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ERDB convenes multisectoral meeting on Bamboo Plantation Development Project



(From left to right:) ERDB Director Henry A. Adornado, DENR Undersecretary Sylvia M. Ordoñez and ERDB Assistant Director Antonio M. Daño during the "Bamboo Stakeholders' Meeting" held in ERDB.

The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), as the lead implementing office of the bamboo and mangrove project under the Enhanced National Greening Program (eNGP), convened the "Bamboo Stakeholders' Meeting" on January 17, 2017 at the ERDB Auditorium. The meeting was organized to promote the participation of government, non-government, and private organizations in the implementation of the Bamboo

Plantation and Development Project (BPDP).

Among those present in the meeting were DENR USec. Sylvia M. Ordoñez and USec. Isabelo R. Montejo, ERDB Director Henry A. Adornado, and Assistant Director Antonio M. Daño. Also in attendance were bamboo experts from ERDB, UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR), Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI), and

Phillippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD); and representatives from the Department of

Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of National Defense (DND), Phillippine Army, Forest Management Bureau (FMB, Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU), Phillippine Bamboo Foundation, Scifarm Enterprises, Mussaenda Nursery, Ariel Arts and Crafts, and Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC).

Dr. Henry A. Adornado welcomed the stakeholders and presented the purpose and objective of the meeting.

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ERDB holds 2017 Annual General Assembly

The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) held its general assembly on January 09, 2017 at the ERDB Auditorium. As a highlight of the program, ERDB Director Henry A. Adornado presented ERDB's 2016 accomplishments on R and D, technology transfer, personnel development, facilities, administrative procedures, publication, finance, and policy.

For the physical accomplishment, Dir. Adornado was proud to announce that the Bureau

has achieved a 99.5% accomplishment on its regular targets and special projects. In terms of budget utilization, the Director mentioned that the bureau has obtained a 92% disbursement rate. Director Adornado also presented ERDB's future plans including the ERDB as overall coordinator for mangrove and bamboo projects nationwide, protocol development of bamboo through tissue culture, operationalizing the Tree Seed Centers (TSCs), strengthening of the

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ERDB Director Henry A. Adornado presenting ERDB's accomplishments during the Annual General Assembly.

Technology Transfer Division conducts writeshop on technology characterization



Participants of the 3-day writeshop on technology characterization.

Strengthening the competency of ERDB technical staff, a 3-day writeshop on ENR Technology Characterization was spearheaded by the Technology Assessment and Packaging Section (TAPS) of the Technology Transfer Division on February 15 – 17, 2017 at ERBD Conference Room, College, Laguna. The general objective of this activity was to come up with the technology characterization outputs targeted in 2017 as one of the deliverables of ERDB. Specifically, it aimed to: (1) level off the participants regarding technology characterization format; (2) assist the participants in determining whether the technology generated is a product, process, information or service; and (3) guide the participants in writing technology characterization reports.

The 1st day of the activity focused on the discussion on the technology characterization formats for information, process, product and service. The group agreed that there must be different format for each type of technology. It was also agreed that only technologies for process and product will be subjected for review of the Technology Assessment Team (TAT) to be assessed using STEEP indicators. Likewise, it was agreed to revisit the TAT composition and submit their names as basis for amendments of the existing Special Order for TAT Composition of ERDB and Research Centers.

Another activity done was the levelling-off and discussion of TTD Project 1: Assessment and Packaging of Technologies and Project 3: Post Evaluation of ENR Transferred technologies. Targets for transferred

technologies in 2017 were discussed and clarified.

On the 2nd day, Ms. Lucy A. Lastimosa, Senior Science Research Specialist of the Technology Transfer and Promotion Division of PCAARRD and Business Development Associate of DOST-PCAARRD Innovation and Technology Center presented the topic on "Technology Transfer: How we do it in PCAARRD?". She discussed the R&D Research Utilization Framework of PCAARRD, Convergence of R&D and Technology Transfer Group and Technology Assessment Process.

