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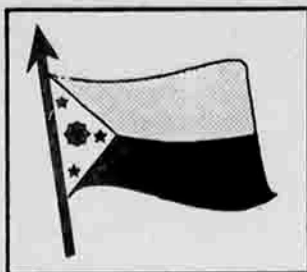


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We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision

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MAY 10-16, 1993

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IN METRO MANILA

Credit-grabbing politicians usurping NUC's efforts?

Lupa Supplement

Page 2

**Mga batas
laban sa mga
magsasaka**

**Nanganganib,
seguridad
ng bigas**



AGRI-FAIR: President Ramos examines a can of sardines produced by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources being displayed for sale at the weeklong Agri Fair in Quezon City. With the President are (from left) Undersecretary Jose Mari Geroche (behind the President), Agriculture Secretary Roberto Sebastian and (extreme right) Director Manuel Rocha of the National Meat Inspection Commission. The fair is one of the highlights of the 76th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture last week. (Malacañang Photo)



YORAC



DE VENECIA

MORO FUNDAMENTALISTS ROCK MINDANAO PEACE

By ERIC S. GIRON

TWO MARINE and two army battalions deployed in the Kapatagan-Kapayawan bandit sanctuaries in Basilan island-province advanced their rescue operations for Spanish Claretian Missionary Bernardo Blanco and five-year-old Luis Anthony Biel when the Muslim fundamentalist Abu Sayaff group holding them hostage poured mortar shells and machinegun fire at approaching troops in Spillway village from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Monday (May 3).

Two marines were reported killed, five were wounded. Marine Corporal Narciso Laddaran, hit by mortar fire, expired at the hospital in Zamboanga City. Two of the 20-man kidnap gang were slain, eight were wounded. Two surrendered.

A mortar shell fell on the house of the Spillway barangay chairman, injuring three persons. Another shell which landed on a military outpost, injured a marine. Huey gunship 775 was damaged in the belly by rebel fire but managed to return to headquarters in Isabela.

The clashes occurred as government authorities noticed a terroristic pattern employed by the Moro fundamentalists or extremists in blasting a National Power (less) Corporation tower and the explosion of bombs at the Davao airport runway in February, Zamboanga airport in March, and the departure lobby of the Manila Domestic Airport on April 27 which hurt a man and a woman PAL passenger.

The Libyan foreign minister visiting Manila who lobbied against US pressure on the Ramos government to impose official and economic sanctions against Libya's refusal to turn over two alleged terrorists held responsible for bombing a Pan-American jet which crashed in Lockerbie (UK), warned against the new Muslim fundamentalist threat in Mindanao. This group defies Moro National Liberation Front Chairman Nur Misuari's peace talks with the Ramos government.

The Libyan official advised the Philippine government to come to terms with this extremist group through the negotiating table. MNLF spokesman Ustadz Zain Jali, emissary of the *ulamas* (Moro spiritual leaders), was still negotiating with the Abu

Sayaff headed by Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani who are demanding P10 million ransom for Fr. Blanco and P4 million for the Biel boy. The snatchers sought the signatures of *ulamas* in Zamboanga City.

TOWER BLASTED

The day after the NPC announced it would provide Mindanao uninterrupted electrical service up to May 25, the current transformer of the Abaga-Tagaloan 138 KV line in Iligan City exploded at 4 p.m. Wednesday (April 28), tripping the line and Agus hydroelectric generating units, resulting in partial outage.

At 6:55 p.m. three explosions detonated by 20 to 30 Moros shattered Tower Structure 41 of the Iligan-Lugait transmission line at hinterland barangay Lanipao (Iligan), cutting off 380 megawatts of power supply from five hydroelectric plants. Fourteen provinces or three-fourths of Mindanao were plunged in darkness. They suffered six to 15 hours of power outage.

Only the two Lanaos, two Zamboangas, Misamis Occidental, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi had uninterrupted electricity.

The Napocor's remedial pumping of 200 megawatts from the Pulangui hydro plant and power barges reduced Mindanao's power deficiency to 20 percent. Davao City's brownouts were brought down to two hours.

The Iligan-Lugait line nearing completion was commissioned April 30 by using alternative parts of the Iligan-Kibawe line whose three steel towers were blasted by Moro rebels last year. Seven steel towers in two Lanao provinces have been blasted. The Lanipao tower today is a complete wreck. A late report said another transmission tower was blasted over the

weekend.

In Dipolog City, a parcel bomb killed three women and injured six persons. Authorities again suspected Moro extremists as having hurled the bomb.

An unidentified man lobbed a grenade in front of a sari-sari store at Sangali fishing port near Zamboanga City at 11:30 p.m. April 28, killing owner Ronnie Jamaludin and two customers, Tong Alam and Ibrahim Pandao. Jamaludin's wounded wife Fely was rushed to the hospital.

Ricemill owner Roland Goipeng, 38, director of General Santos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was snatched at 8 a.m. May 1 from his Dadianga Heights residence in General Santos and forced into a car which sped toward Cotabato City. A combined police posse intercepted the kidnappers at Camasi, Kaganoy and shot at the vehicle's tires.

A flat tire forced the snatchers to abandon the car and run to a corn field where kidnapper Rey Lopez Camaga shot Goipeng dead. In turn Camaga was gunned down by the police. His companions, Abdul Kadir Banoy and Robina Muhammad, wounded in the exchange of fire, surrendered to the police.

Elmira Bombasil, 18, daughter of a rice miller, was forced by three men into a jeep on the outskirts of Lopez Jaena town in Misamis Occidental April 30. Witnesses immediately notified the police who set up roadblocks. At one roadblock, the abductors surrendered the girl without a fight.

NUC UNDERCUT

What devious game is Speaker Jose de Venecia playing in brazenly usurping the National Unification Commission's task of conciliating the communist left, military



MISUARI WITH CORY: Actual peace, not mere talks.

right and Moro rebels? "Why is De Venecia undercutting the NUC?" Chairwoman Haydee Yorac queried. She stressed the importance of "intelligent, responsible and coordinated negotiations."

Sen. Blas Ople said, "The peace program is so critical to the nation's safety and unity that amateur diplomats should not be allowed to bungle it." This meddling not only offends Yorac but "she and members of the peace body may resign in protest and in defense of their dignity," Ople said. The NUC was created by Executive Order No. 19 issued Sept. 1, 1992 to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over peace and reconciliation negotiations.

Yorac had rejected National Democratic Front Vice Chairman Luis Jalandoni's proposal to hold a second round of exploratory talks in

Switzerland or Japan, saying it would be expensive. But without prior notice to the NUC, De Venecia flew directly to the Netherlands and summoned Rep. Jose Yap to join him in an informal parley with Jalandoni, Communist Party Chairman Jose Ma. Sison and his wife, Juliet de Lima, in Utrecht.

Yorac had told Yap after his one-shot meeting with Sison and Jalandoni at The Hague last October he was no longer President Ramos' emissary, De Venecia insisted he was. Now who's calling the shots in NUC affairs?

To complicate matters, Malacañang spokeswoman Annabelle Abaya gave her two centavos' worth of opinion that De Venecia and Yap, as congressmen, cannot be prevented from doing their share in the peace program even without NUC authority.

Ople declared that "simply because he is the House Speaker or a leader of the pro-Ramos political party" does not entitle De Venecia to jeopardize the peace process." He said "De Venecia has gone out of bounds this time unless he carries the authority of the President."

But President Ramos himself does not think so. He is so full of inconsistent policies. At the onset, he supported the view of Yorac and AFP Chief Lisandro Abadia that since insurgency is an internal matter, peace talks must be held in the country. Then he invented "shifting venues" to allow talks abroad.

Now he is backing up De Venecia's meeting with Jalandoni because they were former classmates. He said he does not have to authorize De Venecia to talk with commu-

(Next page, please)

nist leaders nor "approve his travel itinerary."

Ramos entirely misses the point. What is questioned is not their right to join the peace talks but a matter of protocol and propriety. If De Venecia and Yap are responsible officials, why don't they observe simple manners and right conduct by coordinating with the proper channel (NUC) their stabs at peace?

De Venecia contravened the NUC policy in suggesting The Hague for the next NDF dialogue or Hong Kong (which the NUC allows). However, Jalandoni wants rotating talks in El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, the US, Switzerland and Japan. What's he after, a junket? Jalandoni is ostentatiously playing politics in quibbling over venue.

But he is deviating from the main objective of the negotiations: to arrive at a ceasefire formula for rebels to co-exist with the government. Jalandoni's quotation that De Venecia can help because he is "*malapit sa Presidente*" (close to the President) implies he expects a concession from the government.

De Venecia's claim that he will talk even with the devil to help the country is not the point of argument. Neither is his claim that his talk with Sison et al at Utrecht was done in his "personal capacity" as House Speaker. Or Yap's statement that De Venecia had all the right to do it "being the head of the bigger chamber." Do they mean they can bulldoze the NUC right to conduct coordinated negotiations? That would lead to a chaotic situation.

TALK WITH MNLF

De Venecia surreptitiously manipulated the "April surprise" of Rep. Eduardo Ermita's meeting with Nur Misuari at Cipanas presidential palace in West Java (Indonesia) in the presence of the Organization of Islamic Conference without the NUC's official imprimatur.

Mindanao natives resented the dispatch of a "Manila-based representative without even bothering to consult Mindanaoans" and regarded it as another imposition by Imperial Manila. What did the Indonesia talks accomplish if at all?

"Chairman Misuari rejected the constitutional and legal bases of the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) under the Philippine Constitution and said that the MNLF was not

a party to the process of granting the autonomy regarding the demand for the full implementation of Article II of the Tripoli Agreement of 1976," paragraph 12 of the Statement of Undertaking by the MNLF and Ermita panels after the conference read. The NUC is questioning if Ermita's signing of the Statement was valid without NUC official stamp.

Does the Ramos commitment to Misuari "to render full measure of autonomy to Muslim Filipinos in line with the spirit and intent of the Tripoli Agreement of 1976" mean a revision of the constitutional provision and a new plebiscite for Mindanao? Will the administration also dialogue with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, MNLF Reformist Group and the Moro Revolutionary Army?

"We have never believed, even if Cory and Fidel believe so, that the ARMM is the answer to the centuries-old problem of Muslim Filipinos," says Carolyn O. Arguillas from Mindanao. "Because an 'autonomous' region beholden to Malacañang is nothing but an insult to the struggle of the Muslim Filipinos." Malacañang's candidate Lininding Pangandaman was elected ARMM governor.

De Venecia sent Reps. Ermita and Nur Jaafar to attend the OIC meeting in Karachi which ended April 29 to set the date of another meeting with Misuari, without even a by-your-leave from the NUC.

Earlier, De Venecia and Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan engineered the surrender of Leopoldo (Ka Hector) Mabilangan to seek amnesty. Mabilangan had been ousted as Banahaw commander by Melito Glor Commander Gregorio (Ka Roger) Rosal for ransom-kidnapping activities.

De Venecia blocked the Justice Department investigation of at least four kidnapping charges filed by Vice President and PACC Chairman Joseph Estrada against Mabilangan. He also opposed the grant of a safe-conduct pass to Rosal to testify against Mabilangan.

On whose side is De Venecia? Why is he sabotaging the NUC duties with his unwarranted fielding of political cronies in unauthorized talks with rebel leaders and totally ignoring the NUC's authority?

THE VERDADEROS

Despite Jalandoni's warn-

ing that the NUC must dialogue only with his group, Yorac met with an NDF opposition leader of the *verdaderos* (true ones) bloc whom Jalandoni labels as *contras*. The peace talks have become a "mere three-men show" of Sison, NDF Chairman Emmanuel Romero and Vice Chairman Jalandoni, said *verdadero* spokesman Fr. Ike Guerrero.

He said the NDF leaders in Utrecht "made a shambles of the NDF leadership structure and its constitution by not consulting with the National Executive Committee and the National Council (comprised by 19 *verdaderos*) on the peace negotiations, among others." The faction challenged the "Stalinist policies" imposed by Jose Ma. Sison during their meeting on April 23.

The NDF should no longer pursue its claim of belligerency status to give it co-equal status with the government (as Jalandoni insists) but seek achievable goals like the repeal of repressive laws allowing warrantless arrests, and the release of some 400 political detainees in prison.

Jalandoni called Ricardo Reyes (whom Sison assailed), Romulo Kintanar and Benjamin de Vera communist renegades. Byron Bocar and Sixto Carlos in Utrecht were disauthorized from their positions for not toeing the official policy.

Ex-Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan finds the peace negotiations long and tedious. But if there is another coup attempt, he assured it would not come from his group, the RAM (*Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa*, originally Reform the Army Movement). He called on Rotary Clubs of La Trinidad and Metro Baguio and three other Baguio clubs to participate in the peace program.

"Is it the truth?" Gringo asked, "a genuine endeavor of the government to deliver true peace and stability to the Filipino people? Will it build goodwill and friendship among the rebel and communist groups? And will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

These may well be the same questions that the NUC should ask when it reviews its work before it bows out on June 30. The NUC will draft the amnesty program and present it to the President. A copy will be submitted to Congress which is expected to enact a law to set guidelines in granting amnesty and

to create an Amnesty Commission within three months.

Justice Sec. Franklin Drilon, NUC vice chairman, said the NUC proposed the Amnesty Commission which would limit its task to screening rebels applying for amnesty without duplicating the NUC talks. Drilon said he is personally in favor of general amnesty but does not know how the other members feel.

AFTER NUC, WHAT?

Through Haydee Yorac's efforts, long-time military fugitives like Honasan and Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel surfaced to join the conciliation efforts. The military rebels and former NDF spokesman Satur Ocampo have made some headway with the NUC on the "talking points."

What remains a thorny issue are the fractious Moros. Misuari does not respect the Constitution's provision on autonomy for Muslim Mindanao because his MNLF had no hand in framing it. The Moro fundamentalists, some of whom fought with the mujaheddin guerrillas in Afghanistan, scoff at Misuari's peace talks with the Ramos government. What makes it difficult to pacify the Muslim groups is that they argue with guns.

So long as the government amnesty program is sincere, the rebels are amenable to talking peace. But in condoning De Venecia's parleying with communist leaders in Utrecht, President Ramos has allowed politics to enter the picture. The politicians could not see a successful endeavor without messing it up with their individual negotiations which are discordant with NUC policies.

Tawi-Tawi Rep. Nur Jaafar, whom De Venecia sent with Rep. Ermita to contact Misuari in Karachi, exposed his ulterior motives when he accused Yorac of being "too greedy she would like to have all the glory without even moving an inch" and calling her "an obstacle to peace." But as NUC head, the business of peace and reconciliation is Yorac's function. Jaafar is merely an intruder.

De Venecia and his ilk have shown their arrogance in usurping the NUC's turf and completely ignoring Yorac. These glory-seeking, credit-grabbing politicians cannot leave well enough alone but have to stick their dirty fingers into the pie just as they squabble over pork barrel.

The peace program could



DE VENECIA: Usurper?

have been a feather in President Ramos' cap. But in a conflict between the country's welfare and his political cronies, Mr. Ramos has clearly shown where he stands.

