

# DOST-PCARRD Initiatives on Plant Genetic Resources

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## Plant Genetic Resources

- One of the priority programs of PCARRD-DOST under the Environment Cluster
- Numerous initiatives in collaboration with various agencies consisted of:
  - ✓ policy advocacy
  - ✓ capacity building
  - ✓ R&D



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## On Policy Advocacy:

- PCARRD-DOST, along with our scientists and PGR experts, actively advocated for the Senate approval of ITPGRFA
  - Philippines already benefited on accession when Global Crop Diversity Trust provided support when NPGRL was damaged by typhoon Milenyo
- Philippines, through PCARRD, chairs the Regional Cooperation in SouthEast Asia for PGR (RECSEA-PGR)
- Already packaged proposals under GCDT for regional priority crops.



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## On Capacity Building:

For the Typhoon Milenyo damage in 2006, PCARRD released P 0.95 M support to NPGRL



- P300T for rehabilitation and retrofitting of the seed processing and preparation room – Completed
- P0.65M for the rehabilitation of the documentation, morpho-anatomical, seed research, nursery and *in vitro* units - Ongoing



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## On Capacity Building:

**For past 3 years, 75 researchers trained**

- 26 on PGR Conservation and Management
- 30 on PGR Documentation and Information Management
- 19 on Germplasm Characterization
- Q3 training-workshop will be on germplasm valuation
- Trainings address the needs identified in the survey conducted by NPGRL in 2002

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## On Capacity Building:

**For Degree Trainings,**

- **Thesis support to 2 MS students who majored in PGR Conservation and Management**
  
- **Granted full scholarship to a PhD candidate with PGR cognate**

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## On Research and Development:

### Completed Projects

- Medicinal Plants Survey and Documentation project, with Bioversity International
- Promotion of utilization of Indigenous Vegetables for Improved Nutrition of Resource-poor Households, with AVRDC

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## On Research and Development:

### Ongoing Projects

- **Tropical Fruits Conservation project** funded by DA-BAR thru Bioversity Intl
  - Now on its Y3, the project systematically conserves and utilizes the tropical fruit species diversity in the Philippines
  - Accomplishments include collection, characterization and documentation of collections; establishment of field genebanks; and development of descriptors - durian and pili
  - Involves 5 institutions working on pili, jackfruit, mangosteen and durian.

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## On Research and Development:

### Ongoing Projects

- Collaboration with ICRISAT on enhancing the **adoption of ICRISAT legume varieties and technologies**
  - involves 7 implementing institutions.
- **Mama Sita project** co-funded by PCARRD, OSRMJ thru DA-BAR, and MSF
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time that implementor, MSF, comes from private sector
  - Evaluated, promoted and propagated Luz calamansi; ongoing evaluation of other promising entries for tamarind, jackfruit jujube, and peach palm, among others

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## On Research and Development:

### Ongoing Projects

- **Indigenous Orchid Conservation project**
  - Another new approach: aside from conservation and regeneration activities, indigenous orchids will be re-introduced to environment and home gardens

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## On Research and Development:

### Ongoing Projects

- For the forestry sector,
  - Comprehensive diagnostic assessment to enhance ecotourism in Mts. Banahaw-San Cristobal Protected Landscape
  - Propagation through tissue culture of *Nepenthes truncata* (pitcher plant)
  - Germplasm collection of jatropa
- M&E of ongoing PGR-related projects funded by various agencies

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## On Research and Development:

- Most projects are about enhancing the collections.
- For maintaining collections
  - PCARRD funded project on Safekeeping Crop Diversity at the National Germplasm Repository
  - one-year project, with P1.5M funding
  - will regenerate selected seed collections, rejuvenate and rehabilitate field genebanks, and provide complementary conservation strategies such as *in vitro* conservation

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## On Research and Development:

### New Initiatives

- Implementation of **Multilocation Trials for Abaca** in 8 sites
- Approval and implementation of the project on **Chickpea Collection, Evaluation and Utilization**



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## On Research and Development:

### New Initiatives

Packaging of a National PGR R&D Program

- Shall integrate all the priority activities under the PCARRD Science and Technology Agenda 2006-2010
- Initial projects include
  - Improving planting material supply system for tropical fruits, sweet potato and abaca
  - Enhanced utilization of collections (new, specialized products)



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## Issues & Concerns:

### 1. Push for a higher rate of utilization of germplasm collections.

- enhance the appreciation of types and quality of collections in repositories
- genebanks should have complete characterization and evaluation data, and stored in electronic documentation systems

### 2. Limited budgetary support for genebank operations



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## Issues & Concerns:

### 3. The PGR group should have a **strong advocacy for a higher awareness and appreciation of PGR**. An advocacy plan should be crafted to drumbeat our cause.

### 4. Genebanks should **generate income from the distribution** of the germplasm collections

- seed samples should be for a fee, except when you're a donor
- field genebanks holding NSIC registered varieties can be a source of scions for use of commercial nurseries (tie-up with BPI needed)



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## Issues & Concerns:

5. Genebank managers should **know the value of his collections** in economic and/or social terms

- the best way to get attention of policymakers to provide or sustain support

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**In all of these,  
we need the help  
of the media.**

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**THANK  
YOU!**