

RISE

Research and Innovation Stories and Events

The Official Newsletter of the BASC Research, Extension, Production and Development Office

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1 | January - March 2026

ISSN: 2782-9774



The **RISE: Research and Innovation Stories and Events** is the official quarterly publication of the Research, Extension, Production and Development Office of Bulacan Agricultural State College. It is published four times a year and features research breakthroughs, innovation initiatives, extension activities, and institutional developments of the College.



ABOUT THE COVER

In celebration of Women's Month, this cover highlights the vital role of women in agriculture through BASC's project, "Expanding Women-led Integrated Backyard Farming in Bulacan through the Science and Technology Community-Based Farm (STCBF) Modality." More than a documentation of activities, the cover tells a story of impact: women as agents of change, advancing gender-responsive agriculture, strengthening communities, and contributing to inclusive development.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Nikki Ann V. Macabontoc

Editor-in-Chief

Maricarr Y. Lustre

Managing Editor

Engr. Benjie C. Timbang | Fadhel S. Imam

Graphic Design & Layout Artists

Dr. Amerigo B. Ramos, Jr. | Engr. Ariane G. Manuzon | Angelito Y. Garcia | Ariana Louise G. Delos Santos | Harvine Jay P. Viola | Kathrina J. Basa | Lyca C. Vicmudo | Van Lawrence M. Umerez

Contributors

Dr. Honeylet J. Nicolas | Dr. Imee D. Esguerra

Consultants



✉ repd@basc.edu.ph | basc.vprepd@gmail.com

f BASC Research, Extension, Production & Development Office



SCAN HERE
to get the E-copy



Global Spotlight: BASC Aerobic Rice Research at ICOSA 2026

HARVINE JAY VIOLA



The International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture (ICSA) 2026, held on February 10, 2026, convened a diverse assembly of academics, researchers, and agricultural practitioners in a shared effort to advance sustainable farming practices. Conducted through the Zoom online platform, the conference enabled participants from various locations to connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas seamlessly despite geographical boundaries.

Organized by Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia in partnership with Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) as part of the a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), ICOSA 2026 served as a vital platform for the exchange of knowledge, research findings, and innovative approaches aimed

at addressing the growing challenges in global agriculture. Among the distinguished invited plenary speakers was Dr. Honeylet J. Nicolas, who contributed valuable insights on the effects of climate change on animal health and other aspects of livestock production. Her participation underscored the conference's commitment to featuring experienced professionals who are actively shaping the field of sustainable agriculture.

Another representative from BASC, Mr. Gabriel C. Fantilanan won the Best Presenter award under Session 2 for his research titled "Climate Resilient Aerobic Rice Varieties for Water-Scarce Environments: Field Evaluation of Yield Stability and Adaptive Capacity in the Philippines." His study focused on identifying rice varieties that can thrive under limited water conditions, a growing concern in many agricultural regions. By evaluating the yield stability and adaptability of aerobic rice varieties, the study contributes valuable insights for farmers and agricultural planners seeking sustainable and efficient farming practices.



Women-Led Farming Project Yields Results in Bulacan Harvest Festivals

 KATHRINA BASA

 Engr. BENJIE TIMBANG

The Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) extension project “*Expanding Women-led Integrated Backyard Farming in Bulacan through the Science and Technology Community-Based Farm (STCBF) Modality*”, funded by the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), conducted a series of Harvest Festivals to present and validate project outcomes across selected sites in the province.

The first Harvest Festival took place on January 28, 2026, at Brgy. Tambubong, Bocaue, Bulacan, featuring the women’s organization *Juanang Pangkabuhayan ng Bocaue*. The program included the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), marking the formalization of collaborative partnerships, followed by a guided farm tour and harvesting activity that highlighted the project’s established production systems and outputs.

On January 29, 2026, similar activities were conducted simultaneously at Brgy. Calantipay, Baliwag

City, Bulacan, with *Lakas ng Kababaihan para sa Calantipay*, and at Brgy. Inaon, Pulilan, Bulacan, with *Samahan ng mga Kababaihan tungo sa Paggugulayan at Paghahayupan*, with the participation of the respective local government units, enabling stakeholders to directly observe and assess the performance of the model backyard farms.