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION Makati, Metro Manila

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

L & R CORPORATION,
Mortgagee,

- versus -

SPS. JERRY V. DE LEON &
NANCY ONG DE LEON,
Mortgagors,
X-----X

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

PURSUANT to the terms of the Deed of Real Estate mortgage dated 6 July 1992 executed by mortgagors Sps. JERRY V. DE LEON & NANCY DE LEON, in favor of mortgagee L & R CORPORATION, to satisfy the mortgage debt in the amount of P1,069,983.33 PESOS, in Philippine currency, plus all lawful fees & expenses of foreclosure sale, the Ex-Officio Sheriff of RTC Makati, MM, hereby announces that on June 3, 1993 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, in front of the Main Entrance of the Mun. Bldg. of Parañaque, Metro Manila, he or any of his lawful sheriff will sell at public auction to the highest bidder and for cash, in Philippine currency the following described real property with all its improvements, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 13128

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 18-A of the subd. plan Psd-13-005484, being a portion of Lot 18, Blk. 12, Psd-13-002170, LRC Rec. No. 15254), situated in Bo. of San Dionisio, Mun. of Parañaque, MM, x x x Containing an area of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX (126) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

Interested parties are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to said real property & encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Makati, Metro Manila, 20 April 1993.

(Sgd.) ENGRACIO M. ESCASINAS, JR.
Clerk of Court VII & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) NORBERTO B. MAGSAJO
Sheriff Incharge

WE FORUM
May 3, 10 & 17, 1993

An Exposé on PAGCOR

How It Was Then.

How It Is Now.

Monthly Income

Before the February revolution, the average monthly income was ₱29 million. The highest monthly income declared was ₱ 55 million.

Under the new PAGCOR, the average monthly income went up to ₱169 million in 1987, ₱212.5 million in 1988, ₱290 million in 1989, ₱341 million in 1990, ₱428 million in 1991, ₱501 million in 1992 and ₱576 million in the first quarter of 1993.

Remittance to Government

In ten years, from 1976 to June 1986, the total remittance of the old PAGCOR to the government was ₱2.1 billion.

In almost seven years of operation, from July 1986 to March 31, 1993, the new PAGCOR has already remitted a total of ₱18.54 billion to the government.

Tax Privileges

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from all kinds of taxes, except the 5% franchise tax.

Since March 1987, all the tax exemption privileges have been withdrawn. Now, PAGCOR is paying the 5% franchise tax, corporate income tax, customs duties for imported equipment and employees' withholding taxes.

Audit Procedure

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from audit.

Today, all PAGCOR transactions are dutifully recorded, accounted for and audited by the Commission on Audit.

Secrecy vs. Transparency

PAGCOR operations then were veiled in secrecy.

Today, PAGCOR operations are carried out on an open-book policy in keeping with the President's directive of transparency in the government. Pursuant to this, PAGCOR publishes its financial statement quarterly, perhaps the only casino operator in the world who does so.

The difference in the way the casinos are run today has led to a sizeable increase in PAGCOR's income, out of which approximately 75% goes to the government through remittances to the National Treasury, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Social Fund of the President, cities hosting the casinos, the Philippine Sports Commission, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Nothing is left with PAGCOR except what it needs for operations. With the substantial amount it remits to the government, PAGCOR has become the third biggest revenue-generating arm of the government. PAGCOR today is considerably different from what it was in the past.



Responding Through Responsible Gaming

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

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Erap's proposal

THE PROPOSAL of Vice-President Joseph Estrada for a revamp of the judiciary to start with a mass resignation of justices and judges is getting a spate of reactions from various sectors. Starting from the President, these reactions are mostly negative, citing the usual separation of powers doctrine and the futility of the exercise based on past experiences.

But a Social Weather Station study conducted last December would seem to support Erap's position about a snowballing "clamor for reforms in the judiciary." The survey showed that a majority of Metro Manila residents are dissatisfied with the high court's performance and placed it last among seven state entities cited, even behind the House of Representatives which got a rating of plus-25. This is a point higher than the high court which barely made plus-24. The highest rating was notched by the PACC, of course, with plus-54, followed by the NBI, the PNP, the AFP and the Senate.

The public's low perception of justices and judges may have been conditioned by their experiences in actual court cases. Like incompetent doctors, there are members of the judiciary who act like god who cannot do wrong and expect the people to bow to robed ignorance. When this is compounded by corruption too, and justice is compromised, the people can only curse them to high heavens or risk being held in contempt. The "hoodlums in robes" term is no figment of the imagination; tales of "buying and selling" in the judicial decisions are rampant and are grists for the gossip mill among lawyers and other practitioners who know the real score. This is the reason why the courts are presently held in such low esteem by the public, in contrast to the time when it was regarded higher than Malacañang and Congress.

Erap's stance projects him as an impractical Don Quixote tilting the windmills. But he believes in what he is doing and very possibly a majority of the people believe with him. His proposal may soon be blasted out of the water but he would have scored a valid political point. For a presidential timber, this is a decided gain.

Hit or miss

PRESIDENT FIDEL V. Ramos, who is usually circumspect, has been making some very strange appointments lately. Leopoldo Acot may not be a Marcos bagman or crony or henchman but after presiding over the liquidation of Clark air base, he should not have been rewarded with a promotion, both in pay and position. As we have had occasion to observe before, in any other country the guy would have been court-martialed. Now he is reported to have approved those flying coffins, perhaps in repayment of past favors owed.

"Dirty Tricks" Puno, who earned the sobriquet for his brand of service to the late dictator, has been recalled from his lucrative post in the broadcast industry, although his boys reportedly still roam around the old haunts and receiving their hefty salaries at the same time. The President did not hesitate to relieve Puno when he realized his mistake.

Now here comes another mistake, and a very grave one at that. It was reported in the papers last week that Manuel Elizalde has been appointed as this country's ambassador to Mexico. We can only say that we hope it is not true. If there's anybody in this country who should not be named to such a sensitive post, Elizalde is it. His past record does not speak of anything that should endorse him to the position. One of the notorious "behesters" (those who got loans on the strength of Marcos' marginal note, with or without collateral), he was also reported to have exploited a minority tribe called Tasaday, which he passed off as Stone Age people for his own very personal purpose, and was allegedly involved in a celebrated criminal case while residing in Costa Rica where he was kicked out. How he could pass muster and flaunt the Foreign Service Law which exalts integrity and probity as foremost in a strict set of criteria, is a masterly feat of legerdemain.

The public wonders if there are nobody around, those old world Spanish-speaking gentlemen, whose reputation would not insult the host country. We must still have a few who might be willing to serve and do honor to this administration and the nation. Mr. Ramos should not lose time finding such a man to replace the monumental mistake he has reportedly appointed before he is forced to eat wormwood again.

Good start

THE ACTING head of the Philippine National Police is off to a good start. As his first official act, Director Umberto Rodriguez fired some 57 Special Action Force men for being AWOL (absence without official leave). Supposedly an elite unit, the SAF members refused to comply with the prescribed training course, opting to absent themselves instead of undergoing the rigid program. This is the kind of action rogue cops would understand.

We thought all along that neuro-psychiatric tests are a must for men in uniform but apparently it is not. Rodriguez also ordered such exams taken by all members of the PNP-SAF to determine mental fitness in the elite brigade-sized combat unit, which has been created for anti-terrorists and counter-insurgency action. We regret to say that, of late, most of its so-called mission orders has been trained towards the unlikely direction of banks and armored vans.

With all the criminals in the PNP, only the crooks would envy Rodriguez his job. The problems in the PNP are legion, only time will determine the true measure of the man.



Good riddance

THIS TIME the Supreme Court deserves congratulations. The ouster of that Regional Trial Court judge who had defied legitimate orders of the Court of Appeals and the highest tribunal itself was long overdue.

Having appeared before the ousted judge a number of times, I can say I've known only two or three others as arrogant as she was. She was obviously drunk with power.

Once I withdrew my appearance as counsel for an accused for the simple reason that I couldn't stomach her blatant bias for the private complainant. I wanted to complain against her but prudence dictated otherwise. As another columnist has time and again said, Their Honors belong to a fraternity: you fight one of them, and you're doomed as a practicing lawyer. Besides, I didn't have the time and the wherewithal then.

I've of course rapped her in this space, but she either doesn't read this paper or doesn't give a damn. As she didn't give a damn over the media outcry for her acquittal of about 16 policemen accused of murder — the murder of, if memory serves, a San Miguel employee. Ramon Tulfo of the *Inquirer* was most vocal against her.

She is a former fix-cal — er, prosecutor; and probably it was during those years, long time ago, that she learned all the dirty tricks in the judicial system.

I wish the Supreme Court would fire more

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

of her kind.

But how about the undesirables in the higher courts?

Please don't tell us, Your Honors, that all of you up there are saints. Ask Emil Jurado of the *Standard*.

"Sumama ka na kay Eddie."

"Bakit?"

"Hindi na aalis 'yan sa Malacañang."

So a former judge from the North told me of how a confidante of Eddie's tried to convince him to join Lakas-NUCD.

Double hearsay? Maybe.

But I know the judge fully well, and I'm sure he was telling the truth.

To which I said that I have the sneaky fear Eddie will do a Marcos. Quietly and no so quietly, Eddie has been accumulating power more than is necessary, and he's been courting the support of neighboring heads of state, the latest of whom is the Chinese President. Sure, Eddie needs their

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We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

Antipolo pilgrimage and excursion

MAYTIME IS fiesta time in the Philippines. Antipolo, Rizal province gives one a feeling of enchantment and religious fascination: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world a shrine of the Blessed Virgin who is venerated for her powers for peace and good voyage.

But Antipolo today is not what it evoked to most of us a few years ago. Time changes ways, manners and customs.

Basically, a pilgrimage to Antipolo is an act of Roman Catholic faith, because this town has meant many things to residents and pilgrims; to natives and foreigners, although it is basically a Roman Catholic "mecca", a place which now one yearns to go to, regardless of his spiritual affiliation.

Let us take a view of this pilgrimage to Antipolo in its specific case, the one organized by our friends on the first day of the season, May. The pilgrimage-excursion group was composed "overwhelming" of friends who are connected with the hospitals and schools for nurses and midwives and their families, children and spouses of those who are mar-

ried; and friends of those who are bachelors and bachelorettes. It was actually a motley crowd.

Their pilgrimage or excursion or march, actually opened this year's (1993) Antipolo season. They assembled at designated starting points, at the convenient hour of seven in the early evening in Metro Manila. It was the second quarter of the crescent moon which was at that time straight overhead in a cloudless sky because it was almost a full moon. The Antipolo pilgrims-excursionists started at the hour at which they calculated, would enable them to reach the hill-city of the Virgin of Antipolo at dawn, after a leisurely trek all the way from outskirts of Metro Manila in time for the first Mass at dawn of May 1.

The pilgrims-excursionists did not choose to go to Antipolo at daytime. They did not ride in private cars or jeepneys or buses as in the old days. They prayed the rosary as they walked in the cool, refreshing, romantic and therapeutic air as their ascent to Antipolo environs progressed. The air became less polluted with dust and din of the muggy

daytime hours.

This particular pilgrim group that opened the 1993 Antipolo season had prepared for some exigencies that may come their way in the long hours of their walk through the night.

Security was guaranteed them, and all the Antipolo pilgrims in fact by the police and constabulary patrols throughout the way. There were also barangay patrols. In fact, those who are supposed to keep order and maintain law, joined the pilgrimage themselves, and were seen to be fingering their rosaries if they had, or just joined the rest in the group in praying the rosary.

There were ambulances and private cars equipped as ambulances, incase some men and women, specially the older ones, needed to be carried to the destination — the church of the Virgin of Antipolo.

There are sidewalk vendors cooking hometown delicacies for a flourishing pilgrim trade all the way. There are plastic water containers in private cars and ambulances for the thirsty.

Soon it was early dawn for these pilgrims

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

to Antipolo.

Soft o'er the fountain, lingering fell the southern moon. One got that feeling. Far o'er the mountain, broke the day too soon. A pilgrim looked at his companion beside him and prayed silently "In thine eyes of splendor, where the warm lights love to dwell; your weary looks, yet tender, spoke their fond farewell.

Fond farewell, but not forever, because there will be Antipolo seasons every year, and you and I, of the Holy Roman Catholic faith will be marching on, through the star-illuminated night to Antipolo where the Blessed Virgin of peace and good voyage is enshrined and venerated forever. It keeps us always close to our Lord.

Protect the environment

HERE'S A very urgent letter received from Nancy S. Dinglasan of Kababaihang Alay-Lingap, NDC Compound, Sta. Mesa, Manila:

Dear Julie,

Through your column, you have taken up the cudgels for Filipino consumers so many times and on so many cases that even Ralph Nader would envy you.

For us wives of lowly retired government employees living in a government housing project that uses asbestos for roof, would you with your connections give us a real lowdown on the danger of asbestos to our health and well-being?

I understand that 300 workers of the demobilized US Navy ship repair facilities in Subic have undergone X-ray examinations on suspicion that they have contracted asbestosis, a form of cancer — through long exposure to asbestos materials used in the base. Another batch of 300 are due for similar

examination. Three people have been reported dead because of this scourge of Subic. Three have filed damage suits against American manufacturers and dealers of asbestos.

We think this is serious. We fear for our lives."

For Nancy's information and our readers too, in the Marcos years, KMPI fought the installation of asbestos pipes and maybe we should ask why we always have cold and we feel some irritation and itchiness in our throat very often in our daily living. The Central Bank, as a matter of fact, during the time of Governor Licaros, had to go through another expense to correct the asbestos being emitted by their air-conditioning units and I am sure that many residents have asbestosis because of poor air-conditioning units. But government has not seen fit to attend to this.

There is no doubt about the danger of asbestos to our health and well-being and so with other pollutants in our environment. We

must learn to protect our environment as zealously as we protect our lives. Here's a poem entitled, *Nature Creed* for our guidance and appreciation:

*GIVE THANKS for running rivers
and for ocean waves and tide,
For great, enduring mountains
and the desert, vast and wide,
GIVE THANKS for fields of wildflowers
waving proudly in the wind,
For towering oaks and aspens
and a sky that knows no end ...
GIVE THANKS for every sunrise,
for each gentle evening breeze,
For butterflies and baby birds
and busy honey bees ...
GIVE THANKS for all God's handiwork,
and do your very best
To preserve it for the future
so that others may be blessed.
For each of us individually has a bounden*

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

duty to protect our environment. Otherwise, we will have more of dirty esteros that breed mosquitoes and other kinds of germs that is harmful to our health. Unless and until we unite to guard our environment, pollutants will always fill the air. Maybe, Nancy, your group can write to the PAGCOR and see what the PAGCOR can do to help and I will try to help you in this regard. The PAGCOR has been helping a lot of projects including deep wells, schools, livelihood projects, etc. There is always hope in an administration that promotes People Empowerment.

Max NOBLE (From page 5)

support — and friendship — to duplicate what his cousin Ferdie did in 1972.

Haven't you noticed? In his six days in China, Eddie Boy didn't meet with the real power there, Deng Xiao Peng. Why?

Methinks the old man thinks Eddie's not worth his time; so let his subordinates talk with Eddie. It was humiliating enough that only the Chinese Secretary of Agriculture met Eddie at the airport; it was worse that Deng didn't bother to see Eddie.

Ferdie and Imeldific were more fortunate. At least, the great Mao Zedong posed with them for posterity.

I commiserate with Miriam. She might

Mga binhi . . .

