

# G'day, Mate: ACIAR Filipino Alumni Stories



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# **G'day, Mate: ACIAR Filipino Alumni Stories**





# INTRODUCTION

## CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) has made significant contributions to address the challenges in agricultural research in the Indo-Pacific region since it was established in 1982.

ACIAR invests in bilateral and multilateral research partnerships that will help to improve food security and increase agricultural productivity, sustainability and resilience of food systems under a changing climate. The agency also aims to improve the health and nutrition of agri-based households and their communities, improve market access for smallholders, and increase gender equity in access to resources and decision-making.

As a trusted broker and research partner in the Indo-Pacific region, one of the ACIAR's main roles is capacity development to foster leadership and career development in partner countries. The goal is to create a pool of scientists and researchers that can take learning and research from the laboratory to the field.

One of ACIAR's flagship capacity-building programs in the Philippines, the John Allwright Fellowship (JAF), has brought aspiring Filipino scientists to learn, collaborate and be trained in Australian institutions. The holistic, multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary training exposes the JAF fellows to a broad range of scientific learning and problem-solving approaches. Bringing these learnings back to the country, Filipino JAF fellows can then develop science-based solutions in a grassroots approach.

Another program, the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF), has sent Filipinos to Australia for four weeks of intensive training. JDF fellows are exposed to industry and government institution systems and processes to better learn how to communicate, manage and lead.

During the 35 years of partnership with the Philippine Government, ACIAR has produced more than 67 JAF and JDF fellows who are now taking an active part in solving pressing and multifaceted issues in agriculture, food security, market access, value chains, natural resources management and climate change.

This storybook showcases our JAF and JDF alumni who have lit the torch of scientific excellence in agricultural research, and become a beacon to inspire more Filipinos to take on the challenge and responsibility of contributing to inclusive and sustainable development.

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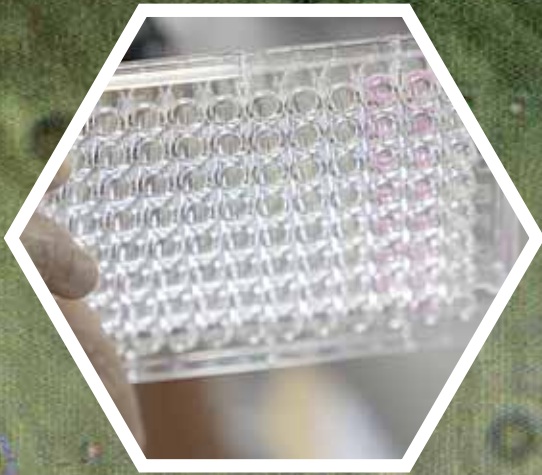
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# THE FELLOWS



# DELIA CATAACUTAN

It is hard to put into words how much Del has contributed to natural and rural systems research and development, both in the Philippines and for the rest of the world. She has 20 years of research experience in the socioeconomic, technical, policy, gender and institutional dimensions of agroforestry and integrated natural resources management. She also has expertise in watershed management, land use, and landscape and national resource management and planning.

Del received an ACIAR John Allwright Fellowship for her doctoral studies in Natural and Rural Systems Management. She also received a John Dillon Fellowship. These fellowships allowed her to get further education and training abroad. She still fondly remembers the times she went to the campus early in the morning like a schoolgirl to arrive at the office before her supervisor. She also recalls how she studied and worked on her research until the wee hours, burning the midnight candle, visiting libraries and accumulating big piles of references to achieve her research goal.

Del feels that her ACIAR fellowships greatly increased her confidence to take on bigger responsibilities

and opened up opportunities for her, such as being awarded a postdoctoral fellowship abroad. She believes her work ethics have contributed to her success in the Philippines and overseas.

Del has built her career over the years, with positions as a professor, project leader and specialist. Today, she is a senior scientist at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Bogor, Indonesia. Del led the implementation of agricultural land-use planning of an ACIAR–CSIRO project titled 'Land resource evaluation for productive and resilience landscapes in the central dry zone of Myanmar'. She also led the development of agroforestry roadmaps and ICRAF country programs for Cambodia and Myanmar, and coordinated a study on governance of shared landscapes covering Vietnam, Kenya and Somalia funded by the International Food Policy Research Institute and CGIAR. Recently, Del received the highest commemorative award by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for her contribution to Vietnamese agriculture and rural development.