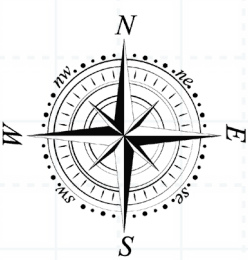
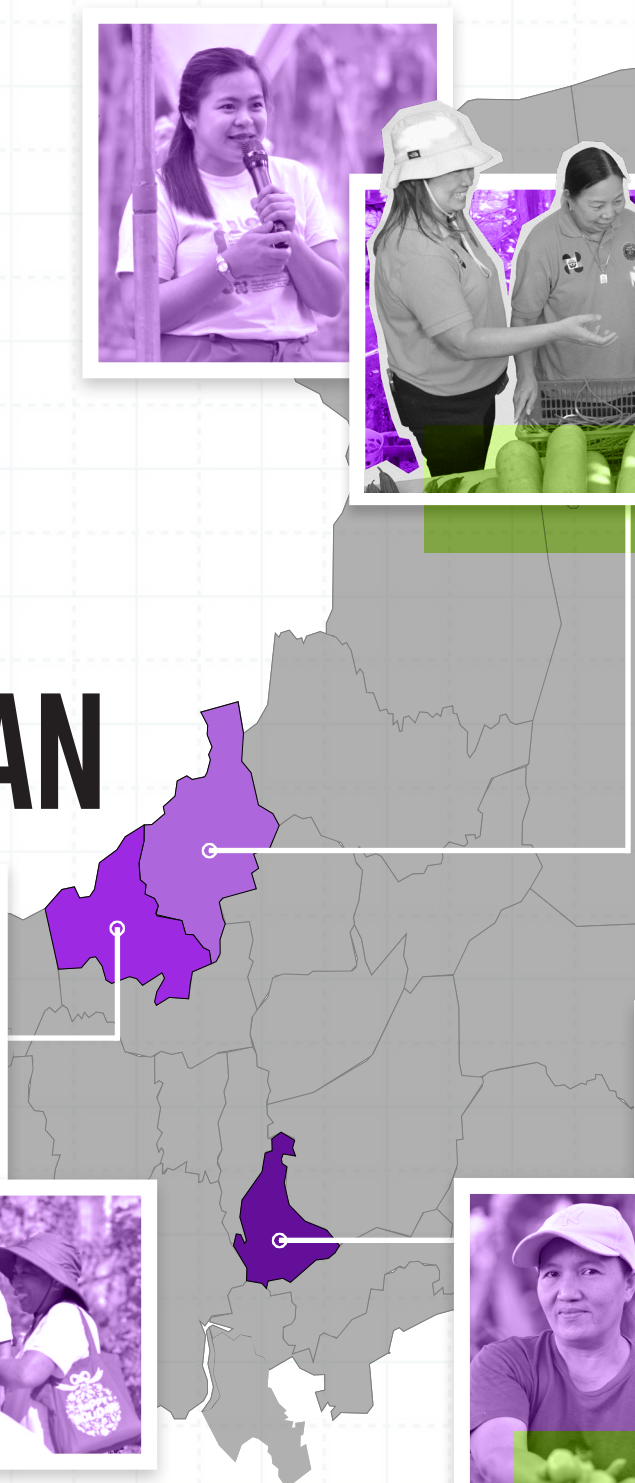
These activities functioned as a strategic platform for showcasing the application of science-based technologies while enabling stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions and document the contributions of women-led integrated backyard farming systems to local food production and socio-economic development.

Implemented under the STCBF modality, the project demonstrates the role of community-based extension in advancing gender-responsive agricultural development. Through the adoption of science-based farming practices, the initiative contributes to improved food availability and livelihood opportunities, reflecting its alignment with broader development goals such as SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).



PULILAN

BALIWAG CITY



BOCAUE

Green Jobs Initiative: Biochar Production and Facility Operations Training

KATHRINA BASA

Engr. BENJIE TIMBANG

College of Engineering and Technology (CET) successfully concluded a five-day specialized training on biochar production and facility operations, held from March 2 to 6, 2026, in Nueva Ecija.

The program, titled “Green Jobs Initiative: Biochar Production and Facility Operations Training,” was implemented in partnership with ALCOM Carbon Markets Philippines Inc. and the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija, with funding from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Designed to address the growing environmental challenges posed by agricultural biomass waste in Central Luzon, the training aimed to equip participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in sustainable biochar production.

Over the five days, participants learned industrial biochar furnace and kiln operations, biomass handling and feedstock preparation, char handling and post-processing, grain dryer support and waste heat utilization, as well as essential worksite health, safety, and environmental practices. Foundational lectures were delivered by Engr. Alexis A. Geronimo on the biochar industry, Dr. Joselito D. Tucit on biomass handling and feedstock preparation, and Engr. Sheila Marie F. Gachalian on worksite safety and environmental standards. Day two focused on technical processes, including pyrolysis principles and kiln operations by Engr. Rabroy S. Esmale, char handling and post-processing by Engr. Isabel Samantha C. Belonio, and grain dryer support and waste heat utilization by Dr. Joselito D. Tucit. The third day featured a technical plant tour and hands-on workshops on feedstock preparation, material movement, and health, safety, and environmental (HSE) practices. Day four continued with workshops on pyrolysis support, char removal and packaging, and grain dryer integration. The program concluded with a competency assessment, during which participants demonstrated the knowledge and skills they had acquired throughout the training.

