



Participants of the 2017 MS FSCC Summer School in Yogyakarta, Indonesia with the theme: Integrated Forestry Farming System: A Transition to Food Security in a Changing Climate hosted by Universitas Gadjah Mada.

## MS FSCC GARNERS POSITIVE EVALUATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION EACEA

The European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) finished its evaluation of the Joint Master of Science in Food Security and Climate Change (MS FSCC) program developed by the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). The project, funded by the ERASMUS+ Capacity Building for Higher Education program from 2016-2019, is undergoing institution among partner universities despite the restrictions brought by the pandemic. EACEA noted that the project team "demonstrated to be committed in developing a new joint Master programme." The evaluation also recognized that "the consortium has fulfilled its objectives and delivered most of its expected results as outlined in the grant agreement while most of the results and outputs are of good quality."

The MS FSCC aims to develop professionals who will address the challenges of food security in the context of the ASEAN integrated market. The developed joint degree program was based on the model of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees in Europe. Participating institutions planning to offer the degree include Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Selangor, Malaysia; Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)

and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia; Kasetsart University (KU) in Bangkok, Thailand; and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines. Universitas Brawijaya (UB), who became a regular member of the UC in 2019, also plans to institute the program. These HEIs have been working together within the UC, with SEARCA serving as Secretariat.

In 2017, the project piloted the offering of a double/dual degree in MS FSCC. The students participated in exchanges in Southeast Asia and in Europe, summer schools, and joint research. The Summer School is an intensive course on Sustainability Assessment in Agricultural Production and Food Processing and is required in MS FSCC. It combines theory, case studies, group discussions, and fieldwork. According to the EACEA "The project has successfully contributed to the internationalization of the HEIs through the implementation of a dual/double degree, leading to a possible joint Master degree among the university members of the Southeast Asian University Consortium on Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC)." One of the dual/double MS FSCC graduates, Mr. Ariyanto Kurnia Bagus, received three MS degrees from IPB, KU, and Montpellier SupAgro in France.

Other Southeast Asian partners of the project who also participated in the activities but are non-UC members include Chiang Mai University and Prince of Songkla University both in Thailand, Nilai University in Malaysia, and University of Battambang (UB) and Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) both in Cambodia. Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in the Philippines, who recently became an affiliate member of the UC in 2021, also participated in the project and expressed its intention to offer the developed joint degree in MS FSCC. RUA likewise intends to offer the program. EACEA noted that the "Impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, sustainability and exploitation of results are satisfactorily addressed."

Besides CLSU, the UC has two additional affiliate members as of 2021: Maejo University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and Visayas State University in Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines. Together with associate members Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo-NODAI) in Japan and National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taiwan, this network of institutions offering MS FSCC will enable students to get the best perspectives from different universities.

# KU SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS THE 33RD UC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) virtually conducted its 33rd Executive Board Meeting on 24-25 November 2020 hosted by Kasetsart University (KU) of Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was attended by representatives from its regular members, Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Universitas Brawijaya (UB). Also invited to the board meeting are UC's associate members, Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI) and National Taiwan University (NTU), and affiliate member, University of British Columbia (UBC) of Canada. The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) likewise attended the meeting as Secretariat of the UC.

The consortium welcomed the newly appointed officials of the member institutions, namely, Dr. Agus Buono, Academic Vice Dean of IPB Graduate School; Dr. Zaililah Mohd Shariff, Dean, and Dr. Firdaus Mukhtar, Deputy Dean (Admission and International), School of Graduate Studies, UPM; Dr. Jose Camacho, Jr., UPLB Chancellor, and Dr. Jomar Rabajante, OIC - Office of the Dean, Graduate School, UPLB; and Dr. Je-Ruei Liu, Director, Center for International Agricultural Education and Academic Exchanges, College of Bioresources and Agriculture, NTU.

One of the main objectives of the UC since its establishment in 1989 is to share resources and collaborate on student and faculty exchanges among leading agricultural universities. During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Universities and Colleges - Association of Colleges of Agriculture in the Philippines, Inc. (SUC-ACAP) was presented to the board members. SUC-ACAP is an association of 74 higher education institutions, both public and private, offering agriculture programs in the Philippines. The MOU will enable SUC-ACAP members to participate in UC activities, as well as send students and staff to the UC members on mobility, with



UC member institutions during the 33rd UC Executive Board Meeting.