The rest of the session was devoted to writing of each technology targeted in 2017 based on technology characterization format. Then, outputs of the characterized technologies were presented by the participants. Aurora S. Jose & Marita W. Briz, TTD.

ERDB holds 2017... *from page 1*

technology transfer sector, improving the Geographic Information System (GIS) unit, development of research centers in accordance with their mandates and the filling up of vacancies in the ERDB.

The employees also asked several questions on administrative and technical matters. In closing, Director Adornado said, "I hope we will all continue to work together in 2017 to achieve our targets". Marla V. Cambay, TTD



The members of ERDB Executive Committee



The Forestry Officers from the Ministry of Forest and Government of India together with the Cavite State university's staff as they visit ERDB's demonstration area.

Indian Forestry Officers from CAVSU visit ERDB's facilities

Twelve Forestry Officers from the Ministry of Forest and Government of India visited the ERDB's facilities on January 23, 2017. They were visitors of the Cavite State University through its Continuing Education and Training Services (CETS) and the College of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Natural Resources (CAFENR). The activity was titled "Biodiversity Conservation Training Program".

ERDB Assistant Director Antonio M. Daño and For. Marlyn Q. Landicho, Chief of the Laboratory and Experimental Services Division (LESB) welcomed

the participants upon their arrival at the ERDB office. Ms. Veronica O. Sinohin, Chief of the Technology Transfer Division (TTD) oriented the participants and briefly discussed ERDB's history and its functions. She also showed through a powerpoint presentation of the ERDB's technologies and its facilities.

The group headed to the ERDB bamboo and rattan gallery where For. Digno Garcia briefed the participants on the different bamboo and rattan products. Afterwards, they proceeded to the ERDB's demonstration area, to see the different species of bamboo, palm, and

other plants in the area.

The participants were brought to the ERDB's Research and Demonstration Zone (RDZ) for the Charcoal Briquette Technology and Clonal Propagation Facility. At the RDZ, ERDB technical staff For. Kevin Philip Olaya showed the process of making charcoal briquettes from waste products.

After the short tour, the participants acknowledged the ERDB for the experience and the things that they have learned from the activity. Marla V. Cambay, TTD

ERDB convenes... from page 1

He mentioned that the meeting aims to determine the appropriate bamboo species to be planted in every region, identify the existing bamboo industries involved in the bamboo processing, and determine how the BDPD project can be further improved. USec. Sylvia Ordoñez also gave an opening speech and urged the stakeholders to plant as much as they can and do whatever they can as humanely as possible. She said that by helping each other, the present generation can leave a lasting legacy for the future generations.

For. Gregorio E. Santos Jr., Assistant Project Coordinator of the Bamboo Project moderated the meeting and presented the DENR Bamboo Plantation Development Project (BDPP) to the stakeholders. He discussed the objectives and targets of the project as well as the target areas and the planting material requirements per region for 2017.

Ms. Leonor Paningbatan of the Department of Trade and Industry-

Region III presented the Shared Service Facility (SSF) on Bamboo Processing. The DTI as the Chair of the Philippine National Bamboo Council is concentrating on improving the competitiveness of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the SSF project.

Dr. Rico Cabangon, Chief of the Engineering Product and Development Section of the FPRDI presented other potential bamboo-based industries and the technologies that are currently being developed to produce quality bamboo products.

Finally, Dr. Florentino O. Tesoro, ERDB consultant on bamboo, presented the road map for bamboo and suggested policies that can be adapted to further promote the national use of bamboo.

For. Santos also presented during the meeting a matrix of recommended species of different bamboo industries.

At the end of the meeting, USec. Montejo stressed the importance of the event and addressed the work that still needs to be done for the BDPD project. Dr. Adornado closed the stakeholders' meeting by thanking everyone who attended and participated. Marla V. Cambay, TTD



The participants during the meeting as they discuss the ERDB's bamboo program.