As the first biochar production and facility operations training in Asia, this initiative has set a precedent for sustainable agricultural waste management across the region. Through this pioneering effort, BASC-CET, ALCOM Carbon Markets Philippines Inc., the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija, and GGGI have paved the way for a greener, more sustainable future for agriculture and clean energy in the Philippines and beyond.



BASC Continues Engagement in CLAARRDEC Experts' Pool (Q1 2026)

MARICARR LUSTRE
CLAARRDEC Consortium | facebook page



The Central Luzon Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (CLAARRDEC) Experts' Pool held its 1st Quarter Meeting on March 5, 2026, at the Center for Hybrid Rice Innovation and Mechanization, Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Dr. Emmanuel M. Vera Cruz, CLAARRDEC Director and CLSU Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension, warmly welcomed newly designated consortium officials and member representatives, expressing appreciation for their continued support and active participation in advancing regional research.


A highlight of the meeting was the recognition of outstanding researchers. Among the awardees, Ms. Sheryll De Leon of BASC received a certificate for the 3rd Best Paper Award for the BASC-BPSU collaborative study, *"Synergistic Effects of Water and Nutrient Management with Biochar Amendment on Rice Production Under Field Conditions for Wet Season."* The study was originally presented by Ms. Evelyn Q. Alera during the 36th Regional R&D Symposium on December 5, 2025. The BASC research team also included Mrs. Veronica T. Rivera and research assistants Mr. Jonathan Manuel, Mr. Marco Cruz, and Mr. Jonathan E. Lacayanga, highlighting the institution's commitment to rigorous, collaborative research.


The meeting also reviewed the consortium's 2025 accomplishments in R&D management, setting the stage for the 2026 Workplan, which outlined priority initiatives and expected outcomes for the year. Updates on ongoing programs, including the Itik Pinas Program and the Real-Time Monitoring System (RTMS) Project, emphasized BASC's active role, with its focal person ensuring the system is kept current.

Representatives from BASC who attended the meeting included Ms. Nikki Ann V. Macabontoc, Director for Research, Dr. Imee D. Esguerra, Director for Extension, Ms. Sheryll C. De Leon, Assistant Professor I, College of Agriculture and awardee, and Ms. Maricarr Y. Lustre, Support Staff, underscoring the institution's dedication to both research excellence and extension service.

The meeting reaffirmed BASC's active role in CLAARRDEC, highlighting its commitment to research and extension, fostering innovation, sharing knowledge, and strengthening the capabilities of member institutions. Through sustained engagement, BASC continues to contribute to advancing agricultural and natural resources development in Central Luzon while supporting the growth and collaboration of its partner institutions.

Writing Winning Extension Proposals for External Funding

 ARIANA LOUISE DELOS SANTOS

 LYCA VICMUDO

The Extension Services Office, in collaboration with the Institute of Arts and Sciences, conducted a two-day training titled “Writing Winning Extension Proposals for External Funding” on February 23–24, 2026, at the BASC Function Hall. The activity gathered BASC faculty members with the aim of strengthening their capability to develop well-crafted extension proposals that can secure external funding and support meaningful community development initiatives.

The program opened with welcome remarks from Dr. Honeylet J. Nicolas, BASC Vice President for Research, Extension, Production and Development (REPD).

In her message, she emphasized the importance of externally funded extension projects in expanding the reach of BASC’s services to communities while contributing to the institution’s continuous growth and development.

The training objectives and statement of purpose were presented by AProf. Leah V. Indon, Leader of the Training Management Team. This was followed by a

presentation on the BASC LINANG RDE Agenda by Dr. Imee B. Esguerra, Director of the Extension Services Office, who discussed the importance of aligning extension proposals with the college’s research, development, and extension priorities.

The training featured valuable insights from experienced speakers in extension development. Dr. Racquel G. Agustin, Director for Extension Services at Cavite State University (CavSU), delivered a session on community needs assessment and ethical considerations in extension proposal development. She emphasized the importance of designing extension initiatives that respond to the genuine needs of communities and are implemented with integrity, accountability, and social responsibility.

Meanwhile, Dr. Almira G. Magcawas, Consortium Director of the Southern Tagalog Agriculture, Aquatic, and Resources Research, Development, and Extension Consortium (STAARRDEC), shared practical strategies for securing external funding. She provided guidance on developing clear, relevant, and well-structured proposals that effectively meet the requirements and expectations of funding agencies.

The first day concluded with a workshop orientation conducted by the Training Management Team, which prepared participants for the proposal development activities scheduled for the second day of the training.

