

## ILARRDEC Conducts Regional FITS Monitoring

The Ilocos Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (ILARRDEC) conducted a Regional Monitoring to the Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers to assess the implementation of the project in Region I.

A committee was formed to conduct the monitoring activity during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter meeting of the Regional Techno Gabay Coordinators in Region I. The committee is headed by Dr. Marivic M. Alimbuyuguen, MMSU Focal Person. Other committee members are Prof. Lovegrace DC Campano, Regional Applied Communication Officer (RACO) and Ms. Lilibeth Paraoan, Regional Management Information System (RMIS) Coordinator and 1 representative from La Union and Pangasinan.



The monitoring activity was conducted on October 27-30 in La Union and Pangasinan. Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte FITS centers were likewise scheduled to be monitored and evaluated on November 13-14, 2008 (MRG).



## MMSU now starts BIG Project Implementation

To fast track the implementation of the BIG Project at MMSU, a committee meeting composed of the BIG project team was conducted recently to tackle the various activities to be implemented for the project.

As a result of the meeting, deadlines were set for the submission of different training modules needed for the series of trainings to be conducted. Letters were distributed to the FITS centers where the BIG project will be piloted. On the other hand, the Extension Directorate had also started with the hauling of garden soils and cutting of bamboo poles to start the demo project to be established near the UTC building of MMSU. Trainings to be conducted will be participated by farm families assisted by FITS centers in Ilocos Norte (MRG)

*The future site of the BIG Project*



### ANNOUNCEMENT

**MMSU-Extension Directorate is now accepting applications for the Glutinous Corn Dispersal project, both for farmer-beneficiaries and MMSU employees!!**

**Applications is on a first come first serve basis!**

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## MMSU Conducts Farmers' Field Day

*Mercy R. Gaño*

The Mariano Marcos State University will be conducting its Farmers' Field Day in the National Seed Production Network (SEEDNET) Project and other MMSU in campus projects on November 7, 2008 to showcase the various technologies in the University.

The annual farmers' field day is an actual activity of MMSU through the Extension Directorate to give farmers, seed growers, Agricultural technicians and other target clientele to be able to observe and see for themselves the performance of crops planted at MMSU particularly for rice.

This year, eight inbred varieties of rice were planted in the 3.0 ha SEEDNET area. This is in support to the Rice Seedstock Dispersal Project (RSDP) of MMSU. The major goal of the SEEDNET Project aims to help improve productivity and profitability of rice farming. Specifically, it aims to promote the use of high quality seeds (registered/certified) to attain rice self sufficiency. The project also aims to ensure accessibility and timely availability of high quality seeds

## Search for CHED Outstanding Extension Program Award Two MMSU entries vie for the Region

*Marivic M. Alimbuyuguen*

Of the six extension programs shortlisted for the 2008 CHED Search for Outstanding Extension Program Award in Region I, two were entries from the University.



*The SDP for rice and corn*

These are "Transforming the Lives of Farm Households through Sustainable Technology-Based Development: The Case of MMSU Seedstock Dispersal Program" of the Extension Directorate and "Strengthening MMSU-ANEC in the Promotion and Utilization of Renewable Energy for Countryside Development" of the Affiliated Non-Conventional Energy Center. Dr. Marivic M. Alimbuyuguen, Director of the Extension Directorate and Dr. Carlos M. Pascual, Director of ANEC presented their programs to a panel of three judges composed of Dr. Evelyn L. Pascua, Director

of CHED Region I and Chair of Region I Extension Awards Committee; Atty. Cipriano Santiago, Regional Executive Director of DA-Region I and Engr. Gil Fernandez of DTI Region I, as members.

The entries were evaluated and ranked on the basis of the following criteria: development impact (50%); institutional and policy environment for the program (40%) and recognition given to the program (10%). The other four programs considered for the competition were: D'ASI Project Child Care Center (NCC); PSU Integrated

Extension Program (PSU); Panagdidinnanggay Center (SLC) and Yam Integrated Extension Program (DMMMSU).

Of the six entries, three will be selected for the Regional Award. The first to be ranked will be the Regional entry to the National Competition.

The ANEC is an extension arm of the Department of Energy on renewable energy in the Ilocos. It is mandated in the promotion and utilization of RE technologies in the country for economic development. The central goal is sustainable development anchored on people and community empowerment for environment-friendly and ecologically safe community-based renewable energy.

The Seed Stock Dispersal Program (SDP) is one of the flagship and banner programs of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU)-Extension Directorate. The SPD presents a distinct model of a sustainable technology-based development thru an established assistance mechanism involving the coordinated efforts and complementation of resources by the academe, research and development agencies, local government units, farmer cooperators, and marketing outfits.