(Mula sa pahina 8)

Kalagitnaan ng Abril, umuwi sa Amerika ang mag-asawang Slaughter. Hindi nila naratan sa kanilang mansiyon si Frank. Nakontak lang nila ito sa pamamagitan ni Craig. At mula rin sa rati niyang secretary-accountant, nalaman na ng mga matanda ang kabiguan ng anak bago pa man sila magkita. Subalit hindi ito sumuko. Patuloy na ipinaglalaman ang kanyang pag-ibig. Kumuha ng paupahang

have won the election, as I believe she did, but with Eddie in power, it will take a miracle for her to sit in Malacañang. A miracle like that so-called People Power Revolution.

bahay malapit sa kumbento na pinasukan ni Sarah at araw-araw ay pumupunta roon upang kausapin ang dalaga. Subalit ayaw na siyang harapin ng katipan. Isang araw lang silang nagpahinga, pinuntahan kaagad nila ang kanilang binata.

"Ayaw pa sanang sumama ng Inay mo, e, sabi ko sa kanya'y ayaw yata niyang saksihan ang kasal mo, aba'y di siya pa ang nagmadaling makauwi. Kaya heto kami. May konti lang yatang aberya," bungad ng Henry Slaughter.

"Kumusta naman ang lagay doon, itay?"

"Ayos na ang lahat. Naroon na sina Lainsya at Buhawi at limampung mahigit na mga katutubo. Naghahanda na sila para sa inauguration at pagbukas ng pormal na klasa sa Hunyo. Tamang-tama para sa inyong honey-moon. Magsadya muna tayo roon bago kayo

tumulak sa inyong round-the-world trip."

Mapait na ngiti ang sumagi sa pisngi ni Frank. "Sana matututo ako kaagad ng magkaroon din ng positive outlook kagaya n'yo, itay. Sino iyung Buhawi na binanggit n'yo?"

"Sanayan lang iyan, anak. Ang tinutukoy ko ay ang pagkaroong ng PMA - positive mental attitude. Tungkol naman ke Buhawi, iyun 'yung pangulo ng tribu nina Lainsya."

"Hindi ko yata kilala..."

"Nagbago lang yata siya ng pangalan. Dati-rati kasi, mabagal daw ang ibig sabihin ng tawag sa kanya. Kaya binago upang iangkop sa kanyang pagkatao sa ngayon. Buhawi. Whirlwind. Talagang bagyo ang dating niya."

"A, naala-ala ko na. Iyun na ang itinawag sa kanya sa huli naming pagkita at pagsama sa kampo nila bago sila muling nawala."

(May karugtong)

The persecuting fiscal . . .

AGAIN THE government went out of its way just to talk "peace" with Nur Misuari, reminiscent of the start of the Cory Aquino regime when Butz Aquino and Nene Pimentel travelled all the way to Tripoli just to fetch Misuari so Cory and he can have that well-publicized meeting in Jolo which ended in nothing. Cory at that time simply resurrected Misuari from oblivion and gave him belligerency status by meeting him as if he was also a head of state but afterwards, Nur simply went back to Tripoli and left that peace talks in shambles. The only real beneficiaries about the episode in Philippine history were Pimentel and Butz who both ran and won senate seats in 1987.

Let's hope, of course that this time Misuari is sincere in negotiating with the Ramos administration because with all the problems besetting the nation, a peaceful Mindanao will spell progress in any language. The continuing threats from the mujahedin fighters, now better armed than before after having been armed by the surplus weapons from the Afgan war, indeed pose a grave danger to the Philippine Republic and the president is correct in seeking all avenues to end the conflict which dates back to, perhaps the American regime.

The Bar results were unfortunate for several thousands of lawyers-to-be but from what I have gathered from the answers to the questions, there is no doubt that many deserved to flunk. I wonder, really how these people succeeded in passing their law courses if they cannot even write simple sentences. I remember in 1959 and 1960 when I framed questions in remedial law

and public international law then corrected the papers. So many had to flunk, not because they did not really know the answers but simply because they could not explain their answers. 1993 was Waterloo for thousands of Bar candidates just as in my time in 1955 when only 17% passed. JBL Reyes was the chairman during my time and I still remember the hundreds who were weeping after the civil law test was given because Justice JBL changed the test questions right on the very morning before the exams because of rumors of leakage. Many who reviewed at the last minute, relying on the "tips" got the shock of their lives. In the Bar exams, nothing is certain, but the better prepared candidate will always have the edge.

There is a fiscal in Zambales who has been denounced to me by a person for demolishing her house. According to this person, sometime in the early '80's her family bought a piece of land in Sitio Subic, Palauig and this fiscal was the one who prepared the deed of sale. Now she received the shock of her life when the fiscal is now claiming the property, alleging that he was the one who bought the land and so he ordered the demolition of the house of this woman who is poor and unlettered. *Anong klaseng fiscal ito? Persecutor ba? If you ask me, he has always been "notoriously undesirable."*

The mighty Supreme Court — now plagued with all kinds of problems finally lifted my 56-month suspension. Justice Jose Campos wrote the ponencia just a few days before he retired and I wrote him the

following letter:

"Dear Justice: This morning I read the news item regarding the lifting of my suspension and reinstating me in the practice of law.

"On my own and on behalf of my family, please accept my deep gratitude. The nightmare is over; my faith in justice and equity has been restored and I am extremely happy that you — a magistrate I have long respected since the days, years back when I used to appear before Your Honor in the CFI of Pasay City, is the ponente who found time to rule in my favor on the eve of your retirement.

"The last 5 years since I was suspended I sometimes felt what a raw deal I was given considering that I never considered having committed any acts of disloyalty to the Supreme Court as an institution. But as I disciplined myself to endure the unendurable and bear the unbearable, I began to feel that, perhaps I was just being tested by God who, after all, "moves mysteriously His wonders to perform.

"Now everything is just a bad dream and because of Your Honor, I feel vindicated; I feel that justice has come at last. It is a wonderful feeling for as Chateaubriand said: "Justice is the bread of the nation; it is always hungry for it." And I am reminded of a line from Gen. Patton thus: "It has been my experience through life that every disappointment I have had has eventually proved a blessing in disguise and worked to my advantage, although at the time I could not see it.

"Thank you, sir and let me close with

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

these lines from the Psalm of Life which I dedicate to you — "Lives of great men oft remind us; we can make our lives sublime; and departing leave behind us; FOOT PRINTS in the sands of time." Happy Easter & Happy retirement!"

Funny, funny. Some of our congressmen want to junket a delegation to "observe the elections in Cambodia." Some even want to send a similar delegation to observe the elections in Nigeria. What for? *Kung dito* we cannot even properly monitor the frauds and cheating during our elections, what can our congressional delegations do in Cambodia and in Nigeria to assure clean and orderly polls there? I suggest they send Amor Deloso of Zambales instead.

By the way is it true that the NPAs have started to make nocturnal visits to some public officials in Masinloc, Zambales after these officials became "balimbings" about the Bani coal plant? You see several town officials who were previously vehement in their opposition to the proposed coal plant somersaulted after "friendly persuasions" from the Napocor. Now they cannot go out at night because of the nocturnal calls from their "friends" from the hills.

KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOEY PAPA

MATAGAL NA 'kong tagahanga ng larong basketball. Naglalaro ako nito at masasabing panatikong tagasubaybay ng bawat laban sa telebisyon. Madalas lang akong biruin ng mga kaibigan ko sapagkat ang pagka-panatiko ko sa basketball ay personal. Pinsan ko ang naging ace rifleman noon na si Adriano 'Jun' Papa. Lahat ng mga kapatid niya ay halos mga atleta at paglangoy ang piansok na larangan sa palakasan. Kung saang koponan naroon si Jun Papa ay doon din ako. Hindi ako kumakampi sa team kundi sa kung ano'ng team nando'n si Jun Papa. Tinuruan ako ng kaunti ni Jun sa tamang pagbubuslo o pag-shoot ng bola noon maliit pa ako sa lugar nila sa Dapitan. Mula noon ay naging masugid na 'kong tagahanga ni Jun at ng basketball.

Hanggang ngayon ay makikita ang paghanga ko mismo sa pinsan ko dahil sa pagiging panatiko ko naman sa Ginebra team

kahit madalas akong manlata sa pagkatalo nito. Si Jaworski ang dahilan na kapanahon ni Jun, kumpare at kaibigan niya. Halos magkakasabay silang naging tanyag noong dekada '60 at '70. Kung kasaysayan naman ng basketball, si Caloy Loyzaga ang hinangaan kong manlalaro dahil sa kanyang pagiging maginoo sa court. Kaya't ang paghanga ko sa pamilyang Loyzaga sa ngayon ay patuloy mula sa basketball nina Chito at Joey, pag-awit at pagiging aktres nina Bing at Teresa.

Nauna si Bing sa larangan ng pag-awit at pagganap sa pelikula at telebisyon. Masasabing matatag na ang pangalang Bing Loyzaga sa industriya ng Pelikulang Pilipino. Ngunit si Teresa Loyzaga na marami na ring nagawang pelikula at palagiang lumalabas sa "Four sa Boys" ay kakikitaan ng magandang patutunguhan sa larangan ng pagganap.

May likas na talino si Teresa sa pagganap. Ibig sabihin'y isang tunay na aktres. Kaya niyang gumanap sa mga madramang kwento. Kaya niyang maglarawan ng iba't-ibang karakter, komedyante, kontrabida, at maging bida o pangunahing aktres. Maraming ideya si Teresa at hindi ito napapanis sa kanyang utak sa pagkat napakahusay niyang magsalita.

Si Teresa ng mga Loyzaga

Mahusay siyang magpaliwanag ng mga opinyon niya, saloobin, at obserbasyon sa nagaganap sa ating kapaligiran.

Wika ni Teresa, "Wala tayong maaaring sisihin sa pagkasira ng ating environment kundi tayo na rin. Marami sa atin ang magaling lang magsalita tungkol sa proteksiyon, paglilinis ng kapaligiran pero sila mismo ay hindi ito ginagawa. Kung mahal mo ang bayan mo, lahat ng ikabubuti nito, dapat mong gawin. Katulad nang trabaho ko ngayon, kailangang mahalin ko ito dahil baka hindi ako mahalin nito."

Ang tinutukoy ni Teresa ay ang pagiging propesyunal o disiplinado sa pagganap sa mga tungkulin ng isang artista. "Kung alas-nuwebe ang sinabing umpisa ng taping o shooting, nandoon ka na dapat ng alas-otso. Kailangang madisiplina ang sarili. Kung hindi mo rin lang paghuhusayin ang pinasok mong career, umalis ka na lang at humanap ng iba."

Ayon sa malalapit kay Teresa, mabait sa mga kaibigan ito. Madalas na mapapansing waring may problema siya subalit 'yon pala'y problem ng isang malapit na kaibigan ang iniisip kung paano malututungan. Isang manunulat na tagamasid ni Teresa ang nagsabing may "malaking puso" si Teresa.

Sa panlabas na anyo, dahil sa mestisahin siya, may dating siyang mukhang suplada. Subalit kapag nakaup mo na siya ay mararamdaman mong tao rin siya. Hindi elitista. Hindi mapagkunwari. At makatao.

May taas siyang 5'6". Natural na mahilig siya sa sports. Laging nag-eensayo ng larong volleyball para sa nalalapit na Star Olympics. Ginagawa niya ang pelikulang "Bombina" na pinangungunahan ni Bong Revilla. Kahit na may nakikitang magandang kinabukasan si Teresa sa pelikula, bukas pa rin ang kanyang sarili sa iba pang larangan sa buhay tulad ng pagnenegosyo. Dahil sa matalino, hindi niya kailanman isasara ang pinto ng mga pagkakataon para sa pansariling pag-unlad ng kaalaman. Patuloy siyang nag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng pag-aaral sa nagaganap sa ating bayan ngayon. Dahil dito ay natututo siyang magsuri at magplano para sa kanyang buhay.

My hiling siyang hindi naman naiiba sa hiling ng karamihan. Sana'y maging mapayapa na ang ating bayan at tuluyan ng maging maunlad.

Palagay ko'y magaganap ang hiling na ito ni Teresa kung kasing talino lamang niya ang nasa ating pamahalaan — at tulad niyang may 'malaking puso'.

Mga binhi ng banyaga

IKA-73 NA LABAS

Ni PLACIDO P. DIAZ

Masa
Katotohanan o Katarungan o Kalayaan

MAY 10-16, 1993

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"A KALA KO hahantong pa ang usaping ito sa husgado," wika ni Henry Slaughter. "Kasi, hindi naman lingid sa inyo na nabili na namin ang buong Pilipinas sa inyong mga Kastila sa halagang dalawampung milyon dolyar, ayon sa Treaty of Paris. Hawa namang bibilhin ko muli sa iyo."

"Iyan na nga ba ang sinasabi ko, e," dugtong ni Mr. Chavez. "Mabuti itong nagkakaisa tayong isoli sa mga katutubo itong lupang sinilangan nila. Sila lang naman talaga ang tunay na may karapatan dito."

"Baka nakakalimutan niyong isa rin akong katutubo?" singit ng meyor. "Kastila nga ang mga magulang ko, subalit dito na ako sa Pilipinas isinilang at lumaki. Kaya may karapatan akong makinabang sa lupang ito."

"Ang laki na ng pakinabang mo, a," asik ni Mr. Chavez. "Ang gusto mo yata'y sa iyo na lahat. O iyong tinatawag na lion's share."

"Bakit? Sinosolo ko ba ang pakinabang? Maging tapat ba sa akin itong mga tauhan ko kung hindi ko ibinabahagi sa kanila at sa kanilang mga mahal sa buhay ang bunga ng aking pagsusumikap at pinagpaguran? Hindi ako tumagal nang ganito sa larangan ng pulitika kung ako'y kuripot at maramot. Higit sa inyo, mas marami akong natutulungan araw-araw."

"At bakit mo ipagmalaki ang tulong na ginagawa mo sa kapwa? Bahagi lamang iyang ng tungkulin mo bilang meyor," salag ni Mr. Chavez. "At lahat ng ipinamamahagi mo ay hindi sa sarili mong bolsa nanggagaling, kundi sa kaban ng bayan. O dili kaya, sa ibang tao, gaya ng pitumpung libong dolyar mahigit na natanggap mo mula kay Mr. Slaughter."

"Inggit ka lang. Bakit hindi ka rin naghanap ng mga Ati? Akala mo'y naging madali iyon? Katunayan,

problema ko pa nga ang pagpapabalik sa mga huli nang dumating at ayaw nang bayaran ni Mr. Slaughter."

"Hayun! Buti nga sa iyo. Mapagsamantala at mapanlamang ka kasi."

"Gentlemen, please," namagitan na ang multi-milyonaryo. "Ang sa akin lang ay na lumalabas na tayo sa topic na ating pinagpupulungan ngayon. At hinihiling ko sana na kung patuloy tayong mag-uusap, iwasan natin iyung personalan. Diyan kasi nangagaling ang gulo. Mga edukadong tao naman tayo. Huminahan tayo at idaan ang lahat sa magandang usapan, upang mayroon tayong mapagkasunduan. Narito tayo para sa isang mabuting layunin, isang masasabi kong dakilang adhikain. Sana, magtulungan tayo upang ito'y magiging isang pinakamagandang kaganapan."