ERDB's elderly social activity held

The social activity of ERDB's Senior Citizens (SCs) and Persons with Disability (PWDs) was held at the ERDB Auditorium on 14 February 2017. This activity aimed to: (1) promote self-esteem and unity among SCs and PWDs of ERDB; (2) stimulate a healthy work

culture and cultivate trust within ERDB employees; and (3) come together and get to know each other better. The theme of the celebration was "Kahalagahan ng Pakikisalamuha sa Nakatatanda at may Kapansanan".

The ERDB employees aged from fifty and above were invited to attend the said event. There were 66 employees composed of 18 males and 48 females who attended the activity.

Dr. Simplicia A. Pasicolan gave the opening remarks followed by the welcome message of Ms. Veronica O. Sinohin, Focal Person of ERDB SCs and PWDs. Ms. Sinohin stressed three laws such as Republic Act No. 7432 "An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and For Other Purposes"; Republic Act 9442 "An Act Amending Republic Act No. 7277, Otherwise Known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons and for Other Purposes; and House Bill No. 834 "Centenarians Act of 2010". An inspirational talk was delivered by Dr. Carmelita I. Villamor. This activity was hosted by Dr. Malou Moreno and For. Romana Mauricio.

Songs and dances were the entertainment presented to make this event a joyful social activity of everyone. Aurora S. Jose, TTD



(Left photo) Consultation and finalization of group outputs (Right photo) Presentation of workshop outputs

ERDB participates in Training Program on Integrated Policy Formulation and Planning

A 7-day training program on Integrated Policy Formulation and Planning was conducted on January 23-31, 2017 at the Assembly Hall of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG), Diliman, QC. The training was initiated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Central Office (DENR) to strengthen the capacity of national and regional DENR officers in the policy formulation, program planning, budget preparation, program implementation and monitoring evaluation. The 17 participants coming from EMB, ERDB, NWRB, BMB, FMB

and DENR regional offices (CAR, IV A, VI and XII) completed the training program. It was conducted by the Center for Policy and Executive Development (CPED)-NCPAG professors headed by Dean Maria Fe V. Mendoza.

The program proper started with a presentation made by the former DENR Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi about the State of the Environment. This was followed by presentations delivered by NCPAG professors, Dean Mendoza on the overview of public policy, policy making, and integrated policy-planning and Director Ebinezzer

R. Florano on problem identification and policy formulation and plan/program design. The other topics discussed were on policy recommendation, adoption, and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, policy advocacy, environmental policy brief writing. Lastly, the mainstreaming of the new governance paradigm in policy, planning and monitoring process was presented.

The workshop proper followed after the lectures. Participants were divided into three groups. Each group was assigned to prepare a problem wherein planning and formulation of policy was applied. Prepared workshop outputs were presented and evaluated on the last day of the training. Lourdes A. Bрева, NGP-OD and Yrah Joy C. Panizales, LESD

UTHRC facilitates Hands-on Training on Charcoal Briquetting Technology

In line with the mandate of the ERDB-UTHRC (Urban, Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes Research Center) in the promotion of ENR technologies, hands-on training is being used as one of the strategies. Recently in response to the request of CENRO, Pasig City, UTHRC facilitated the Hands-on Training on Charcoal Briquetting Technology (CBT) at the Samahan ng Maykapansanan ng Taguig (SAMAKAT) CBT Project, Taguig City on January 26, 2017. SAMAKAT is an active adopter of the CBT in NCR. Hence, it is now being considered as the demo area of the technology.

A total of five (5) employees of CENRO, Pasig City were trained on the said technology. Five members of SAMAKAT, headed by Mr. Mario Galvez served as resource persons on the different steps/procedures of CBT. Ms. Ma. Salvacion P. Samson from UTHRC showed the necessary equipment being used in the production of briquettes as well as the proper setting up of the equipment. After the actual training, Mr. Erick Paul Escudero, Project Leader, CENRO, Pasig City decided to implement the project in their area of jurisdiction. Accordingly, CBT is an outstanding practice to support the recycling project under the solid waste management.



(Above photo:) The UTHRC staff together with the participants of the training. (Left photo:) A member of the SAMAKAT served as one of the resource persons during the training on charcoal briquetting .