On the second day, the program continued with sessions focused on proposal enhancement and practical application. Dr. Magcawas delivered a lecture highlighting the benefits of extension projects for faculty



reclassification, explaining how well-developed and externally funded initiatives can contribute not only to community development but also to faculty professional advancement.

Participants then presented their prepared extension project proposals, representing various colleges and institutes within BASC. The College of Agriculture was represented by Ms. Leah Luz B. Velasco, while the College of Management was represented by Mr. Lester A. Parungao. The College of Education and the Graduate School of Education were represented by Mr. Herbert M. De Jesus and Dr. Angelito S. Manalastas, respectively, while the DRT Campus presented through Mr. Salvador A. Guevarra, Jr.

Additional proposals were presented by the College of Engineering and Technology, led by Dr. Anthony V. Ortega; the Institute of Arts and Sciences, represented by Mr. Alvin D.C. Pangilinan; and the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, represented by Dr. Trisha Mae C. Campit. These presentations provided participants with the opportunity to apply the concepts discussed during the training while receiving constructive feedback to further enhance their proposals.

During the program, Dr. Jameson H. Tan, SUC President III, delivered a message emphasizing the importance of sustaining quality and impactful extension initiatives that effectively address community needs while supporting the continued development of the institution.

The activity concluded with the awarding of certificates to the participants, led by Dr. Tan together with Dr. Nicolas, Dr. Ronald Reagan T. Alonzo, Dr. Esguerra, and AProf. Leah

V. Indon. Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to the resource speakers, Dr. Almira G. Magcawas and Dr. Racquel G. Agustin, in recognition of their valuable contributions to the training. The program formally ended with closing remarks from Mrs. Alicia B. Alba, Supervising Administrative Officer, who expressed her appreciation to the organizers, speakers, and participants for their active participation and support throughout the two-day activity.



ICAKPET 2026



The 6th International Conference on Advancing Knowledge from Multidisciplinary Perspective in Education, Engineering & Technology (ICAKMPET 2026), held on January 24–25, 2026 at the Mandarin Plaza Hotel in Cebu City, brought together researchers and professionals from various fields to share innovative ideas and research findings.

Researchers from BASC presented studies that reflect the institution's commitment to research, sustainability, and social relevance. Their participation provided an opportunity to engage with global scholars and contribute to discussions on current issues in education, agriculture, and technology.



Dr. Ronald Reagan T. Alonzo

shared his research, *"Motivations, Challenges, and Strategies of Rabbit Raisers in Bulacan: A Thematic Qualitative Analysis."* The study examined the experiences of rabbit raisers, highlighting their motivations, the challenges they face, and the strategies they employ to sustain their livelihood.



Dr. Ma. Leonora C. Sta. Ana

presented *"Exploring the Influence of Health Consciousness and Health Literacy on the Professional Performance of Faculty and Staff."* Her study emphasized the role of health awareness and literacy in improving work performance among academic personnel.



Dr. Mr. Anthony C. Ortega

presented his study titled *"Performance Assessment of a Recirculating Aqua-raft Aquaponics System for Sustainable Peri-Urban Food Production."* His research focused on the potential of aquaponics systems as a sustainable method for food production in urban and peri-urban communities.



Dr. Meriam F. Sulit

discussed her research titled *"Productivity Performance of Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) Plant Induced with Supplemental Doses of NPK Microbial Biofertilizer."* The study demonstrated how the use of biofertilizers can enhance crop productivity while supporting sustainable agricultural practices.



Dr. Yosef Eric C. Hipolito

presented *"Amidst the Demagogues: An Appraisal on BASC Students' Views in Studying Philippine History in the Age of Disinformation."* His research explored students' perspectives on learning Philippine history in the context of widespread misinformation.

Overall, the participation of BASC researchers in ICAKMPET 2026 highlights the institution's active role in academic research and its contribution to multidisciplinary knowledge.



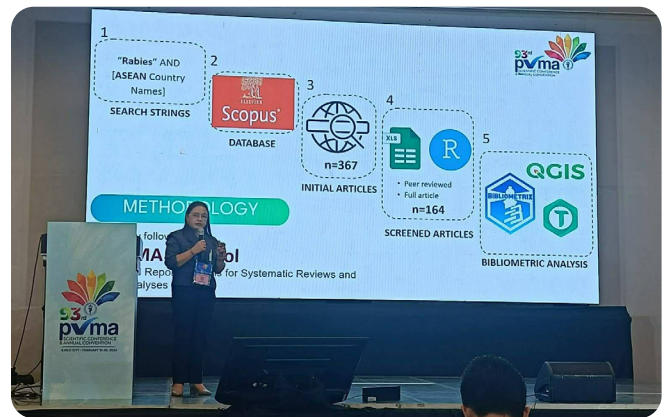
PVMA 2026 Convention



Advancing Veterinary Research: BASC Representatives Present at PVMA 2026 Convention

The 93rd Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) Scientific Conference and Annual Convention, held from February 18–20, 2026, served as a key gathering of veterinary professionals, researchers, and practitioners dedicated to advancing animal health and public safety.

