant a tree somewhere – in their backyards or even in someone else’s,” Dionisio said. “I also wish that we would buy things that won’t kill the forests, and support brands that support our planet,” he added.

Dionisio keeps hoping that all governments can seriously consider implementing reforestation initiatives properly – since farmers are sure to benefit from the water flow it will generate.

Survival of the human race

“It is actually a matter of survival as a human race,” he pointed out.



Raf explained that taking care of the environment can mean taking care of ourselves, because forests can lower global temperatures.

He also emphasized that “kaingin,” or the slash and burn method of farming, is one of the perennial practices that badly affect nature – an old system for an old environment.

In the past, migrant farmers usually enter the forest, clear a patch with fire, and plant on the freshly cleared area, making the soil rich and fertile.

This practice entailed planting for one season then leaving the area, allowing it to regenerate for years. That happened easily within the forest.

Sadly, today is far different because kaingin has caused forests to degrade, up to the extent of affecting natural water systems.

“In Zambales, a lot of farmers still practice this method because it’s fast, but are unaware of the change in the environmental context,” he pointed out.

“Kaingin is an old system that does not fit into this new world...very similar to our previous way of living as humans, which was not meant for a world with Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019),” he emphasized.

Livelihood opportunities

“That is the reason why it’s important for us to provide farmers with livelihood opportunities, and train them so they can plant with more sustainable soil management systems – something very close to my heart,” he added.

To turn his advocacy into reality, Dionisio, together with close associates, spearheaded the creation of Make A

Difference Travel or simply MAD Travel – a Philippine-based social enterprise that works with and for marginalized communities in creating impactful, inspiring and authentic experiences through interactive experiences.

“We at MAD Travel create innovative solutions for a positive impact,” he said.

This initiative then spawned MAD Market to continue supporting local farmers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) during the Covid-19 pandemic by delivering fresh fruits, vegetables and baked products straight to people’s doorsteps.

With the travel restrictions and lockdowns, farmers and small businesses were among the hardest hit.

By sourcing from farmers in different areas, as well as small home-grown bakeries, MAD Market hopes to help keep livelihoods going, lessen the risk of people going outside their residences, and provide healthier food options.

“I also encourage the establishments of fruit farms in the country to make sure that each of our towns can have access to nutritious, quality and low cost farm products,” Raf said.

“If you want to plant a tree, let us know, you can grab one with MAD Market. We also have online courses coming up if you want to learn more about social entrepreneurship coming from active change makers,” he said.

“Through this effort, we’ve got a mini forest already growing, thanks to the help coming from so many people and, of course, the Aetas who worked hard to care for the environment. This is just the beginning – we need 30 million trees more to help fight the climate crisis – one seed at a time,” Dionisio said.



RAFAEL “RAF” DIONISIO believes the country needs an advocacy that can move the hearts of people for individual transformation and change of behavior, to benefit both humanity and our planet.

CAVINTI CREAMERY

Duty makes for a great bottle of milk

By LUDI E. TRIBDINO



HOW DOES ONE make a great bottle of milk? If you taste any of Cavinti Creamery products, apparently, duty can make for a better bottle of milk.

At Farmshare Prime, Bart Tengonciang and his team consider it a duty to provide their customers with the best possible dairy products. Best is defined as organic from feeding to bottling, and the use of tried-and-tested processes that include grass feeding cows in stress-free conditions.

Duty also meant a commitment to the community in Cavinti where the headquarters of Farmshare Prime is found. The idea for moving out of their cushy air-conditioned offices in Singapore was the drive, nay, the duty that developed within the people behind Cavinti Creamery while immersed in the community where they were able to start.

The relearning was not easy. Farmshare Prime started as a model farm for goats under a program by Dv Boer Farm International Corporation, a company devoted to creating start-up farms across the country.

“It started out well with goats. We were able to

provide jobs and knowledge to the local community, and, in the course of that time, were able to elevate the quality of life of the people we initially hired in the farm,” said John Paul del Rosario, Bart’s classmate in college and now treasurer at Farmshare Prime.

As time went on, the farm grew and they were able to increase goat production and introduce rabbits into the mix, but the decision to start dairy production came later, when they recognized how the finances were being marred by issues related to maintenance cost versus the gate prices of goats.

Venturing into fresh milk production

Bart and Paul persisted in their business, and establishing Cavinti Creamery, a new dairy brand that produces fresh and flavored milk from spoiled, grass-fed cows, provided the turnaround they needed for the business. What prompted the move was an offer from the National Dairy Authority (NDA) to start up farms. Bart immediately sent a letter to the NDA, an agency under the Department of Agriculture, and within a few weeks, they were given their first 10 cows.

“The cows were really healthy and were immediately productive,” Bart said. After a few months, they were able to collect milk and started selling, which they



FARMER-FRIENDS

Bart Tengonciang and John Paul del Rosario are friends, classmates, partners and farmers.



found out was not profitable.

That was when Paul started to develop the idea of processing milk at Farmshare itself. With the help of NDA, they began experimenting — looking at various means to prolong the shelf life of the milk, and create more sellable and profitable milk products. That is when they thought of Cavinti Creamery as a venture that would provide great tasting, high-value dairy milk that was free of preservatives and preserved only to as much a degree as to keep it as close to fresh as possible.

And they purchased a pasteurizing machine to achieve that.

“Our milk will keep for up to 12 days refrigerated properly — that isn’t long,” said Paul. “But we chose this balance between the taste and creaminess of the milk, versus using preservation techniques that may compromise the taste and texture.”

And by tapping the power of social media, Cavinti Creamery can deliver products to Metro Manila through couriers or its resellers. Just visit the official Facebook page of Cavinti Creamery and make an inquiry.

Staying with the community

The former engineers turned agripreneurs behind Cavinti Creamery are confident that their milk venture

will succeed. Bart was a systems analyst while John was a quality assurance engineer, and both are electrical engineering graduates.

“Staying in the agribusiness is may not be easy but is the best thing that happened to me,” Paul explained. A young father at the time the venture started, he said he wanted to move out of the office space into the open fields to have more control of his time and bring the quality of life he and his wife wants, providing a work-life balance.

Bart, however, sums up what Farmshare and Cavinti Creamery are all about.

Bart, who is still single, said that the farm and everyone in it has become his duty. And, in turn, the products of Cavinti Creamery have become the duty of everyone in the farm.

“I just cannot drop this venture because of the difficulties. It has become a duty to sustain the agribusiness and reinvent the perspective of farming to those here at Farmshare Prime,” he said.

“It was not easy to move into this life,” Bart added as he started to tearfully narrate how he fell in love with the community that he helped prosper. “My heart is with this community. I learned that even in the most trying times, everyone in the farm chose to stay, to pitch in and to relearn the ropes.”

“This is my family,” Bart concluded.



FORMULA: DUTY

10 parts milk plus
10 parts duty to
deliver the best milk
to is customers.

ACETC sees need for water conservation products in PH

THE PHILIPPINES has two seasons that make it very hard to manage water resources: dry and wet (rainy). In fact, the recent typhoons demonstrate how much water is wasted during heavy rains, as these flood vulnerable areas and go out to the seas. And during the dry season, water is usually in short supply for agriculture. Amid those scenarios, All Certified Equipment Corporation (ACETC) is taking the lead in offering solutions for efficient management and use of water resources.

Also, ACETC is also helping address the issue of food or farm produce spoilage or wastage, which can become a major problem during both the wet and dry seasons.

ACETC Chairman and President Benigno P. Limcumpao said that during the rainy season, much water is wasted because rainwater harvesting remains at a low rate in the Philippines.

“During heavy rains, the number one thing that should come into our minds is how to harvest rainwater. It is for this reason that ACETC pursued the development of the Water Cube, which we believe is an innovative solution to both harvesting rain water or simply storing water,” Limcumpao said.

For his part, ACETC Vice President and General Manager Bhong C. Amoroso said like all the products being offered by the company, ACETC carefully studied the applicability of the Water Cube in the Philippines.

“The Water Cube is not only efficient in terms of strong water – it is also cost efficient, since there is no need for heavy materials like concrete and steel bars to fabricate it,” Amoroso said.