Kasetsart University, host of the 33rd UC Executive Board Meeting

funding from the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through SEARCA.

Besides the new partnership, three Southeast Asian universities also expressed their intent to join the UC. Maejo University in Chiang Mai, Thailand and Visayas State University and Central Luzon State University, both from the Philippines, introduced their universities and the unique value proposition that they could bring to the consortium.

Part of the meeting was a discussion on the offering of competitive student and faculty grants and activities hosted by the different member institutions for 2021. UC member constituents may anticipate the conduct of the 2021 UC Summer School to be hosted by Universitas Brawijaya in Malang, Indonesia in partnership with Montpellier Sup-Agro of France. The 2021 Graduate Forum shall be organized by National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. The 2021 Faculty Forum shall be conducted at Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo-NODAI) in Japan. Lastly, the 34th UC Executive Board Meeting shall be led by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Selangor, Malaysia.

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# UC WELCOMES THREE SEA UNIVERSITIES



Maejo University, Chiang Mai, Thailand



Visayas State University, Visca, Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines



Central Luzon State University, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines

During the 33rd UC Executive Board meeting on 24-25 November 2020, the board members unanimously agreed to the inclusion of Maejo University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and Visayas State University and Central Luzon State University, both from the Philippines, as new affiliate members of the UC.

Maejo University in Chiang Mai, Thailand was conceptualized by HM The King and was established in 1934 as the Northern Agricultural Teachers Training School. It became a public university in 1996 and is considered as one of the oldest degree-granting agricultural institutions in the country. Maejo University has 10 faculties of study, namely, the Faculty of Agricultural Production, Faculty of Animal Science and Technology, Faculty of Architecture and Environmental Design, Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Engineering and Agro-industry, Faculty of Fisheries Technology and Aquatic Resources, Faculty of Information and Communication, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Faculty of Science. It also has three schools: School of Administrative Studies, School of Renewable Energy, and the School of Tourism Development. The Maejo University International College offers MS and PhD programs in Organic Agriculture and Tourism Management. In order to reach more constituents in Thailand, the university also established Maejo University Chumphon in La-mae District, Chumphon Province and Maejo University Phrae in Mae Saay Sub-district, Rong Kwang District, Phrae Province.

Visayas State University (VSU) located in Leyte, Philippines, was established in 1924 as the Baybay Agricultural School and was instituted as a state university in 2001. The institution has been recognized and awarded for its research, development, and extension programs.

VSU has 33 undergraduate degrees, one diploma program, five PhD programs, and five master's programs, of which there are 10 fields under the Master of Agricultural Development, 22 fields under Master of Science (MSc), and the rest under Master of Education, Master of Management, and Master of Land Administration and Management. VSU has also been designated by CHED as Center of Excellence in Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, and Center of Development in Development Communication. In order to serve more constituents, VSU has four additional external campuses, namely, College of Fisheries (VSU-Tolosa Campus), College of Industrial Technology (VSU-Isabel Campus), College of Environmental and Agricultural Technology (VSU-Alangalang Campus), and the College of Education and Agricultural Technology (VSU-Villaba Campus). It also has 11 national and regional research and training centers.