The training will be of great help to the Pasig City, Environment Office to continue their project in the reduction of the increasing solid waste problem. Likely, the activity ensures the success in the promotion of such technology. Evangeline Marcelino, UTHRC

Cebu provincial tourism officer, various stakeholders, and partners have joined hands with the Biodiversity, Coastal, Wetlands and Ecotourism Center (BCWERC) to boost the development of the 123.4 ha Experimental Forest Station (EFS) within the Osmeña Reforestation Project (ORP) in Camp 7, Minglanilla, Cebu into a prime ecotourism destination in the province.

“Rich in biodiversity given the diverse species of flora and fauna and its century old trees, the area is indeed a potential ecotourism site in the Cebu province,” according to Dr. Alicia L. Lustica, Center Head for BCWERC during a consultative meeting at the Cebu Provincial Capitol held last January 27, 2017. The meeting organized by the Cebu Provincial Tourism Office was participated in by representatives from the private sector in Cebu - the Movement for Livable Cebu (MLC), Mega Cebu, Cebu Chamber of Commerce, Cebu Pollution Control Association of the Philippines (Cebu-PCAPI), Cebu City’s FORWARD (Federated Organization of Women

Cebu stakeholders and partners to support BCWERC in the establishment of ecotourism site in Minglanilla, Cebu

Active in Regional Development), and the University of San Carlos School of Architecture.

Primarily, the meeting intended to present the Cultural Trail Resource Assessment and Mapping of area within the EFS. Cebu Provincial Tourism Officer Joselito “Boboi” Costas, in his presentation, introduced valuable perspectives and gained enthusiastic

feedback among the group. According to Mr. Coastas, “This will signal the

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Consultative meeting at the Cebu Capitol composed of Dr. Alicia L. Lustica, BCWERC Center Head; MLC representatives, Rudy Alix, and Louella Alix; Eileen Mangubat of CDN; and Tess Chan of CCCL.

BCWERC head joins the Team 'SAFE Program' of DOST-PCAARRD

Officials, Consortium Directors, and representatives from the government and the academe recently convened to support the Science and Technology Action Frontline for Emergencies (SAFE) program of the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources, Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD). The program was established to support and function in conjunction with other existing initiatives anchored on the national agenda of Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation (DRRM)/Climate Change Adaptation for the Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources (AANR) sector.

Relative to this, Dr. Alicia L. Lustica, Center Head of the Biodiversity, Coastal, Wetlands and Ecotourism Center (BCWERC) joined the said DOST-PCAARRD organized activity, titled as 'Workshop on S&T Action Frontline for Emergencies and Risks in the AANR Sector, Research and Development Agenda Setting Focused on Emergencies/Risks in the Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources (AANR)

Sector.' The workshop held last 18-20 January 2017 at El Cielito Hotel, Makati City, brought together partners who will work for the Promotion and Awareness of the Regional Teams to the SAFE



Dr. Alicia L. Lustica of BCWERC during the DOST-PCAARRD Workshop on S & T Action Frontline for Emergencies and Risks in the AANR Sector, Research and Development Agenda Setting focused on Emergencies/Risks in the Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources (AANR) Sector).

program. Dr. Lustica revealed that the group had the chance to interact with peers from the AANR Sector. They shared issues and concerns related to R&D on AANR, researchable areas, and policy implications. According to her, informative lectures from scientists and environment leaders really provided valuable insights. Participants likewise exchanged helpful research tips with some of the most dynamic people in their respective field. Accordingly, group output includes identification of research areas by hazards and R & D gaps; issues and concerns; proposed R & D Agenda; and Institutional/Policy Setting.

SAFE Program was launched by PCAARRD as its formal emergency response program and as an institutional system for both emergency - or hazard-related R&D and technology transfer. This is envisioned to establish an institutional approach to develop S&T strategies and technology convergence in response to various emergencies and hazards in AANR sectors. BCWERC



BCWERC evaluates first year implementation of PCAARRD-STMF Project

The meeting held on January 16, 2017 in Maasin, Iloilo with the BCWERC staff and the cluster leaders of the farmers' organization to evaluate the 1st year implementation of the project.