The Water Cube is made from pipes and encased in geotextile, both locally available. It is also reinforced from the inside to keep its shape, making it sturdy

even during earthquakes.

A Water Cube that has a height, length and width of two meters can store a maximum of 7.6 cubic meters or 7,600 liters of water. Increasing water storage capacity simply requires building another Water Cube beside an existing one.

Limcumpao said the Water Cube usually costs only a third compared to a concrete cistern of similar capacity.

This means that for use in agriculture, the Water Cube is practical as it is cost-efficient for adoption by farmers’ cooperatives and agribusiness enterprises.

Rain Bird irrigation products

ACETC also believes that water should be used efficiently, which prompted the company to introduce Rain Bird irrigation products in early 2018 for use by agribusiness enterprises, golf course operators, and residences with large lawns, among others.

And like all the other brands ACETC represents in the Philippines, Rain Bird is a highly respected international brand, and has been providing advanced irrigation solutions since 1933. Its headquarters is in California, the United States.



BENIGNO P. LIMCUMPAO
ACETC Chairman
and President

“During heavy rains, the number one thing that should come into our minds is how to harvest rainwater. It is for this reason that ACETC pursued the development of the Water Cube to both harvest rain water or simply store water.”

The beauty of solar-powered irrigation

By JULIO P. YAP, JR.

TOP PHOTO

The Candaba Solar Irrigation Project is strategically located in Barangay Bamban, Candaba, Pampanga that offers rich sources of water.

LEFT CENTER PHOTO

With the solar irrigation project, farmers are able to raise various crops like vegetables.

RIGHT CENTER PHOTO

The solar panels of the Candaba Solar Irrigation Project are housed in a lot protected by a concrete fence.

LEFT BOTTOM PHOTO

The aerial view of the solar irrigation facility and the farms it irrigates are a beautiful sight.

RIGHT BOTTOM PHOTO

The solar panels of the irrigation system are elevated to keep them safe from dust and mud.





IRRIGATION PLAYS a vital role in the country's agriculture sector as it helps increase farm productivity by providing sufficient water.

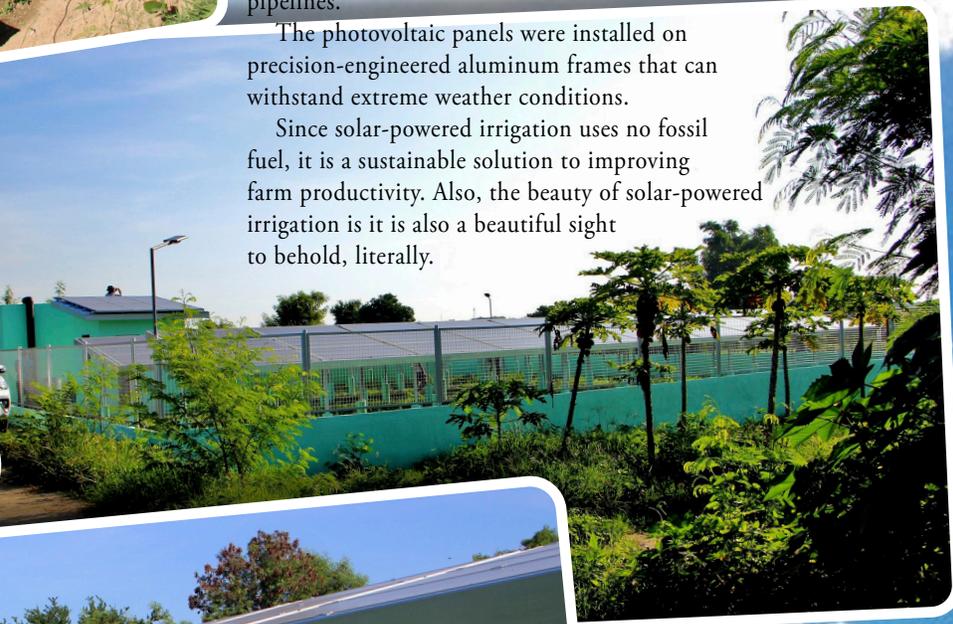
Hence, the Department of Agriculture is also promoting the use of solar-powered irrigation systems with its regional field office (RFO) in Central Luzon (Region 3) completing recently the Candaba Solar Irrigation Project in Barangay Bamban, Candaba, Pampanga.

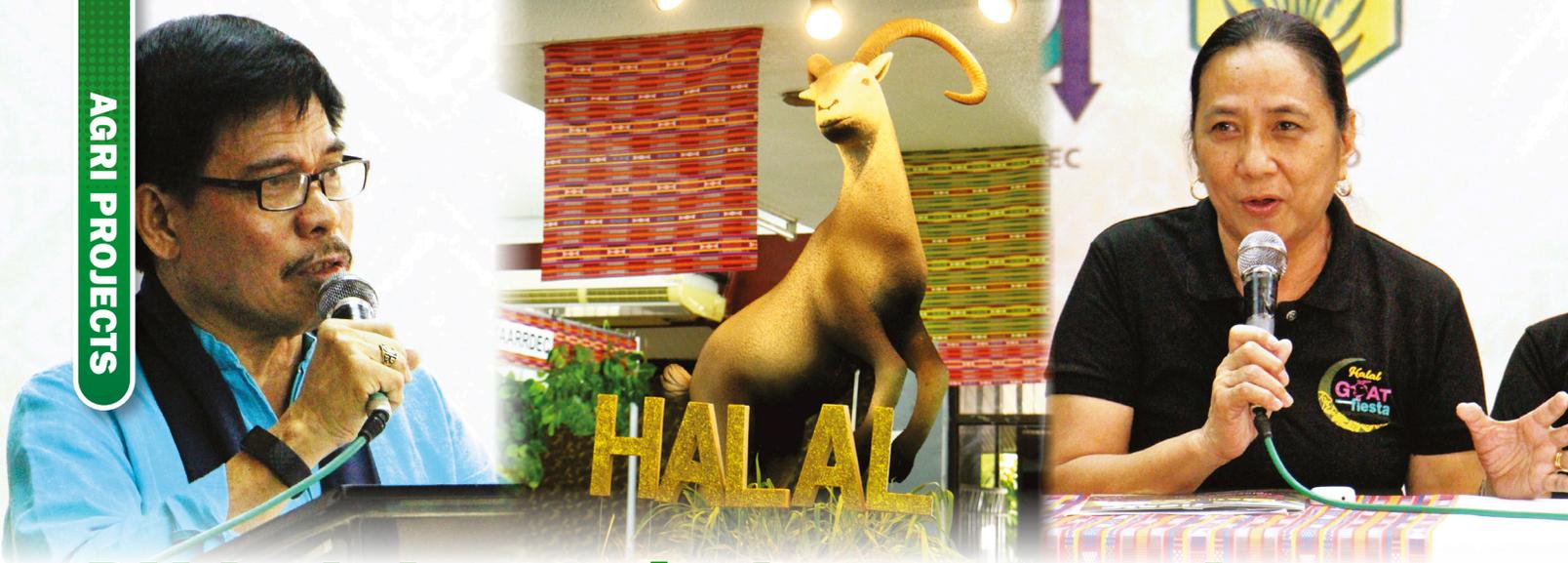
The project was constructed by Bacolod City-based RU Foundry and Machine Shop Corporation, one of the leading technology providers for agricultural development in the country.

The secured facility has 108 solar panels, a reliable and sturdy 25-horsepower submersible pump, state-of-the-art electronic control devices, storage tank, control gauges and distribution pipelines.

The photovoltaic panels were installed on precision-engineered aluminum frames that can withstand extreme weather conditions.

Since solar-powered irrigation uses no fossil fuel, it is a sustainable solution to improving farm productivity. Also, the beauty of solar-powered irrigation is it is also a beautiful sight to behold, literally.





PH halal goat industry gets boost

By JULIO P. YAP, JR.

SULTAN KUDARAT STATE UNIVERSITY (SKSU) now has a halal slaughterhouse funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) at its campus in Barangay Blingkong, Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat. PCAARRD is an agency under the Department of Science and Technology.