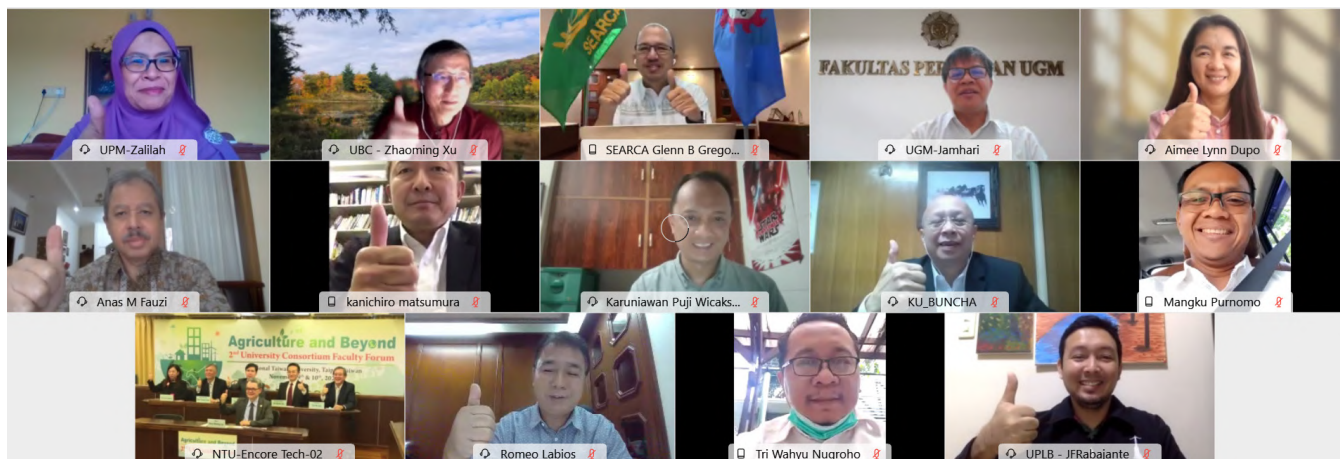
Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in Nueva Ecija, Philippines, started as a farm school in 1907. It was then instituted in 1964 as a state university and has become widely known for its research achievements in the field of aquatic culture, most notably as pioneer in the sex reversal of tilapia. CLSU is also recognized for its research in ruminants, crops, orchard, and water management. The institution has 32 undergraduate programs, 13 PhD programs, and nine master's programs. For the latter, there are 18 fields under the MSc program, 12 fields under Master of Professional Studies, and the master's programs in the arts, veterinary studies, chemistry, biology, agribusiness management, environmental management, and business administration. CLSU also offers two diploma programs and four certificate programs. Besides being ISO accredited, CLSU has been designated

by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as Center of Excellence in Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Biology, Fisheries, Teacher Education, and Veterinary Medicine. The institution has also been designated as Center of Research Excellence in Small Ruminants and Regional Integrated Coastal Resources Management Center.

To become a regular member of the UC, reputable institutions will be admitted first as an affiliate member for three years subject to the UC's evaluation before the granting of regular status. Currently, the UC has six regular members: Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and Universitas Brawijaya (UB) in Indonesia, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Malaysia, Kasetsart University in Thailand, and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in the Philippines. UC's associate members include Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI) and National Taiwan University (NTU), while University of British Columbia (UBC) of Canada serves as affiliate member. The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) functions as Secretariat of the UC. With the addition of the new affiliate members, the UC now has three academic institutions each from Indonesia and the Philippines, two from Thailand, and one each from Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan, and Canada.

Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio, SEARCA Director, expressed that the unanimous acceptance of the three universities is a good opportunity to expand membership of the UC.

# NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY LEADS THE 2ND UC FACULTY FORUM 2020



Representatives from the UC member institutions during the virtual Faculty Forum hosted by NTU.

Eighty-five (85) faculty members from nine institutions of the UC participated in the 2nd Faculty Forum with the theme Agriculture and Beyond held on 9-10 November 2020 and hosted by the National Taiwan University (NTU).

The UC Faculty Forum is an annual event that aims to provide an opportunity for faculty members from UC members to develop camaraderie, encourage transdisciplinary studies, and promote greater integration of research through strategic partnerships for collaboration. This activity is also a way to further strengthen the relationship between and among the UC members which would hopefully lead to collaborative research proposals. The activity was initially proposed by University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in 2018 and was first held in 2019 at Los Baños, Laguna.

Due to the pandemic, the conduct of the 2nd Faculty Forum was done online with Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), UPLB, Kasetsart University (KU), Universitas Brawijaya (UB), Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI), NTU, University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) in attendance. The UC also invited distinguished speakers from the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) and the Food and the Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region (FFTC). Dr.

Marco Wopereis, Director General of WorldVeg discussed rethinking food systems for a post COVID-19 world. He highlighted the importance of building healthy food systems bottom-up, with the active participation of all stakeholders involving all sectors in society. COVID-19 disrupted the global food systems, but it also offered an opportunity to transform the existing system towards a more diverse and healthy diet while improving the livelihood of the stakeholders.

