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BUCAF Gears Up for Centennial Celebration

The Guinobatan Farm School was established in 1912 and held its first classes on June 3, 1912. It was renamed as Guinobatan Rural High School in 1927; Roxas Memorial Agricultural School in 1950; Bicol University College of Agriculture (BUCA) in 1969 through RA 5521 and now known as Bicol University College of Agriculture and Forestry (BUCAF) because of the offering of Bachelor of Science in Forestry which started in 1991.

This 2012, the Guinobatan Farm School will be 100 years old. Activities listed for the Centennial celebration include: (1) Grand Alumni Homecoming on December 22, 2012; (2) Conference regarding climate-smart initiatives and innovations for the uplands; (3) publication of the coffee table book re BUCAF history and accomplishments; and (4) publication of the BUCAF Techno Series Bulletin.

BUCAF formally started its Centennial countdown on December 6, 2012 marked by the launching of the Center for Climate smart Initiatives and Innovations for the Uplands (CSI Uplands) and also the launch of the National Greening Program in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) highlighted by tree planting opposite the Centennial Building.

Launching the CSI Uplands at the start of the Centennial countdown emphasizes BUCAF's accomplishments through the years and its future direction which will focus on upland resource management and adaptation to the climate change.

In its 100 years, BUCAF will highlight its accomplishments in agriculture, forestry and natural resources management (AFNR) particularly on upland resource conservation. BUCAF is bent to continue its initiatives and contribute significantly in preventing soil erosion, landslides and flooding in the lowland areas. Aside from disaster-risk reduction in response to natural calamities, upland communities will also be assisted to enhance their capability for doing alternative livelihood to augment their income.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27, 2012 to March 2, 2012	DA bar Monitoring and evaluation of projects in BUCAF
March 1, 2012	Mock Accreditation
March 12 to 16, 2012	AACCUP Accreditation
March 29, 2012	Graduation
March 29, 2012	Inauguration of Guinobatan Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in BUCAF

BUCAF Implements Php 17M-Worth of Projects Through DA-BAR Support

The Bicol University College of Agriculture & Forestry (BUCAF) and the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA- BAR) have strengthened tie up through collaborative efforts in implementing various projects in agriculture. These projects are the following :

1. Integrated Management Systems in the Rice Production Areas of Albay Under Changing Rainfall Pattern under the leadership of Dr. Vigilia G. Armendi of the Department of Agricultural Sciences of BUCAF. The project has a total budget of Php 4,942,000.00 with the following studies:
 - a. Study I-Organic Revitalization of Upland Soils in Albay with Dr. Vigilia G. Armendi as study leader and with a budget of Php 2,888,000.00.
 - b. Study II- Assessment of Control Management Strategies of Rice Black Bug (*Scotinopra coarctata* Fabricius) in Albay with Prof. Genean L. Galicia also of BUCAF as study leader Php 348,000.00 budget.
 - c. Study III- Adaptation Strategies for Food Self Sufficiency under Various Ecosystem due to Climate Change in Albay: A Collaborative Research, Development & Extension Services (CRDES) Approach which is spearheaded by Rosalinda B. Beludo of the Office of Provincial Agriculture of Albay; with a budget of Php 1,706,000.00.
2. Establishment of Indigenous Breeding and Dairy Production Facilities in BUCAF headed by Dr. Ligaya O. Vargas; with project budget of Php 2,608,000.00.
3. Establishment of Research and Technology Commercialization and Information Center at BUCAF with a budget of Php 2M from Bicol University and Php 758,850.00 from DA BAR; total project cost is Php 6,758,850.00. This project is directly under the supervision of Dr. Marissa Estrella with Prof. Armando Oteza as production coordinator.
4. Commercialization of Agroforestry Technologies Towards Agribusiness Development for Improved Community Resiliency in Selected Communities in Albay with Prof. Alberto Gonzales as project leader and with project budget of Php 2,782,720.00

The sum for all the aforementioned projects is seventeen million ninety one thousand and five hundred seventy pesos (Php17,091,570.00). The first two projects started last 2011 and would end in 2014, project 3 is newly approved and will run for one year only while project 4 will be implemented for two years.

With such support, BUCAF will be able to acquire pieces of equipment and improve its facilities which are essential in the delivery and enhancement of its services in the fields of instruction, research, extension and production. (MN Estrella)

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