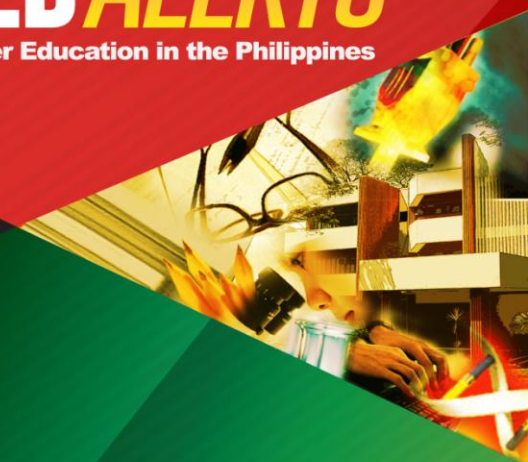


HIGHER ED *ALERTS*

Snapshots of **Higher Education in the Philippines**



Produced by the
**Office of Planning, Research and Knowledge Management
Commission on Higher Education**

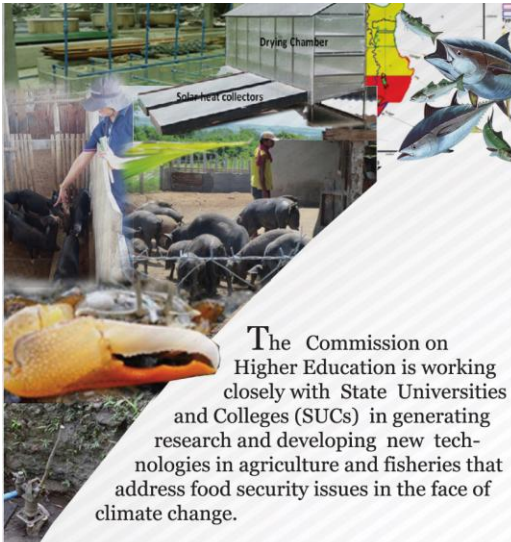
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In this issue:

SUC's research, development and extension programs in agriculture and fisheries are purposely directed to cushion the impact of climate change on farmers and fisher folk, protect their key sources of livelihood, and combat poverty.

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PH SUC Researches Address Climate Change and Food Security Issues

The Commission on Higher Education is working closely with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in generating research and developing new technologies in agriculture and fisheries that address food security issues in the face of climate change.

Through CHED, the government has supported several SUCs in conducting inter-university and collaborative research, development and extension program/s projects on climate change resiliency that directly impact on the country's food security, protect the livelihood of farmers and fishermen, alleviate poverty among the country's poorest sectors, and foster inclusive growth.

To strengthen the regional capacity for disaster risk reduction and mitigation and climate change adaptation, *Central Luzon State University*, *Isabela State University* and the *University of Southeastern Philippines* are conducting regional and provincial risk assessments in Regions 2, 3, and 11. These SUCs are also establishing an inventory database of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation studies and exposure hazard maps.

The *University of the Philippines-Mindanao*, *University of Southeastern Philippines*, *Southern Philippines Agri-business, Marine and Aquatic School of Technology*, and *Davao del Norte State College* are collaborating with *Ateneo de Davao University*, a private higher education institution, in establishing infrastructure and installing instrument facilities for a meso-scale meteorological monitoring system.

Likewise, *Visayas State University* and *Aklan State University* are working closely with *Ateneo de Manila University* and the *Manila Observatory* in aerial remote sensing using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for monitoring critical infrastructure, precision farming and disaster risk reduction in Luzon and the Visayas. As part of agricultural rehabilitation from the damage brought by typhoon Yolanda, the Philippine Coconut Authority and the *Visayas State University* through its Coconut Research Center has generated 96,835 pieces of coconut seedlings and distributed these to 800 coconut farmers in order to rehabilitate 968.35 hectares of coconut farms.

Mariano Marcos State University is currently developing a WebGIS that provide farmers with information on early detection of drought, prediction on growth and yield of rice in the study areas, and identification of potential fishing grounds using satellite data.

In the Cordillera Administrative Region, the *Ifugao State University*, *Abra State Institute of Science and Technology*, *Apayao State College*, *Benguet State University*, *Kalinga Apayao State College*, and *Mountain Province State Polytechnic College* are conducting assessments of vulnerable agro-ecosystem areas, evaluation of indigenous management and adaptation strategies and developing S&T based farming system model towards climate change management.

The *Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University* is implementing R&D programs for the development of goat farming, silk farming and propagation of drought resistant tropical fruits to alleviate poverty through the development of innovative products, methods and strategies.

The *Bicol University College of Agriculture and Forestry (BUCAF)* is currently host to three projects aimed at creating livelihood opportunities and increasing the incomes of coconut farmers. It is developing a small-scale whole nut coconut processing facility and a zero-waste production of coconut that also extracts and produces various non-oil products from coconut.

It is also using coconut somatic embryogenesis technology in collaboration with the *Centro de Investigacion Cientifica de Yucatan* in Mexico, the *Visayas State University*, Philippine Coconut Authority-Albay Research Center (PCA-ARC), PCA-Zamboanga Research Center (PCA-ZRC), *UP-Los Banos*, and *UP-Mindanao*. The coconut somatic embryogenesis technology aims to produce coconut planting materials through somatic embryogenesis in order to augment the replacement of old/senile palms and typhoon-damaged palms. *BUCAF* is expected to produce millions of cadang-cadang-free tissue-cultured coconut plants to replace the old coconut plants, and plant new coconuts in the bare coastal areas of Bicol Region.

Bicol University (BU) continues to mass produce coconut seed nuts to replace the typhoon-Reming-damaged coconut plants. BU expects to produce 60,000 coconut seedlings which the Philippine Coconut Authority will buy at the contracted price of Php 26.00/seedling. About 30,000 of coconut seedlings were already distributed to the coconut farmers in Albay and another batch of 60,000 seedlings is being proposed by PCA for production.

These Research, Development and Extension programs that focus on agriculture and fisheries demonstrate the thrusts of Philippine SUCs to purposely direct government funds towards developing technologies that can cushion the impact of climate change on the country's most vulnerable groups such as farmers and fisher folk, protect their vital sources of livelihood, and increase their incomes while ensuring the country's food security as a whole.