According to Dr. Ruby S. Hechanova of SKSU, the halal slaughterhouse will enable farmers in the province to specialize on goat meat or chevon to become halal certified.

SKSU President Rolando F. Hechanova led the inauguration of the halal slaughterhouse.

During the inauguration of the facility, Ruby Hechanova also presented halal compliant chevon food products, such as honey-cured chevon, chevon tapa and corned chevon, which were all developed by SKSU.

“We want the farmers to become entrepreneurs through value-adding,” she said.

According to PCAARRD, authentic halal goat production infuses science and requires a thorough understanding of Islam requirements. However, there is still a need to harmonize local and international policies to successfully participate in the halal trade.

Once those issues are addressed, authentic halal goats and chevon-based products can make their way into the Mindanao markets. The long-term objective is for Philippine halal goat products to be exported to international markets.

A priority of PCAARRD

Goat enterprise management, among other programs, is among PCAARRD’s initiatives to improve the state of research and development in the agriculture, aquatic and natural resources industries.

This is in keeping with its commitment to provide science-based know-how and tools that will enable the agricultural sector to raise productivity to world-class standards, PCAARRD said.

For the Philippines to enter the international halal trade,

problems on authenticity confronting the local halal goat industry should be addressed promptly.

However, based on studies conducted by SKSU, Muslim farmers usually raise goats that cater only to local consumers.

According to PCAARRD, the problem can be attributed to the absence of halal goat production and haram detection protocols in the region, and the limited knowledge of farmers on proper production and post-production practices.

As a result, goats tagged as halal in most markets in Soccsksargen (Region 12) are contaminated with haram substances, including pork derivatives. Haram is referred to as anything forbidden in Islam as stipulated by the religion’s five commandments.

Also, the halal system, as it applies to food, incorporates the concept of “farm to plate” to promote hygiene and good health as prescribed by Allah and Prophet Muhammad, based on Islamic belief.

So, to address the issue on “halalness” in goat production, the PCAARRD through its National Goat S&T (Science and Technology) Program, implemented a project for the establishment of standard protocols on halal goat production and quality assurance system.

From the program, SKSU researchers developed a set of protocols on raising halal goats that have been validated.

The protocols have incorporated essential elements of science for halal goat production vis-à-vis the religious foundations of cleanliness, hygiene, good health and good intentions.

According to PCAARRD, this underscores basic concerns such as the need for a strategic grazing and housing system, health management and Shariah-compliant slaughtering procedures.



FIRST PHOTO

SKSU President Rolando F. Hechanova believes Mindanao’s halal goat industry can be competitive both locally and globally.

SECOND PHOTO

The Sultan Kudarat State University (SKSU) is spearheading efforts to develop the halal goat industry in Mindanao.

THIRD PHOTO

Dr. Ruby S. Hechanova of SKSU is among the leaders from the academe pushing for the development of Mindanao’s halal goat industry.

New Thinking for Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture, under the leadership of Secretary William D. Dar, pursues a development framework dubbed as the “New Thinking for Agriculture.” It is built around eight paradigms designed to increase productivity and profitability of farmers and fishers through sustainable, globally-competitive and climate-resilient technologies and practices.

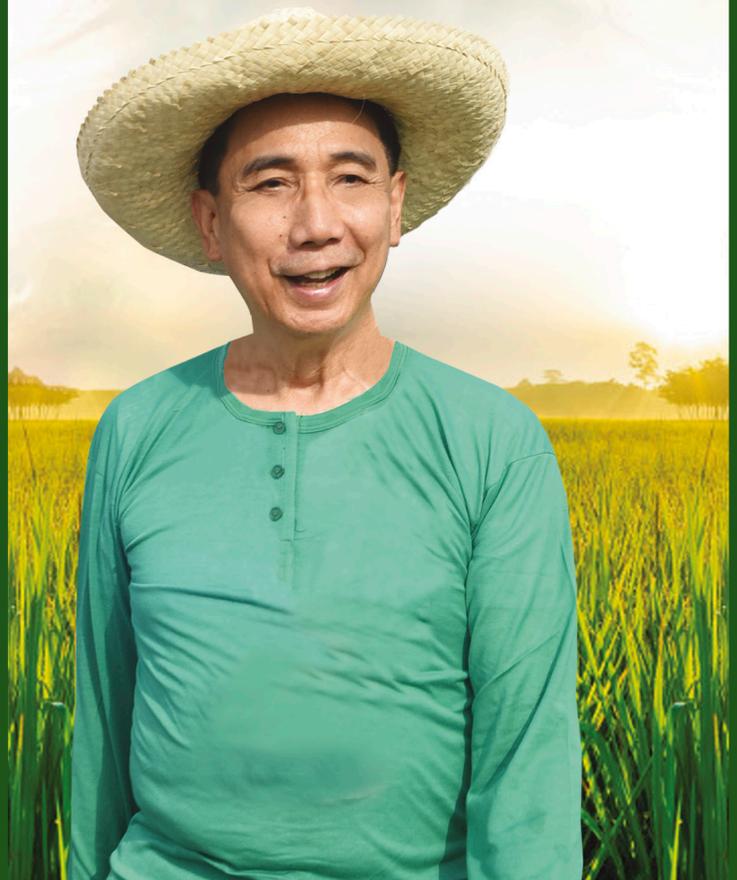


MANDATE

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is the government agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises.

VISION AND MISSION

The DA envisions a food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fishers. It shall collectively empower them and the private sector to increase agricultural productivity and profitability, taking into account sustainable, competitive, and resilient technologies and practices. Hence, its battlecry is simply: “Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita!”



ICON

OF ORCHIDS

AND CACAO AGRIBUSINESS

By ANTONIO G. PAPA, PhD

BY NATURE, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED PLANTS, I HAD THE CHANCE TO ENJOY PLANTS WHILE I WAS GROWING UP, THEY ARE ALREADY PART OF MY NATURE.



CHARITA PUENTESPINA

Puentespina Orchids & Golden Sunset
 PLANT LOVER GIVES WALING WALING. CACAO NEEDED BOOST

THE STRING of Charita P. Puentespina's successes can be dizzying. The way she is introduced during her speaking engagements is not even enough to detail or describe her achievements over the years. Below are excerpts from one of the many introductions made on her behalf:



“Charita Palmares Puentespina wears many hats, but the one she is most proud of is that of being a farmer. The farming bug caught her young while growing up in Iloilo, adapting to her new home in Davao and then building a business while raising a family. In between a budding career as an orchidist, she still managed to espouse the cause of women and children when she became Zonta president in the early 1990s.

“In the late 1980s and through the 1990s, her orchid laboratory took up the cause of saving the *waling-waling*. She trailblazed in growing temperate cut flowers in the Philippines. Her initial efforts in the early 1990s has catapulted Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants Inc. (POTPI) to where it is today — one of the pillars in the cut flower and cut foliage industry in the Philippines with over 300,000 dozens of various cut flowers and cut foliage harvested annually.”

The 63-year-old Puentespina also helped lead the revival of the Philippine cacao industry, making Malagos an international brand.

Orchids and tropical plants

While Puentespina is also known today for her chocolate empire, her first venture was into orchids.

It was in 1997 that Puentespina took up orchid-raising as a hobby, making it a business venture a year later. Today, POTPI is one of the biggest producers of orchids and cut flowers in the country.

The company has four production areas, with the Puentespina orchid garden located in Davao City hosting the garden center, offices and laboratory. It is also where the *waling-waling*'s seedlings and plantlets are hardened.

“We operate four production areas at the outskirts of Davao City, in Baguio District located near the foothills of Mount Talomo,” Puentespina said.

Her advocacy to save the *vanda sanderiana*, or the Philippine *waling-waling*, from extinction in the 1980s is one of lasting legacies of Puentespina. The *waling-waling* can be considered the country's second national flower, though that is not yet official.

Waling-waling, also considered the “Queen of Philippine Orchids,” is endemic to the island of Mindanao, notably in the provinces of Davao, Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur.

The *waling-waling* plantlets that are nursed to maturity in the garden center are brought to the production area in the Malagos Farm.