Del led the preparation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agroforestry guidelines that ASEAN Member States adopted in 2018—a landmark achievement in terms of linking science to policy action. She has also authored and co-authored more than 100 journal articles, book chapters,



working papers, policy briefs and booklets, and has authored and co-edited books. She also reviews scientific articles for major international journals such as *Land Use Policy*, *Agroforestry Systems and International Forest Review*, and is a project management expert certified by the American Project Management Council.

Along with her achievements in improving regional land use, Del also works to better her home country's ecosystem. She is a project consultant for the United Nations Development Program in the Philippines that manages the rehabilitation of degraded agricultural lands and biodiversity-friendly enterprises.

Del hopes the Philippine Government will provide more support to research and give incentives to scientists who aim for innovation, in the hopes of addressing the agricultural and environmental challenges the country continues to face.

'Only the paranoids survive' is Del's motto that she would like young scientists to take to heart. Del believes scientists must persevere and strive to do research that is salient, credible and legitimate. She also believes in the old adage that success does not come overnight, and that it is all about continual learning, hard work and dedication—which reflects the work she has done and the accolades she has received.



# PETER PALMA

At a young age, Peter Palma had already cemented his career in aquaculture research. Peter is a researcher with expertise in a variety of disciplines—from fish breeding to fish endocrinology and microbiology. He also reviews journals articles for revered international science journals such as *Aquaculture*, *Marine and Freshwater Behaviour and Physiology*, and *Reproduction, Fertility and Development*. Peter was mentored by Professor Abigail Elizur, a world-renowned Australian professor and aquaculture scientist who is the brains behind the world's first captive breeding of southern bluefin tuna.

Peter credits the ACIAR John Allwright Fellowship (JAF) with giving him an extraordinary learning experience in fish reproductive endocrinology and aquaculture biotechnology. Peter also credits the fellowship with making him a better individual. The Australian education system improved Peter's self-confidence, which enabled him to pursue independent research at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Aquaculture Department in Iloilo, Philippines.

These experiences all helped Peter to be a more responsible and diligent researcher. He now holds an important position at SEAFDEC and ensures that he maintains a high standard throughout his work from designing experiments to writing and



publishing results.

Peter wishes to see the Philippines as a food-secure country that can meet the needs of its people now and for generations to come. He also hopes that other sectors in the aquaculture industry, including private and public organisations, will work together to develop and apply efficient fish production technologies.

Furthermore, Peter wants to see more Filipino aquaculture scientists undertake relevant and innovative research activities that will benefit both fish farmers and consumers. He encourages young students to study under the ACIAR's JAF, be mentored by top scientists, build international networks, and apply their new knowledge and skills in the Philippines.



# LUCY BORINES

WITH a growing number of research publications in plant pathology and phytobacteriology, Lucy's citation index has also increased year after year. Her research skills, especially connecting and collaborating with peers and writing research papers, have been honed through the ACIAR John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) she received in 2015.

During the JDF leadership training at Mt. Eliza Executive Education, Lucy learned to understand the relationship between different personalities and work performance. It may sound simple, but it became a defining moment for Lucy. Through the leadership training, Lucy learned to identify how she reacts to the behaviour of others, adjust herself to those around her and develop a better bond with them. Applying the new understanding to her workplace, she developed better relationships with her colleagues and superiors, and became an effective leader.

Through the JDF, Lucy also increased her capacity to manage research and learned how to write publishable papers for scientific

journals. Moreover, during her time in Australia, the JDF provided a wealth of experiences such as visiting research institutions, stations, high-tech laboratories and experimental farms. This widened her horizon and broadened her knowledge as a researcher.

She also had the time of her life in Australia! Lucy saw mobs of kangaroos in the wild for the first time and had the chance to hold a baby kangaroo. She was also able to visit huge rockmelon and watermelon farms where she saw technological applications and innovation among farmers, and an apple-breeding station where she saw the mother tree of the famous Pink Lady apple variety of Australia.