Revitalized in 2000, the major goal of the SDP is to improve the agricultural productivity and farm income of farmers through sustained supply and use of

improved seed stocks as planting materials. Specifically, the SDP aims to: a) introduce to farmers new and recommended high quality seed stocks; b) continuously make available to farmers high quality and recommended seed stocks which normally are costly and inadequately available in the local market; c) enable farmers to produce high quality seed stocks for their own use and for commercial purposes using MMSU dispersal seed stocks; and d) increase the intensity and frequency in the use of high quality seed stocks for planting purposes by farmers.

The SPD had not only transformed the lives of farm households but had also evolved strategies of project management in the University's Extension Directorate through the adoption of innovative management strategies for sustainability (IMSS).

In a recently conducted assessment study of the SDP, by both external and internal evaluators, the results revealed the social, economic and environmental impact of the program. The benefits received by the cooperators on the program are: gained new knowledge about farming e.g. the use of the improved variety of crops, Bio-N, trichograma and organic fertilizer; oriented on the hazardous effects of using insecticides/pesticides; became aware of their responsibilities in environment protection and conservation; developed their self confidence on the use of improved practices; and enhanced their

leadership capabilities in leading their fellow farmers.

The cooperators also reported that their families/households benefited from the program. According to the cooperators, through the SDP, their families were able to: gain financial security as a result of the increased farm household income; pay their debts; strengthen family ties as household members cooperate in performing the different farm activities; and purchase additional household appliances and send their children to school.

On the part of the University, the SPD had evolved innovative management strategies for sustainability that was able to promote convergence, unity, and partnership of various extension programs of the university and other government agencies. As such, the use of resources was maximized. In addition, the SPD being a community-based and client-oriented, comprehensive and integrated, and target-focused program, the waste of resources was minimized since services were provided to those who were really in need. With SPD operating on the basis of felt needs, problems and available resources of the communities and clients, the project was managed most effectively and efficiently.

to farmers & seed growers of Ilocos Norte and nearby provinces, and to support the rice seed dispersal project of the university.

The eight inbred rice varieties planted in the area and their characteristics are the following:

**PSB Rc 18 (Ala)**

<u>Ave. Yield t/ha:</u>	5.1
<u>Max. Yield t/ha:</u>	8.1
<u>Maturity (DAS):</u>	123
<u>Height (cm):</u>	102
<u>Blast:</u>	Intermediate
<u>Tungro:</u>	Intermediate
<u>Stem Borer:</u>	Moderately Susceptible



**Save Rice, Save Lives!**

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**DOST holds consultative meeting with SMEs in Ilocos Norte**

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through its Provincial Science and Technology Center conducted a consultative meeting with Small and Medium Enterprises on October 28, 2008 at the Provincial Capitol Auditorium.

The activity was attended by personnel from DOST headed by the Regional Director, Dr. Elsa R. Chan, Engr. Armando Q. Ganal, Director, Technology Promotion Division, Engr. Fehlander Madriaga, Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTO) Officer, and two other support staff.

Participants to the activity were SMEs from various towns of Ilocos Norte with varied ventures.

Dr. Chan in her opening remarks explained that they are conducting said activity to promote the programs of DOST and to extend their services to SMEs to help people in the countryside through various enterprises.



Dr. Elsa R. Chan, Regional Director, DOST as she delivers her opening remarks during the activity.

Engr. Madriaga, on the other hand presented the different programs of DOST particularly the implementation of the Set-Up project. The project was further explained by Engr. Ganal. An open forum after the presentation of these projects were conducted. Various issues and concerns were clarified by the participants (**Mercy R. Gaño**).

**MMSU cooperators are recipients of the DOST SMEs assistance Project**

Two of MMSUs food processors are at present supported by the Department of Science and Technology through its assistance to SMEs in Region I.

Ms. Diana Ramos of Brgy. San Fernando San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte was able to avail of DOSTs financial assistance amounting to P116,000.00. The amount was used for the purchase of equipment like grinder, sealer, freezer, including the packaging of her products. The financial assistance is interest free and payable for 3 years.



Ms. Diana Ramos (left) in her newly constructed processing area back of their house. Ms. Suerte Mia Soriano in her participation to one of the trade fairs attended by MMSU.

As counterpart, Ms. Ramos financed the construction of her production area to ensure the safety of the foods she processed. Among her processed meat products are embutido, longganisa, tocino, burger patties, and others.

Ms. Suerte Mia Soriano, on the other hand, was able to avail of DOSTs assistance through a grant amounting to P55,000.00. The amount was given to her in the form of equipment like slicer including the packaging and labeling of her products. such as banana and camote chips. Other line products produced by Suerte include tamarind, pastillas, polvoron, adobo and coated peanut. With DOSTs financial assistance, MMSU hopes to help more SMEs in the province (**Mercy R. Gaño**).