Nearby is the Pictan Farm that produces field crops along with plants grown for their decorative cut foliage. Also, Pictan Farms grows popular blooms such as chrysanthemum and gerbera, as well as decorative cut foliage such as eucalyptus, white and green lace, and philodendron.

The Carmen Farm has a very cool climate as it has an



CHARITA P. PUENTESPINA also helped lead the revival of the Philippine cacao industry, making Malagos an international brand.



ANGEL P. PUENTESPINA is very much hands-on in managing their cut flower business.

TOP PHOTO
Among the impressive legacies of Charita P. Puentespina was saving the *waling-waling*.

FIRST CENTER PHOTO
The cacao beans produced at the Malagos Farm are of high quality and world-class.

SECOND CENTER PHOTO Cutflowers remain one of the core businesses of the Puentespina couple.

BOTTOM PHOTO
The cacao farm in Malagos is also a model for sustainability.



elevation of more than a thousand meters. It has rolling terrain and dotted with springs that lead to Panigan River, the farm's natural boundary. There is also a forested section for the breeding of butterflies.

The popular Malagos farm

The Malagos Farm is located in an eight-hectare property in Baguio District, Davao City. With an elevation of 375 meters, it is ideal for growing other types of flowers and plants needing a cooler climate. Adjacent to the farm is the family's famous Malagos Garden Resort that serves as a hotel, park and function area.

Malagos Farm is also where the popular Malagos brand for Puentespina's cacao products are produced. It was in 2003 when Puentespina ventured into cacao-growing by leasing a cacao farm in Malagos itself and rehabilitating the trees planted on it. Today, she operates a 24-hectare cacao farm in the area and has partnered with around 100 farmers in the district, helping increase her productivity and promote sustainability in the community.

"The beans we grow are considered as fine flavor beans. These beans are manually harvested then fermented in the farm to further enhance naturally the complex flavor of cocoa," Puentespina said.

Since its initial venture into chocolate making, the company has invested in solar dryers, precision-controlled roasters, ball mill grinders and tempering machines. This enabled the company to produce globally-competitive single-origin products such as the Malagos 65 percent, 72 percent and 85 percent Dark Chocolates, and Malagos Roasted Cocoa Nibs. The award-winning entry, Malagos Premium 100 percent Unsweetened Chocolate, represents the company's first efforts in producing single-origin chocolates.

Furthermore, in 2007, Mars International, through

international trader Armajaro, came to Davao to source cacao beans and asked Puentespina to consolidate the harvests of her farm and small farmers in the Malagos-Calinan area, ferment them and ship them to Armajaro.

Mars International also established the Mars Cocoa Development Center in Malagos where cacao processing was piloted and applied. It is the training center for farmers to learn the proper way of producing cacao — from planting quality seedlings, maintaining (pruning and fertilizing), harvesting and fermenting beans.

Since then, Puentespina's Malagos cacao products have garnered 18 awards from from 2013 to 2019:

- 2019 International Chocolate Awards (Asia Pacific)
- 2019 Great Taste Awards (United Kingdom)
- 2019 Academy Of Chocolate Awards (UK)
- 2019 Heirloom Cacao Designation (United States)
- 2018 International Chocolate Awards (World Final)
- 2018 International Chocolate Awards (Asia Pacific)
- 2018 Great Taste Awards (UK)
- 2018 Academy of Chocolate Awards (UK)
- 2017 Cocoa Excellence Programme (France)
- 2017 Great Taste Awards (UK)
- 2017 Katha Awards (Philippines)
- 2017 Academy of Chocolate Awards (UK)
- 2016 Great Taste Awards (UK)
- 2016 Academy of Chocolate Awards (UK)
- 2015 International Chocolate Awards (Germany)
- 2015 Academy of Chocolate Awards (UK)
- 2015 Katha Awards (Philippines)
- 2013 ASEAN Best Food Products Recognition Awards (Singapore)

With her success in agribusiness, Puentespina was named one of Go Negosyo's Top 13 Filipina Entrepreneurs in 2013. She was also featured in the Go Negosyo book "50 Inspiring Stories of Agri Entrepreneurs."

There seems to be no end to Puentespina's string of successes.



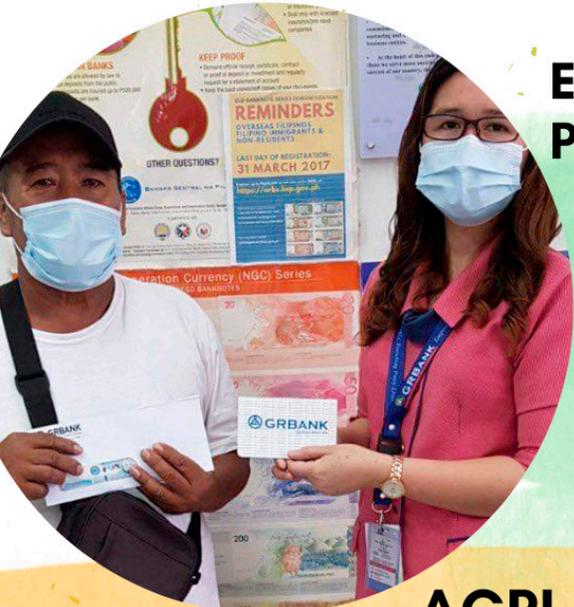
TOP RIGHT PHOTO
The Malagos cacao farm can also become a popular agritourism site.

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO
Chocolates bearing the Malagos brand have proven to be world class by winning numerous international awards.



MAKING AFFORDABLE, ADEQUATE AND CONVENIENT CREDIT ACCESSIBLE TO SMALL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, is mandated to develop and advocate agri-credit policies and programs that promote farmers' and fisherfolk's access to sustained financial services.



EXPANDED SURE AID AND RECOVERY PROJECT (SURE COVID-19)

The SURE COVID-19 offers loan facilities for small farmers and fishers (SFF) and agri-fishery-based micro and small enterprises (MSEs) affected by the community quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the SFF facility, individual farmers/ fishers may avail of loans worth P25,000/household, with zero interest rate and no collateral, payable up to ten years. The MSE facility provides a working capital of up to P10 million per borrower with zero interest rate, and payable up to five years.

AGRI-NEGOSYO (ANYO)

The ANYO Loan Program offers loans to finance capital requirements for production, processing, marketing, acquisition of machinery or equipment, and construction of facility/ies. Eligible borrowers, who may be individuals, farmer and fisherfolk organizations/associations, and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) that are engaged in agriculture and fishery projects, may avail of up to P15million loan with zero-interest and payable up to five years.



KAPITAL ACCESS FOR YOUNG AGRIPRENEURS (KAYA)

The KAYA Loan Program offers loans to finance working capital and/or machineries and equipment acquisition requirements of start-up or existing agri-based projects of young entrepreneurs and agri-fishery graduates aged 18-30 years old. Each young agripreneurs may borrow up to P500,000 uncollateralized and zero-interest loans payable in five years.



For particular, write to:
JOCELYN ALMA R. BADIOLA
Executive Director
Agricultural Credit Policy Council
28/F, One San Miguel Avenue Building, San Miguel Ave.,
cor. Shaw Boulevard, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 Philippines
Phone: +63 939.601.2988 | +63 908.653.6320 | +63 906.374.5063/65/67
Email: info@acpc.gov.ph | pdd@acpc.gov.ph



THIS BEAUTY QUEEN IS INSPIRING THE YOUTH TO GO GREEN

MICHELE GUMABAO PUSHES FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

By MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN

ANY PAGEANT AFICIONADO knows that having an advocacy is part and parcel of being a beauty queen candidate. For volleybelle and Miss Universe Philippines 2nd Runner-Up Michele Gumabao, her love for sports brought her closer to the youth and she uses her platform to raise awareness on programs that harness the potential of the next generation. Aside from advocating for sports, she has joined a youth organization against drugs and terrorism that looks into inculcating the value of agriculture in bringing peace and prosperity to the countryside.

She personally appreciates the bounty of the land, through their family farm in Zambales, she said. Harvesting mangoes from 10 hectares of land gives her so much joy, she gushed. "I feel like I am really rich," she said with laughter. "It drives home the value of producing our own food, because there is that feeling of happiness and security."

