

The SUGAR LINK

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Performance of SRA New HYV's in Visayas Mill Districts



To increase farm productivity and efficiency in Sugarcane production, farmers must use scientific and recommended technologies in their farming operations. In scientific sugarcane production, farmers control most of the factors that affect sugarcane yield. One of these factors is variety. Farmers must select varieties with higher yield potential, acceptable degree of resistance to major pests and diseases, good ratooning ability, and adapted to a specific soil and climatic conditions of the mill district where it will be grown.

Experiences show that the productivity of a variety is limited up to a certain number of years because of declining production. When the productivity of a certain variety start to decrease, the variety must be changed, especially when a new and more superior one is available for commercial planting.

Due to these considerations, SRA is continuously breeding for

new varieties to provide the sugarcane farmers a continuous supply of new HYVs and give them more choices on what variety to use. It is proven that SRA has produced many outstanding varieties. However, due to inadequate system to promote and distribute these new HYVs, the SRA varieties often lagged behind in terms of popularity and usage compared with the varieties produced by other breeding stations. Hence, the benefits that could have been derived from the use of these varieties had not been fully and immediately realized by the intended beneficiaries.

In Crop Year 2008-2009, the average production for the Visayas was about 112.25 Lkg/Ha. The data showed that about 48% of 241,684 ha. total area planted was producing only 96.26 Lkg/ha. This area was occupied mostly by old and low performing varieties. This low yield pulled down the average production of the region.

However, its greater effect was on the lower productivity and income of the farmers who used these inferior varieties.

The Extension and Technical Services in Visayas is tasked to monitor and document the performance of the new HYVs produced and distributed by SRA. The information gathered would serve as a basis in the recommendation by the MDOs on what variety to plant in a particular mill district. It will also be useful information to guide the sugarcane farmers on the choice of variety to plant; and for the MDDC to choose what variety to plant in their nurseries for distribution. The data collected will also give the SRA sugarcane breeders a glimpse on the acceptability of the HYVs produced and guide them on their succeeding breeding works. It will also guide SRA researchers to plan and formulate related studies to get the full potential of a certain variety.

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Performance of New HYV's in Different Mill Districts in the Visayas

Variety	MILL DISTRICT	AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE						REMARKS
		Plant Crop			Ratoon Crop			
		TC	Lkg	Lkg / TC	TC	Lkg	Lkg / TC	
Phil 93-1601	Sonedco Hda. Lucas, Kabankalan	98	192.08	1.96				
	Ormoc-Hisumco F.S. Serafica, Ormoc	92.67	182.80	1.97				1.44 ha.
		72.07	150.08	2.08				0.92 ha.
		73.21	156.16	2.13				0.90 ha.
		78.35	167.69	2.14				0.37 ha.
		71.05	142.20	2.00				1.05 ha.
		85.82	176.44	2.06				0.87 ha.
					96.21	189.62	1.97	6.14 ha., 1 st R.
					82.40	150.57	1.83	1.90 ha., 1 st R.
					70.63	134.13	1.90	1.40 ha., 2 nd R.
				81.66	162.32	1.99	0.58 ha., 2 nd R.	
				85.12	161.92	1.90	1.22 ha., 2 nd R.	
	Average	81.60	166.78	2.04	83.20	159.71	1.92	
Phil 93-2349	Silay-HPCo Hda. Lantawan	86-88	162-167	1.88-1.90				
	Hda. Ahay	94-96	184-90	1.96-1.98				
	Hda. Diamante	86-88	167.172	1.94-1.96				
	La Carlota Mila Andrada	62.50	107.50	1.72				
	Passi Hda. Dulalia, Passi	100.75	171.27	1.70				
	Hda. Hermont, Dingle	81.48	139.76	1.72				1.00 ha.
	Average	85.62	156.59	1.83				
Phil 94-0913	Silay HPCo Hda. Pilar	88	176-178	2.00-2.02				
	Hda. Lantawon	86-88	162-167	1.88-1.90				
	Hda. Mariano	86	172	2.00				
	Hda. Ma. Conception	86-88	162-167	1.88-1.90				
	Hda. Colisap	86	163-165	1.90-1.92				
	Hda. Manalo	94	207	2.20				
	Hda. Baga-as	94-96	184-190	1.96-1.98				
	Hda. Ahay	88-94	171-186	1.94-1.98				
	Passi Hda. Hermont, Dingle	49.67	75.17	1.52				
	Capiz	55	86.90	1.58				
	Average	81.87	157.00	1.92				
Phil 97-3501	La Carlota F. Uriate	75-79	187.20	2.47				1.30 ha.
	Silay HPCo Hda. Chiquita	86-93	160-180	1.86-1.93				
	Average	83.25	178.6	2.15				
Phil 97-1123	Ormoc-Hisumco F.S. Serafica	66.93	120.66	1.80	80.50	147.30	1.83	1.07 ha 1 st R. 0.54 ha.