Nang walang nakaimik sa mga nangaroroon, nagpatuloy ang Henry Slaughter, "So-brang init kasi dito sa Pilipinas lalo na sa ganitong mga oras. A, Steve," utos niya sa isang alalay, "pakipadalhan mo nga kami ng kape rito, upang makatulong sa paglabas ng singaw. Pasyensya kayo at tuturuan pa lang natin ang mga katutubo na gumawa ng ice cream at iba pang pampalamig." Bahagyang tawanan. Subalit napawi ang tensiyon sa silid na yaon. Ang mga ulupong pala'y sa gayong paraan ay naaalisan ng kamandag at mga pangil ng mga marurunong magdala — ng mga snake charmers.

Bago sila nagkahiwalay nang mga alas tres ng hapon, nakagawa na sila ng isang pasya. Bumalik ang meyor sa bayan, nagpaiwan si Don Meliton Chavez. Naging tamulan siya ng tukso. "Ano ba ang nakain mo't bigla kang naka-isip gawing heredera iyang si Lainsya? At bakit siya lang? Hindi mo naman siya kaanu-ano. Paano kam-

ing mga kamag-anak mo" wika ng kanyang Kuya Ite.

Bilang tugon, sabi niya: "Pahiram nga ng labaha. Mag-aahit ako." Siya'y balbasarado. Ang mga gamit niya'y pinakuha pa sa bayan sa dalawa niyang kasamang tauhan, sakay sa MacArthur jeep ng mga Kano.

"Mag-aahit ka lang? Maligo ka na. Masarap maligo sa ilog."

"Wala pa akong bihisin. Hindi naman kasya sa akin ang mga dmit n'yo." Mas malaki siya sa pangangatawan kaysa sa kuya niya. Binigyan siya ng labaha, tubig sa palanggana, sabot at tuwalya. Hinayaan siyang mag-aahit sa harap ng salamin sa loob ng kuwarto ng mag-asawang administrador ng paaralan. Kubong yari sa pawid at kawayan ang itinalaga sa kanila upang hindi na sila kailangang umuwi pa sa bahay nila sa bayan.

Tinanggal ng don ang lahat ng balahibong nakatakip sa kanyang mukha. Pagkaraan ng makahilamos at makapamunas, sinipat nang mabuti ang anyo sa salamin. Saka ngumiti at tumangu-tango. Lumabas sa balkonahe kung saan nagpapahangin ang kuya at hipag niya. Nagtanong: "Di po ba kami magkahawig ng mukha ni Lainsya?"

Pagkaraan ng ilang sandaling pagsusuri, nabigkas ng nakatatandang Chavez, "Oo nga, ano? Ngayong nabanggit mo, kamukhang-kamukha mo nga siya nuong tinedyer ka pa, bago ka umalis ng Espanya. Hindi ko lang napansin dahil natype-cast siya sa aking diwa bilang isang Ati. Pero paano nangyari iyon?"

"Puwes, Kuya, Ate, atinatin lang muna ito, ha? Kumbinsido na akong anak ko si Lainsya." At ikinuwento niya ang nakaraan.

(Sundan sa pahina 6)

Mga sakit ng mangga

KUNG MATUMAL ngayon ang bentahan ng mga bungang mangga, lalo na ang uring "Manila mango" o manggang kalabaw, ang dahilan ay ang pagsalanta ng ilang insekto sa mga punong mangga katulad ng ngusong-kabayo at ng langaw-prutas.

Ang epekto ng pamiminsala ng ngusong-kabayo ay mahahalata sa pangingitim ng mga dating luntian na mga dahon ng punong mangga at sa mga natutuyo at nangangalaglagang bulaklak nito.

Ang pesteng kulisap na ito ay munsik at manipis na dumadapo sa mga manggahan na may umuusbong pa lamang na mga bulaklak at kung hindi agad masawata ay mamumunini ng daglian o ng ilang araw. Kaya't karamihan sa mga punong mangga sa kapanahunan sa Luzon ay di-gaanong hitik at kung mayroon mang mangingilang bunga na naani, ang mga ito'y malilit at may mga itim na batik. Tuloy ang mga magsasaka na may alagang punong mangga ay nalugi, partikular na ang mga gumamit ng mga mamahaling kemikal na pampabulaklak at pamatay-pesto.

Ngunit sa bayan ng Bauan, Batangas mayroon isang may-ari ng manggahan na kuntento sa kanyang ani dahil sa kanyang maagap at matiyagang pangangalaga ng kanyang mga puno sa pamamagitan ng tinatawag na "bagging technology" na iminungkahi sa kanya ng mga siyentista ng UP-Los Banos at Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD).

Noong nakaraang linggo ay ipinamalas ni Leodegario "Toto" Dalangin, isang konselbayan na progresibo, ang bunga ng kanyang pagsusumikap: 13 kaing na malalaking mangga na hindi napinsala ng mga insekto dahil ang mga ito'y nabalutan ng supot na papel.

Simple lamang ang ginawa ni Dalangin bagaman gumastos siya ng P0.30 bawat bunga (bayad sa supot at sa mga taong naglagay nito). Habang bubot pa lamang ang mga bunga, sinuputan na ang mga ito sa pamamagitan ng stapler at naghintay siya ng 165 na araw bago ito pitasin. Dahil may takip ang bawat bunga ng mangga, hindi nasira ang mga ito ng ngusong-kabayo at iba pang insekto.

Sinasabi na ang mga unang punong mangga natin ay namumulaklak lang isang beses sa bawat dalawang taon. Hindi katulad ngayon na taun-taon na ito namumunga. Kung minsan pa nga, dalawang beses sa isang taon sa pamamagitan ng mga kemikal.

Subalit sa kabila ng di-karaniwang pamumulaklak at pamumunga ng ating punong mangga, mayroon ding masamang

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

balita: Maraming mga punong mangga din ang nangamamatay at ang kalidad ng prutas ng mga natitirang buhay na puno ay bumababa.

Bakit? Isa sa mga salarin sa maagang pagkamatay ng mga puno ay ang kalabisang paggamit ng kemikal na pamatay-kulisap o pestisidyo at sintetikong pampabulaklak.

"Ang isang salot sa mga puno ng mangga ay ang paraan ng kontrata," sinulat ng yumaong *agricultural journalist* na si Max E. Soliven. "Ang mga kontraktor ay hindi nangangalaga sa puno. Ang bunga lamang ang hangad ng mga ito," dagdag niya.

Ang manggang namumunga'y tulad ng babaeng may-asawa. Ang bungang ibibigay ng isang puno'y depende sa sustansiyang masisipsip nito sa lupa. Kung ang puno'y kinontratang pabungahin, binobomba ng pampabulaklak. Dahil sa bisa ng kemikal, sapilitang mamumulaklak at magbubunga ang puno.

Katulad ng isang babaeng taunan kung magbuntis na nangangailangan ng kaurting pahinga bago uli manganak, ang puno ng mangga'y kailangan din ng panahon ng pagpapahinga upang makaipon muna ng mga sangkap o sustansiya para sa pagpapalaki ng susunod na bunga.

Ang mga puno na pinabubulaklak sa pamamagitan ng kemikal ay hindi lamang umiigsi ang panahon ng pamumunga ng mga ito kundi mapapadali rin sa pagkamatay ng mga puno.

Sa aking sariling bukid, umiiwas ako sa paggamit ng pestisidyo at ibang kemikal hindi lang sa gulayan at palayan kundi pati na rin sa mga punong mangga. Ang ginagawa ko ay ang pagpapausok sa mga puno araw-araw (walang tigil sa isang linggo). Ang sistemang ito ay isang tradisyon ng ating ninuno na magbubukid. Hindi rin ako gumagamit ng *synthetic* o *chemical fertilizer* kundi dumi ng hayop (baka, baboy at manok) at ibang *organic* na abono o kompost. Ang mga ito'y ibinabaon namin sa paligid ng puno (na tapat sa pinakamalayong sanga).

Hindi nga makapal sa ngayon ang bulaklak ng punong mangga namin kung ihahambing ang mga ito sa mga punong "binomba" ng mga kemikal (o "flower inducer"). Pero, nakasisiguro naman ako na mas-masarap (at matamis) ang mga bunga ng mga ito — at nakatitiyak ako na mabubuhay ang mga punong mangga ko kahit yumao na ako.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GRACIANAVICENTE was extrajudicially settled among her heirs on May 4, 1993 under Doc. No. 164, Page No. 34, Book No. 18, Series of 1993 of Notary Public Patria G. Abella of the city of Manila.

WE FORUM
May 10, 17 & 24, 1993

Lupa★

★ (SOIL)

TOMO 2 ☆ BLG. 2

☆ MARSO 1993

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Editorial

Nanganganib ang ating kasapatan sa bigas

"BAGAMAT ito ang pinakamahalagang pananim, ang palay ay nakatanim sa 3.4 milyong hektarya lamang sa buong bansa. Ito ay 23% lamang ng kabuuang lawak ng lupang maaring sakahin. Mula pa noong 1975 ay lumiit na ang lupang tinatamnan ng palay. Habang ang mga magsasaka ay nagtatanim ng mga halamang mas mataas ang presyo, at ang pagdami ng populasyon ay hindi naman napipigilan, inaasahang mas liliit pa ang lugar na tatamnan ng palay sa taong 2000." - Gabay - Pangteknolohiya sa Produksiyon ng Palay, Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), 1992.

"LOS BANOS, Laguna — The high-yield "miracle" rice that has kept food supplies ahead of Asia's exploding population may be bumping up against a yield ceiling, researchers say. Scientists at the International Rice Research Institute here are finding declines in yields from irrigated fields that support two or three rice crops a year." — news item, Associated Press, March 4, 1993.

ANG DALAWANG pahayag na ito ay naguugnay sa di nakabaon na panganib na maaaring magtulak sa atin sa bangin ng kapahamakan — kundi man kamatayan — dahil sa pagpupursigi ng ating pamahalaan na pagibayuhin ang "land conversion."

Sa aking pananaw (na base sa mga pananaliksik ng

mga makabayang agrikulturista), ang pagbabalewala ng grabeng problema ng kumbersiyon ng mga sakahan sa Luzon at ang pagtataguyod ng pambansang liderato sa sistemang ito, ay naglalagay sa bingit ng alanganin ang seguridad ng ating pangunahing pagkain, ang bigas.

Sa gitna ng bumabagsak na produksiyon ng palay dahil sa mga kalamidad na dulot ng kalikasan (bagyo, lindol, pagputok ng mga bulkan at tag-tuyot), eto tayo't masayang nagwawalang-bahala sa paglaho ng ating mga bukirin na tinatamnan ng palay.

Bumaling muli tayo sa mga ulat ng Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI):

o 53% ng mga sakahan na sumailalim na ng "land (Sundan sa pahina 2)

Mga batas laban sa mga magsasaka

Ni JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.



SA BINAN, LAGUNA: Protesta sa kumbersiyon.

pamamaraan ng industrialisasyon, sa pangkalahatan, at ang "pag-aahon" sa karukhaan ng ating nagdarahop na mga kababayan lalo na ang mga magsasaka, sa partikular

Sa tingin ng mga magsasaka na apektado sa kumbersiyon ang pagbabago ng klasipikasyon ng mga lupain ay tuwirang sumasalungat sa *Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program* ngunit ito'y nakaangkla sa dalawang alituntunin. Ang una'y ang opinyon ng *Department of Justice* na nagsasaad na lahat ng mga lupang binagong uri para sa gamit-industriyal sa pamamagitan ng *town zon-*

ing plans na inaprubahan ng *Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)* bago Hunyo 15, 1988 ay ligtas sa pamamahagi sa ilalim ng CARP. Ayon sa *Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI)*, 90 porsiyento ng lahat ng *town plans* ay sumasailalim sa opinyon na ito ng DOJ.

Ang pangalawa ay ang *Local Government Code (Sec. 20)* na nagaatas sa mga Sangguniang Bayan nang awtoridad na baguhin ang klasipikasyon nang hanggang 15 porsiyento ng mga lupang agrikultural para sa gamit pang-industriyal sa kani-kanilang mga bayan o lungsod.

Isinulat ni Cecilia Ochoa

ng PPI na tintantiya na mayroon nang 371,000 hektarya ang sinasakupan ng *reclassification* sa ibang gamit maliban sa agrikultural dahil sa Sek. 20.

Bagaman ang pakay ng kumbersiyon at industrialisasyon ay upang iangat ang kabuhayan ng mga apektadong magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng maluwag na hanapbuhay, taliwas ito sa tunay na nangyayari sa mga lugar na pang-industriya.

Ayon sa isang sanaysay ng *Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao* ang kumbersiyon ng mga lupain ay nagbibigay ng kabalisa-han sa mga pamilya sa Cotabato at Davao del Sur.

HABANG NAKASALANG pa sa apoy ng kontrobersiya ang malawakang kumbersiyon ng ating mga lupang agrikultural, mayroon na namang napipintong "peligro" na maaaring dumapo sa ating mga magsasaka at ang pambansang kalagayan ng ating mga naglalabong bukirin.

Ito'y ang Panukalang Batas (HB) No. 4906 o ang tinaguriang "Investors Lease Act" na linuluto sa Mababang Kapulungan (Lower House) ng Kongreso na inihain nang mas-mababang mga pulitiko.

Ang HB 4906 ay naglalayong magpahintulot sa mga banyaga na gustong mamuhunan sa ating bansa na umupa ng mga lupain sa panahon na hindi lalampas na 75 na taon. Ang mga lupain na ipaarenda sa mga foreign investor ay maaaring gawing lugar bi-

lang *industrial estate* o pagtatatayuan ng mga pabrika o



mga planta na pang-agribusiness o kaya'y mga *tourist spot* at ang kanilang puhunan ay di dapat bababa sa US\$50 milyon.

Ang minumungkahing batas ay maaaring katuwang ng opisyal na patakaran ng pamahalaan o ng ibang batas pa na ngayon ay ipinailalathala sa katayuan ng kumbersiyon ng mga lupain.

Kung sa gayon nasa pangig ng batas ang kasalukuyang suliranin ng kumbersiyon at ang pinangangalandakang dahilan ay ang "kaunlaran" ng Pilipinas sa

Tobacco planters assail NTA stance

THE SOLIDARITY of Tobacco Planters Against Exploitation (STOP-EXPLOITATION), a regional organization of farmers in Ilocos Region, expresses its doubt on the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) as an effective government agency to help uplift the quality of life of tobacco farmers.

We also condemn, in the strongest possible term, the NTA's anti-farmer position that tobacco floor prices for 1993 cannot be increased.

The National Tobacco Administration refused to convene the Tobacco Tripartite Conference despite the increased cost of production, higher cost of living and exorbitant land rent. By refusing the farmers a neutral venue to deliberate with the Buyers what should be the just floor price of tobacco leaves, NTA actually nailed the tobacco peasantry to a bonanza of low-priced tobacco when it prematurely declared that tobacco floor prices cannot be increased. As if adding insult to injury, the

very government agency which is suppose to come to the aid of the farmers mouthed the buyers' position not to increase the floor prices and not to hold the Tripartite Conference.

STOP-EXPLOITATION believes that the NTA-PATDA tandem strongly opposed the holding of the Tripartite conference because it fears it would pose risk of uncovering their designs to maintain low prices of tobacco and thus, profit more from their exploitative scheme. Clearly, the NTA has ex-

posed itself as a mouthpiece of the Philippine Aromatic Tobacco Development Association (PATDA), the buyers' group which controls the tobacco industry.