A meeting was recently organized by the Biodiversity, Coastal, Wetlands and Ecotourism Research Center (BCWERC) to assess the Science and Technology Community-based Model Farm (STMF) on Bamboo and Bamboo Woven Products – An Eco/Agri-Tourism Theme Park in Maasin, Iloilo.”

Five (5) farmer cluster leaders of the 'Katilingban sang Pamuluyo nga naga Atipan sa Watershed sang Maasin' (KAPAWA) attended the STMF project discussion held last January 16, 2017 at the KAPAWA Office in Maasin, Iloilo. Dr. Alicia L. Lustica, BCWERC Center Head presided the consultative meeting that aims to evaluate the first year implementation of Philippine Council

for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) STMF project. Attendees include project consultant, Mr. Neil G. Gigare, the local project team comprising of BCWERC staff, and the KAPAWA cluster leaders. The activity also discussed plans pertaining to the launching of the PCAARRD-STMF project that aim to promote wider adoption of science-based technologies on bamboo rehabilitation and plantation development.

PCAARRD-STMF project highlights tourism-technology convergence through the establishment and demonstration of S&T-based technologies on increasing bamboo

production and promoting Maasin municipality as an ecotourism destination. Activities include rehabilitation of the bamboo plantation in Brgy. Daja, establishment of bamboo nursery in Brgy. Buntalan, improvement of the Common Service Facility (CSF) in Brgy. Bolo, and establishment of bamboo plantation in Brgy. Abay and Brgy. Dagame. Farmer clusters during the first year implementation were able to rehabilitate one hundred fifty (150) bamboo clumps, produce one thousand twenty-five (1,025) bamboo potted propagules, and planted two thousand (2,000) bamboo potted propagules in Brgy. Abay. BCWERC

BCWERC to strengthen ecotourism activities within ORP

Dr. Alicia L. Lustica, Center Head of the Biodiversity, Coastal, Wetlands and Ecotourism Center (BCWERC) together with some technical staff and columnist from the Cebu Daily News, Cris Evert Lato-Ruffolo, visited Camp 7, Minglanilla, southern part of Cebu to check on the 123.4-hectare Experimental Forest Station (EFS) facilities inside the Osmeña Reforestation Project (ORP). The ORP which is managed by the BCWERC of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) serves as a demonstration, training center for the conservation and management of forest plantation, seed production area, cave, and ecotourism, and as field laboratory for Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) technologies.

BCWERC takes pride in fully operating soon as a "State-of-the-Art" Tree Seed Center facility in Minglanilla, Cebu. Dr. Lustica revealed this and further stated that said laboratory is equipped to test seeds for quality

assurance. The Visayas Tree Seed Center facilities will house modern equipment to serve as laboratory for testing and storage area of quality seeds collected throughout the Visayas Region. BCWERC will start anew to modernize the facilities to provide clients including forest tree and nursery growers, researchers, educators, and the public on proper seed processing and preparation, seed testing, registration and/or long-term storage for quality seeds.

The media dialogue also highlighted BCWERC's 2017 activities within the ORP such as clonal nursery operation, establishment of the tree seed center, Eco-Discovery and Heritage Trail, and advocacy campaign for biodiversity conservation. Dr. Lustica also said that BCWERC will focus on plans to strengthen ecotourism activities within the ORP such as developing trails within the ORP for people to appreciate and "commune with nature."

BCWERC according to Dr. Lustica, will continue collaborating with various

partners, such as the academe through the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), the private and public entities with the commitment to extend technical assistance in clonal nursery operations, production of quality seeds, biodiversity conservation, and ecotourism development. BCWERC



Dr. Alicia L. Lustica (right) discusses BCWERC's vision and various projects for ORP with Cebu Daily News journalist, Cris Evert Lato-Ruffolo

New developments currently undertaken at the Eastern Visayas Clonal Nursery in Barangay Busay, Babatngon, Leyte will soon be completed. According to Dr. Alicia L. Lustica, Center Head of the Biodiversity, Coastal, Wetlands and Ecotourism Center's (BCWERC), infrastructures done for continuous production of cloned materials of indigenous forest trees to support the National Greening Program (NGP) is expected to be finished by the 3rd week of February this year.