The Australian training under the JDF has contributed significantly to who Lucy is today. She continues to research and teach at the Visayas State University, and encourages budding researchers to pursue advanced studies and helps them to conduct relevant studies that would improve the Philippines.



# NESTOR GREGORIO

FOR Nestor, ACIAR proved to be the key to his achievements throughout his academic and research career.

Rather than just focusing on forest restoration projects in the Philippines, he expanded his horizon and now also holds a significant role in a current ACIAR project in Papua New Guinea.

He has even gained global attention after his forest restoration project in Biliran in the Philippines was selected to be included in 'Enhancing food security through forest landscape restoration' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. His was one of only seven case studies in the world to be chosen.

He learned about ACIAR when he became a part of an ACIAR project on smallholder forestry while he was a lecturer at his former university—Visayas State University under the College of Forestry in Leyte, Philippines—back in 1998. Being recognised as one of the study leaders in implementing the ACIAR project, he was then chosen to be a recipient of the John Allwright



Fellowship (JAF).

A year after starting his masters degree, he advanced to a doctoral degree and his research evolved into an ACIAR project in the Philippines.

As the person responsible for field trials of forest trees and the one who gave support to community capacity-building programs, Nestor's lessons from his research in the Philippines were helpful in taking the next step in his career as a senior research fellow with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Nestor believes that research is dynamic, exciting, fulfilling and fun, and he encourages his students to become part of ACIAR projects through fellowship opportunities. For him, JAF was his springboard and it definitely propelled his career to new heights.

Even if he is now permanently living in Australia, Nestor aspires to significantly contribute to the betterment of the Philippines using the knowledge and skills he gained from his doctoral program through the JAF. He also aims to continue to provide research opportunities through ACIAR projects to the Philippines. He especially wants to improve the outcomes of forest restoration in the Philippines to mitigate climate change impacts, enhance ecological functions of degraded forest landscapes and improve the economic status of smallholders whose wellbeing depend on the forests.







## LILIA VEGA

As the ACIAR Horticulture Program coordinator at the Visayas State University, Lilia believes that the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) was tailor-fitted for her.

Her time in Melbourne, Australia, improved Lilia's career. The five-week training about communicating science introduced her to strategies on how to successfully engage herself in the international scientific community. As a future manager and leader, the training helped her to develop and write scientific papers with different approaches, prepare quality manuscripts and learn various research paradigms.

Meanwhile, her training in the New Leaders Development Program gave her ideas and skills that she shared with marginalised farmers, groups of displaced women, out-of-school youth and cooperatives. Lilia's highlight was learning the practical 'walk and talk' way of conducting a meeting. It reduced her stresses at her current position and gave her the confidence to handle critical situations effectively and gracefully.

The JDF also exposed Lilia to

different farms in Australia. She is thankful for the opportunity the fellowship gave her to see new agricultural technologies applied in farms and fields. She is also grateful to have experienced firsthand how international standard strategies on leadership and management are handled.

As an ACIAR coordinator, Lilia would like to be the channel to help marginalised Filipino farmers improve their cultural management and use good agricultural practices in farming. Lilia wants to include gender sensitivity in her work. She also aims to help farmers produce high-quality and globally competitive products.

She encourages young researchers to continue to be resourceful and imaginative, and seek what is beneficial through research, not just for their generation but for the next generations ahead.





## LARRY DIGAL

As the recently appointed Chancellor of the University of the Philippines (UP) Mindanao, Larry has reaped the rewards for his expertise and extensive research on agricultural economics and strategic management.

Larry has been a consistent top honours student since his undergraduate days. He graduated with distinction and received various academic excellence awards. He also received a graduate research assistantship and a Rotary scholarship at Purdue University for his Masters in Agri Economics, and the Australian Development Cooperation Scholarship

of AusAID for his PhD in the same field at the University of Sydney in Australia.

He remembers the times when, through his John Dillon Fellowship (JDF), he was exposed to the role and participation of the private sector, including producers and industries, in crafting and implementing various research programs. The experience was an eye-opener for Larry.