Performance of New HYV's in Different Mill Districts in the Visayas

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		Plant Crop			Ratoon Crop			
		TC	Lkg	Lkg / TC	TC	Lkg	Lkg / TC	
Phil 97-3933	La Carlota							
	C. Feria	82.40	181.28	2.20				0.50 ha.
	Via de Agua	80.00	168.00	2.10				3.00 ha.
	Astro Farm, DSB	90.00	171.00	1.90				15.00 ha.
	Jereza, Haguimit	75.00	150.00	2.00				1.00 ha.
	Ma-ao	138	255	1.85				1.3m furrow distance; fertilized 4 bgs. 18-46-0,10 bgs urea, 4 bgs 0-0- 60;harvested 11 mos.
	Astro Farm							
	HPCo							
	Hda. Chiquita	86-93	160-180	1.86-1.93				
	Hda. Malisbog	84-86	156-166	1.86-1.93				
	Hda. Aliputos	86	163	1.90				
	Hda. Ma. Concepcion	88-90	176-184	2.00-2.04				
	Hda. Manalo	90	180-182	2.00-2.02				
	Hda. Tabigue	90-94	176-188	1.96-2.00				
	Victorias							
	Hda. Malihao	75	142.5	1.9				
	Candelaria	74	140.6	1.9				
	Tison	70	129.5	1.85				
	Marilou	71	134.9	1.90				
	Sonedco							
	Hda. Beari	94	194	2.07				
	Bais-Ursumco							
	Felix Barot	134	227	1.70				
	Tolong							
	Novelito Herrero, Bayawan	64	125	1.95				
	Ernesto Tijing, Bayawan	60	120	2.00				
	Passi							
	Hda. Dulalia, Passi	112.58	199.27	1.77				
	Hda. Hermont, Dingle	75.85	128.85	1.70				
	Santos-Lopez							
	Juan Franco, Btac Viejo	80	160.00	2.00				Poor tillering capacity
	Richard Divinagracia, Sn. Rafael	80-100	160-200	2.00				
	Emil Reyes,Btac Nvo	80-100	164-205	2.05				Heavy and sweet; needs irrigation
Capiz	58	92.80	1.60					
Monomer	110	220	2.00					
N.Bolido, Dumalag								
Bogo-Medellin								
Hda. Miranda	67.00	121.94	1.82					
MEM Farms	78	147.42	1.89					
Ormoc-Hisumco								
RBV Farms	73	135.05	1.85				8.70 ha.	
P & A Larrazabal	81.88	160.50	1.96				24.55 ha.	
F.S. Serafica	93.69	171.81	1.83				2.90 ha.	
				90.00	157.47	1.75	1.25 ha., 1 st R.	
Average	85.45	159.21	1.86	90.00	157.47	1.75		

Performance of New HYV's in Different Mill Districts in the Visayas

Variety	MILL DISTRICT	AVERAGE YIELD PER HECTARE						REMARKS
		Plant Crop			Ratoon Crop			
		TC	Lkg	Lkg / TC	TC	Lkg	Lkg / TC	
Phil 98-0255	La Carlota							
	C. Ferla	87.30	171.98	1.97				1.00 ha.
	Hda. De Agua, Cubay	70.00	150.00	2.14				1.00 ha
	Jereza, Haguimit	75.00	160.00	2.13				
	Ma-ao							
	Astro Farm	98						
	HPCo							
	Hda. Malisbog	84-86	156-166	1.86-1.93				
	Hda. Ma. Concepcion	86-88	160-165	1.86-1.88				
	Victorias							
	Malihao	50	95	1.90				
	Tison	72	108	1.50				
	Bais-Ursumco							
	Hda. Valencia, Bais City	136.66	220	1.60				
Capiz								
Ormoc-Hisumco	60	96	1.60					
Ormoc-Hisumco								
F.S. Serafica	41.88	80.56	1.92					
Average	78.44	140.50	1.79					
Phil 99-1793	La Carlota							
	Balabag	55	111.67	2.03				1.00 ha.
	Canroma	90	162.00	1.80				2.00 ha.
	HPCo							
	Hda. Constancia	90	180.00	2.00				
	Hda. Ma. Concepcion	86-90	170-182	1.98-2.02				
	San Jose	99	191	1.93				
	Hda. Manalo	96	190-192	1.98-2.00				
	Hda. Binon-an	88-92	174-184	1.98-2.00				
	Sonedco							
	Pingot	92	182	7.98				
	Passi							
	Hda. Dulalia, Passi	85.43	153.77	1.80				
	Capiz	61	98.82	1.62				
Bais-Ursumco								
Menda Dev. Crop	99	186	1.87				1.00 ha.	
Ormoc-Hisumco								
F.S. Serafica	87.47	164.30	1.88					
Average	86.08	148.71	1.73					
Phil 2000-2569	Ma-ao							
	Astro Farm	103	195.7	1.9				Plantlets 1.3m.furrow distance; moderately profuse flowering
	Passi							
	Hda. Dulalia, Passi	119.56	201.34	1.68				
	Ormoc-Hisumco							
	F.S. Serafica	57.01	103.67	1.82				Plantlets, 0.36 ha.
	46.92	90.81	1.94				Plantlets, 0.55 ha.	
	60.45	119.83	1.98				Plantlets, 0.64 ha.	
	86.23	159.44	1.85				Plantlets, 1.50 ha.	
Average	78.86	145.13	1.84					

SRA Conducts Series of OPSI Seminars in 2011

The Outreach Program for the Sugar Industry (OPSI), the sugarcane farm management annual activity of SRA during off-milling season, starts this June of 2011 at La Granja, La Carlota City. There will be four batches this year 114, 115, 116 & 117 scheduled on June 28-30; July 26-28; August 23-25; and Sept. 13-15 respectively.

The 3-day live-in training focuses on cost reduction measures; weed and fertilizer management; variety characterization, identification and programming; sugarcane cultural management practices; pest and diseases; mitigation on the adverse effects of climate change; muscovado processing; and practicum on management of plant and ratoon canes and muscovado sugar production.



Dr. Rodrigo E. Tapay, Manager III RD&E-Visayas lectures on the prospect of the sugar industry during the 114th batch of OPSI Seminar.

OPSI, which commenced 22 years ago, had delivered and effected tangible transformations in sugarcane management to those who had attended and adopted the technologies, learning from the training and developing their skills in their farming management. The OPSI program, which hopes to broaden and strengthen the knowledge and skills of the incoming participants, continues to empower its wheel in improving efficiency and enhancing sustainability to be able to respond to the debilitating market pricing of domestic raw sugar and prepare for a full implementation of 5 to 0% tariff rate come 2015.