## MMSU and CHR-I conducts BHRAO Orientation Seminar

Bella C. Gervacio

In an attempt to provide knowledge and skills in the implementation and management of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers (BHRACs), the Mariano Marcos State University through the Center for Human Rights Education In Ilocos Norte and the Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 1 conducted an Orientation Seminar for Barangay Human Rights Action Officers (BHRAOs) in Ilocos Norte.

The training was conducted in two batches. The first batch was held at the Audio Visual Room, College of Industrial Technology, MMSU, Laoag City on 29 October 2008. This was participated by 42 BHRAOs and Municipal Local Government Operations Officers from the first district of Ilocos Norte. The second batch was conducted at the University Training Center, MMSU, Batac City on 30 October 2008 with 40 participants. The second batch catered to the municipalities of the second district of the province.

The modules for the training were developed by the faculty and Accredited Human Rights Educators in MMSU who, at the same time, also served as resource speakers/trainers during the seminar. They are: Ms. Lorma Auria G. Quibilan, Mr. Herdy L. Yumul, Ms. Marjorie P. Garcia, Ms. Dyrma I. Sabas, Ms. Angelica O. Salas, Ms. Marlyn S. Cacatian, and Dr. Cristina B. Coloma.

The following were the modules discussed during the seminar:

1. Definition, Principles and Classification of Human Rights
2. Barangay Human Rights Enforcement System
3. Women's Rights

4. Barangay Human Rights Action Officer: Concept and Functions
5. BHRAO Operations/Monitoring and Reporting
6. Code of Conduct of Barangay Human Rights Action Officers
7. Cooperating/Participating Agencies
8. Human Rights Framework in BHRACs Operations

Five staff of the CHR-Regional Office I were present during the trainings. They are Ms. Arlene N. Ganal, Mr. Ernesto B. Dangael, Mr. Ferdinand R. Quedado, Mr. Danilo T. Balino, and Ms. Rosario A. Aromin. The BHRAO training is one of the activities of the Center for Human Rights Education in Ilocos Norte. The center serves as the support arm of the CHR Regional Office 1 in the conduct of Human Rights Education activities in the province. Thus, the center conducts human rights related activities not only within the academe but also in the local government units.



The participants to the training during during the lectures.



### PSB Rc 82 (Peñaranda)

Ave. Yield t/ha: 5.4  
Max. Yield t/ha: 12  
Maturity (DAS): 110  
Height (cm): 100  
Blast: Resistant  
Tungro: Susceptible  
Stem Borer: Intermediate



### NSIC Rc 142 (Tubigan 7)

Ave. Yield t/ha: 5.6  
Max. Yield t/ha: 7.8  
Maturity (DAS): 112  
Height (cm): 88  
Blast: Susceptible  
Tungro: Susceptible  
Stem Borer: Moderately Resistant

### NSIC Rc 122 (Angelica)

Ave. Yield t/ha: 4.7  
Max. Yield t/ha: 5.0  
Maturity (DAS): 121  
Height (cm): 106  
Blast: Resistant  
Tungro: Intermediate  
Stem Borer: Resistant



### NSIC Rc 134 (Tubigan 4)

Ave. Yield t/ha: 5.4  
Max. Yield t/ha: 9.8  
Maturity (DAS): 107  
Height (cm): 90  
Blast: Intermediate  
Tungro: Susceptible  
Stem Borer: Moderately Resistant



### NSIC Rc 144 (Tubigan 8)

Ave. Yield t/ha: 5.3  
Max. Yield t/ha: 7.9  
Maturity (DAS): 107  
Height (cm): 94  
Blast: Intermediate  
Tungro: Susceptible  
Stem Borer: Moderately Susceptible

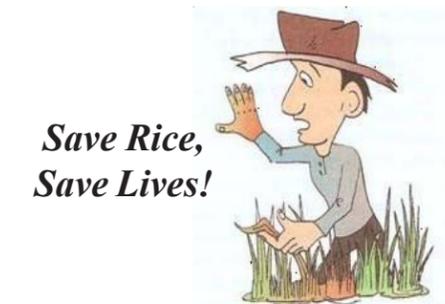
### NSIC RC 138 (Tubigan 5)

Ave. Yield t/ha: 5.4  
Max. Yield t/ha: 8.0  
Maturity (DAS): 111  
Height (cm): 94  
Blast: Susceptible  
Tungro: Susceptible  
Stem Borer: Moderately Resistant



### NSIC Rc 146 (PJ 7)

Ave. Yield t/ha: 4.6  
Max. Yield t/ha: 6.9  
Maturity (DAS): 110  
Height (cm): 101  
Blast: Susceptible  
Tungro: Susceptible  
Stem Borer: Moderately Resistant



## Educational tour for Magsasaka Siyentista Acosta visits Korea

*Mary Ann Rarogal*

*"I will develop a historical place in my farm."* These were the exact words of Mr. Nestor Acosta, MS of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte after his 10 day study tour at Korea Natural/Organic Farming area on September 1-10 this year.