As expected, the Holy Week Syndrome exacted a heavy toll on the tobacco farmers. Several trading malpractices such as downgrading, stop-buying, underweighing, and low-buying prices are rampant and continue to exploit the peasantry causing deepening quagmire of poverty and powerlessness. Tobacco prices has

slumped to as low as P25.00 per kilo, which is P12.00 below the unjust 1992-mandated floor price of P37.00 per kilo for class A.

These exploitations, as past experiences show, happen even before the very nose of NTA officials. But worst of it is when the supposed protector of farmers' interest chooses to be deaf, blind, and inutile.

We condemn the blatant connivance of the NTA with PATDA in ensuring that tobacco farmers cannot recoup from their huge losses and im-

poverishment. WE demand justice! WE demand just prices and challenge the NTA and the Ramos government to fulfill its avowed aim of protecting the tobacco peasantry.

SOLIDARITY OF TOBACCO PLANTERS AGAINST EXPLOITATION

April 24, 1993

Regional Office
No. 12 Salvacion Village,
San Fernando, La Union

Editorial: Nanganganib ang ating kasapatan sa bigas

conversion" sa buong bansa ay dating mga palayan na umaani ng 80 kaban bawat ektarya na nagkakahalaga ng P250 bawat kaban o nawalan ng kabuuang kita na P133-milyon ang ating mga magsasaka dahil sa kumbersiyon.

o Ang mga kapaki-pakinabang o malulusog na lupa na tinamnan ng palay ay kasama sa kasalukuyang kumbersiyon lalo na sa Laguna. Ang lalawigan ito ang may pinakamataas na ani ng palay sa CALABARZON sub-region na umaabot ng 3.4 tonelada bawat ektarya.

o Dahil na rin sa kumbersiyon - ang Laguna ay dumaranas ngayon ng kakulangan ng palay siyempre pa dahil sa lumiliit na lupang agrikultural. Ayon sa PPI, noong 1976 ang lalawigan ay mayroong 47,414 ektarya na palayan ngunit noong 1990 ang mga ito'y bumagsak sa 22,296 ektarya (irrigated land) at 1,320 ektarya na mga palayan na umaasa sa sahod-ulan.

o Isa pang halimbawa ay ang bayan ng Binan na kung saan may limang daan ektarya na lamang na bukirin ang natitira, mula sa 3,712 ektarya noong 1980, pagkatapos na ang programang kumbersiyon ay ipinairal ng pamaha-

laan. Ang kahulugan nito'y nawala ng 700,000 cavans ng palay bawat taon sa bayan lamang ng Binan.

Hindi pinapansin ang mga kabatirang ito ng ating mga konsumerista ngunit sila mismo ay direktang maaapektuhan ng kumbersiyon ng mga palayan upang gawin ang mga ito na lugar pang-industriya o komersiyal. Habang lumiliit ang produksiyon ng palay dahil sa kumbersiyon ng ating mga sakahan, kumukunti rin ang biling bigas sa palengke at kung gayon, baka humirit ng husto ang pagtaas ng presyo nito.

Sasabihin na maaari naman tayong umangkat ng bigas kung sakaling hindi makasasapat ang ating produksiyon. Subalit hindi tayo nakatitiyak kung ang internasyunal na palengke ay makatutugon sa ating pangangailangan dahil na rin sa pabagu-bagong situwasyon sa mundo.

Ang isa pang aspekto na dapat nating isaalang-alang ay ang kalagayan ng ating populasyon. Ayon sa PhilRice, "sa kabila ng mga pagsisikap na makontrol ang ating populasyon tumataas pa rin ito sa bilis na 2.5% bawat

(Mula sa pahina 1)

taon. Ito ay nakababahala, dahil maaaring mabalewala ang ating pangunlad sa produksiyon ng pagkain. Sa taong 2000, ang populasyon ng bansa ay aabot na sa 75 milyon. Ibig sabihin nito na dapat madagdagan ang ating ani na 1.7 tonelada bawat ektarya sa mga palayang may patubig. Sa taong 2030, kailangan na namang madagdagan ang ani ng mga 1.8 tonelada bawat ektarya."

Sa madaling sabi, kailangan madoble ang ating ani ng palay sa susunod na 40 taon upang magkaroon ng sapat na pagkain para sa lahat ng mga Filipino.

Ngunit dahil sa kumbersiyon ng ating mga sakahan, tunay na nanganganib ang ating kasapatan sa bigas. (May karugtong)

AY MALI: May dalawang salita ang nahagip din ng "kumbersiyon" sa nakaraang kolum. Ang una'y ang "umulpot" (na lumabas na "sumulpot") na ibig sahin ay lumitaw mula sa tubig, katulad sa "buwaya." Ang panglawang salita'y "repleksyon" (na naging "replikasyon"). Sorry - JGBJr.

NEWS ROUND-UP

(From page 6)

He allots a large portion of his land to rice as insurance that he can produce sufficient food for his family even in a poor crop year. IRRI's strategy for the uplands is to reduce the area an upland farmer must set aside to grow rice. If that can be achieved, a farmer could use the bulk of his land to grow annual or perennial cash crops that earn income.

"Our main goal is a tough rice plant that withstands drought, resists blast, and survives on the meager nutrients in the harsh soils of the uplands, to give the farmer a harvest he can count on," Courtois explains. "If we develop one that gives high yields as well, so much the better."

Courtois is working with Mr. Michel Arraudeau, another French scientist, who is leader of the IRRI upland rice ecosystem research program. Her arrival brings the number of French scientists at IRRI to five. In addition to Arraudeau, an upland rice breeder from CIRAD-CA, three French scientists from the Institut Francais de Recherche Scientifique Pour le Developpement on Cooperation (ORSTOM) work at the Institute: Dr. Jean-Claude Prot is studying rice nematode diseases; Dr. Gerard Second is evaluating rice genetic diversity with molecular markers; and Dr. Serge Savary is helping develop integrated pest management techniques through the use of computer simulation models.

IRRI is an autonomous, non-profit international agricultural research and training center established in 1960 to increase total food production from rice-based farming systems. It is funded by the Consultative Group on Inter-

national Agricultural Research (CGIAR), an informal association of 40 public and private sector donors that supports a network of 18 international agricultural research centers. Most of IRRI's research is carried out in cooperation with national agricultural research and development institutions.

Wet seeding saves money

LOS BAÑOS — No pain, no gain, many farmers used to recite as they reached for the liniment after a day of transplanting rice seedlings. A transplanted crop meant higher rice yields. It also meant backaches. Rice farmers and their hired labor would spend most of the day bent over as they planted ankle-high seedlings in the paddy.

Those backbreaking days may soon be only a painful memory, says Dr. Sadiq Bhuiyan, agricultural engineer and deputy head of the Soil and Water Sciences Division of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Almost 70% of the farmers in District I of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System in Central Luzon, Philippines, have switched to wet seeding, he reports. "The wet seeding method of crop establishment saves time, labor, and water. It also yields well. These farmers made an average of 15% more profits than those that transplanted rice."

Wet seeding is the practice of sowing pregerminated rice seeds on puddled soil. This saves time because farmers need not spend extra days growing seedlings. The wet-seeded rice also matures earlier because the plants do not need to recuperate from uprooting and transplanting shock.

The most common wet seeding method is broadcasting, which takes a small fraction of the labor needed for transplanting and does not require bending. Farmers can

do the sowing themselves without hiring labor for transplanting. This saves on labor costs while minimizing physical exertion.

According to Bhuiyan, wet-seeded rice yields significantly better than transplanted rice under water-short conditions. In one experiment in Central Luzon, wet-seeded rice yielded 1 ton more rice/ha than transplanted rice despite 20 days without water during the reproductive stage, when plants are most sensitive to lack of water.

"Wet-seeded rice is more water-efficient than transplanted rice," Bhuiyan says. Farmers use 20% less water because wet seeding takes only 7 to 10 days of water-intensive land preparation compared to 25 to 30 days for transplanted rice.

"All together, these factors mean a higher profit for the farmer," Bhuiyan says.

Wet seeding offers a significant potential for improving the water-use efficiency of rice grown in irrigated areas. "This is especially important because irrigation water will become critically limiting factor in the coming years," Bhuiyan notes.

Already, in the irrigated areas of several Asian countries, many farmers have moved away from the traditional practice of transplanting their rice seedlings, Bhuiyan says.

IRRI is an autonomous, non-profit international agricultural research and training center established in 1960 to increase total food production from rice-based farming systems. It is funded by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), an informal association of 40 public and private sector donors that supports a network of 18 international agricultural research centers. Most of IRRI's research is carried out in cooperation with national agricultural research and development institutions.

Pagsugpo sa 'kuhol' sa palayan

Ang bivolohiya ng 'Golden kuhol'

Pinagmulan

Ang "golden" kuhol ay nabibilang sa pamilya ng mga kuhol na nabubuhay lamang sa mga lugar na malapit sa tubig-tabang. Nanggaling ito sa mga latian at ilog sa South America. Doon, ang mga ito ay mapaminsalang peste sa malalaking palayang sabog-tanim na ginagamitan ng mga eroplano at traktora. Hindi pa sila noon malalang peste sa mga lipat-tanim na palayan.

Nang ito'y dinala rito sa

Pilipinas upang pakinabangang pangkomersiyal, hindi inaasahang makakawala ito at kakalat. Hindi napasama rito ang biyolohikal na elementong nakamamatay o nakapupuk-sa sa mga ito na matatagpuan sa South America.

Hindi gaanong kahawig ng "golden" kuhol ang katutubong kuhol. Hindi pa naililipat ang biyolohikal na elemento ng katutubong kuhol sa "golden" kuhol.

Kulay putik ang "gold-

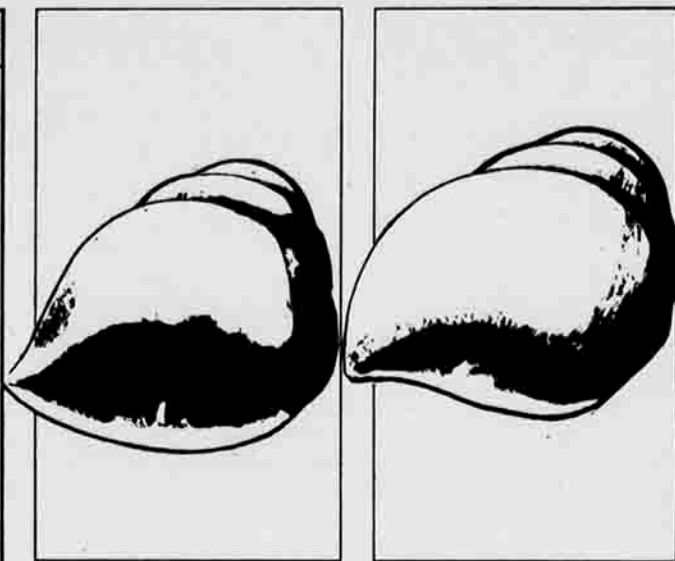
en" kuhol, mapusyaw nang kaunti sa matingkad na kulay ng mas maliliit na katutubong kuhol. "Golden" ang ipinangalan ng mga pangkomersiyal na taga-pamahagi nito. Subalit para sa mga magsasaka, hindi ito "gold," pagkat nasaasayang ang kanilang salapi, oras at enerhiya sa pagsugpo ng pesteng ito.

Paunang Salita

Ang artikulong ito tungkol sa pagsugpo sa "golden" kuhol ay inihanda tanging para sa mga magsasaka. Naglalaman ito ng mga pamamaraan ukol sa pinagsanib na pamamahala sa peste sa pananim (IPM).

Ang teknolohiyang IPM na inilalahad ay galing sa kaalaman ng mga magsasaka ukol sa pagsugpo sa "golden" kuhol at sa mga kinalabasan ng mga ginawang pagsubok ng Department of Agriculture. Nakuha ang mga pamamaraan ito sa pamamagitan ng pakikipanayam sa mga magsasaka at ibinahagi naman ng mga magsasakang ito ang kanilang kaalaman, pagpapalagay, at paraan ukol sa pagsugpo sa kuhol. Ang mga datos na ito ay isinaayos ng pangkat na binuo ng mga dalubhasa sa mga peste sa pananim, kabilang ang mga dalubhasa sa pagpapalaganap ng mga importasyon at sa pagsasanay na Iaga Department of Agriculture at Visayas State College of Agriculture (VISCAR). Sinuportahan ang gawaing ito ng FAO Intercountry Programme for Integrated Pest Control in Rice in South and Southeast Asia at ng Department of Agriculture sa pakikipagtulungan sa International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Maaring talakayin, piliin at sundin ng mga magsasaka ang alinmang kombinasyon ng paraan ng pagsugpo. Bawa't lugar ay meryong kani-kaniyang mahusay na estratehiya sa pagsugpo.



LALAKI

BABAE

Mga Maninila/Natural na Kaaway

Kabilang sa mga natural o katutubong kaaway ng mga golden kuhol ang mga langgam, ibon, gagamba, daga, ibang maliliit na hayop, ahas at ibang reptilya. Ang mga pulang langgam, na kumakain ng mga itlog ng kuhol, ang pinakamalalang na siyang natural na kaaway. Ang mga ibon ay

kumakain ng itolog ng bagong pisang kuhol samantala ang mga daga at ahas ang kumakain at pumap-atay sa maliliit na kuhol. Kinakain ng mga bibe ang mga kuhol sa bukid. Maipakakain rin ito sa mga bibe pagkatapos na ito ay pulutin.

Ang Pagkalat ng

Kuhol

Dumarami ang "golden" kuhol sa mga lugar na may tubig gaya ng mga lawa, latian, palay tubigan, mga kanal at ibang pook na babad sa tubig. Gayunman, ang komersiyal na dahilan ang nakapagpabilis sa paglaganap ng "golden" kuhol sa bansa.

Inog ng Buhay

Mga Itlog. Ang mga itlog nito na hugis peras ay kumpol-kumpol na may 50-300 bawa't kumpol. Iniiitlog ito sa mga pananim sa umagang-umaga at sa dapit-hapon sa mga pilapil at sa anumang bagay na hindi nakalubog sa tubig. Ang mga bagong itlog ay kulay rosas at nagiging mapusyaw na rosas kapag malapit nang mapisa. Nagsisimulang mapisa ang mga itlog 7 hanggang 14 na araw pagkaraang ito'y maiitlog.

Pagkapisa-Hanggang Umabot sa Hustong Gulang. Ang mga bagong pisang kuhol ay kumakapit sa anumang bagay na nakalutang gaya ng harang o gilid ng lawa, sa pananim at sa kapwa kuhol. Mabilis silang lumaki at sa sandaling panahon ay umaabot na sa hustong gulang. Kahit sa ilalim ng tubig ay nakahihinga sila na parang isda gayundin sa lugar na walang tubig. Kapag pinakatihan ang palayan, bumabaon sila sa putik at patuloy na

pumapailalim habang tag-init. Nabubuhay sila nang hanggang anim na buwan sa ilalim ng lupa at lumalabas sa sandaling patubigan ang bukid. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit lumalabas kaagad ang maraming kuhol sa sandaling masimulan ang paghahanda ng bukid. Kinakain nila ang lahat ng uring tanim. Ang inog ng buhay ng "golden" kuhol ay umaabot sa 60 araw.