Dr. Honeylet J. Nicolas, Dean of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, presented her paper titled *“Trends and Insights on Rabies Research in Southeast Asia.”* Her presentation examined the current landscape of rabies research in the region, identifying emerging trends, key challenges, and areas that require further scientific attention. The study highlighted the importance of continued research and collaboration in addressing rabies, a persistent public health concern in many Southeast Asian countries. By providing a comprehensive analysis of existing studies, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of how rabies prevention and control strategies can be improved through evidence-



based approaches.

Dr. Celso Sto. Domingo, the Associate Dean of BASC-IVM, presented his paper titled *“Prevalence and risk factors of Eimeria among rabbits in San Ildefonso, Bulacan.”* His study’s findings indicate the high endemicity of coccidiosis in rabbits caused by the protozoa *Eimeria* spp., and emphasize the need for improved hygiene and water management to control infection in rabbit farms.

Unveiling the Shadows: Study Reveals Subtle Bias Against LGBTQ Community at BASC



A newly published academic study by Dr. Amerigo B. Ramos Jr. sheds light on the often-unnoticed forms of discrimination experienced by the LGBTQ community within BASC. Titled *“Unveiling the Shadows: Exploring Microaggressions Towards the LGBTQ Community at BASC as a Basis for Gender Responsive Interventions,”* the research was released on February 9, 2026, in the *Suranaree*

Journal of Social Science, a journal indexed in Scopus, Crossref, and TCI.

The study focuses on microaggressions—subtle, indirect actions or remarks that may appear harmless but can significantly affect individuals over time. Findings reveal that these everyday experiences can influence the emotional well-being, academic engagement, and sense of inclusion among LGBTQ members of the institution.

Beyond identifying the issue, the research offers practical recommendations for gender-responsive interventions aimed at fostering a more inclusive academic environment. These include strengthening awareness, promoting sensitivity, and guiding institutional policies toward equity and respect.

As discussions on inclusivity continue to grow, the study emphasizes that addressing even the most subtle forms of bias is essential in creating safe and supportive spaces for all.

BASC Promotes Gender-Responsive Planning through GAD Workshop

Dr. AMERIGO RAMOS, Jr.

Reinforcing its commitment to gender equality and mainstreaming, the Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) Gender and Development (GAD) Office successfully conducted a crucial training workshop focused on the implementation of the Harmonized GAD Guidelines (HG DG) for research and extension proposals. This initiative, spearheaded by the GAD Office under the leadership of Director Edna Mae D. Cruz, aimed to equip BASC researchers and extensionists with the necessary knowledge and skills to integrate gender perspectives and ensure their projects are genuinely gender-responsive.

The workshop, held on March 10, 2026, at the Cayetano Hall, drew a diverse group of participants from various colleges and institutes within BASC. Recognized as pivotal actors in driving agricultural innovation and rural development, these individuals are key to shaping future interventions and ensuring equitable access to resources and benefits for all.

Dr. Honeylet J. Nicolas, Vice President for Research, Extension, Production, and Development (REPD), graced the opening ceremonies. In her introductory remarks, Dr. Nicolas emphasized the critical role of gender mainstreaming in generating research and extension outcomes that address

the unique needs and priorities of different genders. She reminded participants of the importance of active listening and meaningful participation, highlighting that the skills and knowledge acquired through this workshop will significantly enhance the relevance and effectiveness of their proposed initiatives.

The central focus of the training workshop was the practical application of the HG DG, a comprehensive tool developed by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) to assess and guide the gender-responsiveness of government programs, projects, and activities. The session was facilitated by Mr. King David J. Agreda, MIT, an esteemed member of the National GAD Resource Pool of the PCW from Cavite State University. Mr. Agreda's expertise and engaging facilitation style provided the participants with a deeper understanding of the HG DG framework, its specific components, and the step-by-step

process of integrating gender considerations into project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Throughout the intensive one-day workshop, participants engaged in a combination of lectures, interactive discussions, and hands-on exercises. They were guided through the HG DG checklists, learning how to identify gender issues, analyze gender relations, define gender-specific objectives and indicators, and allocate sufficient resources to support gender-responsive actions. Real-life examples of research and extension proposals were utilized to demonstrate the application of the GAD lens and showcase the tangible benefits of adopting gender-responsive approaches.

"This workshop is a crucial step towards institutionalizing gender

Continued on page 13





Strengthening Gender and Development: BASC Conducts SIGAD RP Training

Dr. AMERIGO RAMOS, Jr.