Encouraging planting

This is the same feeling that she wishes to bring to communities in the countryside. Together with the Department of Agriculture, she and her fellow advocates have started community gardens in Central Luzon (Region 3). "These are vertical gardens so that they don't take up too much space. The communities we visited felt the impact of these gardens when the (coronavirus) pandemic hit, because they were able to distribute their

fresh produce to the less fortunate."

Through their initiatives, she is encouraging the youth to go into farming, and through her platforms, she wants them to know that there are resources available to them. "The youth have no capital, but they also don't know that the Department of Agriculture has sponsorships for training. They are not well-informed about the opportunities that are out there. There are careers in agriculture, and the government is even going to help them study for it."

She also revealed that she had planned to take up Agriculture at the University of the Philippines Los Banos as her college course. "I was very interested in it, because my dad was really passionate about farming and I loved the farm and being outdoors. However, I would not have had the chance to play volleyball in the league, so I decided to go to the De La Salle University instead."

That said, she is very interested to learn more about



VOLLEYBELLE AND MISS UNIVERSE

Philippines 2nd Runner-Up Michele Gumabao appreciates the bounty that comes from the land through their family farm in Zambales.



VOLLEY BELLE BEAUTY QUEEN AGRICULTURIST

it now. “Our mango harvests in Zambales are mostly for personal consumption and as gifts for friends, but my brother has started his own dragon fruit farm in Tagaytay. It is doing so well that he has been exporting the fruit, and is now starting a business model for investors because of the huge demand.” This, she said, is where she sees the potential of farming as an enterprise.

Modernizing methods

Being an agricultural country is an advantage for the Philippines, she said, and that it is an advantage that must be taken care of. “We have been talking to the other farmers in Zambales, and we noticed that our *magsasaka* (farmers) are not motivated. One of the concerns is that we are not able to innovate our farming practices.”

She shared that there are Aeta families on their farm that are helping them out. “There are three generations of them there already!” She noted though, that while they are very skilled, they rely only on their traditional methods. “They only plant according to the seasons of sun and rain. They don’t like using technology, and so what they produce is only for their personal consumption. If you teach them to plant using modern technology, and combine that with the rich knowledge of the land from our indigenous tribes, imagine how much we can plant in our country!”

Green thumbs

She happily noted the rise of the *plantita*

phenomenon during the coronavirus lockdowns, because that is a good step towards getting people excited about agriculture. Her own balcony houses herbs such as basil, thyme, mint, tarragon and aloe vera that she says are a must for her. Her mother’s supply of vegetables from her own urban garden is perfect for her pescatarian diet, she added.

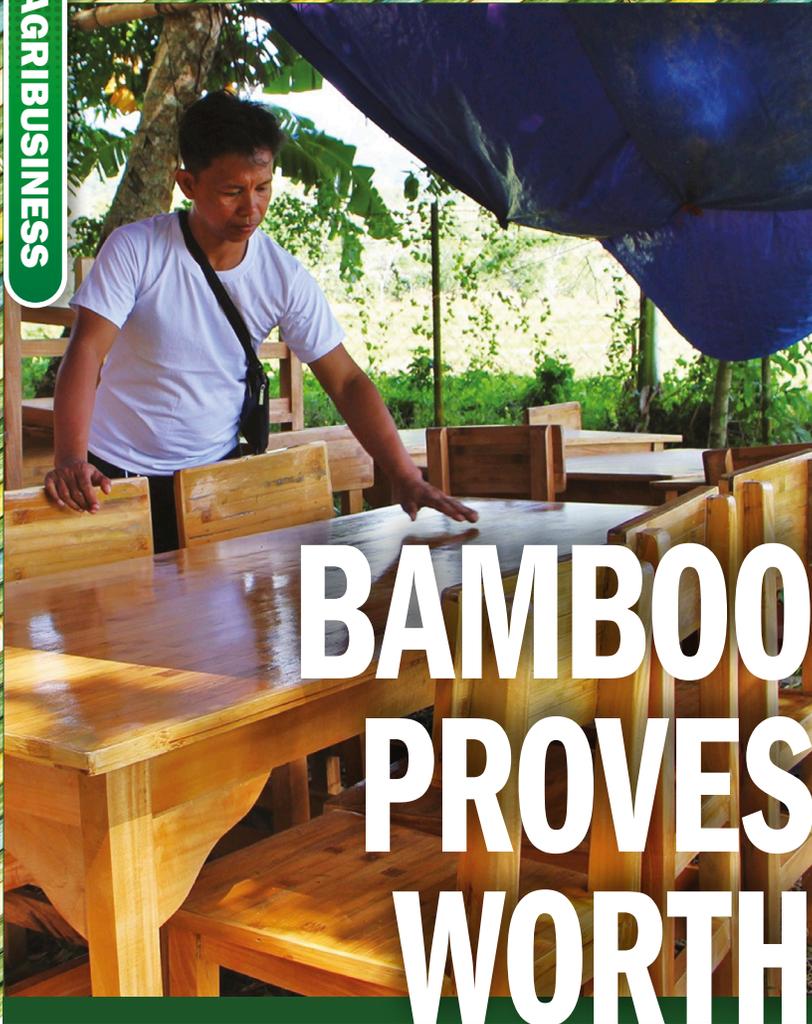
“I think green associates with life,” she said, after laughingly noting the color’s connotation with her alma mater. “During the lockdown, growing plants makes people happy because it still connects them with the outside world. I am happy to see many people posting about it on their social media (channels) because it gets the ball rolling towards an interest in agriculture.”

With the help of the Department of Agriculture in Region 3, they are now looking into introducing concepts such as hydroponics, and are studying the high-yielding crops that are suited to the area. “Community farms don’t need a lot of space. We could teach our youth the technology behind hydroponics and how to come up with an investment plan. We can showcase these on social media to raise the status of agriculture and make it more exciting to our youth.”

Michele, also an influencer herself, also noted that this generation’s being tech-savvy can be put to good use. “They are more open to new ideas about technology, and this is really needed because our farmers are already getting old. It is time to reintroduce the concept of agriculture to the youth and establish our future in food sustainability and sustenance for everybody.”



WITH HER CURRENT popularity and celebrity credentials, Michele Gumabao can help inspire the youth to venture into agriculture.



BAMBOO PROVES WORTH

in boosting rural economy

By JULIO P. YAP, JR.



BAMBOO CAN PROVIDE various opportunities to those living in the countryside.

In fact, engineered bamboo is being used in high-end homes, offices and even hotels around the world as it is considered stronger and less prone to warping than equivalent solid woods.

A wide range of products from bamboo can be made by binding together veneers, strands, fibers, strips or slats, woven mats, or flattened bamboo with a suitable glue. This forms a composite material designed to meet specific residential and industrial needs.

Realizing bamboo's potential, the Central Philippines State University (CPSU), with its main campus in Barangay Camingawan, Kabankalan City in Negros Occidental, started manufacturing different products from engineered bamboo in its effort to create industries in rural areas under the "new normal," as well as provide a learning laboratory for its students.

CPSU President Dr. Aladino C. Moraca said the project is in line with several strategies pushed by the state university that aim to utilize and maximize local resources for revenue generation, develop practical and appropriate technologies to create industries in the rural areas, and tap multisectoral support and participation to showcase best practices in agriculture.

He claimed that creating rural industries under the new normal is attainable, provided that technical interventions are shared to local residents.

Conducting extension programs is also among the main functions of state universities like CPSU. Such functions include sharing best practices and technologies through free training programs.

"The framework of the CPSU is to maximize utilization and investment of resources in the right project," said Moraca, stressing that "this is actually technology in action."

Support from DTI

Supporting the project, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) provided bamboo processing equipment worth about P3 million to CPSU under a shared service agreement with local bamboo craftsmen and growers, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Kabankalan City local government, and the Negros Occidental Bamboo Industry Development Council.