The 10 – day travel of Mr. Acosta was sponsored by PCARRD to give him the chance to learn the Korean way of natural farming for vegetables developed by Mr. Cho Han Kyu, the founder of Korean Natural Farming Association. Mr. Acosta was given the chance to see various places in Korea such as the research fields of the National Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (NIAS), National Institute of Highland Agriculture (NIHA), the historic interests at Seoul and Suwon, National Institute of Animal Science (NIAS), and the organic farmlands at Namyangju and Hwacheon, Hoengseong.

His visit to the historical places of Korea gave him an idea of making his farm more productive and a venue for other farmers and visitors to learn and see the wonders of organic farming. According to him, he will make a story on the transformation of his farm, how it started, grew and developed into its present status. His visit really challenged him to work more in his farm.

Mr. Acosta observed that Koreans are very mechanized in their farming. They do not need to pay for the labor of 5-10 persons because one to two individuals can operate or handle the production of vegetables and other crops with the used of machines in farming. He related that the production of milk in Korea is also mechanized. Acosta added that Koreans are also using rice straw as mulch for corn



production. He observed that they also use tea manure as a source of nutrient to their plants.

In his travel, Mr. Acosta was given the chance to share his farming experiences to the Koreans. Among the technologies he shared was the technology in pruning and use of tea manure and other organic farming practices. According to him, the tomato plants in Korea were affected by fungus. This is why he shared his experience in pruning.

Mr. Acosta was indeed very thankful to PCARRD and ILARRDEC for giving him the opportunity to participate in this very enriching venture. He is looking forward to more educational trips like this for him to be able to learn more of the farming practices of other countries/farmers.

## MMSU Team Joins SIFE World Cup 2008

*Bella C. Gervacio*

The MMSU Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team proved its worth once again after winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-up tilt during the Pilipinas SIFE National Exposition held at the Hotel Dusit Thani, Makati City on August 1-2, 2008. Hence, the team joined the SIFE World Cup 2008 at the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Center, Suntec City, Singapore on October 1-3, 2008.

Greggy Martell C. Felipe, BS Accountancy IV; Ralph Emerson A. Agonoy, BS Biology II; Efren Jonicel D. Domingo, BS Education III; and James Patrick Acang, BS Computer Science IV, together with their Faculty Advisor, Ms. Bella C. Gervacio, joined the Philippine delegation composed of 27 members from San Beda College, Manila; Divine Word College, Occidental Mindoro; Sultan Kudarat State Polytechnic College, Sultan Kudarat and the officers of the Pilipinas SIFE headed by the Chair of the Board, Dr. Jose Leviste.

The three-day event started with an Opening Ceremonies with no less than the Chair of the Board of SIFE, President and CEO Campbell Soup Company, Mr. Douglas R. Conant, as the Keynote Speaker. The activity was also highlighted with the Parade of Countries where each country team paraded on the stage. The Philippine delegation was noted to be one of the most numbered delegation in the World Cup.

Of the 41 competing countries, Team Philippines, represented by the National Champion, San Beda, bagged the 3<sup>rd</sup> place and SIFE Spirit Award in the Opening Round (elimination). Sixteen teams moved on and competed in the Semi-Final Round. They were the teams from Albania, Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala,

India, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, and the United Kingdom. Of the 16 teams, four teams again advanced to the Final Round. These were the teams from Canada, Nigeria, Singapore and India. Canada won as the Global Champion of the 2008 SIFE World Cup beating three other finalists: Nigeria; first runner-up, India, 2nd Runner Up; and Singapore; 3rd Runner Up.

Aside from the MMSU-SIFE team's national success, their participation and experiences in the World Cup are worth remembering. In the first day, the Cultural Fair was held. The Fair served as a venue where varied and diverse culture of the 41 participating countries were displayed. No matter what color they have, no matter what language they talk, and no matter what country they came from, everybody were in the spirit of camaraderie and friendship. There was equality and generosity of every

participating country. Everybody had lots to give such as souvenir items and other promotional products directly coming from their home countries. In addition, the idea of racial discrimination was precluded. Nobody was wearing unhappy faces. Everyone gained a better point of view and understanding of the diverse cultures of the world.

World Cup judges included executives from some of the world's largest corporations. Students were able to meet and mingle with them informally during the Sponsor Fair and Top to Top Forum. As a result, SIFE team members often are several steps ahead in their careers when they graduate. But the most satisfying part of the SIFE competition for both, the MMSU team and their international counterparts is the chance to educate people, improve communities and change the world.



*The SIFE World cup during the parade of nations and the MMSU-SIFE team and other delegates to the 2008 SIFE World Cup.*