Kulay kayumanggi ang balat nitong kuhol at puti hanggang malagintong rosas o kulay kahel na madi-law ang makatas na laman nito. Makikilala ang babae sa lalaki sa pamamagitan ng hugis ng takip na sumasara kapag pumasok ang katawan nito sa balat. Ang takip ng kuhol na babae ay pumapasok samantalang ang sa lalaki ay bumubuka. Ang "golden" kuhol ay nakahihinga maging sa ilalim ng tubig na parang isda o kahit na walang tubig.

Gaya rin ng tao, ang

kuhol ay may dalawang magkaibang kasarian, hindi tulad ng karamihang kuhol na magkasama sa isang katawan ang dalawang kasarian. Ang mga husto sa gulang na mga kuhol ay nagtatalik anumang oras sa maghapon sa mga lugar na malalago ang pananim. Ginagawa nila ito sa lahat ng panahon sa buong taon kung saan mayroong patuloy na patubig. Umaabot nang mula 3 hanggang 4 na oras ang ganitong pagtatalik.

Ang isang suso ay nakapangingitlog nang 200-300 bawa't linggo o 1,000 hanggang 1,200 itlog sa isang buwan at walungpung porsiyento (80%) nito ang napipisa.

Lawak ng pinanginginainan at ang kaugalian sa panganginain. Ang mga "golden" kuhol ay kamakain ng lahat ng uring halaman. Napakalakas nilang kumain at kinakain pati azolla, mga damong tinatawag na "duck weed", "water lily", mga punlang palay at iba pang madahon at makatas na pananim at gulay. Kinakain rin nila ang anumang nabubulok na bagay.

Gustong-gustong kainin ng mga kuhol na ito ang mga murang punla at murang dahon ng mga pananim. Patuloy silang nanginginain, maging sa araw at gabi at tinagurian silang "live-eating machine."

MGA PARAAN

1. Damihan ang mga binhing ipupunla at patubuin sa tubigan. Dagdagan ng kalahating kaban ang karaniwang dami ng punla para sa isang ektarya. Ang mga ekstra o laang punla ay magagamit na panghahili sa mga punlang maaaring mapinsala ng mga "golden" kuhol.

Ang mga punla sa tubigan ay may kahirapan masalakay at mapinsala ng mga "golden" kuhol kaysa doon sa mga punlang pinatubo sa paraang "dapog", sapagkat mas magulang, malalaki at matatag ang mga puno.

2. Pastulin ang mga bibe sa palayan pagkatapos mag-ani. Maraming kuhol ang nakakain ng mga bibe araw-araw. Hayaang manginain ang mga bibe sa palayan pagkatapos mag-ani hanggang dumating ang isang araw bago isagawa ang huling pagsusuyod. Huwag magpakawala ng mga bibeng nanlulugon ang balahibo pagkat magiging makati ang tubig at ang mga taong gagawa sa bukid ay mangangati at mayayamot.

3. Pulutin ang mga "golden" kuhol at sirain ang mga kumpol ng itlog bago isagawa ang huling pagsusuy-

od. Napakamahalaga ang gawaing ito up ang mabawasan ang dami ng kuhol at maiwasan ang malalang pinsala sa mga bagong lipat na pananim. Ipagpatuloy ang ganitong gawain hanggang 3 linggo pagkaraang makapaglipat-tanim.

4. Gumagawa ng mabababaw na kanal. Gumawa ng mga kanal sa tabi ng pilapil hanggang sa kabilang panig ng pinitak kasabay ng huling pagsusuyod. Dito sa maliliit na kanal magkukumpol-kumpol ang mga "golden" kuhol pagkat may naiiwang tubig sa tuwing aalisang patubig ang bukid, at sa gayon, magiging madali ang pamumulot ng kuhol.

5. Maglipat-tanim kapag ang mga punla ay magulang na. Maglipat-tanim ng mga punlang mayroon nang 25-35 araw ang gulang at may distansiyang 20 x 20 sentimetro bawa't tundos na may 3-5 na punla, nang sa gayon ang maiiwang punla ang makakahalili ng mga nasirang pananim gawa ng kuhol. Tamnan rin ang maliliit na kanal.

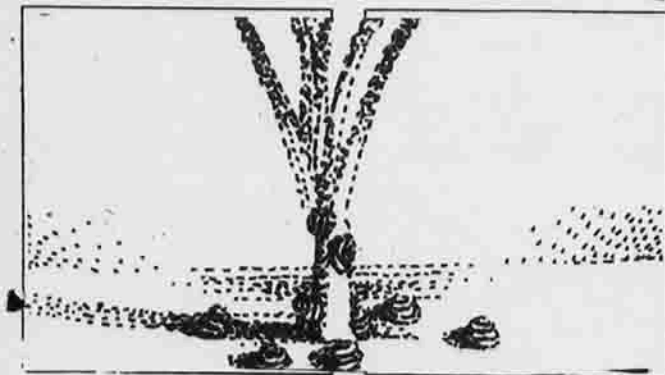
6. Maglagay ng mga panala sa pasukan ng tubig. Pagkatapos na pagkatapos maglipat-tanim, maglagay ng mga panala sa mga pas-

ukan ng tubig upang hindi makapasok ang mga "golden" kuhol na kasama mula sa kanal ng tubig irigasyon patungo sa mga pinitak. Ang mga materyales na magagamit na panala ay mga supot na plastik na prang lambat, bubo na yari sa kawayan, mga sakong plastik na parang lambat at iba pang naaangkop na materyales.

7. Magtusok ng mga tulos na kahoy sa paligid ng pinitak. Maglagay ng mga tulos na kahoy na may isang metrong haba at isang pulgada ang lapad sa maliliit na kanal na 3-4 na metrong agwat pagkaraang maglipat-tanim gayundin sa pasukan ng tubig. Dito sa mga tulos mangingitlog ang mga kuhol kaya madali ang pagpulot dito at pagpuksa.

8. Papasukin ang mga bibe sa palayan pagkaraan ng 35-40 araw pagkalipat-tanim. Ito'y lalo pang makakabawas sa dami ng kuhol sa pinitak pagkatapos maisagawa ang iba pang paraan ng pagsugpo.

9. Dagdagan ang dami ng binhi. Magtanim ng binhi sa palayan sa daming tatlong (3) kaban bawa't ektarya. Bukod doon, magpunla pa ng kalahating (Sundan sa pahina 4)



Bulaklak at birtud

Tag-init na naman at panahon na muli ng mga bulaklak. Kakaibang kaligayahan na naman ang nararamdaman ng mga mahihilig sa halaman.

Marami ang walang hilig sa halaman ang nagtataka kung bakit nagti-tiyaga ang mga mahihilig sa halaman na gumugol ng panahon, pera at pagod sa pag-aalaga ng mga halaman samantalang ang mga ito, lalo na kung mamahaling klase, ay minsan lang sa isang taon kung mamulaklak.

Ngunit sa mga naghahalaman, sapat na ang mag-alaga nito upang matamo ang kaunting kasiyahan. At kapag namulaklak na ang halaman, hindi mailarawan ang galak sa puso.

At kung ang isang halaman o puno ay nababalutan ng bulaklak, ito ay makatatawag ng pansin nang kahit sino, maging siya ay mahilig o walang hilig sa halaman.

Minsan, habang ako ay papunta sa aking pinagtuturuan na paaralan napil-

itan akong lumiko sa isang maliit na kalye upang maiwasan ang trapik sa harap ng simbahan ng Sto. Domingo. Laking tuwa ko nang ang isang napakagandang tanawin ang tumambad sa aking paningin. Nandoon sa bandang kanan ang isang puno ng kalatsutsi na natatakpan ng bulaklak...dilaw, puti, pula, kulay rosas...na parang bola na gawa sa ulap at napapalibutan ng berdeng dahon. Bawat sanga, malaki man o maliit...may isang "bola ng bulaklak"...parang mga kamay na nag-aalay ng bulaklak sa langit.

Napangiti ako ng sumagi sa isip ko ang koton kendi at popkorn bols na gustong-gusto ng mga anak ko.

Hindi ko namalayang naitabi ko na pala ang kotse, at huminto na ako. Pinagpista ko ang mga mata at binusog ang puso sa bihiranag tanawin na ito.

Dito sa Maynila bihira ang ganitong tanawin, maliban lang kung pumunta ka sa parke o eksibit ng mga bulaklak. At sa aking pananaw ang mabigyan ng ganitong

pagkakataon ay parang nabigyan ng bonos.

Habang pinagmamasdan ko ang puno, napansin ko na mayroon palang nagdidilig nito. Kaya pala mukhang saganang-sagana sa bulaklak ito...bunga lang ito ng karampatang pag-aalaga. At ang tubig naman na mukhang nanggagaling sa isang hose ay nagdudumaling makahalik sa labi ng mga bulaklak upang pawin ang init na nararamdaman nito.

Kung hindi nadidilig nang husto ang punong ito maaaring hindi ito mamulaklak nang ganito. Ang tubig nga ay para mamulaklak ang halaman.

Ano naman kaya ang "bulaklak" ng tao? Sabi ng marami ang mga Pilipino ay mahilig magdasal. Kung Miyerkoles puno ang simbahan sa Baclaran, kung Huwebes, ang St. Jude naman ay nagsisiksikan ng mga tao at kung Biyernes, ang Quiapo ay hindi maibsan ng mga nanampalataya.

Ngunit "namumulaklak" naman kaya ang tao bunga ng pagdarasal niya? At ano naman kaya ang maaaring maging "bu-

Ilaw ng Tahanan



ni EDITA TRONQUED BURGOS

laklak" niya?

Sa ganang akin, ang isang maaaring maging "bulaklak" ng pagdarasal ay birtud. Walang saysay ang pagdarasal kung ito ay hindi makatutulong sa isang tao upang siya ay bumait o mapaganda ang kanyang kalooban at ugali.

Marami ang madalas nating makita sa simbahan ngunit pag-uwi nila sa bahay o pagpasok sa opisina ay nang-aapi at masungit sa kapwa. Sayang lang ang pagdarasal. Huwag sayanging ang pagdarasal, "mamulaklak" ng birtud.

Papaano mapapakinabangan ang kuhol

Ang laman ng kuhol ay malambot, makatas at madaling matunaw. Ang kulay nito ay mapusyaw na dilaw papunta sa granate at magagawang iba't-ibang lutuin tulad ng sopas, ginataan, adobo, asado, pinirito o inihaw. Ang malalaking kuhol ay maaaring ihawin.

Ang inirerekomendang Paraan ng Paglilinis ng Kuhol Bago Lutuin

1. Anihin at ilagay ang mga kuhol sa isang lalagyang puno ng tubig sa gripo at hayaang nakababad doon sa loob ng 24 na oras upang maalis ang kinain na hindi pa natutunaw.

2. Isa hanggang dalawang oras bago ito lutuin, hugasang mabuti ang mga kuhol sa solusyong 0.5 tasa ng suka na inihalo sa isang galong tubig upang mawala ang panunulas at burak na taglay nito.

3. Upang maalis ang laman sa balat, ibuhos ang malinis na mga kuhol sa isang kalderong may kumukulung tubig at pakuluan nang 4 hanggang 5 minuto. Huwag tigilan ng paghalo.

4. Hanguin sa pinagpakuluan at banlawan sa malamig na tubig.

5. Mayroon na kayong malinis na laman ng kuhol na handa nang iluto o itago sa repridyerator.

Sustansiyang Taglay

Bawa't kuhol ay may 15 gramong sustansiyang taglay, samantala ang isang kuhol na hustong isang subo ay nagtataglay ng sumusunod:

Enerhiya sa Pagkain 83.0 kalori

Protina 12.2 gramo

Taba 0.4 gramo

Karbohaydreyt 6.6 gramo

Abo 3.2

Posporus 61.0 mg.

Sodium 0.4 mg.

Potasyum 17.0 mg.

Riboflavin 12.0 mg.

Niacin 1.8 mg.

Ang iba pang sustansiyang taglay nito ay Bitamina C, zinc, copper, manganese, magnesium, at iodine. Mahusay rin pang-almusal ang kuhol para sa mga nalasing sa alak dahil mayroon itong kakayahang sumipsip ng alcohol mula sa katawan ng tao.

Mga Lutuin sa Kuhol

Tortang kuhol

1 platitong luto at giniling na kuhol



- 1 kutsarang ginayat na dahong mura ng sibuyas
- 1 kutsarang ginayat na kamatis
- 1 kutsarang dikdik na bawang
- 2 kutsarang mantika
- 1/2 kutsaritang asin
- 1/4 kutsaritang vetsin (MSG)
- 1/2 kutsaritang patis
- 1 itlog, binati
- 1 kutsarang arina

Paghaluin ang lahat ng sangkap. Igisa ang bawang, sibuyas at kamatis at ang giniling na kuhol. Ihalo ang binating itlog at saka iprito. Ihain nang mainit.

Ginataang kuhol

- 2 platitong nilutong laman ng kuhol
- 2 tasang gata ng niyog
- 1 kutsarang dikdik na bawang
- 1 kutsarang ginayat na sibuyas
- 1 kutsarang ginayat na kamatis
- 1 pirasong luya
- 1/4 kutsarang vetsin
- 2 kutsarang achuete
- 2 kutsarang mantika

Igisa ang bawang, sibuyas at kamatis at saka isama ang kuhol at murang dahon ng sibuyas. Ihalo ang gata at tubig na pinagkatasan ng achuete. Pakuluin hanggang lumabas ang langis nito. Idagdag ang vetsin at ihain habang mainit.

Kuhol curry

2 tasang lamang ng kuhol, binanlian

- 1/2 tasang gata ng niyog
- 1 butil na bawang
- 1 ulong sibuyas
- 2 pirasong kamatis
- 1 kutsarang pulbos na curry
- 1 kutsaritang patis
- mantika
- asin
- 1/4 tasang tubig

Igisa ang bawang, sibuyas at kamatis, saka isama ang kuhol. Timplahan ito ng asin at patis. Ilagay ang tubig at pakuluan hanggang maluto. Isama ang gata at pulbos na curry. Patuloy na haluin hanggang lumapot ang sabaw. Ihain habang mainit.

Mga Paraan (Mula sa pahina 3)

kabang binhi sa tubigan. Maghasik ng binhi lima (5) hanggang pitong (7) araw bago sumapit ang takdang panahon ng pagsasabog-tanim sa palayan. Ang karagdagang binhing pinatubo ay magagamit sa muling pagtatanim sa mga tundos na pininsala ng kuhol.

10. Magpastol ng mga bibe sa palayan. Maisasagawa ito pagkatapos magani hanggang sumapit ang isang araw bago isagawa ang huling pagsusuyod.

11. Pulutin ang mga "golden" kuhol at ang mga itlog nito. Napakamahalagang mapulot lahat ang mga kuhol bago isagawa ang huling pagsusuyod upang hindi labis na makapaminsala ang mga ito sa pananim sa panahong napakadali nitong mapinsala (hanggang 50 araw pagkatanim).

12. Gumawa ng maliliit na kanal o kanaletas sa gilid ng mga pilapil at loob ng pinitak. Gawing 20-25 sentimetrong luwang ng mga kanaletas at 5-6 sen-

timetrong lalim at may 5-6 na metro ang pagitan sa pinitak.