Training fee is still at Php3,000.00 per participant which covers food, training materials and accommodations at Balay OPSI dormitory. (MFT Logrono)

Victorias MDDC leads joint farm-to-mill road concreting project

A lead agency, the Victorias MDDC Foundation, Inc. has undertaken construction of a Php32.8 million concrete farm-to-mill road in the Victorias Mill District within the 3rd Congressional District of Negros Occidental.

The Department of Agriculture, the Provincial government of Negros Occidental and Victorias Milling Company, Inc. (VMC) are principally behind the joint road-concreting undertaking in the mill district, with the full support of 3rd District Congressman Alfredo B. Benitez, the project being in his constituency.

The first of its kind in the sugar industry under the Aquino administration, the project stretches five kilometers, covering Brgys. Consing and San Isidro in E.B. Magalona and Brgy. 10 in Victorias City, to the VMC mills, with a combined area of 2,622 hectares; 1,200 hectares of which have been devoted to sugarcane farming.

A total of 119,000 tonnes cane was milled from the three barangays using the proposed farm-to-mill road concreting project.

With an estimated construction cost of Php6.5 million per km., the 5-km. farm-to-mill road concreting project amounts to Php 32.8 million,

within a three-month working time frame. Initial project fund, currently deposited at official bank depository BDO-Victorias Branch, amounts to Php4 million which comprises the Php2 million share of Victorias MDDC and Php1 million each of the Provincial government and VMC.

Meanwhile, DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala has assured a Php5 million financial assistance for the project and Cong. Benitez, during the 1st Negros Economic Summit held in Talisay City late last year, committed to double the amount that will be raised.

Once the project is completed, it will truly reduce cane hauling/transport cost from the farms to the VMC mills in an endeavour that production cost will not exceed Php750.00 per LKg sugar for global competitiveness in 2015 and thereafter, when tariff of imported sugar will only be 5%.

Currently managing Victorias MDDC's operations is new PHILSURIN coordinator Remo B. Banhao and its Board of Trustees is chaired by Victorias planter Nemesio A. de la Cruz. (EF Tupino)

Agro-Based Lab. Unit holds CPE Seminar

SRA-Bacolod's Agro-Based Laboratory (ABL) Unit conducted a Continuing Professional Education seminar on June 23, 2011 at the SRA Training Center-Bacolod participated in by 25 laboratory chemists, chemical engineers and technical personnel from Bacolod & LGAREC. Topics presented include *Preparing the Laboratory for ISO 17025* and *Soil Chemical Properties of Sugarcane Areas in Negros Occidental (2005-2010)* by ABL Head-Chemist IV Ma.Lourdes I. Dormido; *Control Chart: Quality Control Tool in Chemical Analysis* by Senior Science Research Specialist Arlene C. Matti, and *Safety in the Laboratory* by Chemist II Dida V.Gatanela.

The whole-day seminar, emceed by ABL's Glenda S. Buendia, started with a welcome address by Sugar Reference Laboratory's Chemist IV Eleonory R. Banlasan, followed by the opening remarks of Research, Development & Extension Department Manager III Dr. Rodrigo E. Tapay and an inspirational message from SRA-Visayas Asst. Administrator Mr. Dominador T. Villanueva, Jr.

The activity concluded with the giving of certificates of attendance/appreciation to all participants/speakers and with Ms. Ma. Lourdes I. Dormido's closing remarks expressing ABL's appreciation to SRA Management for its support, through Administrator Ms. Regina B. Martin, in the conduct of said seminar, stating further that future related seminars will hopefully be approved by management. (DVGatanela)



Sigma Mayor Highlights OPSI Batch 113

The Outreach Program for the Sugar Industry Batch 113, "Sugarcane Farming for Muscovado Sugar Production," conducted purposely for the 35 participants of Sigma, Capiz, was held at the OPSI Dormitory, SRA-LGAREC on June 6-10, 2011. This 5-day live-in seminar was specially requested by Sigma's Honorable Mayor Maria T. Andaya through the coordinated efforts of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI-RTC VI) and the Local Government Unit of Sigma.

Mayor Andaya, joining the group on the second day and bringing with her the good news of her meeting with former Senator Mar Roxas in Manila, asked for the full support of the Sigma people in their project for the construction of a muscovado mill in their municipality.

Mayor Andaya not only mingled with her constituents in the activities such as the practicum on soil sampling and lime application and the demonstration on muscovado processing and production but also acted as Inducting Officer during the fellowship night.

Wearing the OPSI T-shirt proudly, Mayor Andaya gave her inspirational message during the awarding of Certificates of Training to the 35 OPSI graduates. She challenged them to do their share and give their full support in making Sigma a role model of the nearby municipalities, encouraging them to share with their co-farmers the things they have learned in the training.

Mayor Andaya considers the OPSI training as something very essential because she requested each participant to always wear the OPSI T-shirt until it fades, requesting even further to keep it in plastic, because in wearing the OPSI T-shirt, she said, one will always remember the training here in La Granja.

In grateful appreciation of the service rendered to her and her constituents, Mayor Andaya gave each resource person, facilitator and training staff a bottle of red wine and promised to send another group to participate in the SRA OPSI sugarcane farm management training. (EV Linco)

In-House Review 2011

Thirteen completed researches were presented and evaluated during the 2011 In-House Review held at SRA-LGAREC on April 27-28, 2011.

Three distinctive personalities from the different sectors of the sugar industry formed the panel of evaluators, namely: Joseph Edward Edemne, Consortium Director of WESVARRDEC, as Chairman; Dr. Roel A. Alli, Research Director-West Visayas State University, Member; and Rosemarie S. Gumera, Department Manager III-Planning and Policy Dept. SRA Quezon City, Member.