Dr. Su-San Chang, FFTC Director, shared about the challenges and opportunities of bio-environmental R&Ds for sustainable agriculture development in the Asian and Pacific Region. After briefly introducing FFTC, Dr. Chang talked about the R&D results in Taiwan and FFTC activities in terms of soil management for sustainable agriculture, development of natural enemies, biofertilizers and biopesticides, plant health management systems and eco-engineering for integrated pests management (IPM), and the use of ICT technologies in pests and diseases monitoring, diagnosis and early warning systems, development of biomedicine and biosecurity, animal vaccines and health promoting feed additives for antibiotic-free era in livestock industry, the practices and benefits of circular agriculture in waste reduction and recycling, and implementing the Satoyama initiative for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being.

The Faculty Forum held four sessions spread out during the two-day event. Session 1 was on Agricultural Education and Promotion from the Social Science Perspectives. Discussion centered on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on small-scale farmers in Taiwan, smallholders' adoption of smart agricultural technologies in Taiwan, the future of agricultural extension and education in Indonesia, the development and transfer of marketing knowledge among small-scale agribusiness enterprises during the pandemic, the agriculture education and promotion in Malaysia, and the farmer's education in light of the new normal.

Session 2 was all about Mechatronics Engineering and Digital Applications in Agriculture. The panelists talked about IoT-based smart sensor network system for integrated pest and disease management, autonomous molting detection system for commercial softshell crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) production, Taiwan and Japan agriculture supported by Indian-based satellite images, precision agriculture in Indonesian smallholder farming, artificial intelligence and machine learning for agricultural applications, innovation through automation and robotics to improve agricultural labor force, and an autonomous mobile robot to determine oil palm fruits' maturity level.

On the second day of the Faculty Forum, Session 3 tackled the Challenges of Current Bio-environmental Issues. It



included a dialogue on the biological treatment of alkaline leather fleshing instead of incineration, therapeutic effects and possibilities of forests in Asia, the challenges and opportunities of bio-environmental research in Kasetsart University, landscape ecology and urban biodiversity, and the threats to arthropod biodiversity and the protection afforded to it. Session 4 covered No Hunger: Food Security and Safety. This last session included a discussion on the relationship of food safety and food security, food security during and post COVID-19 pandemic and the role of low-hanging food crops, food security in the context of Taiwan, and

facilitating research collaboration on transboundary plant pests.

Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio, SEARCA Director, hoped that the learnings from the faculty forum will lead to a Better, Bigger and Smarter normal that is highly relevant for the future of Southeast Asia and beyond. Dr. Gregorio also shared about reinforcing transformative change in agricultural food systems in time of the pandemic. This included a presentation on SEARCA's 11th Five-Year Plan focusing on "Accelerating Transformation Through Agricultural Innovation" or ATTAIN. The 11th FYP aims to collaborate with key players from the academe, industry, and government

to bridge the gaps which burden farmers and farming families. Dr. Gregorio highlighted the importance of partnerships given the complexity of challenges in agriculture and rural development.

The Faculty Forum ended with both Dr. Huu-Sheng Lur, Professor and Dean, College of Bioresources and Agriculture, NTU and Dr. Gregorio congratulating the panelists, speakers, and organizing committee for the successful two-day event. The next UC Faculty Forum in 2021 will be held at Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI) in Japan.

## UC CONCLUDES 2020 WITH THE 6TH GRADUATE FORUM

The UC successfully wrapped its 2020 activities with the virtual conduct of the 6th UC Graduate Forum (UCGF) hosted by Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 10-11 December 2020. The participants were warmly welcomed by Prof. Panut Mulyono, Rector of UGM, during the opening ceremony.

The UCGF is an annual event that aims to provide an opportunity for graduate students from UC member institutions to share new knowledge, research ideas, and experiences in an open platform. It also encourages transdisciplinary studies and promote greater integration of research through strategic partnership among the UC members; and strengthen the relationship between and among the UC members.