For him, the JDF helped to improve his research management knowledge and skills. These contributed to the development of a research management system in the Office of Research at the University of the Philippines Mindanao. This system helped clarify the role of the Office of Research

in crafting the research agenda, in coordinating and providing research support services to researchers, and in tracking and evaluating research performance.

Larry wants to develop programs and inputs to policy discussions about improving the country's agricultural sector. With his experience and exposure to agriculturally linked social problems, Larry aims to use his abilities to contribute to the development of the Philippines. He also wants to use his expertise and research in the economics of sustainable agricultural value chains for all Filipinos, but most importantly for those who need the most help in these chains, particularly poor farmers.

Larry's research about market power and the economics of sustainable agricultural value chains led to various recognitions, such as a UP Scientist and the Commission on Higher Education Republika National Award for outstanding publication in the social sciences.

Larry has always enjoyed imparting his knowledge to students. He encourages them to look for ways to hone their expertise, especially if they are serious in doing research and passionate about the subject. In the process of learning and researching, Larry reminds students to make sure they tackle research problems that will benefit a lot of people, particularly those who need help to improve their living conditions. Also, Larry urges students to try their best in aligning the priorities of their institution or community to make research useful and sustainable.



# DONNA CASIMERO

**N**OT many scientists could wear as many hats as Donna does.

With the help of the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) she completed in 2007, Donna handled the big task of managing the research and development (R&D) folio of PhilRice. As PhilRice's Deputy Director for R&D, she led more than 1000 R&D staff to help achieve the institution's goal of developing innovations in rice and rice-based farming systems, and building the capacity of farmers to become managers of their own farms.

Donna credits the JDF for providing her with opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge in research management, leadership and building relationships with partners. These skills prepared her to be effective in her duties and responsibilities as she became a scientist and research manager of the International Rice Research Institute in Indonesia, Myanmar and Philippines.

Cultural barriers were definitely one of the many challenges Donna faced while working abroad. However, the JDF's five-week experience and exposure in Australia while living together with scientists from other countries helped Donna to build skills in developing positive relationships with people of different nationalities.

But the JDF was more than just developing these interpersonal skills—it also broadened Donna's perspective in small-scale farming. When she was in Australia, Donna saw how farmers transform the agricultural landscape, and how farmers earn more if they are organised, equipped, empowered and supported by the government and the private sector.

This has made Donna hope for a fully developed agricultural sector and progressive Philippine economy where farmers can be engaged in a vertically integrated value chain and involved in agribusiness, locally and globally.





## BENG UMALI

experience as enlightening because it allowed him to apply this learning in every aspect of his career.

Right after he earned his degree, he went back to Cavite State University and helped to establish two research laboratories—Soils and Water, and Environmental GIS and Remote Sensing—with the support of research and institutional development funding. In these labs, Beng completed three research projects and attracted students along the way. With Beng's guidance and the use of tools in the laboratories, the students completed their training and are now considered experts in their respective fields.

Now that Beng has led the way for students at his own university, he hopes that more will be engaged in scientific research, given the growing educational opportunities of Filipinos in their country.

Beng's advice to the next generation of scientists is that success is a product of opportunity, a lot of hard work and a decision to pursue a goal followed by action and dedication.

**B**ENG dreams of equal opportunities for Filipinos. An ACIAR John Allwright Fellow, Beng completed his doctoral studies in soil science and spatial information systems at Adelaide University. His experience improved his capacity as a researcher and broadened his knowledge on soil and land systems. It provided Beng with an avenue to explore his area of expertise and gave him the opportunity to become one of the leading researchers in the field.

Beng has published three articles in spatial distribution and variability of soil properties, and their impact on pesticide transport. This experience taught him that publishing scientific research is not a 'walk in the park'. But it also taught him to persevere, and sees this



# ZENY GONZAGA



As a professor at the Visayas State University in Leyte, Zeny is one of the most sought-after thesis-dissertation advisers in the university. She is known for helping her students to conceptualise their research topics, carefully guide their experiments and assisting them to write their

manuscripts.

Zeny is also a popular mentor to high school and elementary students who are interested in agricultural research. She takes pride that some of her young scientists have already won in science fairs around the country.