SRA Administrator Ma. Regina B. Martin, delivering her message on the second day, says that the In-House Review plays an important role in the sugar industry. The beneficial outcome of these studies must be spread out to update clients, especially the small planters, of our latest technologies. Ms. Martin challenged everyone to work harder, "deliver the goods and you will get what you want." She further encouraged all concerned to be firm and be united in one stand to lower the cost of production by using

better equipment and new high yielding varieties.

Three of the evaluated researches were presented with the Best Paper Award, as follows: *Organic Fertilization of Sugarcane (Phil 94-0913)* by R.M. Bombio, S.B. Tatum and G.L. Talam; *Soil Chemical Properties of Sugarcane Areas in Negros Occidental (2005-2010)* by M.L. Dormido, A. Matti, D. Gatanela and J.L. M. Petch; and *Performance of Phil 2003 Series Sugarcane Varieties in 4 Mill Districts in Negros Island* by I.S. Bombio, R.G. Entima, J.C. Velasco and N.S. Meneses. (MC Dejecacion)



PANEL OF EVALUATORS



ADMIN. MARTIN



SRA OFFICIALS



PARTICIPANTS



BEST PAPER AWARDEES

2 Engineers to Philsutech's 1st AdTEM

Two engineers of the Technical Services of RD&E-Visayas were sent to a 2-day seminar ; Irene Cruz, QA/QC of the Special Action Group for the Environment-Visayas (SAGE), as a resource speaker on the topic, "Air Emission Monitoring (Stack and Ambient)", and Corazon Ledesma as a participant.

The seminar was the first batch of its series conducted by the Bio-energy and Environmental Division of Philsutech entitled "Advance Technology on Environmental Management" (AdTEM) on May 5-6, 2011 at Planta Hotel and Residences in Bacolod City to enhance the technological perspective of the sugar technologists on environmental protection and its utilization for the advancement of the sugar industry. The participants were composed of the

staff of the environmental units, personnel from the Boiling House and Boilers of sugar mills and those involved in environmental concerns. Topics discussed include the existing technologies for wastewater treatment plants (WTP), their effectiveness and efficiency, as well as advanced state-of-the-art new technologies applicable to sugar mills.

Since most of the participants came from the sugar mills, identification of sources of different kinds of waste from solid, water and air emissions and their proper management in raw sugar processing ensued a healthy discussion. Most of the issues raised were expounded through a concerted effort of sharing each other's operational experiences.

The seminar was quite relevant in these pressing times when the government is going

stringent on the implementation and compliance of the Clean Water Act , DAO 35 Table 2A which requires 50 ppm BOD5 for wastewater effluents to be discharged to a body of water and the Clean Air Act , DAO 14 or RA 8749 which constricts emissions not to exceed 150 mg/Ncm of suspended air particulates. This makes it imperative for mills to prepare themselves for compliance by necessitating improvement and installation of wastewater treatment facilities and air pollution control equipment. Hopefully, this would develop awareness among producers/factories that their roles for industrial development should not be deterrent to achieving an environment-friendly society. (CS Ledesma)

Natural Phosphate as Supplement to Inorganic Fertilizer

Due to the unstable prices of inorganic fertilizer, RBL Farms owner Reynaldo B. Lasquite was in search of an alternative source to reduce the cost of fertilizer applied in his sugarcane farm. He tried using indigenous organic fertilizers which are needed in large quantities but with elements in small percentages. Incidentally, a commercial preparation of natural phosphate that contains 18 percent P_2O_5 was available, so a demo farm showing the effect of natural phosphate as a supplement to inorganic fertilizer was conducted at RBL Farms in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo.

A two-hectare farm along the national highway was selected and planted with VMC 84-524, VMC 84-947 and Phil 97-3933. It was applied with 0.5 bag of urea plus 0.5 bag of di-ammonium phosphate per hectare at planting. After one month, it was applied with 2.50 bags urea, 2.5 bags 14-14-14, and 5 bags natural phosphate. At four months, it was top dressed with 2.5 bags urea, 2.5 bags 14-14-14 and 5 bags natural phosphate. Santos-Lopez Mill District Officer Elmer Belandres assisted in the supervision of weed control



and cultivation. According to the overseer Ellien Sukanob, canes treated with natural phosphate resulted to "mas madamo kag dalagko ang gipi" as compared with untreated canes untreated.

Vigorous and healthy sugarcane can be seen at the demo plots and Mr. Lasquite is confident that his production will increase this year. (EP Belandres)

2011 Gawad Saka Regional Winners – Visayas Area

Region VI

MARLON CAJENTA

Mr. Cajenta is a Civil Engineering drop-out from West Negros College because they cannot afford the increasing cost of college education. He worked as a truck helper for 12 years until he found opportunity to go into sugarcane farming. He started with only a hectare of sugarcane but with hard work, close supervision and determination to succeed he was able to improve his sugar production and increase his farm income. As of now Mr. Cajenta cultivates sugarcane in his 3-hectare farm and, in additional, 9-hectare rented farm. He has acquired 2 trucks for hauling canes and other farm products, 1 tractor for land preparation and a service vehicle for family use.

He is married to Lerma Loyola, a former Chemist of Dacongogon Sugar Mill and now a high school teacher at Tapi National High School. Their son is taking up Mechanical Engineering at Colegio San Agustin, Bacolod City, pursuing his father's dream of having an engineer in the family.