The theme of this year's UCGF is "Resilient Food and Agricultural System for Accelerating Economic Recovery: Strategy and Implementation" which discussed the strategy and implementation across countries on how food and agricultural systems can withstand and bounce back from the shocks of the global pandemic. The forum has five subthemes: Sustainable Production System, Logistic and Value Chain, Sustainable Agribusiness, Agro-industry 4.0, and Institution and Society. It was attended by faculty members

and graduate students from UGM, IPB University, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Kasetsart University (KU), Universitas Brawijaya (UB), Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI), and National Taiwan University (NTU). The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) was also in attendance as Secretariat to the UC.

Mr. Joselito G. Florendo, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, delivered the opening remarks and encouraged the attendees to be more open to both new and old ideas, new technologies, and diverse approaches to shape a future where people from all walks of life will thrive. He also expressed SEARCA's full support to the region's initiative to further strengthen food and agricultural systems.

Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio, SEARCA Director, delivered a keynote speech on "Defining a forward-looking and Transformative Food and Agricultural System Initiative in Southeast Asia and beyond" and shared a video presentation on the innovEIGHTs model of open collaboration for academe - industry - government partnerships. Dr. Gregorio highlighted the importance of collaboration in both education and agriculture, during the time of pandemics and disruptions.

As part of the program, all UC member institutions introduced their programs and activities relevant to the consortium. Dr. Pedcris M. Orencio, Program Head of Research and Thought Leadership Department, presented SEARCA's programs and services while Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma, Program Head of the Education and Collective Learning Department discussed the various UC grants and activities.

During the breakout sessions on the 1st day, the students presented their research studies in various fields ranging from smart solutions to agriculture value chain challenges, IoT application to agriculture, innovative agribusiness models, consumer behavior on the purchase of agriculture products, heritage tourism development, institutions involved in rural agriculture, and research towards sustainability.

For the 2nd day of the UCGF, invited speakers shared their knowledge on the subthemes. Prof. Budi Guntoro from the Faculty of Animal Sciences, UGM, discussed Sustainable Production System; Associate Prof. Nitty Hirawaty Kamarulzaman from the Faculty of Agriculture, UPM, tackled Logistic and Value Chain; Assistant Prof. Jewel Joanna S. Cabardo from the College of Economics and Management, UPLB, talked about Sustainable



The 6th UC Graduate Forum was the last activity of the UC for 2020. Universitas Gadjah Mada successfully conducted the activity despite the pandemic related restrictions.

Agribusiness; Associate Prof. Nathdanai Harnkarnsujarit from the Faculty of Agro-industry, KU, shared about Agro-industry 4.0; and Prof. Muhammad Firdaus from the Faculty of Economics and Management, IPB University, discussed about Institution and Society.

The UCGF closed with the announcement of awards for both best paper presentation and cultural performances. Mr. Rival Valcin from Tokyo NODAI was the Best Presenter for the subtheme on Sustainable Agribusiness. He was also awarded 2nd place for his guitar and song performance showcasing his heritage. UPLB took home multiple awards with Ms. Rodelina C. Deyto awarded as the Best Presenter on the subtheme Sustainable Production

System and Mr. Emmanuel Flores awarded as the Best Presenter for the subtheme on Logistic and Value Chain. Team Liwanag of UPLB also bagged 1st place for their performance of "Sempurna", an Indonesian song, accompanied by the re-telling of the Philippines' Malakas and Maganda.

Ms. Atcharawan Srisa from Kasetsart University was awarded Best Presenter for the subtheme on Agro-industry 4.0 while Ms. Jessica Irena Antono from UGM was Best Presenter for the subtheme on Institution and Society. In terms of video content, NTU placed 3rd and 2nd with an entry from Kilana Putri Anindita and Ko-Hsuan Shao of Indonesian scenic spots and the Taiwanese culture, respectively. The 1st place was awarded

to UB with the entry from Yogita Ayu D. S., Filoza Marwi, Mohammed Al-Hadi Ibrahim Boshah Ahmed, Paramyita Nila Permansari, and Yunika Nisa Afifa which showed the tourism of East Java where their university is located.

Dr. Arini Wahyu Utami from UGM and Dr. Cuaresma closed the UCGF by congratulating the graduate students for their research presentations as well as showcasing their talents. Dr. Cuaresma acknowledged that this goes to show that the students are not only excelling in their major fields but also in the field of arts.

The next UC Graduate Forum shall be hosted by National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan in 2021.