Following the successful workshop on gender-responsive proposals, the Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) Gender and Development (GAD) Office elevated its institutional capacity-building efforts by launching the Strategic Institutional Gender and Development Resource Pool (SIGAD RP) training.

Held on March 11 and 12, 2026, at Cayetano Hall, the intensive two-day program sought to create a specialized corps of internal experts and advocates capable of sustaining gender mainstreaming across all facets of the college's operations. The training of trainers was facilitated by Mr. King David J. Agreda, MIT, an esteemed member of the National GAD Resource Pool of the PCW from Cavite State University.

The first day focused on the "why" and "how" of gender advocacy. Participants engaged in foundational sessions, including 1. Becoming

a GAD Advocate. Exploring the motivations and ethics of effective facilitation. 2. SOGIESC Awareness. A comprehensive dive into Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics to foster a more inclusive campus environment. 3. Gender-Fair Language. Practical training on eliminating sexist language in official communications and instructional materials. 3. Legal Compliance. In-depth discussions on RA 7877 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Act) and RA 11313 (Safe Spaces Act), emphasizing their localization within BASC to ensure a secure environment for students and staff alike.

The second day shifted from theory to practice, focusing on the technical tools required for institutional change. 1. Gender Analysis & HGDD. Building on the previous workshop, participants refined their skills in using gender analysis tools for research and extension. 2. Instructional Integration. A dedicated session on creating Gender-Responsive Syllabi and utilizing sex-disaggregated data. 3. The "Roulette Spin". In a dynamic and high-energy

segment, demo-teaching topics were assigned to participants via a digital roulette. 4. Training Showcase. The program culminated in a two-part Demo Teaching session, where the 30 participants demonstrated their ability to facilitate GAD concepts, effectively transitioning from trainees to potential resource persons.

The SIGAD RP training produced 30 dedicated personnel who are now poised to lead gender initiatives within their respective departments. Led by GAD Director Edna Mae D. Cruz, the initiative ensures that BASC does not rely solely on external consultants but develops its own sustainable "Resource Pool" of experts.

"To be a GAD advocate is to be a catalyst for fairness," noted one participant during the final impressions. "This training gave us the teeth to implement laws and the heart to understand the diverse identities within our college."

The event concluded with a post-test evaluation and the distribution of certificates, marking the official induction of the SIGAD RP members.

Continued from page 12

sensitivity within BASC's research and extension endeavors," stated Director Edna Mae D. Cruz. "By empowering our researchers and extensionists with

the HGDD, we are fostering a culture of inclusivity and ensuring that our projects contribute significantly to achieving gender equality and empowering all

members of society, particularly women and marginalized groups in the agricultural sector."



Strengthening Public Service: ABCDE Extension Project Review

 ANGELITO GARCIA
 BASC-EXTENSION SERVICES | facebook page

The Project Management Team of the extension project “ABCDE: Achieving Better Civil Service through Diligence and Excellence” recently reached a significant milestone in its mission to professionalize the local government workforce. By conducting a high-impact Civil Service Examination review series for Municipal Job Order and Contract of Service workers in Balagtas, Bulacan, the program effectively bridged the gap between academic theory and the practical requirements of public administration. This initiative, which concluded its final sessions on February 25, 27, and March 4, 2026, serves as a blueprint for institutional extension services aimed at human capital development.

The curriculum was meticulously designed to address the core competencies of the Civil Service Commission. On February 25, the program focused on analytical and civic foundations with lectures by Mr. Alvin D.C. Pangilinan on Logical Reasoning and Mr. Jerald D.F. Valmores on General Information, specifically highlighting Peace and Human Rights. These sessions provided participants with the critical thinking skills and ethical grounding necessary for modern governance. This was followed on February 27 by an intensive focus on linguistic proficiency, where AProf. Emma L. Villacorte and Ms. Camille V. Valmadrid delivered comprehensive lectures on Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Development, ensuring that candidates possess the communication skills required for effective

administrative roles.

The final day of the training on March 4 represented the culmination of technical and quantitative mastery. The morning was dedicated to the Philippine Constitution under the guidance of Mr. Rommel V. Eguia, alongside a specialized session on Worded Problems led by Mr. Allan C. Pastrana. To ensure these concepts were deeply internalized, Mr. Alvin D.C. Pangilinan transitioned the participants from theory to practice by administering a mock Civil Service Examination later that afternoon. This simulation of the actual test environment was a vital pedagogical tool, allowing participants to gauge their readiness, manage time constraints, and build the psychological resilience needed for the upcoming examination this Sunday.