Mr. Cajenta is an advocate of crop and livestock integration and organic farming. The 12-ha. farm is planted with sugarcane, rice, coconut, coffee and fruit trees. On the side, he has a piggery, ducks and a fish pond. Farm wastes such as rice straw, coffee shells and pig manure are applied as organic fertilizer to improve the fertility of sugarcane soils. Dried pig manure mixed with feeds is given to the native chicken. The operations of his farm are so successful that the City of Kabankalan took notice and included the farm for community development into an Agri-tourist destination. The farm practices and advocacy of Mr. Cajenta is in line with the vision of Negros as an Organic Island.

He is actively involved in the community as President of Purok Presidents League and Treasurer of Culapa Multi-purpose Cooperative. He is also a constant benefactor of the church, school and barangay. Part of his service to the community is the maintenance of the water shed for water impounding at his farm to supply water to different parts of the community.

As an employer, he gives rice subsidies, medical assistance and provides employment during non-milling season. He gives bonuses on Christmas and incentives at the end of milling either in cash or in kind. At the moment, he is supporting two high school scholars.

Region VII

DENNIS DE VEYRA

Mr. Dennis De Veyra is the nominee of Eastern Visayas (Region VIII) for Gawad Saka- Outstanding Sugarcane Farmer for 2011. An engineer by profession, the nominee's main business, together with his partner architect Mr. Celestino Larrazabal Jr., is providing manpower services to a geothermal power plant in Ormoc. They ventured into sugarcane farming by chance when they were offered to lease a 22-hectare sugarcane farm in 2005.

With no previous experience in sugarcane farming and limited knowledge in agriculture, Mr. De Veyra searched for best practices and effective technologies suited to the conditions of the farm. With the growing scarcity of labor in the area, he adopted mechanized planting and herbicide application followed by the "no tillage system" of cane culture, set up a subsurface drip irrigation system to facilitate application of water and fertilizers (fertigation). Lately with the increasing labor cost for harvesting, he acquired a semi-mechanized cutter and cane lifter to lessen the burden of cutting and loading of canes.

An innovative farmer with an eye for new farming technologies, growing sugarcane is not an easy experience for the nominee. He experienced flooding, infestation of smut disease and scarcity of labor to harvest a bumper crop.

For 2010, he produced 119.15 bags/ha of sugar with 56 tons cane/ha and a sugar content of 2.12 Lkg/TC. Sugar yield is 27.7% higher than the mill district average of 86.15 bags/ha.

The yields are not so impressive but the innovations and best practices he employed in the farm are indicative of his commitment to increase productivity and efficiency in sugar production.

The nominee is happily married to Dr. Lourdes Garahi de Veyra.



Region VII

RODULFO BAGA-AN

Mr. Rodulfo N. Baga-an of Boyco, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental is the nominee of Central Visayas (Region VII) for Gawad Saka-Outstanding Sugarcane Farmer for 2011. Married to the former Ms. Lorna Ramos and blessed with 4 children, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education. After graduation, he worked as an employee of Tolong Sugar Mill. In 1990, after his retirement from the mill, he decided to go into sugarcane farming. He started with only a hectare and expanded to 5 hectares. He now owns 5 hectares and leased another 3 hectares. His production for Crop Year 2009-10 recognizes him as one of the top yielder in the district, with an average of 65 tons/ha and 131.30 Lkg/ha compared to the mill district average of only 34.94 tons/ha. and 74.35 Lkg/ha.

He believes that application of manure and crop residues such as cane trash, etc. used as mulch can suppress growth of weeds, conserve moisture and even improve soil structure. In addition to that, he

applies vermi-compost at 10 bags per hectare, 2 tons mill ash and 6 tons of mud press to increase the Organic Matter (OM) content and population of beneficial microorganisms in the soil. His application of chemical fertilizer depends upon the result of the soil analysis.

Lack of access to new high yielding varieties is a problem to the nominee. Records show that he still uses Phil 7464 and Phil 6723, old SRA varieties, and VMC 84524. In spite of that, he was able to raise his production. Religiously following soil analysis recommendation, timely and proper application of fertilizer, weed control, and harvesting canes at the right time are factors which greatly contributed to his increase in production.

As an OPSI graduate, following the cultural practices like early planting/replanting to take advantage of the soil moisture for efficient germination, proper selection of quality cane points, proper land preparation, trash farming, proper harvesting such as cutting canes at ground level,

fresh and clean cane delivery also contribute much to the success of producing high yield.

An innovation which helps him minimize the cost of cultivation and weeding is the carabao drawn bamboo spike harrower converted into a steel spike that can harrow and control weeds between rows of sugarcane. Weeds along the rows are hand-weeded and placed in between rows before passing the improvised harrower. It cut the cost of weeding by 50% since only weeds along the rows are manually weeded and the weeds in between rows are taken care of by the steel spike harrower.

Out of his income last year, he acquired a 6-wheeler truck for hauling canes and copra. He utilizes the truck also in his mango contractual flower induction business.

He is at present a member of Tolong Multi-purpose Cooperative, the President of Minaba Small Coconut Farmers Association, member of the Board of Directors of Bayawan City Coconut Farmers Multi-purpose Cooperatives, and Treasurer of Bayawan City Coconut Farmers Federation.

Iloilo MDDC's New BOF Building and Warehouse

Iloilo MDDC's new BOF building, constructed and established near the IMDDC office at Barangay Imbang Grande, Passi City, was materialized with the full support of SRA, Philsurin, and URC Passi.

IMDDC's former BOF production site and warehouse, located at the URC Passi premises, was just a few meters away from the source of raw materials, but due to flooding during heavy rains resulting to hundreds of damaged and unaccounted for BOF bags, the IMDDC management was prompted to search for a

better location leading to the purchase of a formerly rented 4-hectare lot at Brgy. Imbang Grande, Passi City.