## SEARCA REGIONAL PROFESSORIAL CHAIR GRANTEES FOR AY 2020-2021 WRAP PUBLIC LECTURES

The SEARCA Regional Professorial Chair Grantees for AY 2020-2021 have been conducting their public lectures online since last year due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The grant was awarded on 04 May 2020 to six outstanding experts in the academe from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand, Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) and Visayas State University (VSU) in the Philippines. UPM and KU are founding members of the UC with SEARCA serving as Secretariat. VSU became an affiliate member of the UC this year together with two more Southeast Asian universities.

Dr. Nazmi Mat Nawi (UPM) was the

first awardee to conduct his public lecture on 10 June 2020 during the Annual Agricultural Engineering Lecture Series of Universitas Brawijaya (UB) in partnership with SEARCA and UPM. He discussed "Agricultural Mechanization in Tropical Country: Case Study of Malaysia" and shared how agricultural mechanization offers a solution to labor shortages and when properly utilized, it could increase crop productivity as it improves farm efficiency. Dr. Nazmi also presented case studies on oil palm and rice in the context of Malaysia. His latest lecture was conducted on 27 January 2021 during the Research Seminar Series of the Institute of Plantation Studies of UPM. He talked about the latest R&D in mechanization

for sustainable oil palm plantation management.

Following Dr. Nazmi's first lecture, Dr. Anchasa Pramuanjaroenkij (KU) conducted her public lecture on 19 August 2020 at the Chalermphrakiat Sakon Nakhon Province campus, KU. Dr. Anchasa discussed the "Effects of Global Warming to Agricultural Food Production in Thailand". She shared the impact of global warming and how the community can be strengthened against this through technology.

Dr. Virgilio Julius P. Manzano, Jr. (MMSU) conducted his public lecture on 13 February 2021 during MMSU's 2021 Virtual Research Congress.



Dr. Nazmi Mat Nawi, guest lecturer from Universiti Putra Malaysia during the Annual Agricultural Engineering Lecture Series.



Dr. Anchasa Pramuanoenkiy shared her study at the Chalermphrakiat Sakon Nakhon Province campus, Kasetsart University.



Dr. Virgilio Julius P. Manzano, Jr. delivered his public lecture during MMSU's 2021 Virtual Research Congress with the theme: Fostering Multidisciplinary Researches and Innovations.



Dr. Felix M. Salas (L), SEARCA Regional Professorial Chair Awardee and Prof. Jacob Glenn F. Jansalin (R), Head, Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Visayas State University. Dr. Salas conducted his public lecture while Prof. Jansalin served as moderator.



Dr. Shuhaimi Mustafa (L) and Dr. Norsida Man (R) during their public lecture at Extension Talk 9.0 (EXTENT9.0) Special Edition – International Webinar on Agriculture and Food



Dr. Manzano discussed about “Mainstreaming and Harnessing Precision Farming for Sustainable and Resilient Philippine Agriculture.” He shared about the status of smart farming in the Philippines, existing technologies, as well as his experience, projects, and activities. Dr. Manzano encouraged the attendees to continue creating concepts of “future value” to agriculture as the practice of precision farming must continue.

Dr. Felix M. Salas (VSU) conducted his public lecture on 26 February 2021. He discussed “Innovative Liquid Nutrient Formulations for Improved Yield and Chemical Characteristics of Horticultural Crops under an Aggregate Hydroponic System”. Dr. Salas introduced hydroponics and shared its benefits such as reducing the problems encountered in conventional planting of crops. He encouraged the attendees to practice hydroponics especially for horticultural crops. According to him, vegetable consumption must be advocated for good health and wellness.

The last two awardees from UPM, Dr. Norsida Man and Dr. Shuhaimi Mustafa,

conducted their public lectures on 18 March 2021, during the Extension Talk 9.0 (EXTENT9.0) Special Edition – International Webinar on Agriculture and Food. The event was organized by the University Community Transformation Centre – UCTC, Faculty of Agriculture, and Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences in UPM, in partnership with SEARCA.