The program concluded with an awarding ceremony that underscored the vital partnership between academia and local government. Led by Dr. Imee D. Esguerra, Director of BASC Extension Services, and supported by LGU–Balagtas representatives Ms. Lady Aiza S. Mapoy and Ms. Teresita D. Reyes, the event celebrated the persistence of the workers. In her closing remarks, Dr. Esguerra highlighted the broader impact of this five-day series, framing it as a direct contribution to SDG 4: Quality Education. By equipping temporary workers with the tools to achieve permanent status, the ABCDE project not only empowers individuals but also strengthens the institutional integrity of the Balagtas municipal government.

DTO advances secure electronic transactions thru PNPKI and Cybersecurity Seminar



 ARIANA LOUISE DELOS SANTOS  BASC DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OFFICE-DTO

On March 6, 2026, the BASC Digital Transformation Office (DTO) successfully conducted the training titled “Advancing Secure Electronic Transactions: PNPKI Orientation and Cybersecurity Awareness Seminar” at the BASC Function Hall. The activity aimed to enhance awareness and strengthen the understanding of BASC personnel regarding secure digital transactions and the importance of cybersecurity in today’s increasingly technology-driven work environment.

The main session featured Mr. Roldan Lipana, Information Officer I from DICT-Bulacan, who served as the resource speaker for the orientation. In his presentation on the Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI), Mr. Lipana introduced the fundamental concepts behind secure electronic transactions. He explained how electronic signatures can be properly and securely utilized through PNPKI, including the procedures for application and implementation.

Mr. Lipana also presented practical and real-life examples demonstrating how digital signatures may be applied in everyday office transactions. He emphasized that the use of verified digital identities ensures

that electronic documents remain authentic, secure, and protected from unauthorized alterations. The session underscored the role of PNPKI in promoting safer and more reliable digital communication and documentation within government institutions.

The second part of the seminar focused on Cybersecurity Awareness. Mr. Lipana discussed the growing prevalence of cyber threats such as hacking, phishing, and online scams in the digital era. Through clear and relatable examples, he illustrated how cybercriminals exploit seemingly minor actions—such as clicking suspicious links or sharing personal information online—to gain unauthorized access to sensitive data. He encouraged participants to remain vigilant when navigating digital platforms and to practice responsible handling of confidential information to minimize potential security risks.

An open forum and Q&A session followed, providing participants the opportunity to raise inquiries and clarify concerns regarding digital signatures and online security. The discussion offered additional insights and practical strategies that attendees can apply to strengthen secure

practices in their daily work.

Prior to the conclusion of the program, Dr. Jameson H. Tan, SUC President III, delivered a message to the BASC teaching and non-teaching personnel, highlighting the significance of the training and the forthcoming implementation of the PNPKI system within the campus. He emphasized that the adoption of secure electronic transactions will contribute to more efficient, transparent, and reliable institutional processes as BASC continues to advance its digital transformation initiatives.

The activity concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Ma. Melanie A. Cruz, Director of the Digital Transformation Office, who expressed her appreciation to the resource speaker and the participants for their active engagement throughout the seminar. She reaffirmed the office’s commitment to promoting the secure and responsible use of digital technologies within BASC.

Through initiatives such as this seminar, BASC continues to strengthen its digital transformation efforts while ensuring that cybersecurity awareness and secure electronic transactions remain integral components of its institutional development.

ALIGNING GOALS:

Early Talks for Future Research with Agencies



As 2026 begins, the first quarter signals a strong start in expanding the College's research initiatives through new collaborations with partner agencies. Early meetings and discussions have been held to identify priority areas for future studies, reflecting a shared commitment to using research to guide action and foster innovation. These initial engagements underscore the alignment of goals and expertise among partners, laying a solid foundation for long-term collaboration. With Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) signing planned in the coming months, these efforts are moving closer to launching impactful joint research projects.

On February 13, 2026, a meeting was held with Verde Carbon Capture Inc., a subsidiary of Green Carbon Inc. of Japan, at the BASC Farmers' Training Center to explore a cooperative partnership. The discussion centered on the proposed Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) Project in Bulacan, which will be led by the College. The meeting featured a presentation of the project outline, implementation framework, expected outcomes, and key initiatives of Verde Carbon Capture Inc. and its partner organizations.

Representatives from both BASC and Verde Carbon Capture Inc. attended the meeting. From Verde Carbon Capture Inc., participants

included Mr. Hamsha Saz (Project Development Manager), Ms. Venus O. Saz (Current Project Leader for the AWD Project in South Luzon and Associate Professor at CVSU), Mr. Kenneth John N. Clacio (Assistant Project Development Manager), and project coordinators Mr. John Carlo P. Frias, Ms. Erienne Carlo DC. Caratao, Engr. Mica Elyse C. Sarmiento, and Engr. Angelo Q. Gamboa.