Further, the rapid construction of an access road leading to the BOF warehouse was made possible, through IMDDC management's resourcefulness, from the realignment of the Philsurin budget. This is to start operations early to meet the increasing organic fertilizer demands of the mill district planters. *(CS Fortin)*

Sugarcane Convergence Program (SCP)

I. **PROJECT TITLE:** Sugarcane Convergence Program (SCP)

II. **PROPONENT:** Sugar Regulatory Administration

III. **COOPERATIVES:** DA, DAR, DENR, SMPFI, MDDCs, SIFI, PHILSUCOR, PHILSURIN, Private Sector Sugar Mills/PSMA, Government Financing Institutions (GFIs), Official Development Assistant (ODA)

IV. **LOCATION:** All Sugarcane Mill District Beneficiaries (ARBs) and small farmers with landholding of ten (10) hectares and less

V. **INTENDED BENEFICIARIES:** Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) and Small Farmers with landholdings of ten (10) hectares and less.

VI. **OBJECTIVES:**

General

a. To increase small farmers' (block farming beneficiaries) income at a minimum increment of P 40,000 per hectare in crop year 2015-2016 against crop year 2010-2012 income level.

Specific

a. To increase farm productivity of small farms (ten hectares and less) enrolled in block farms from 50 TC/Ha to 75 TC/Ha and sugar yield from 1.9 Lkg/TC to 2.1 Lkg/TC in crop year 2015-2016 against crop year 2010-2011 level.

b. To establish at least one block farm per MDDC and transforming each block farm into an agro-industrial enterprise.

VII. **DURATION:** April 2011-June 2016

VII. **PROJECT BRIEF**

This program espouses the operational consolidation of small farms to take advantage of plantation-scale production. Similar to the national convergence strategy, the Sugarcane Convergence Program (SCP) will involve the DA, DAR, and DENR. Operation of small farms will be consolidated into minimum "block farm" of 30-50 hectares. Ownership of each small farm is still maintained and respected, thus giving the landowners a share in the profit or earnings in using the land for sugarcane production.

VIII. **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The block shall be managed as one farm of at least within the two kilometres radius, such that the activities in the small farm are aligned and implemented according to the plans of the block farm to ensure the efficient use of equipment,

deployment of work, volume purchase of inputs, financing, recognition by sugar mills and other operational advantages. The block farms, and shall be paid accordingly.

The Mill District Development Committees (MDDCs) of the sugarcane industry, which is composed of representatives from the sugarcane farmers through their association, the sugar millers, the SRA, PHILSURIN and other industry stakeholder, will take the lead in program implementation at the mill district or field level. The MDDCs, in coordination with the SRA-RDE, DA, DAR and DENR, shall organize and promote the establishment of block farms.

Farm operations, management and financing schemes shall depend on arrangements agreed between the financing institution/ private investor and the landowners.

Block farms shall be given priority in term of equipment/ infrastructure support or financial assistant from the DA, DAR, DENR, SRA, or any Official Development Assistance (ODA) of the government and in accessing the MDDC equipment and other services according to MDDC payment rates.

An accreditation process will enrol a block farm into the program. SRA will prepare the accreditation guidelines and process flow. GPS maps shall be generated for each block farm. Technical assistant shall be provided to the block farms by SRA-R,D & E, PHILSURIN and the MDDCs. SRA-Planning & Policy group, together with the Sugar Masterplan Foundation, Inc. (SMPFI) shall prepare the investment package, prepare the accreditation guidelines and process the accreditation of block farms endorsed by the MDDCs and conduct periodic assessment/evaluation of the entire Sugarcane Convergence Program.

IX. **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Upon its full implementation in 2016, the program aims to increase sugar production by 150,000 MT that will contribute to sustained self-sufficiency and cater to the country's export market, increase farmers' income by P 40,000 per hectare and provide stable jobs and income to around 75,000 farm workers.

X. BLOCK FARM INVESTMENT PACKAGES

Investment Scheme	Terms / Duration	Block Farm Operation / Management	Financing
1. Lease Agreement (LEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance that landowners will be hired as farmhands; Advance payment of lease; Minimum of 5 years lease contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Investor or the MDDC will hire / assign farm supervisor or farm operator; SRA-R,D & E and PHILSURIN shall provide technical assistance, generate GPS maps, data gathering / soil sampling, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Investor; MDDC; SRA, DA, DAR, DENR, ODA, & other gov't funding sources shall prioritize block farms in financing the necessary farm machinery / equipments, irrigation, soil fertility maps FMRs, etc..
2. Loan Agreement (LOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance that landowners will be hired as farmhands; Profit-sharing arrangement; Loan application shall be processed by the MDDC with the assistance of SRA, DA, DAR, DENR; Loan payable in two crop years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDDC will hire/ assign farm supervisor or farm operator; SRA-R,D & E and PHILSURIN shall provide technical assistance, generate GPS maps, data gathering / soil sampling, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDDC shall secure crop loans from GFIs, banks or PHILSUCOR; SRA, DA, DAR, DENR, ODA, & other gov't funding sources shall prioritize block farms in financing the necessary farm machinery / equipments, irrigation, soil fertility maps FMRs, etc..
3. Contract Growing Agreement (CGA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance that landowners will be hired as farmhands; Sugarcane shall be delivered to contracting sugar mills; All expenses deducted from proceeds of sugar quedans; Profit-sharing arrangement; Fixed percentage of profit to be paid in advance to landowners' Minimum of 5 years lease contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Manager to be hired by the Sugar Mill; SRA-R,D & E and PHILSURIN shall provide technical assistance, generate GPS maps, data gathering / soil sampling, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sugar Mill; Bioethanol Distilleries SRA, DA, DAR, DENR, ODA, & other gov't funding sources shall prioritize block farms in financing the necessary farm machinery / equipments, irrigation, soil fertility maps FMRs, etc..
4. Joint Venture Agreement (JVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance that landowners will be hired as farmhands; All expenses deducted from proceeds of sugar quedans; Profit-sharing arrangement; Fixed percentage of profit to be paid in advance to landowners' Minimum of 5 years JVA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Group of Private Investors will hire farm operator / manager; SRA-R,D & E and PHILSURIN shall provide technical assistance, generate GPS maps, data gathering / soil sampling, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDDC or Private Investor to provide tractor pool/ irrigation services; Private Investor to finance fertilizer and farm inputs; Private Investor to finance infield transport equipment and labor cost; SRA, DA, DAR, DENR, ODA, & other gov't funding sources shall prioritize block farms in financing the necessary farm machinery / equipments, irrigation, soil fertility maps FMRs, etc..