Dr. Lustica together with Forester Emma Germano, BCWERC Region 8 Station In-Charge recently visited Babatngon Clonal Nursery to oversee the construction of the three (3) refurbished macro-somatic clonal chambers, the newly raised hardening beds, and the perimeter fencing of the Tree Propagation Complex and Training Center in Babatngon town, 33 kilometers north from Tacloban City.

Moreover, Dr. Lustica also monitored the bamboo demonstration area within the Babatngon Experimental Forest Station. The experimental forest covers 1,999 hectares of timberland located within the SAB-A Basin area in Babatngon. Demo area contains various species such as Kawayan tinik, Kawayan killing, Giant bamboo, Buho, Black bamboo, Pink bamboo, Wamin, and Bagacay. The Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) eyes on a research and development project for the mass production of quality planting

New infrastructures at clonal nursery to support the production of indigenous forest trees for NGP in Leyte

materials of viable bamboo species under the enhanced NGP for 2017.

Furthermore, Dr. Lustica emphasized that ERDB-BCWERC is eyeing for the

new development and management plans in Babatngon experimental site starting this 2017 to intensify the area utilized as experimental forest for resources production and likewise for research and development undertaking such as the on-going forest tree improvement studies and maintenance of individual plus trees. BCWERC



BCWERC Center Head Dr. Lustica with For. Germano appreciates the growth of a Black bamboo, one of the 8 species in the bamboo demonstration area located within the Babatngon Experimental Station



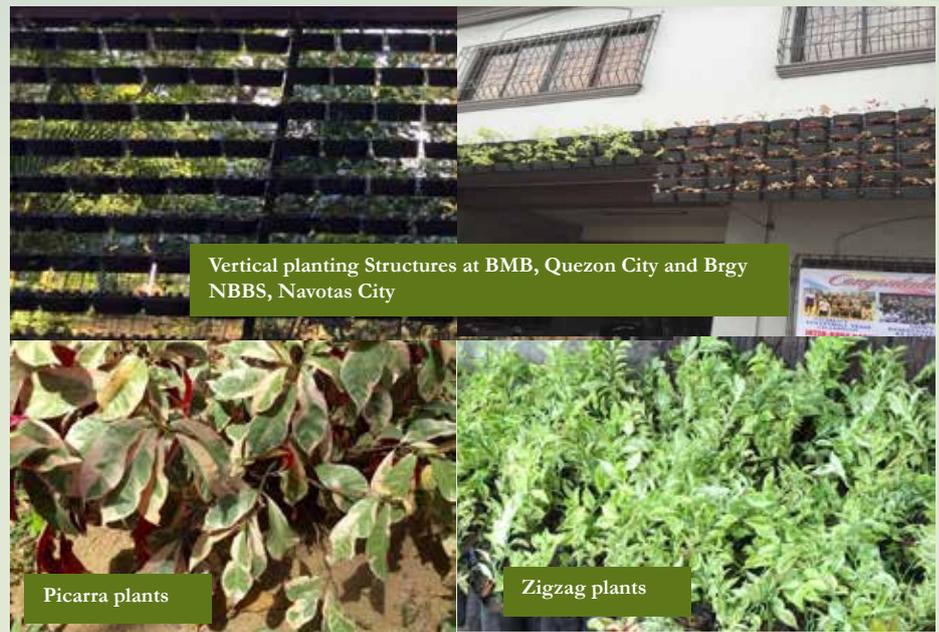
BCWERC Center Head Dr. Alicia L. Lustica (2nd from left) inspects on-going construction of elevated hardening beds and newly furnished macro-somatic clonal chambers in Babatngon, Leyte. Together with her is Clonal facility In-charge, Nestorio Agron (left) and For. Emma Germano and staff

UTHRC promotes recommended pollution-absorbent plant species for vertical/urban planting

As part of the continuing activity of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)-Urban, Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes Research Center (UTHRC) to disseminate and promote ENR technologies, establishment of vertical planting using recommended pollution-absorbent plant species is being undertaken. In 2016, the UTHRC established two vertical planting structures at the Barangay Hall of NBBS, Navotas City and at the Ninoy Aquino Office, Biodiversity Management Office (BMB) Quezon City.