The equipment granted to CPSU is composed of two units of bamboo pole cutter, a twin rip saw, wood-fired Dutch furnace, jointer planer, thickness planer, lamination press with pneumatic cylinder, single spindle moulder with feeder, circular saw with sliding table, band

saw, bench drill, wide belt sander, air compressor, dust collector, single bag, universal sharpener for circular saw, and a grinder for planer knives.

“The DTI provides the equipment as a shared service facility (SSF) wherein groups of entrepreneurs will be able to use it under the management of our cooperators — the CPSU,” said DTI Region 6 (Western Visayas) Director Rebecca M. Rascon.

Moraca said the initiative also serves as a “partnership model” between the state university and project proponents, which is expected to “spark economic opportunity on the ground” emanating from the transfer of technologies to residents of depressed communities.

“We might also be able to counter the insurgency through economic development,” he added.

For his part, CPSU Bamboo Project manager Wendel Pangaral said the SSF “is expected to foster strong collaboration with the community and partner-agencies.”

Bamboo's benefits

Aside from generating livelihood in the countryside, bamboo is beneficial to the environment since it has soil-trapping capabilities. In particular, the roots of the giant bamboo (*dendrocalamus asper*) can efficiently absorb excess water and bind soil together, thus reducing soil erosion.

Frequently used for making furniture, the *kawayan tinik* (*bambusa blumeana Schultes f.*) and giant bamboo species are more suitable for crafting engineered bamboos.

Basically, the two species possess desirable characteristics for poles to produce engineered bamboo with a large diameter, straight, with thick culm walls, high density and defect-free.

Poles from the two species are also available in most parts of the country, but those from the *kawayan tinik* are usually found in the lowlands.

Kawayan tinik grows erect in clumps and attains a height of 15 to 25 meters with an average culm diameter of 6 to 10 centimeters.

Its large clumps and spiny branches at its basal portion are the distinguishing features of this bamboo species.

Giant bamboo, on the other hand, can grow up to 32 meters with about 20 culms in a clump. This bamboo is spineless, with young culms covered with velvety hairs. It thrives in areas with good drainage and high elevation.

Kawayan tinik is also a good raw material for bamboo parquets and laminated products like tables, chairs and doors.

Other than producing plywood and tiles, giant bamboo is also used for construction and making pulp and paper.

Preferred for traditional and emerging applications, both species have been widely studied for their high commercial value.

So, in the future, consumers should not be surprised that more and more products will be produced from bamboo.



CENTRAL PHILIPPINES STATE UNIVERSITY President Dr. Aladino C. Moraca believes that creating rural industries under the “new normal” is attainable, provided technical interventions are shared to local residents.

THE CENTRAL PHILIPPINES STATE UNIVERSITY, through its main campus in Barangay Camingawan, Kabankalan City in Negros Occidental, started manufacturing different products from engineered bamboo in its effort to create rural-based industries.



Jaya, as she is fondly called, is very much involved in educating the future generation of farmers through an urban farm cum garden – Jaya's Secret Garden (JSG).

This 15-year old trains future farmers

JAYA

A **T 15 YEARS OLD,** Jaysree Harsha Astudillo Bayag should be concentrating on her studies so she can land a good job in the future.

But, Jaya, as she is fondly called, is very much involved in educating the future generation of farmers through an urban farm cum garden – Jaya’s Secret Garden (JSG).

Located in Camisio St., Barangay 1 in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, JSG promotes edible landscaping or creating a garden from vegetables or food crops.

With her deep involvement in JSG, Jaya conducts training on the rudiments of organic farming and edible gardening, as it is an accredited training center of the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in Northern Mindanao (Region 10).

JSG was established in 2009 by spouses Junah and Hazel Bayag who converted their 2,100-square meter lot into an urban farm.

Now that JSG is popular in Region 10, Jaya and her father have become favorite resource speakers of the ATI office in the region for its seminars and short training courses on vegetable production and integrated organic farming.

“In 2014, our garden was accredited as a Farm Tourism Destination for Bukidnon province and Northern Mindanao by the Department of Tourism. It was also designated as a learning site of DA-Region 10,” Hazel said.

Edible plant landscaping

JSG has some slopes, which presented some challenges. Hence, to prevent soil erosion, Junah strategically installed old tires in parts of JSG.

Meanwhile, surrounding the fishpond are recycled plastic containers for growing plants.

“I love the idea of having double-purpose planters beside the fishpond,” Junah said, explaining that the excess water from the plastic containers drain into the pond, which benefits fish and other organisms there.

Also, the *tilapia* and koi in the pond prevent mosquitoes from multiplying.

Recycling of waste materials

JSG utilizes animal manure and kitchen and plant wastes to produce vermicast that is also applied to the urban farm’s plants. Also, JSG produces the Effective Microorganism Activated Solution (EMAS) and Oriental Herbal Nutrients solution.

“We mix EMAS in the water for watering my lettuce,” Jaya said.

Junah said that through JSG, she lets her children appreciate the beauty of gardening and earning from urban farming. Also, since JSG is also an organic farm, it also advocates providing safe food for families.

So, JSG is no secret after all, as the family behind its success are willing to share their knowledge with the present and next generation of farmers.



ROVID HAZEL BAYAG and her husband started JSG in 2009 by converting their 2,100-square meter lot into an urban farm.

JSG ALSO HAS a pond where *tilapia* and *koi* are grown, and where excess water from the plastic containers drain into the pond.



Being a farmer is a vocation

By DALAREICH POLOT

THE YEAR 2020 was a tough one for us; so many things happened, so many people died, a lot of people lost their jobs, and many businesses closed all over the world.

In the Philippines, we Filipinos found so many ways to face this current pandemic; there were a lot of trending stuff online; everyone learned how to cook their own food at home; became pastry chefs; and turned into *plantitos* and *plantitas*.

Honestly, I also became addicted to planting vegetables in our backyard when the pandemic started. I remember when we were kids, my lola and mom earned money because they sold plants, vegetables and all their produce. We were able to eat fresh vegetables from what they planted. I also remember during my elementary years, we needed to plant and take care of our own gardens at the back of our classrooms. It was fun and we were so excited to bring fresh pechay we harvested to our homes.

These days, we went back to those moments in our lives, walking down the memory lane. A lot wanted to go home to their provinces, everyone wanted to become a farmer, and everyone wanted to grow their own food.

I'm actually glad a lot of young people nowadays became interested in agriculture and everyone wants to learn the basics of planting.

But these are my hopes and wishes to the young people who want to go into agriculture:

1. I hope everyone who wants to become a farmer really means it. Being a farmer is not only a work but a MISSION. You are feeding people, you are feeding the world.
2. I hope the trend of planting vegetables and ornamentals are not just because we have a lot of time because of this pandemic. I hope we can

commit ourselves to it and realize the importance of food and agriculture in our lives.

3. I hope young people who want to go into agriculture will find sustainable ways of doing things, support our older farmers, teach them how to be innovative, and produce world-class products that we the Filipinos can be proud of.
4. I hope we could develop that agricultural passion within us to inspire more people, especially our next generation, and solve problems in agriculture.
5. I hope that we agripreneurs are not just business people but also social entrepreneurs who want to create an impact in each of our communities.
6. I hope to see young agri leaders in each of the islands in the Philippines working together as one "agri-Philippines."
7. Lastly, I do hope that farmers will no longer say "We are only farmers and poor," but say "I am a Filipino-farmer, I feed the world, I help communities. I'm proud of it."

One day, in our next generation, our children will thank us for what we do today. Nobody will be ashamed because they are working in the field with dirty hands. Instead, they are proud to be part of the highest and most fulfilling profession on earth— being a farmer.

God gave us all these beautiful resources and creations we could use and cultivate; we need to take care of these for our children.

As our Holy Father Pope Francis said: "Without farming, there's no humanity and without good food, there's no life for men and women in every continent."

Therefore, being a farmer is a vocation and a mission.

Dalareich Polot is known as the "Chocolate Princess of Bohol" who built her cacao-based business in the island province by also involving smallholder farmers, creating a model social enterprise. Her artisanal chocolate products are also exported and sought after by even the most discriminating chocolate connoisseur.

PHOTO 1

Dalareich Polot also sources the raw materials for her chocolate products from smallholder cacao farms.