XI. BUDGETARY REQUIREMENT

Cost Component	Cost Per Hectare (Pesos/ha)		% of Total Cost of Production	
	1 st Year of Operation	2 nd Year & 3 rd Year	1 st Year of Operation	2 nd Year & 3 rd Year
Land Preparation	10,000	0	10%	0%
Planting/Replanting (canepoints + Labor)	15,000	5,000	15%	7.2%
Fertilization (Fertilizer + Labor)	14,000	14,000	14%	20%
Cultivation/Weeding/Chemicals	8,000	6,000	8%	8.6%
Irrigation	1,000	1,000	1%	1.4%
Cutting/Loading/Hauling	20,000	18,000	20%	25.7%
Sub total, Direct Cost	68,000	44,000	68%	63%
Land Rental	15,000	15,000	15%	21.4%
Administrative Cost, 10% of Direct Cost	6,800	4,400	6.8%	6.3%
Interest/Cost of money, 15% of Direct Cost	10,200	6,600	10.2%	9.4%
Total Cost of Production	100,000	70,000	100%	100%

XII. TIMELINE

The sugarcane convergence program shall have the following general implementation schedule:

1st half Year 2011

- Finalization of program plans
- Assessment of MDDC capabilities
- Gathering of baseline data
- Convening of Program Management Team
- Start-up with six (6) block farms through active MDDCs

2nd half Year 2011

- Preparation and finalization of investment packages
- Establishment of at least One (1) block farm per MDDC
- Investment promotion campaign / forum

Year 2011

- Establish of 15 block farms
- Regular Monitoring and Evaluation per quarter

Year 2013

- 15 additional block farms
- Regular Monitoring and Evaluation per quarter

Year 2014

- 10 additional block farms
- Regular Monitoring and Evaluation per quarter

Year 2015

- 10 additional block farms
- Regular Monitoring and Evaluation per quarter

The Service Continues... because we care

The commitment of the Universal Robina Corporation-Kabankalan, in coordination with SRA Extension Division personnel, in serving its clients continues by conducting a series of seminars on Sugarcane Farm Management as resource measures to reduce clients' cost of production per unit area.

Participants of the seminars were shown videos on proper sugarcane farming cultural practices which include land preparation, soil sampling, fertilization and liming, and harvesting and culture of ratoon crops. New HYV's, control of pest and diseases and cost reduction measures were presented through lectures. Various questions on the topics presented were properly addressed by the SRA Extension personnel while matters pertaining to the mill were clarified by the URC mill personnel present.

In view of the demand for new high yielding varieties, Ms. Sally Mendoza, URC Manager-Cane Supply Department, proposed to establish a micro-laboratory in the mill in cooperation with the district's MDDC.

Participants were provided with meals and snacks, as well as, a service vehicle; the type of service which according to Ms. Mendoza will be accorded their clients yearly. The seminar was concluded with a tour in the mill processing plant to familiarize them of how canes are being processed.

(JM Villarias)

DiETING? Try sugar. Yes, the staple food ingredient we love is not only sweet and delicious, but also healthy! With only 16 calories per teaspoon, sugar can help you win the battle of the bulge. Plus, it suppresses appetite better than fat.

Nothing comes close to natural sugar than HFCS (high-fructose corn syrup), when it comes to taste and nutrition value.

HFCS, a natural sweetener from corn, is a cheaper alternative to sugar. That's why it is commonly used in soft drinks, canned beverages, pastry, and confectionery products. But according to Archie Amarra, board member of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), "HFCS is mainly derived from corn in the United States which is genetically modified (GMO) and as such may have adverse effect on consumers' health."

One known effect is that people eating or drinking HFCS-laden foods are not slimming down but gaining more weight. A research published recently in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* reveal that "the increased use of HFCS in the



United States mirrors the rapid increase in obesity."

By affecting the insulin/leptin production, HFCS may cause other health problems, too. Nutrition website junkfoodnews.com

explains that due to the reduced insulin and leptin in one's body, fructose gets metabolized straight into fat and cholesterol, which may block the arteries and boost one's heart attack risks.

The truth is, all-natural sugar has remained a safe and healthy energy source in the human diet for more than 2,000 years now. Notice that it carries no warning label, unlike sugar substitutes. Sugar is so safe, pure, chemical-free, and easily digestible that it can be used in baby food and even medications.

The US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) has also busted the sugar myths: It does not cause diabetes—diabetes is disorder of metabolism and diet. When taken in moderation, sugar is part of a balanced diet. When taken in moderation, sugar is part of a balanced diet. It also has no adverse effect on human behaviour. It does not cause mood swings or hyperactivity. Also, it does not necessarily cause tooth decay. As long as we practice proper dental hygiene, we can eat our sweets and keep our smiles. (Reprint from *The Philippine Star* May 3, 2011)

MUSCO CORNER



The sweet aroma of muscovado sugar had diffused through the air circulating a promising alternative among some of the sugar industry's stakeholders, business enthusiasts, working cooperatives and members' corporations.

