

AGGIE BULLETIN

A Quarterly Newsletter of the College of Agriculture

October - December 2014

In This Issue

XUCA hosts 10th National Corn Congress Techno Demo and Field Days at Manresa

CAERS holds butterfly gardening training

The effects of BSG to the growth performance of broilers

Agribusiness students bag National Business Model Award

XU AgSci participates in the 2014 International Banana Symposium





XUCA hosts the 10th National Corn Congress Techno Demo and Field Days

Eight hundred participants consisting of corn farmers from Regions 3, 6 and 10, Local Government Units, private sectors, academe, and other agricultural stakeholders attended the 10th National Corn Congress (NCC)-Corn Technology Demonstration, Field Tour and Farmers' Field Days held last October 20-24, 2014 at the Manresa Farm of Xavier University.

The College of Agriculture served as co-convenor of the event in coordination with the PhilMaize Foundation, Inc. in and the Department of Agriculture Region 10.

The event themed "Corn Farming in the ASEAN Integration: Maximizing Opportunities" exposed the farmers on the updates and opportunities of the Philippine corn industry. It also served as a venue for farmers and experts to share and discuss the prevalent issues and concerns of the best corn farming practices and technologies.

Dr. Lina G. Kwong, Xavier University Academic Vice President, warmly welcomed the guests and participants during the opening program. According to Dr. Kwong, the event's theme is well timed and is aligned to the university's mission and vision which is geared towards ASEAN integration.

Along with her, Mr. Edilberto De Luna, Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary and National Corn Program Coordinator, emphasized the need of the country to be more competitive in the value chain process to keep up with the ASEAN market. He added that "we must also network with the other regions in the country in order to learn the best practices in corn production".

The highlight of the congress is the technology demonstrations of the finest corn farming technologies and practices of the 7 major seed companies, namely: Monsanto, Syngenta, Corn World, Asian Hybrid, Planters, Bioseed, and Du Pont. Farm mechanization and post-harvest facilities were also exhibited in the event. Furthermore, technical forums on organic agriculture, biotechnology, sustainability of crop production practices, marketing thru clustering approach and precision agriculture were conducted.

Manresa Farm has been noted as a very good venue for field demonstration and farm mechanization with its number of facilities. The proximity of the Manresa Farm to the neighboring agricultural provinces also adds up to its advantage as it truly serves as the gateway to Mindanao.



CAERS holds butterfly gardening training

“The butterfly industry is the new lucrative and environment friendly livelihood that has a range of potential,” said Ms. Judith T. Pit, Crop Science faculty and Manresa Butterfly Garden In-charge, during the Butterfly Gardening and Establishment training at the Manresa Farm, Cagayan de Oro city last October 25, 2014.

Nine participants composed of high school students, teachers, cooperative members, and established landscapers from San Fernando Bukidnon joined the event.

The participants were introduced to various techniques on how to produce butterflies and establish a mini butterfly garden. They were also taught about the butterfly’s life cycle, their importance and role in landscaping and in the ecosystem, and various species and host plants as well.

Hands-on activities were also conducted to provide first-hand experience on butterfly rearing and propagation. This includes collection of butterfly eggs, segregation, cleaning and identification of larvae and adult preferred host plants, and identification of the various species of butterflies as well. Furthermore, they also toured around the Crop Science Unit laboratories

and facilities to get an idea of the unit’s various operations.

To ensure that the participants really learned from the training, they were asked to create and present their butterfly garden establishment plan by groups.

The Crop Science Unit expressed their commitment to further assist the participants in the realization of their presented plans. There was an emphasis on the importance of collaboration and continued support for each other’s future activities in establishing and popularizing Butterfly gardening in their respective areas.

The event was organized by the Center for Agro Ecological Services (CAERS), the research and extension center of the Agricultural Science Department headed by Mr. Floro V. Dalapag. The event was graced by Ms. Veneranda T. Larroza, Agricultural Sciences Department Chairperson and Dr. Ma. Theresa M. Rivera Director of the Ateneo Agro Ecological Forum of the College of Agriculture.

The butterfly gardening and establishment training is one of the services of CAERS to stress the importance of butterflies in ecosystem management.



The effects of BSG to the growth performance of broilers

The cost of feeds typically accounts about 60-70% of livestock and poultry production cost. Thus, the availability of cheaper feed alternatives presents an opportunity for farmers to lower their animal production cost.

With this end in mind, an animal science student investigated the effect of incorporating varying levels of ensiled and un-ensiled brewers spent grain (BSG) on the growth performance of broiler chicken fed with commercial ration. He proposed that ensiling could increase the palatability of high-fiber BSG to monogastric animals like the broiler chicken.

BSG is the main by-product of beer production and is commonly utilized as animal feed because of its higher protein and fiber content. In Northern Mindanao, it is primarily utilized as cattle feed and costs P0.50/kg when purchased directly from the brewery.

Ensiling is a process of preservation and storage in a closed pit or silo. This process is often used to convert perishable wet forage plants to a stable, stored feed energy source.