Apart from her teaching responsibilities, Zeny is actively involved in collaborative research projects with local and international partners. To date, she has led two significant ACIAR projects in vegetables production and has recently started another project aimed at having safe vegetables available in the market.

Zeny's achievements were, of course, a result of her hard work and commitment to academic and research excellence. But she also credits the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) for giving her the chance to enhance her research management, communication and leadership skills.

Zeny remembers that, while in Australia, she visited several agriculture and environment-related projects where she got to see high-tech greenhouses. It was her first time to see such a facility, and she was impressed with how computers were able to control and regulate the greenhouse's environmental factors affecting the growth and development of plants, such as fertilisation, watering, misting, temperature control, light and relative humidity.

Through her JDF training, Zeny became more confident in leading ACIAR research projects. The JDF also helped in her career growth—from being an Assistant Professor to a Professor IV.

As a senior faculty member, Zeny is even more inspired to help and motivate young researchers and scientists to pursue further studies and stay in agricultural research. She believes agricultural research has an important role to play in securing food for the next generation by increasing agricultural productivity and improving quality of life.



# LEMUEL PRECIADOS



LEMUEL'S stint under the John Allwright Fellowship (JAF) was a life-changing experience. The fellowship—for a Master of International Economics and Finance at the University of Queensland in Brisbane—enabled him to learn how to translate economic theories and principles from lectures into relevant researchable topics using economic tools.

The theories, approaches and skills he learned while studying are now the same things he shares with his students through his lectures, workshops and thesis consultation at the Visayas State University (VSU).

Starting as a research assistant of an ACIAR project, Lemuel is now a study leader of various projects and is also an assistant professor at the VSU Department of Economics. He is part of a pool of economic experts that come from academia, local government units, nongovernment organisations and private firms.

The JAF experience also

introduced Lemuel to other scholars. He was able to share experiences both personally and academically, and how they all overcame challenges. It was also through the JAF that Lemuel was able to talk with research program managers and executives at the ACIAR Canberra office. The trip inspired him to become a great researcher and to contribute significantly to ACIAR and its target beneficiaries.

Lemuel's enthusiasm grew and it allowed him to perform relevant research that touched the lives of many farmers and households. Today, he focuses his abilities on trade and finance, farm systems modelling and econometrics modelling. Having an average research publication output of two per year, Lemuel has helped the university and its students to gain research experience.

Lemuel hopes his efforts will pave the way to reduce poverty rates in the Philippines and transform agriculture into a profitable enterprise for Filipino households.



# ANA NOTARTE

**A**NA is a modern-day hero in Davao del Norte.

After the devolution in 1991 that almost threatened to abolish her office, the Research and Development Division, she campaigned to retain the unit under the Provincial Agriculturist Office (PAO).

Armed with her training from the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF), Ana convinced the local government about the importance of research in agriculture development. Today, the province of Davao del Norte has a strong research and development unit, and one of the few—if not only—that is still under the PAO.

Apart from the value of the training, the JDF was a memorable experience for Ana. She visited mango farms and saw

firsthand new farming practices, innovations in operations and in-field research. When Ana returned to the Philippines, she was more confident to share and teach new mango technology to Davao del Norte growers, and even had the chance to share her knowledge throughout the whole island of Mindanao and other parts of the country.

After the JDF training, Ana introduced a reporting system to improve efficiencies in her office. She was able to mobilise funds to establish a state-of-the-art office and equipment that now provide her staff with an effective work environment.

Her accomplishments have been recognised with numerous professional milestones and awards, including an Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Southern Mindanao.

Now the provincial agriculturist in Davao del Norte, Ana is still involved in research and knows the importance of agricultural research and innovation to farmers and fishers. She makes sure that research and in-field trials are funded each year, and seeks out partnerships and linkages with other research institutes and funding institutions.

ACIAR has been working with Ana and the province on various research projects on mango and banana



production since 2005. With Ana at the helm, both agencies will continue to nurture this partnership.

As an agriculturist, Ana continues to provide technologies to improve farmers' livelihood and income, and help them to become empowered agri-entrepreneurs.