PHOTO 2

The youthful Dalareich Polot is what the country's agriculture needs to become regionally and globally competitive.

'Hindi pwede sa bukid'

GREW UP in a family involved in coconut, rambutan, lanzones and even pineapple farming. This meant occasional trips to the farm for me. However, clumsy and disinterested, the visit will not be done without me falling and rolling in the mud. This is why my grandfather would always chide me: “*Ang batang yan ay puti ang medyas, hindi pwede sa bukid* (that child has white socks, he is not fit for farming).”

This quite stuck with me. So, I rarely visited the farm and would just wait for baskets of delicious produce at home. I went to a university that specialized in agriculture, but it has never crossed my mind to pursue a related course. Admittedly, despite my family background and interest, I am those who did not see a future in agriculture. Although we have managed to achieve a modest increase in agricultural production in 2020 despite the problems caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this is still not enough. As it was more than a decade ago, the sector is marred by complicated problems that does not make it any attractive for the idealistic youth like me.

At the university, all the courses I took were for a future that was to keep me far away from a farm. I chose to keep my white socks on, as my grandfather said when I was young.

Little did I know that a plot twist was waiting in the future. I found myself spending almost the first decade of my professional life in agriculture! Working in an agricultural research institution exposed me to the situation and widened my perspective. What was once all toil and trouble had a silver lining after all. It is indeed possible to see agriculture as sexy and attractive. I found a niche for me in agriculture without having to abandon the white socks I have clung to since childhood.

While coordinating various knowledge sharing and learning activities in and out of the country for researchers, agricultural extension workers, technicians and farmers, I met different people who like me, veered away from a career in agriculture but eventually found themselves passionately working for

it today. Computer programmers are working with data scientists in designing web and mobile-based applications that will address the needs of farmers. Communication specialists are teaming up with graphic designers in developing communication and advocacy campaigns. Engineers are developing systems across the value chain as well as machines to improve and modernize the sector. The list could go on to include sociologists, economists, fashion designers and even those in performing arts. Our narrow mindset that being in agriculture is but dirt, sweat, poverty, doom and gloom must change.

Taking off our white socks can be fun too! I experienced being deep in mud to plant rice, use a carabao-driven plough, and even operate tractors. Working under the sun with dirty hands can also be a good outlet. Sometimes, it takes first-hand experience to make us appreciate the hard work being done by our farmers. It moves us to help them in whatever way we can, to help the hands that feed us three times a day – even more. The influx of *plantitos* and *halamoms* during this pandemic offers a welcome opening for us, especially the youth, to expand beyond ornamental plants and take a chance in planting and earning from growing food crops.

It is never too late, but it is better to start early. There are many institutions that have initiated successful youthcentric programs. For example, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) launched the School-Plus-Home Gardens Project, an innovative approach focusing on nutrition, education and economic well-being of school children, their families, and their communities. There are also youth-led initiatives like YPARD (Young Professionals for Agricultural and Rural Development), an international network that aims to empower young agricultural leaders to shape sustainable food systems. Furthermore, the proliferation of social media-based communities of practice makes it easier for one to start getting involved and learning the ropes, and benefiting from each other's knowledge and resources.

Believe it or not, the guy judged by his grandfather as “not fit for farming” dreams to have a big farm some day. Perhaps it will be a break from work, but who knows if the future has another plot twist up its sleeve?

With or without white socks, will you also be willing to take a chance and be surprised by agriculture?



WHITE SOCKS

**JEROME
BARRADAS**

Jerome Cayton C. Barradas is a communication specialist with hands-on experience in managing programs and developing knowledge sharing and learning opportunities aimed at accelerating agricultural transformation through innovations. He has worked with several international research organizations and national partners in developing strategic communication initiatives that contribute to creating an enabling environment for development. Jerome has a degree in Development Communication, major in Educational Communication, and is currently working on his Master of Science in Development Management and Governance degree, both from the University of the Philippines Los Baños.



Wellisa Farms

Technology, sustainability and securing markets

By **ANTONIO G. PAPA Ph.D.**

WELLISA FARMS in Bantayan Island, Cebu province clearly demonstrates that technology application can result in sustainability of operations and securing markets.

Owned by spouses Wellington and Elisa Chan Lim, Wellisa Farms has an animal stock of about 15,000 hogs and 400,000 layers.

Wellington, chairman and chief executive officer of Wellisa Farms, said the company is also the top egg producer in Cebu province. “We are supplying more than 380,000 table eggs per day not only for the whole province of Cebu, but also in other provinces of the Visayas and in some parts of Mindanao,” he said.

The operation of the automated egg harvester by Wellisa Farms also results in minimized human contact with eggs, improving overall quality. The harvested eggs then pass through the automatic egg grader and sorter, making all the eggs end up in trays.

“Wellisa Farms produces its own paper pulp egg trays for packaging. It produces an average of 20,000 pieces of paper pulp egg trays per day by adopting the pulp-moulding system using the Silfurton machine, which reduced the cost of egg trays by 50 percent,” Wellington proudly said.

The farm operates a feedmill with part of its output sold to other growers. It also maintains a feed silo.

Besides the agribusiness venture, Wellington is also involved in various businesses, such as lumber and hardware distribution, feedmill operation, bio-organic fertilizer production, paper egg tray production,

day-old chicks and ready-to-lay pullet production, meat outlets and hotels.

Wellington, however, still makes sure Wellisa Farms maintains its edge over competitors and is environment-friendly, taking the initiative to construct biogas digesters in the farm to solve the problem of pollution caused by hog manure and chicken dung.

The digesters also generate 60 percent of Wellisa Farms’ energy requirements.

Biogas digester and solar panel

Wellisa Farms has two dome-shaped biogas concrete digesters constructed by PlanET Biogas GmbH of Germany. Each digester can produce around 400 kilowatts of energy per hour.

“Our two digesters can supply power to operate 20 tunnel-ventillated houses for layers and 20 tunnel-ventillated barns for hogs,” Wellington said, adding majority of the facility’s animal housing have solar panels to supplement energy requirements.

Organic fertilizer production

Also, the biogas sludge produced from the digesters are converted into organic fertilizer branded

THE TWO DOME-SHAPED biogas concrete digesters of Wellisa Farms are very visible from afar. These have also become the corporate farm’s monument for sustainability in its overall operations as the digesters can produce around 400 kilowatts of energy per hour.



as Wellgrow Bio-Organic Fertilizer and packaged in 40-kilogram bags. The company’s organic fertilizer is registered and certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute in Oregon, USA.

Wellisa Farms employs a settling pond to settle the solid waste materials, which are then collected and dried as sludge for use as ingredient in making biofertilizers. A water pump at the last section of the settling pond then pumps out remaining water back to the piggery buildings for cleaning and flushing.

To make sure operations in the farm run smoothly, Wellington also tapped his relatives for management duties.

“Rudy Chan Lim, my brother, is the head of the farm’s swine operations while Kevin Chan Lim, our youngest child and an engineering graduate, is the head of our engineering and machineries department,” he said.

Environmental Impact

One of Wellisa Farms’ mission statements is “to mitigate the problems due to pollution and enhance the following environmental impact: thermal energy, water pollution, air pollution, land pollution, water recycling and paper recycling.”

For water recycling, Wellisa Farms recycles an average of 20,000 liters of water daily through a closed loop, reducing dependence on local groundwater sources.

For paper recycling, Wellisa Farms recycles used newspapers, cartons and other waste paper materials with a total of 720 tons annually.

Wellisa Farms truly proves that profitability and sustainability can compliment each other.



“Wellisa Farms produces its own paper pulp egg trays for packaging. It produces an average of 20,000 pieces of paper pulp egg trays per day by adopting the pulp-moulding system using the Silfurton machine, which reduced the cost of egg trays by 50 percent,” Wellington proudly said.

WELLISA FARMS utilizes an automated egg harvester that results in minimized human contact with eggs, improving overall quality.