There were a total of one hundred five (105) broiler chickens used in this study. The chicks were randomly distributed to seven (7) treatments with three (3) replications. The first treatment served as the control while the rest were supplemented with varying levels of ensiled and un-ensiled BSG. The chicks were provided with enough heat during the first two (2) weeks. After the brooding period (0-2 weeks), the chicks were fed with commercial feed and were supplemented with varying levels of ensiled and un-ensiled BSG.

He concluded that BSG can be supplemented to growing broilers at low levels of supplementation (0%, 7%, 14% and 21%). However, he further recommended verification studies trials on decreasing percentage of treatments as his study showed that whether ensiled or un-ensiled, it did not significantly affect four broiler growth performance parameters.

Agribusiness students bag National Business Model Award

Fourth year Agribusiness students of the Xavier University College of Agriculture bagged the Best in Business Model Award in the SanteH Aquaculture Science and Technology Foundation's Enterprise Hatchery Competition last October 5-11, 2014 at the Makati Sports Club, Makati City.

Shiella Jane Reyes, April Grace Degamo, Maybelyn Yecyec and Eden Macabecha, who coined their group SAME enterprises, bested five (5) other teams from different colleges and universities throughout the Philippines. This qualified them for the final eliminations. Engr. Elenito Duran, Agribusiness Program Coordinator, served as coach of the winning team.

Squid Nuggets with brand name of SQUIGGETS is their innovative product. This is sold at a reasonable cost targeting children and teenagers as their market. According to the winning team, most of the children and teenagers nowadays prefer eating squids less because of its unpleasant appearance and taste. Hence, they tagged their product as "the new way of having your squid."

The Enterprise Hatchery competition is a nationwide search for the best agriculture and fisheries enterprise proposals with the opportunity to pitch their proposals to a group of investors and mentors. The chosen proposals will then qualify for a maximum of Php 500,000.00 fund infusion. SAME Enterprises was one of the top qualifiers during the Regional Competition done last July 16-18 2014 at Butuan City.

This is the second year the Agribusiness department delegates won the competition. Last year, the project "Sea Urchin Rowe Pate" of Martin Alfonso Ledesma, Lorjun Suson and Francis Nikko Raluto won the Most Innovative Idea.

The competition is conducted every year by the SanteH Foundation to promote social entrepreneurship in the country among agriculture/aquaculture and agribusiness enthusiasts concentrating on students within the 18-35 years of age range. The competition also aims to support passionate young entrepreneurs through providing a venue for their original ideas, thus, contribute to a more developed agriculture and fisheries industry in the country.



The winners of the SanteH Aquaculture Science and Technology Foundation's Enterprise Hatchery Competition 2014.

XU AgSci participates in the 2014 International Banana Symposium

The Agricultural Sciences students of Xavier University attended the prestigious 2014 International Banana Symposium back-to-back with the 16th Davao Trade Expo last November 19-22, 2014, held at SM Convention Center, Lanang, Davao City. This was organized through the efforts of the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., Bioversity International, Banana Asia-Pacific Network (BAPNET) and Department of Agriculture which was participated by international delegates from Japan, Korea, Middle East, Taiwan, Hongkong, Singapore, and many others.

The participation of fourteen students, accompanied by faculty member Terence Al Abaquita, enabled them to learn new information in terms of production and management systems of economically significant plants such as banana.

The banana industry's recent advances on research and development, marketing strategies, logistics, pests and disease management, and other emerging trends were focused during the event.

The objectives of the occasion was primarily to showcase champion industry or industries of Mindanao through gathering stakeholders in global industry summit, exhibition, business matching, conference breakout sessions, training, networking and other special events.

The activity also showcased new and emerging agribusiness technologies, research and development (R & D) as well as product innovations and

service support systems such as information and communications technology (ICT) solutions to assist the bid for global competitiveness. Moreover, the 4-day affair provided an opportunity for productive interaction and to foster collaborative undertakings among scientific and industry experts to further advance banana R&D in the region and beyond and showcased stories of home grown Mindanao enterprises to promote best practices in entrepreneurship.

The program comprised of plenary lectures by internationally-renowned banana scientists, technical oral presentations, poster presentations and exhibition. A variety of relevant and interesting scientific papers from researchers worldwide was presented, either orally or as poster. Topics include market opportunities, technological advances, climate change and its impact, banana breeding, corporate social responsibility, precision farming, banana chips and processed bananas, global good agricultural practices (GAP) and other certification systems, shipping trends and global situation of Fusarium or panama diseases in banana.

It featured close to 200 exhibitors essentially coming from agri-trade and agri-industrial sectors together with its complementary industries, food (fresh, processed, packaging), machineries & equipment, post-harvest facilities, agricultural chemicals, animal husbandry, fertilizers & pest management, financing, ICT and logistics, among others.

The event ended through industry tours where the participants were able to visit the plantations of the banana companies present in Davao especially Tagum Development Company Inc. (TADECO), Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. (DICT), and Lapanday Foods Corporation.

XU delegates led by their instructor, Terence Al Abaquita, with ABS-CBN's Agri Tayo Dito television program host, Ruben Gonzaga.