Dr. Norsida discussed “The Role of ICT-driven Tools and Technologies to Spread Innovation for Adaptation to Climate Change”. She shared the impacts of climate change and the role of ICT in extension work to mitigate these impacts. Dr. Norsida also emphasized the importance of agricultural extension work in discussing climate change-related issues, offering solutions to these issues, and making these solutions available to the farmers.

Dr. Shuhaimi presented “Rapid DNA-based Analytical Techniques to Verify the Authenticity of Halal Food Products”. He introduced the concept of halalan toyyiban in the food industry and then explained the current issues in halal food such as integrity

and awareness, misuse of logo, use of doubtful ingredients, new sources of raw materials, and animal feeds. Dr. Shuhaimi also discussed the use of rapid DNA-based halal food analysis and highlighted the importance of laboratory testing to clarify issues and authenticate halal food products which would also complement the audit-based Halal Assurance System (HAS).

Since AY 2012-2013, SEARCA has awarded 44 Regional Professorial Chair Grants in line with its mandate of bringing agriculture and rural development in the region by developing next generation leaders and professionals. For its 11th Five Year Plan, the Center will be awarding individuals in the field of Agricultural Technology/Innovation or to those with outstanding contributions to policies on Agripreneurship, applied towards SEARCA's seven (7) priority areas. The call for the next SEARCA Regional Professorial Chair Grants for AY 2021-2022 closed on 28 February 2021 and evaluation is ongoing.

# DOUBLE DEGREE SEARCA ALUMNUS SHARES RESEARCH ON SINGLE ORIGIN COFFEE PROCESSING SCHEME IN INDONESIA



Mr. Bayu Rizky Pratama, SEARCA alumnus, discussed his research during the Special Graduate Seminar on 15 January 2021.

The Education and Collective Learning Department (ECLD) conducted its Special Graduate Seminar on 15 January 2021 under the SEARCA Online Learning and Virtual Engagement (SOLVE) platform. The graduate seminar is held once every semester and highlights outstanding research by SEARCA scholars from their graduate thesis. Hosting the seminar is the Center's way to support the scholars' academic milestones and to recognize their capacity to produce quality research that has great impact in agriculture and rural development.

Mr. Bayu Rizky Pratama shared his Master's thesis titled "Analysis of the Factors Determining Farmers Adoption and Strategies for the Development of Single Origin Processing Scheme by Coffee Farmers." Mr. Pratama received his double Master's degrees in Agricultural & Resources Economics at Kasetsart University in Thailand, and in Agricultural Management at Montpellier SupAgro in France through the SEARCA full MS/PhD scholarship and the ERASMUS+ Scholarship for Double Degree Master Program. Currently, he works at Muhadi Setiabudi University in Brebes, Indonesia as Secretary of the Vice Rector III.

Mr. Pratama briefly discussed the coffee industry in Indonesia, and its importance to the farmers and the country's economy, as springboard for his presentation. His research focused

on the adoption of a narrow scale GI regulation among farmers in the Malabar, Tilu, and Patuha mountains to produce single origin Java Preanger coffee. GI or the issuance of Geographical Indication leads to more exportable, recognizable, and trustworthy coffee in the market. This would eventually generate stable income for coffee producers. Focusing on a narrow scale GI regulation, Mr. Pratama expounded that it will be more manageable to establish a monitoring and sanction system in the farmer's local area as opposed to relying solely on large-scale government monitoring support. The study also highlighted the positive effects of collective action benefit within the group which enabled farmers to set the attribution of coffee production, regulations, and sanctions. It also led to establishing common perception and goals among the farmers. The most important strategy which emerged in the study is farmer institutional improvement which enhanced the capacity building and training of farmers within groups.

Besides his research, Mr. Pratama also shared his journey as a graduate student and how he was able to get the opportunity to earn his double degree from renowned universities in Southeast Asia and Europe.

SEARCA continuously offers activities such as the Special Graduate Seminar to support its scholars who are envisioned to pave for the development of the Southeast Asian region and to

pursue the growth and progress of future leaders that would Accelerate Transformation through Agricultural Innovation. Previously held face-to-face, this year's graduate seminars will maximize the use of information and communication technology through the SOLVE platform to inform, educate, and share evidence-based solutions and tested technologies, as well as best practices on the ground. This is SEARCA's immediate response to the emerging impacts of the COVID-19

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