MAZDA'S BT-50 PANGOLIN

Move across the farm in style, luxury

By **RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO**

YES, IT'S A FARM IMPLEMENT. That is what the young farmers use their pick ups for. Farming tools. Carry a tractor wheel, drive into the farm via a muddy road. and fording a silted river. Tall stance, proper wheels, enough carrying equipment to lug cargo from the bed or on the roof. These are the qualities that endear a pick up to the young farmers in the north and south.

Highly conscious of their environment, young agripreneurs also are born environmentalists. They care for the way water flows in and out of irrigation ditches; make sure their cattle breed are not disruptive of the ecosystem; that their lands are contoured to avoid erosion; and practice cross planting of crops to ensure the land is kept fertile and immersed in natural nutrients always.

Thus, Mazda's new BT-50 4x4 Pangolin pick up truck is the rugged partner for the youthful farmer. Much like the modest anteater that it derives its name from, the BT-50 Pangolin features a design that ensures long, versatile and steady service, matching the gentle tenacity of its

namesake — the world's most trafficked mammal.

The pangolin, if one should know, is also one of nature's most prolific farmers. This anteater is an all-around pest controller consuming aphids, ants and termites — a single pangolin can consume up to 70 million insects a year.

They are also fantastic tenders of soil, with those clawed feet — another reason why the BT-50 Pangolin seems to fit the bill of the farmer's runabout vehicle.

"The BT-50 Pangolin is Mazda Philippines' way to acknowledge our important role in preserving the delicate balance of our environment as we go about our

ACROSS THE FIELD. Every accessory essential for an agripreneur to go about his business in style.



daily lives,” said Mazda Philippines President and Chief Executive Officer Steven Tan.

To do the job of farm implement, the Pangolin edition BT-50 4x4 is equipped with Mazda’s potent 3.2-liter 5-cylinder common-rail turbo diesel engine, the highest diesel engine displacement available in the pick up market today. Outputting 200 PS of power and 470 Nm of smooth-flowing torque to handle propulsion, the BT-50 will go anywhere and get any job done with ease and comfort.

WITH LUXURIOUS PROPORTIONS

But this is also a farm implement of luxurious proportions. That is why it is equipped with a 7-inch touchscreen JVC Infotainment system with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto smartphone mirroring capability, and steering wheel-mounted controls. A black leather steering wheel matched with black leather seats create a premium and elegant spacious cabin for five adults.

New for the BT-50 Pangolin are its world-class quality, locally manufactured, 17-inch ROTA alloy wheels. Specced and manufactured specifically for the BT-50 Pangolin, the alloy wheels reinforce the pick up truck’s all-terrain 4x4 capabilities and support its 800-millimeter water wading capabilities. The new wheel design also enhances the rugged nature of the BT-50’s dynamic form.

Also standard with the BT-50 4x4 Pangolin is a new functional and lightweight aluminum black matte finish roof rack that adds additional cargo-carrying capacity and flexibility for the top-ranging pick up. The BT-50 continues to be a strong and capable work vehicle that can load up to 1,086 kilograms on its reinforced cargo bed. With its supplemental cargo-bearing capability adding to its already impressive 1,214 liters of available cargo volume, the BT-50 Pangolin can lay claim to load-carrying superiority over its competition.

SUPPORTING AN ADVOCACY

“The Philippine pangolin is an endemic and critically endangered species that deserves our attention and concern. Like the BT-50, it is a reserved, yet highly proficient, hard worker. That is why together with Katala Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit Philippine NGO (nongovernment organization) that is active in protecting and conserving threatened endemic wildlife, we at Mazda Philippines will make use of the enduring nature of the BT-50 to promote awareness and inspire conservation of one the Philippines’ and the world’s most critically endangered mammals,” Tan said.

To add further credence to its newfound advocacy, Mazda Philippines will lend a Mazda BT-50 4x4 Pangolin to the Katala Foundation for one year. With Mazda’s support, the NGO will make use of the pick up truck to promote its wildlife protection advocacies, and perform its preservation and monitoring duties during this time.

“What an appropriate choice Mazda made to give the much needed attention that the Palawan Pangolin deserves,” said Katala Foundation Program Director, Indira Lacerna-Widmann. “We hope that with this vehicle, we will have the right direction to achieve the conservation status of this species. It’s an honor for us. The passion that we work for this species — and for other species we are working on — is carried also in the passion for this vehicle.”

The new BT-50 Pangolin is available in six colors: Cool White, Titanium Flash, True Red, Jet Black, Aluminum Metallic, and Deep Crystal Blue. Its special introductory price is P1.400 million, a reduction of P150,000 from the regular BT50 4x4 suggested retail price of P1.550 million.

The BT50 4x4 Pangolin also comes with the Mazda 5-Year Free Service Plan that includes 10 periodic maintenance service schedules over five years, or 100,000 kilometers, whichever occurs first.



ALL-IN, PANGOLIN
Not only is it a capable pick up, it is also conscious of its responsibilities.



what's for next issue



For the front cover, *Greenfields* magazine reveals another face (or faces) from the ranks of the youth who are into agriculture and agribusiness.



Greenfields also goes to Lipa City to find out why the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH) is truly an international organization.



And from San Jose in Batangas, *Greenfields* visits the head office and plant of the Batangas Egg Producers Cooperative (BEPCO), which is leading the way in the manufacture of value-added egg products.



And get ready to read on how a medical doctor took up organic farming as part of his mission to improve people's health.

6Qs

Greenfields also starts off in the next issue its series dubbed "Six Questions for Agripreneurs."

plus more !!!



MONARCH MONARCH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, INC.

FUNGICIDE

BEN-ON-TIME
Benomyl 60 WP

**BIOZEB
80 WP**
Mancozeb 80% WP (Blue & Yellow)

**BIOZEB
455 SC**
Mancozeb 455 BC

**BIOZEB
600 OS**
Mancozeb 600 OS

**BIOZEB
600 SC**
Mancozeb 600 SC

SUPERDAZIM
CARBENDAZIM
500g/L SC
Carbendazim 60% SC

**TOPS
70 WP**
Thiophanate Methyl 70% WP

TRY ME MORE
Tridemorph 86% OL

FRUIT SETTER

**NEVIROL
60WP**
Phthalamic Acid 60% WP

HERBICIDE

**Atrazine
80% WP**
Atrazine 80% WP

**DIURON
80 WP HERBICIDE**
Diuron 80% WP

**WIPE OUT
160g/L**
Glyphosate 160 g/L SL

**YEAR
ROUND
Premium
480 SL**
Glyphosate 480 g/L SL

OSCAR
Bispyribac Sodium 10 SC

INSECTICIDE

decimate
Deltamethrin 2.5% EC

KILLER
Cypermethrin 5% EC

**Malathion
57 EC**
Malathion 57% EC

**PACMAN
50 SP**
Cartap 60% SP

REVOLT
Lambda Cyhalothrin 2.5% EC

**SHELLER
FS 350**
Thiodicarb 350 FS

**SI BEN
86 WP**
Carbaryl 85% WP

**TIRADOR
31.5 EC**
Chlorpyrifos + BPMC 31.6% EC

MOLLUSCICIDE

ESCARGO L
Niclosamide 250 SC

ESCARGO N
Niclosamide 70% WP

NEMATICIDE

Biodan 3G
Carbofuan 3% Granules

CIMOXAMATE
240 SL

PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR

**ONE
micron**
Paclobutrazol 25% SC
Paclobutrazol 25% SC

For inquiries, send us an email at monarch_agri@yahoo.com
or call 0917-584-7587 / 0917-539-760 / 8890-8006.



**A BUSINESS FITTING
FOR OUR SITUATION
TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY**



**ALL PRODUCE ARE DIRECTLY
SOURCED FROM FARMERS**



**AN AGRIBUSINES OPPORTUNITY
THAT IS PERFECT
FOR YOUR COMMUNITY**



**A BUSINESS FITTING FOR
OUR SITUATION TOWARDS
FOR YOUR COMMUNITY**



**BRINGING FOOD CLOSER
TO EVERY FILIPINO**

BE AN AGRIPRENEUR RESELLER NOW!

CONTACT US TODAY:

JAS NITO | MOBILE: 0961 015 8400

EMAIL: ALVAROCNITO@GMAIL.COM