13. Makagagawa ng mga kanaletas sa pamamagitan ng paghila ng isang sakong may bato sa loob o paghila ng isang puno ng saging sa mga itinakdang lugar sa pinitak pagkatapos na pagkatapos ng huling pagsusuyod.

14. Maglagay ng mga panala sa mga pasukan ng tubig. Dapat itong maisagawa kaagad pagkatapos maghasik ng mga binhi upang hindi makapasok ang mga "golden" kuhol na maaaring madala ng tubig mula sa kanal irigasyon patungo sa mga pinitak. Maaaring gumamit ng mga panalang gaya ng lambat na supot o sakong plastik at bubo na yari sa kawayan. Ilagay ang mga panala bago patubigan ang bukid at pangalagaan na hindi ito magbabara at masisira gawa ng mga duming nadadala ng tubig irigasyon sa unang pagpapatubig.

The Philippines is the world's largest producer of the fast-growing, "miracle" fish.

\$4.4-Million for genetic improvement of tilapia

MORE THAN one billion people in developing countries now look to farmed tilapia for its supply of cheap protein.

Since fish provides the primary source of animal protein in poor countries, the fast-growing, high-yield tilapia is highly attractive — and tasty, too. The fish (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) is known for its succulent high meat yield, its ability to thrive in any body of water and the fact that it grows so fast with little or no expense for tilapia farmers.

However, little has been done in genetic research to improve tilapia strains. And aquaculture development, the primary method of raising tilapia, is not a priority in cash-strapped economies.

Many Asian countries lack the money and the necessary facilities for tilapia research. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is thus providing US\$4.4 million over the next five years for research into the genetic improvement of farmed tilapia.

"The aim is to increase the quantity and quality of fish protein consumed in low income rural and urban populations in tropical developing countries," a UNDP report said.

The Philippine-based International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) will undertake the research. The aim is to produce better tilapia stocks — and other fin-fish — which will

be given to farmers throughout Asia.

The UNDP report said that requests for improved breeds of tilapia have been received from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the world's biggest producer of tilapia is the Philippines, based on its 1987 production of more than 93,593 metric tons. It is followed by Indonesia (39,750 metric tons) and Sri Lanka (36,465 metric tons).

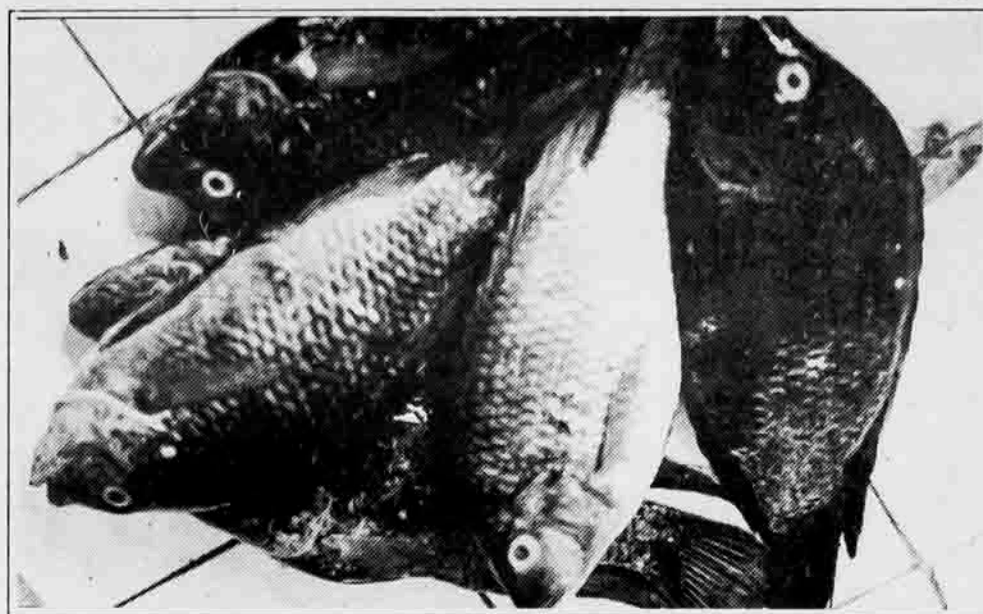
A native of Africa, the fast-growing tilapia was introduced to the Philippines in 1950 when the late Dr. Deogracias Villadolid of the then Bureau of Fisheries (now the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or BFAR) introduced the Mozambique tilapia to local aquaculturists. The "miracle fish" multiplied so rapidly that ponds and small bodies of water where

it was cultivated became overcrowded and resulted in stunted fish. This disappointed many tilapia raisers.

In 1972, BFAR introduced another species, the Nile tilapia (*O. niloticus*). Since then, tilapia became the second most important cultured fish in the Philippines, next to the milkfish.

Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero, the foremost Filipino authority on tilapia culture and currently the director of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Development (PCAMRD), says "we were the first in the world to commercialize the production of sex-reversed tilapia fingerlings in outdoor net cages or tanks and to produce commercial sex-reversal at a very affordable cost." Sex-reversal method of propagation assures a big harvest of the fish in the most convenient way.

The Filipinos also have a leading edge among Asians in terms of cage



TILAPIA: Cheap protein source.

culture. "While other countries are still experimenting or developing technologies, we have a thriving and vibrant industry," says Dr. Guerrero.

An example of a successful cage farmer in the country is Isidro Alad, who has been growing tilapia for 18 years now. Mr. Alad has a one-hectare tilapia cage farm in Calibato Lake in Laguna.

He raises tilapia in more than 50 floating cages made

of bamboo and nylon nets.

He uses the staggered (or rotation) stocking method of cage culture. With about 100,000 pesos (US\$4,000) worth of tilapia in one cropping of seven cages, the method enables him to harvest monthly. On the average, each cage permits two croppings.

According to Alad, tilapia thrives poorly in cold waters while warm waters promote the rapid growth of fingerlings. Thus, April

to June is the most ideal period for raising tilapia.

Another method of raising tilapia is by pig-fish farming developed by Central Luzon State University (CLSU). Pig pens built on pond dikes provide manure directly into the pond and serves as organic fertilizer that promotes the growth of plankton and algae — the tilapia's food. Fish raised this way grow fat and large. (Depth news)

Chicken dung as crop fertilizer

By CLARO Q. ESOEN

BAGUIO CITY — Large shipments of chicken dung are being trucked daily from Luzon lowlands to the Cordilleras to keep its vegetable farms productive.

Cordillera farmers have been using the poultry by-product as substitute for oil-based inorganic fertilizers on recommendation of experts who found that chicken dung helps improve the natural fertility and water holding capacity of the soil.

Benguet province alone needs about 250,000 metric tons of chicken dung a year. This estimate is based on the recommended 10-ton per hectare rate of application recommended by the Bureau of Plant Industry experimental farm in this city, according to Malou Castaneda, a potato specialist at the Department of Agriculture Cordillera administrative region.

About 53 percent of the vegetable supplies of Metro Manila, Northern Luzon, Cagayan Valley Central and Southern Luzon come from the Cordilleras. Benguet is the top vegetable producer in the region, accounting for 353,551 metric tons a year.

Agriculture department experts consider the Cordillera

food production still behind production levels of Luzon lowland farms. Thus, they have been trying to come up with appropriate farm technology and farm management practices to increase output.

As part of its increased food production campaign, the department has focused considerable attention on how to maintain the fertility of the soil. Experts say soil fertility can be lost either through poor management practices, like monocropping, too much application of oil-based inorganic fertilizers or erosion.

In addition to use of chicken dung to correct soil nutrient deficiencies, experts from Benguet State University in La Trinidad have advised farmers to also observe compatible farming or suitable succession of crops to eliminate interplant competition and allelopathy.

Other crops compatible

either in combination with or in succession are podded pea, white potato and cabbage; white potato and green onion; cabbage, cauliflower, white potato and green onion; cabbage pole beans and podded pea; and pole bean, podded pea, white potato and cauliflower.

Incompatible combinations or succession are those of cabbage, carrots, Chinese cabbage and tomato; bush beans and white potato; and cucumber, sweet pepper and tomato. Other incompatible crops are edible podded pea, radish and green onion; white potato, pole bean and cabbage; radish and pole bean; green onion, cabbage and cauliflower; and cabbage, cauliflower and green onion.

BSU experts also have recommended use of azolla, a time-tested cheap and practical fertilizer, on rice and upland crops. Their experiments have shown that fertilizing cabbage and white potato with azolla and little amount of inorganic fertilizer, improves the water holding capacity and nitrogen content of the soil. (Depth news)



Ang "Lupa" ay lumalabas minsan isang buwan at inilathala bilang serbisyo publiko para sa mga magsasaka at mga institusyon na may kaugnayan sa agrikultura. Walang bayad ang bawat kopya.

JOSE G. BURGOS, Jr.
Publisher-Editor

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NEWS ROUND-UP

Novel products from 'kamote'

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA — Sweet potato (kamote) can now be processed into products traditionally made from fruits. This is a recommendation based on the three-year research on the "Development of Nonalcoholic Beverages and Preserved Products from Sweet Potato" conducted by the Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA).

The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (PCARRD-DOST) considers this technological breakthrough as a turning point for this low-valued root crop. Sweet potato is now comparable to expensive fruits used in producing highly marketable food products.

The newly developed products are sweet potato beverage, jam, catsup, pickles, and leather or dried food products. Food analysis indicates that these fruity-sweet potato products have comparable appearance, taste, and nutrient content to processed fruit and vegetable products. Also, sweet potato products are rated with high sensory scores in consumer acceptability tests.

The sweet potato beverage has an even higher vitamin A content than the commercial fruit drinks in cans and tetrapacks/aluminum foil. An intake of 8 ounces (or 237 ml) of the beverage can adequately provide the daily vitamin A requirement of adults. Also, phosphorus and calcium contents of the sweet potato beverage are higher than those of the commercially available Hi-C orange, mango, and pineapple juice drinks, while its magnesium and potassium concentrations are within the range of values obtained from fruit drinks.

Similarly, sweet potato jam has a vitamin A content 12 to 16 times higher than that of commercial products. Sweet potato leather meanwhile, has a very rich vitamin A content (14,067 International Units/100 g) compared with orange roll-ups with a vitamin A content of only 387 IU/100 g. However, the vitamin A content of sweet potato catsup is lower than that of tomato catsup but 90 times higher than that of banana catsup.

Sweet potato products are now available in the domestic market. Farmers' cooperatives and catsup/food processing companies have adopted the sweet potato catsup processing technologies, whereas an enterprising food and beverage company is making large-scale production of the sweet potato beverage. These developments would make low-cost vitamin A-rich foods available to consumers and increase the market demand for fresh sweet potato roots. (Bengie P. Gibe, S & T Media Service)

French plant breeder joins IRRI staff

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA — A French rice breeder has joined the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to bolster the Institute's efforts to improve upland rice. Dr. Brigitte Courtois, a scientist with the annual crops department of the Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD-CA), arrived 14 February 1993.

Upland areas grown to rice comprise 13% of all ricelands, but produce only 7% of the world's rice output. Upland rice yields typically average 1 ton/ha, compared with irrigated lowland rice yields that hit 3 tons or more/ha.

"The upland rice farmer is working in a less than ideal environment," the 36-year-old French scientist points out. Upland farmers contend with erratic rainfall, poor soils, weeds, and blast disease. These factors, alone or in combination, can drastically lower rice yield.

An upland rice farmer grows rice to eat, not to sell.

(Page 2, please)

Organization of international research centers under a consultative group further boosts efforts to address food problems

Agri research now globalized

By RODOLFO A. FERNANDEZ

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA — Globalization of agricultural research goes on. This development stems from the organiza-

The first to be established in the early 1960s were the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in this university town and the Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maize y Trigo (CIMMYT) or Corn and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico. The high-yielding rice varieties developed by IRRI and the improved wheat strains bred by CIMMYT triggered what has come to be called the "Green Revolution" in cereals.

In the succeeding years, more IARCs were set up in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, North America, and Europe to work on specific farm commodities as well as agriculture programs and policies aimed at meeting the food needs of the world's burgeoning population.

Other commodity-focused IARCs include the International Potato Center (CIP) in Peru, West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) in Liberia, International Livestock Center for Africa (ILCA) in Ethiopia, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India, International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) in France, and International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) in Makati.

Broad-based IARCs include the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Lebanon/Syria, Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) in Colombia, International Service for National Agricultural Research (IS-NAR) in the Netherlands, and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in the United States.

Another significant move to further improve global agricultural research was the

incorporation of IARCs into a system funded by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

CGIAR is an informal consortium of about 40 public and private sector donors, including governments and banks, that support the international centers. It is sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and World Bank.

CGIAR is a unique organization in that it has no written constitution, and membership is informal. Research institutes that receive funds from the Group are not legally accountable to it but to their respective boards.

The donors, the center boards, and management are advised by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of internationally known agricultural scientists appointed by CGIAR. TAC's secretariat is provided by FAO in Rome.

CGIAR now supports 18 international centers.

The latest to become member (last May) of the CGIAR family of IARCs is ICLARM, which was established in 1975 to conduct, stimulate, and accelerate research on all aspects of fisheries and other living aquatic resources.

National agricultural research centers (NARCs) have long existed both in the developed and developing countries but they have largely remained insulated from each other.

The international centers were set up on the premise that many of the developing countries would not be able to support national research organizations that can address all their research needs, according to Dr. Emil Q. Javier, director general of the Taiwan-based Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC).

"Their economies are sim-

tion of international agricultural research centers (IARCs) in various parts of the world over the past three decades.



CORN: Intensive research.

ply too small to support a large research infrastructure. In addition, many problems in agriculture and natural resources cut across national boundaries and require multi-country approaches," explained Dr. Javier in a symposium held here recently.

By design, the IARCs are mission-oriented and have therefore positioned themselves in the applied research part of the research continuum. Their needs for basic and strategic information were to be sourced from developed country institutions, although increasingly with rapid developments in science and as usable information is exhausted, many of the centers are expanding their strategic research agenda.

In the beginning, Dr. Javier noted, the flow of information was dominantly from the developed country laboratories to the international center, to the developing country research systems. However, as the bigger NARCs matured and became more sophisticated, reverse flow of informa-

tion and technology has increased.

On temperate-growth commodities such as wheat, maize and potato, the developed countries are known to profit from information and technology generated by the international centers and larger national research organizations (reverse technology flow).

"While the developed country laboratories continued to be a rich source of agricultural information and technology which developing countries can further fine-tune and adapt, the international centers have in many cases become more relevant and accessible sources," added Dr. Javier.

As a bridge or intermediary, IARCs largely adapted the technology to tropical commodities and conditions, and therefore the information is more directly usable by the developing countries. Thus, the international centers have become the primary sources of adapted agricultural technologies for the developing countries. (Dept. News)

Farmers opt for pesticide-free crops

By ROBERT L. DOMOGUEN

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—More farmers are shifting from use of pesticides, including cyanide, to integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to control farm pests. They are also adopting production systems that are environment-friendly and lend well to sustainable agricultural development.

This happy turn of events suggests that traditional consumers of temperate vegetables can now be assured of safe and import quality vegetables from Benguet, major producer of temperate crops in the country.

The shift to integrated pest management is a happy result of the "Save the Benguet Vegetable Industry Program" (SBVIP), which was launched recently by Governor Jaime Paul Panganiiban and Agricul-

ture Undersecretary Manuel Lantin.