From BASC, attendees included Dr. Honeylet J. Nicolas, Vice President for Research, Extension, Production, and Development, Ms. Nikki Ann V. Macabontoc, Dir. for Research, Mr. Gabriel C. Fantilanan, Instructor III, Designated Project Leader, and Ms. Maricarr Y. Lustre, Support Staff.





A week later, on February 20, 2026, representatives from the Philippine Energy Research and Policy Institute (PERPI), an independent energy research institute of the University of the Philippines, visited the College to discuss research initiatives and explore potential collaborations. The meeting, held in the Office of the President Conference Room, included discussions on joint research projects and possible support for student research and theses.

Attendees from PERPI included Mr. Dexter S. Pajarillo (Chief of PERPI RDPUD and OIC-TAED), Mr. Lorenz

Simoun P. Dela Cruz (Science Research Specialist I), Ms. Marielle P. Manahan (Science Research Specialist I), Ms. Sylvia Villalobos (Senior Extension Associate), Ms. Jennifer Flores (Senior Science Research Specialist), and Mr. Shawn Zedrick Taguiling (Science Research Specialist II).

Representatives from BASC included Dr. Jameson H. Tan (College President), Dr. Meriam F. Sulit (Director, International Relations Office), Engr. Shiela Marie Gatchalian (Instructor III, College of Engineering and Technology), Ms. Macabontoc, and Ms. Lustre.

These initial engagements represent a significant step in strengthening the College's research network and expanding opportunities for collaboration. By working closely with partner agencies, the College aims to support studies that are both relevant and impactful, addressing current needs and emerging challenges. As discussions progress toward formal agreements, these partnerships are expected to contribute to knowledge development, capacity building, and the successful implementation of future research initiatives.





RAISE Program Concludes Two-Year Run with Terminal Review

The Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), through the Regional Agri-Aqua Innovation System Enhancement (RAISE) Program Batch 2 Phase 1, officially concluded its two-year implementation with a Terminal Review held on February 26, 2026, in El Vistra Hotel, Angeles City, Pampanga.

The review highlighted the program's accomplishments vis-à-vis its targets and deliverables, while also serving as a venue to discuss challenges encountered during implementation. DOST-PCAARRD likewise addressed unaccomplished targets, presenting possible solutions to bridge the gaps. The Council underscored its strong commitment to further support the program, expressing readiness to invest in order to ensure that Consortium Members Institutions (CMIs) advance toward commercialization.

The event gathered RAISE program teams from Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Central Visayas, Western Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, SOCCSKSARGEN, and

Engr. ARIANE MANUZON
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND PROMOTION DIVISION



Nuggets with a Leap of Innovation

 VAN LAWRENCE UMEREZ



Caraga. Representing Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) during the Terminal Review was Ms. Karen C. Wagan-Pastrana, Project Staff Level 1, incoming Phase 2 Project Leader, and Head of the Technology Transfer and Commercialization Unit. Her attendance underscored BASC's active involvement in Phase 1 through Project 1H: Establishment of Intellectual Property and Technology Business Management (IPTBM) in Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) through the RAISE Program, led by Engr. Joselito D. Tucit as Project Leader.

This project highlights BASC's commitment to institutionalizing intellectual property management and strengthening technology commercialization pathways, aligning with PCAARRD's broader vision of innovation-driven development.

To sustain momentum, a proposal packaging workshop was conducted on February 27, 2026. This workshop aims to strategize and plan for the target deliverables of the next phase of the program, ensuring that lessons learned from the past two years inform future directions.

The Intellectual Property and Technology Business Management (IPTBM) Office of Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC) has successfully filed its first Utility Model for 2026 titled *"A Composition of Batter-Coated Molded Meat Product."* This innovation is the result of a collaborative effort among five faculty members of the college: four from the College of Management—Ms. Crisabel C. Fajardo, Ms. Amylin E. Infortuno, Ms. Michelle M. Gatdula, and Mr. Bernard D. Villalobos—and one from the College of Engineering, Ms. Joy Christine V. Sta. Cruz.

Dubbed as *"Lapanuggets"*, the developed technology features a meat nugget made from ground rabbit meat blended with carefully selected seasonings and coated with batter. The product is molded into uniform oval shapes that resemble the familiar nuggets commonly found in stores, making it appealing and recognizable to potential partners and consumers. It provides a good and unique alternative and a better nutritional value.

This is another addition to the rabbit product catalogue of technology of Bulacan Agricultural State College and has a lot of potential to be consumed by meat-lovers, even ones that are used to common meat products in the market.



2nd NCAAS

National Conference on Agriculture and Allied Sciences

JULY 2026

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT NOW!

ncaas.basc@gmail.com

SAJAAS

Volume 6, Issue 1

Is now available at sajaas.basc.edu.ph



SCAN HERE



Agricultural State College | Research, Extension, Prod