The vertical planting structures are just the same as what everybody could see. The main difference on this UTHRC project, however, is the plant species used. UTHRC Center Head, Nery A. Alba explained that the species planted in the aforesaid structures are guaranteed pollution-absorbent plant species as listed in the result of the study conducted by Dr. Monina T. Uriarte in 1994. As such, these plants can help in the reduction of air pollution in the area.

Zigzag and Picarra are the species planted in the said vertical planting structures. About a thousand zigzag plants were planted in BMB while 500 zigzag plants and 500 picarra



Vertical planting Structures at BMB, Quezon City and Brgy NBBS, Navotas City

Picarra plants

Zigzag plants

plants were utilized in Brgy. NBSS. Both vertical planting projects are now being maintained by these adoptors. A memorandum of agreement was forged between the ERDB Director Henry A. Adornado and the adoptors from Barangay NBBS represented by the Barangay Chairman Domingo I. Elape and the BMB Director Mundita S. Lim. Relatively, other recommended pollution-

absorbent plant species include yellow bell, tsitsirika, mayana and campanilla.

The training will be of great help to the Pasig City, Environment Office to continue their project in the minimization of the increasing solid waste problem. The activity also ensures the success in the promotion of such technology. Evangeline Marcelino, UTHRC

Cebu stakeholders and partners...from page 5

roads leading to tourism destination at ORP, particularly at the EFS whose educational value is supported by science and research,". Mr. Costas saw the need to identify the socio-demographic and ecological profile in the area, hence he prioritized to conduct a full-blown baseline survey.

Dr. Lustica on the other hand, stressed the need for regular monitoring activities at ORP to identify the available resources, particularly the existing species in the area for ecotourism development. She emphasized the importance of policy alignment and collaboration among key leaders to strengthen ecotourism development in Camp 7, Minglanilla. In addition, she highlighted the concept of Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) approach as one of the key strategies of DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez to attain improved quality of life and sustainable environment, using convergence of different stakeholders in the development and management of areas ideal for ecotourism.

"We really want to promote ORP particularly EFS and provide alternative tours to our visitors," Ms. Louella Alix of MLC said. MLC has been supporting BCWERC in some activities such as planning and training local communities on skills and knowledge necessary for ecotourism management. "We are envisioning of making the area appealing hence, we look at the improvement such as the structural design and community development," Ms. Alix said. She added that development of the area and improving the lives of the community should be in the forefront.

Dr. Lustica likewise supported MLC's vision of making the area in Minglanilla popular to local and foreign tourist. She reported updates about the enhanced National Greening Program (NGP) of 2017 where activities will focus more on the integration of the bamboo production and reforestation of the coastal area. Dr. Lustica as well described BCWERC's entire roadmap and reiterated that the research center's management is only on the 123.4 hectares, the area allotted for the experimental forest activities.

Eileen Mangubat, media representative from the Cebu Daily News, said that people should not get the wrong

idea when they visit ORP. Citing the need for rules and policies, she emphasized on the need to produce a manual of operation as guide. Cebu Chamber of Commerce representative Tess Chan also suggested creating a committee to overlook and identify various functions within the experimental forest.

The group agreed to revisit the EFS guidelines in order to come out with concrete steps and thus, devise a plan. They urged on the need to implement soon immediate actions to reap the envisioned benefits for the people in Camp 7, Minglanilla, Cebu. Ann F. Jumawan, BCWERC

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