SBVIP originally started as a Regional Task Force Against Cyanide. It was organized to persuade vegetable farmers in the Cordillera Autonomous Region against using cyanide as pest control.

When the cyanide controversy died down last year, the task force immediately set its eyes on a more challenging mission: arrest the decline of the vegetable industry and ed-



IPM: Happy result.

ucate farmers on environment friendly systems of crop production.

The task force's efforts to minimize use of pesticides on vegetable crops appear to be

reaping rewards. Vegetable farmers in Benguet and nearby provinces are now talking excitedly about pesticide-free vegetables, according to Victorina Alipit, chairman for

agriculture of the provincial board.

Atok town, a major grower of crucifers, is the first in the province to pass an ordinance penalizing users of illegal and banned chemicals in agriculture. Because of this initiative, the Highland Agricultural Development Project (HADP) allocated an unspecified amount of money to advance IPM strategies on pest control which are yielding exciting results.

In Tulodan, Atok, farmer cooperators reported they were happy with the results of their strategy to use diadema parasitoids against the diamondback moth attacking cabbage.

By releasing diadema in their farms, they now spray *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a biological pesticide, only three

times in one cropping as against 15 spraying of insecticides before the introduction of diadema.

Another strategy being promoted here is the use of fine-meshed nets to cover and protect planet from insect pests. With the net protection, farmers do not have much use for pesticides. The nets can be used for five cropping seasons.

Encouraged by HADP, the integrated pest management activities are weaning farmers away from use of pesticides. Through IPM, judicious pesticide use becomes more potent and effective.

Even pesticides dealers cannot help but support the IPM strategies since many farmers have lost confidence in the effectiveness of expensive pesticides. (Depthnews)

Vetiver grass helps prevent soil erosion

By HENRYLITO D. TACIO

DAVAO CITY—Looking for a tropical grass that can help control soil erosion? Try vetiver grass!

This tall, little-known grass has been promoted by a panel of American scientists as one of the best hedgerow species that can combat soil erosion in the world's warmer regions, especially in the tropics.

According to the United States National Research Council (NRC), planting vetiver in narrow bands across hillsides creates "botanical dams" strong enough to retard the rushing runoff from storms, turning eroding slopes into terraced hillsides so that crops and trees can grow.

The NRC says the thin lines of vetiver form dense hedges that also slow runoff and give rainfall a better chance of soaking into the soil. This has made land that was too dry to farm productive,

and even raised water tables. Scientists who have made an extensive research on vetiver say the grass performed well even under desert-like conditions in some arid countries.

"I was skeptical at first," said Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, chairman of the NRC panel. "But I've seen vetiver at work. And I know that in these times of great ecological concern about what is happening to our soil because of erosion, vetiver could indeed play a very useful role

in many places. I see all sorts of potential." Dr. Borlaug won a Nobel Prize for his work in developing high-yielding varieties of wheat that contributed to the "green revolution."

Worldwide, erosion is responsible for carrying off 20,000 million tons of soil a year. This represents the equivalent loss of between five million and seven million hectares of arable land.

And the problem is getting worse, especially in Asia. According to F.J. Dent of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, soil erosion is now an extremely serious problem in the region:

- * In Bangladesh, the total area of degraded land is now 989,000 hectares, or 7.4 percent of the country's total land area.

- * In China, the annual

average soil loss due to erosion is estimated at five billion tons. Of these, 1.7 billion tons are emptied into the sea.

- * In Pakistan, some 8.1 million hectares of land have been lost due to wind erosion and another 7.4 million hectares to water erosion.

- * In Sri Lanka, the total degraded land is estimated at 0.7 million hectares or 10.8 percent of the country's total land area.

- * In Thailand, some 17.2 million hectares or 33.7 percent of the total land area has been degraded by water erosion.

- * In the Philippines, about 200,000 hectares of one-metre-deep topsoil are lost annually to erosion.

"We must consider ourselves in a state of emergency; our topsoil is all going," says Rev. Harold R. Watson, director of the Davao-based Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Centre.

The NRC panel notes that countries using vetiver grass also benefit by having cleaner rivers, unspoiled estuaries and less silt in reservoirs. Thus, it recommends field trials to demonstrate vetiver's usefulness in public works projects that "could help protect footpaths, railroads and road cuts from washout and slips."

The vetiver grass is known in the science world as *Vetiveria zizanioides*, a member of the grass tribe Andropogoneae. It is indigenous to tropical Asia, particularly India, Sri Lanka and Burma. It is a densely tufted, tall (up to 2 metres), wiry perennial grass.

Vetiver grass is a "shy breeder" and is considered sterile outside its natural habitat which is swampland. It has no rhizomes (rootlike stems) and is propagated by root divisions or "splints".

Dr. Glenn Allison, one of the United Kingdom's experts on vetiver grass, says its roots contain up to 3 percent by weight of an essential oil which is used in perfume manufacture. Yields of vetiver oil, which is worth around US\$40 per kilogram, can be up to 50 kilograms per hectare after a year's growth. World trade is said to be around 500 tons per annum, with much of the oil produced in Indonesia, India and Haiti.

According to Dr. Allison, vetiver grass has a vigorous, deep root system which extends vertically, and appears to exploit whatever depth of soil is available. It can withstand severe drought and prolonged flooding, and tolerates temperatures ranging from -10 degrees Centigrade to over 50 degrees Centigrade.

Vetiver grass is unpalatable to livestock, except when the leaves are young, or in extreme cases where there is no alternative vegetation. The growing points of the tillers emerge from below the soil surface, which means that some points are always protected from hot fires or excessive grazing pressure.

The strong, aromatic oil in the roots acts as a repellent to rats and other pests. Being practically sterile, the grass will not spread, as a weed, into a farmer's crop.

With the right instruc-

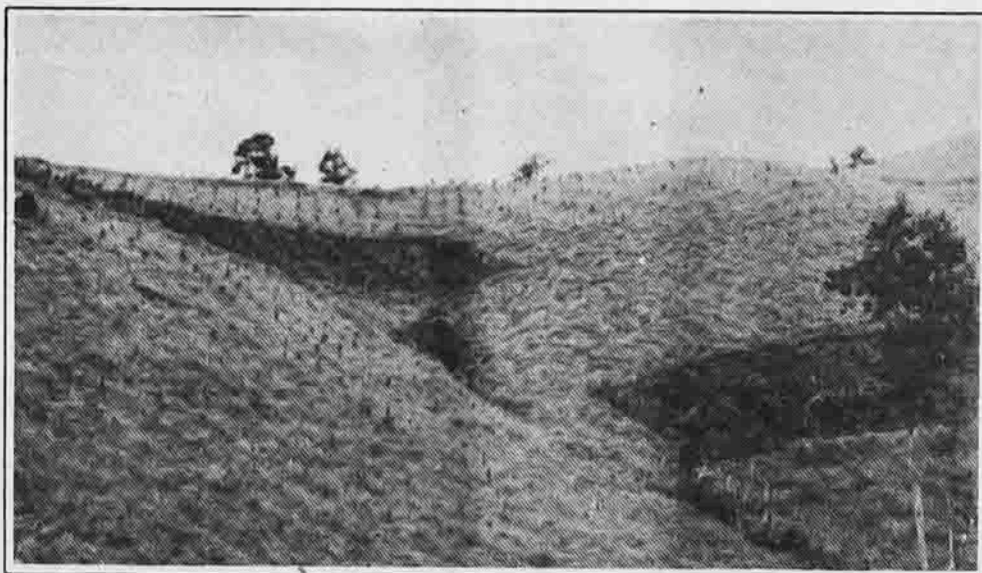
tions, farmers can plant vetiver hedges themselves. Once established, the grass needs little maintenance (except the annual clipping) and will last for many years.

"When all these qualities are taken into account, it is easy to understand why vetiver has been identified as an ideal soil conservation plant," Dr. Allison says. "In future, a more effective plant may be found, but in the meantime, this grass gives every farmer and every government in the tropics a valuable tool with which to reverse the current trend of catastrophic soil erosion."

Vetiver grass is known as "xiang-gen-chao" in China, Indonesians call it "aga wangi," "larasetu," "larawestu," or "rarawestu." India has several names for it: "bala," "bena," "ganrar," "khas," "onei," or "pannie" (Hindi; "khas" (Urdu); "khas-khas" (Bengali); "vala khas-khas" (Marathi); "valo" (Gujarati); "tin" (Oudh); "pann" (Punjabi); "birni" (Sadani); "ilamichamver," "vilhalver" and "viranam" (Tamil); and "ramaccham," "ramachamver" or "vettiveru" (Malayalam).

In Malaysia, vetiver grass is known as "nara wastu," "nara setu," "naga setu," "akar wangi," "rumpu wangi," and "kusu-kusu." In Thailand, it is called "faeg."

In the Philippines, vetiver grass has different names: "ibig," "mora," "moras," "moro," "narawasta," "raiz de moras," "rimodas," "rimora," "rimoras," "tres-moras," "amooras," "amoras," "anias de moras," and "giron." (Depthnews Asia)



ERODED SLOPES: Making them productive.

On-going war among insects

By JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

ATOK, Benguet — There's a silent war raging in the microscopic world of insects in this chilly, quiet corner of the Cordilleras, the vegetable bowl of the Philippines.

The deadly battle, begun in 1989, is being brokered by scientists and farmers who are rooting for the triumph of *diadegma semiclausum*, a parasitoid, and the defeat of another voracious insect, the dreaded diamondback moth (DBM), a pest that feeds on the leafy cabbage, the production of which has become a P10-M vegetable industry.

Diadegma, the farmers' ally, is capable of suppressing the increase of DBM population in the fields.

The combat starts when diadegma lays its eggs on the larva of the DBM which are camouflaged on the foliage of the cabbage and other parts of the plant above the ground. The diadegma eggs eventually hatch and develop inside the DBM larva until the diadegma pupates. After 9 to 10 days the mature diadegma emerges from the pupa and into the open to lay siege again on an average of from 120 to 200 DBM larvae.

The battlefield is initially confined to the plots of cabbages scattered in 9,000 hectares here although DBM also assaults other crucifer crops like wongbok (Chinese



DIADEGMA COCOON: Farmers' ally.

cabbage), cauliflower, pechay, broccoli and radish. If left uncontrolled, DBM can wreck havoc on the Cordillera's P1.5-B crucifer plant industry.

Long known as the farmer's nemesis, the slender grayish banded diamondback moth, has been merrily feasting on cabbages here and no amount of pesticides or insecticides — and lately, even cyanide — could check the widespread infestation. Crop loss could be as low as 60% and as high as 100% or total devastation of a small farmer's investment, but if collectively quantified, could mean the very survival of upland vegetable farmers.

The massive — and all-too frequent — application of these chemicals in greater and greater dosages has led to the phenomenal development of resistance by the DBM up to a point when the insects' population can no longer be stopped even if ten times the recommended dosage of insecticide is used, according to entomologist Eulogio Cardona, Jr., project team leader and professor of the Benguet State University, one of the agencies involved in the fight against the DBM.

The warfare that pits diadegma vs. DBM is actually part of a package of technology under the nascent Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program of Asian countries that includes the Philippines.

This was made possible through a technical assistance agreement between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Vegetable Research Development Center (AVRDC) based in Taiwan which established a Collaborative Vegetable Network or AVNET.

The campaign against the DBM was backstopped with the transfer of the diadegma technology to the Philippines from AVRDC with the University of the Philippines in Los Baños and the Benguet State University as participating agencies. The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) - Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture and the Highland



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Irrigation projects urged to avoid RP rice shortage

A RICE shortage of as much as 550,000 to 1.15 million metric tons will plague the country by the year 2000 owing to the lack of investments in irrigation projects.

Dr. Levi S. Cabanilla, of the College of Econom-

Large riceland areas of Central Luzon, in particular, which once was the country's top rice granary, have been converted and totally lost due to natural (lahar) and economic phenomena, he said.

With a decreasing land resource base that could be devoted to rice production, cabanilla stressed the importance of a massive irrigation program. "Through irrigation, land is more intensively used and productivity is almost doubled," he said.

Due to budgetary constraints, irrigation development stands at only 46 percent of total irrigable area in the country, he said.

Cabanilla's paper added saying "Because of this, only an average of 36,700 hectares of new irrigated lands are developed annually between 1979 and 1989."

At this rate of irrigation development, assuming a continued sufficient water availability, it would take almost half a century more before identified irrigable areas are fully developed," the study added.

Compared to other countries, growth in irrigation expenditures has been quite low in the Philippines. "Be-

tween 1976 and 1985, irrigation expenditures in the Philippines (in nominal terms) grew by only 33 percent (or 3.3 percent a year), Indonesia by 126 percent and Thailand by 102 percent."

He said that because of irrigation, yields in Indonesia are around three times higher than that in the Philippines.

While irrigation development grows so slow, existing irrigation systems have deteriorated so fast, making many of them non-operational due to heavy siltation.

In Luzon alone, studies show that "wet season irrigated area has been reported to decline by nine percent, and dry season area by 21 percent annually due to the deterioration of irrigation systems."

"As a result," Cabanilla added that "wet season output declined by as much as 9,000 metric tons annually. This is further reported to be the effect of mine tailings deposited in irrigated canals and rice fields. In Mindanao, the operation of multinational companies in the upper slopes of watershed areas is causing deterioration of irrigation systems."

ics and Management in UP Los Baños, made this grim projection in a recent paper as he noted the massive conversion of prime rice lands close to urban centers into residential and other non-agricultural uses."

And because of the pricing biases in favor of consumers at the expense of rice farmers, most farmers hardly earn enough to even pay the low subsidized irrigation fees, thus making maintenance of irrigation facilities extremely difficult. And yet despite the low irrigation fees, collection efficiency has averaged only 50 percent from 1979 to 1989.

Cabanilla also stressed that because of the biases against rice farming, most farmers do not earn enough, prompting them to convert their lands to other purposes.

A pricing policy that would do away with government's intervention in retail rice prices coupled with irrigation and other support infrastructure projects will enable farmers to earn more by going volume.

With the bulk of the poor dependent on rice and a sizeable majority of farmers is composed of rice and corn farmers, both this twin policy recommendations will help much alleviate poverty among specific target groups of farmers. (MANILA BULLETIN, March 15, 1993)



MORE IRRIGATED FARMLANDS NEEDED: For a growing population.

Agricultural Development Project are the coordinating partners of the project.

A barangay in this town has been chosen as a pilot site where the mass-rearing and release of diadegma were initiated, the initial stock of the parasitoids of which was provided by AVRDC from Taiwan. In a workshop-demonstration of the project here, AVRDC Executive Director Emil Q. Javier highlighted the advantages local farmers can derive by using the diadegma-IPM technology, saying that an estimated P12,000 per hectare per cropping season can be saved by the farmers or a total savings of P108 million from 9,000 hectares planted to cabbages, if all farmers utilize the IPM technology and refrain from

applying the usual volume of pesticides.

But this could be a problem if the integrated approach is not adopted and if farmers here do not avail themselves entirely of the technology. The DBM menace may not be contained if all the cabbage farmers do not cooperate since the pests would simply flit from one cabbage plot to the other, particularly those whose owners are bent on pursuing the chemical spray-approach, instead of using the less harmful biological method. The benefits of the IPM technology, however, transcends the profit-and-loss statement. For in reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides a more sustainable and safe means of food production can be assured.