In papers presented by Dr. B. Cerbo during the 8th National OPSI Convention, "Prospect of the Muscovado Industry" and "Which Way to Go: Centrifugal Sugar, Bioethanol, or Organic Muscovado Sugar," his technical assumption purportedly states that going into organic muscovado sugar production gives the highest return on investment. Hence, it will no longer be a surprise if muscovado mills start mushrooming everywhere in appropriate time.

In response to the impending predicament, when the tariff is fully implemented to 5% by 2015, which will severely affect the production of centrifugal raw sugar by 2015, muscovado sugar processing was

included as among the pipeline topics in the OPSI Training. In line with the topic is an actual cooking demonstration on muscovado processing. This is also an opportunity for participants to gather techniques of the process.

In June 9, 30 participants from Sigma, Capiz (batch 113) and June 29, 39 participants from Negros and Iloilo (batch 114) were the recipients of the processing. SRA's HYV 973933 and 991793 produced class A amorphous sugar.

Currently, seven muscovado mills are operating in the province of Negros Occidental and six in Negros Oriental with a crop area of almost 600 has. and 500 has., respectively.

Statistics show that demand for this commodity in local and international markets is increasing at a rate of 20-30% per annum. (MFT Logrono)

SRA-Bacolod GAD Focal System finished 4 Batches of Gender Sensitivity Training

Gender Sensitivity Training is conducted in a workplace, institution and community in order to recognize the unequal status and situation among men and women involved. Inequality is the result of the many different development needs and interests among men and women. Thus, to effect deeper understanding of "inequality" and appreciate its usefulness and effectiveness in the implementation of one's duties and responsibilities as SRA employees and civil servant, GST is the answer.

The series of one to four batches of GST conducted by GAD Focal System, Bacolod Chapter echoed great success from among participants who raised varied positive reactions and unique experiences. Their desire to become a better person in the home, workplace, institution and community particularly SRA as a second family where one belongs and work as a team was realized after each one internalized the concepts, objectives and significance of the training.

Immersion, involvement and active participation during the workshop not only enabled participants to open up and interact with one another but developed one's sensitivity to each other's needs (the need to be loved and respected; and the need for belongingness). As the workshop progressed, the art of listening and be listened to was developed. One's uniqueness was apparently appreciated.

Learning RA 9262 (Anti-Violence against Women and

Their Children) ushered in confidence and emotional security from among women participants. Furthermore, the ultimate understanding of one's role as father and mother at home and to their children was significantly internalized which consequently pledged one to become a better spouse and responsible parent to his/her children.

Responsible Parenting an addendum to the training allowed them to totally comprehend one's existence and importance that one cannot be a complete "whole" without the other. One is for the other and belongs to one another.

Most specifically in a **workplace, such as SRA**, each participant reflects the desire to be accepted by one's co-worker, and be part of the working group. GST instilled positive behavioral attitude towards work and working relationship among SRA employees. Once attained, it becomes a venue for worker's growth, enhancement of creativity towards work and, furthermore, an opportunity for challenging assignments and advancement. On the other hand, it leads a worker to be extremely motivated to work effectively and efficiently, which boils down to one's excellent performance, hence contribute to the fulfillment and accomplishment of an institution's mission and vision.

Thus, GST is an avenue to realize and develop one's full potential, increases one's competence, and contributes to becoming a better person, the content of the highest need

category of a human being (Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory)

Participants gained self-actualization while job performance is satisfactorily attained. (*MFT Logrono*)

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Visayas Group Celebrates SRA's 25th

SRA-Visayas celebrated the agency's 25th year anniversary last June 16-17, 2011 at SRA-LGAREC with the theme "Linagumba sa La Granja" and the GAD Group facilitating the activities.

The two-day fun-filled activity started with the arrival of Bacolod employees at around 2pm of Day 1 (June 16) who were warmly welcomed by the LGAREC employees. After a prayer and briefing, games like bingo, billiards, and darts started while some employees took advantage of the newly renovated, SUGAREAP-operated swimming pool. The whole afternoon, a time for employees to loosen up with friends and colleagues, was actually planned as a prelude for the much-awaited samba night.

Dinner was served by 7pm and the poolside was illuminated to red and green while the disco balls swirled along with the samba beat of the drumbeaters. A few moments later, everyone was dancing and singing not minding the drizzle and the possibility of heavy rain. Moments passed, beauties emerged from the pool and paraded through the dance area along with the impromptu introductions from the marvellous hosts. If not for the more important activities on the following day, the samba night could have stretched until dawn.

Day 2 started early at 630am with a walkathon from the OPSI dorm towards a waiting breakfast at the Balay OPSI and by 8am the Holy Mass was celebrated.

The program proper aptly opened by the "linagumba" (rumbling) beats of the drums. Administrator Martin greeted and congratulated everyone in her speech and declared the official opening of the 25th anniversary celebration - with fireworks and drumbeating at the background.

The executives were treated to a "pabitin" while other games like beer-drinking, trip-to-the-mall, water basketball and volleyball followed next filling the day with fun but emptying the stomach just in time for the sumptuous lunch with a cake and lechons, served at the Balay OPSI.

During lunch, a video was shown highlighting the milestones of SRA in its 25 years of service to the sugar industry and the Filipino people.

Distribution of prizes to the winners of the games and presentations followed next. The Administrator had to leave due to pending appointments, yet the employees continued for some more activities until the buses arrived to fetch the Bacolod-bound personnel at about 3pm.

Hey! 25 years...celebrated in 25 hours!

(Extracted from www.e-sra.org/GLRosales)