Ana encourages young researchers to never stop chasing their dreams and pursue higher education. For her, the JDF opened doors to more opportunities

and a greater appreciation for research and innovation. Although management responsibilities now take up most of her time, she still sees research as the main reason for her happiness, satisfaction and personal growth.



# DINAH LOCULAN



**H**AILING from the south, Dinah has a lot of agricultural aspirations for her home region in the Philippines. In fact, her doctoral thesis at the University of Queensland focused on intervention processes, approaches and strategies for agricultural technologies in the municipality of Malitbog in Northern Mindanao.

As an agriculturist, Dinah wanted to understand why the sustainability of approaches such as multi-cropping, forage crops, improvements in ruminant production, landcare conservation farming and agroforestry, and sustainable organic agriculture, continues to be a challenge in Malitbog.

With support from ACIAR's John Allwright Fellowship (JAF), Dinah's research involved trips to the local community. According to her, living and immersing herself in the field opened her eyes to the reality of agricultural development. It also gave her new perspectives and ideas on how to address agricultural issues at the grassroots level.

The four years Dinah spent studying in Australia was fruitful in many ways. It allowed her to be an independent researcher, developed her critical thinking and, most importantly, prepared her

to face the challenging world head on. For Dinah, the fellowship was her gateway to opportunities such as collaborating with and advising fellow researchers, and engaging in group discussions with local leaders to cultivate environmental awareness and sustainable agriculture.

Dinah's ability to adapt to changes was evident after she completed her studies in Australia. After marrying her husband and moving to the United States, she continued as an agriculturist by becoming involved in a community that promotes permaculture and organic gardening. She also volunteered for a non-profit organisation that hosts equine and horticultural activities for students with disabilities, and worked as a para-educator in different institutions.

Dinah believes that she is where she needs to be today because she followed what she truly desired and what she was passionate about. And she wants young Filipinos to do the same.

Dinah currently lives with her husband in China and continues to teach arts and ecology to young learners in Nanning. She intends to promote sustainable agriculture, environmental awareness and homegrown organic gardening in her hometown of Dipolog once she retires.



# DEXTER DELA CRUZ

**D**EXTER'S research is a positive note amid the degradation of coral reefs all over the world. His research demonstrated, for the first time, a technique to overcome the limitations of natural selection of specific foundation coral species to help replenish and maintain reefs. His research has also applied this approach to other organisms that rely on larval supply for population replenishment and maintenance. This research provided the scientific evidence to make coral restoration possible.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the ACIAR John Allwright Fellowship (JAF), which gave Dexter the opportunity to work with top marine biologists and scientists that he had previously only read about in scientific publications. The fellowship allowed Dexter to visit and conduct his studies on the Great Barrier Reef, and to work in the National Sea Simulator of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the world-leading laboratory in sea simulation

research.

Dexter believes the fellowship also propelled him to become a more responsible scientist. Disciplined and eager, he has now more skills and a realistic understanding of how his research can change and improve the lives of people in the community and the world.

Dexter dreams that Philippine reefs can be restored and then preserved, to benefit the Filipino nation and especially the younger generation. More stakeholders would need to work together to improve the Philippines' reef system. This would in turn improve the state of fisheries that highly depend on these reefs and give hope to communities, create sustainable livelihoods and secure food for the generations to come.



# JANET ESTACION

**J**ANET'S love for the ocean is unwavering. As the Director of the Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences, and professor at the Department of Biology in Silliman University in Dumaguete, she aims to protect and conserve our waters by bringing young researchers and change-makers on board. Her position gives her the power to influence students to go into research and mentor them to become responsible individuals in their chosen fields.

With a vast amount of research experience and numerous publications behind her, Janet is thankful for the ACIAR's John Allwright Fellowship and the educational experience it gave her at the beginning of her career. She obtained her doctoral degree in zoology at James Cook University and returned to Dumaguete as soon as she had graduated, to give back to her community.

Janet says that the fellowship gave her the training and exposure that enriched her teaching and research career. Janet started as a researcher and investigator. She then progressed to team leader, collaborator and consultant for research that goes from assessing marine animal population and habitat, to developing teaching guides for the K to 12 transition under the Commission on Higher Education.

She has taken many roles in various marine-related projects. In conducting research and mentoring students, Janet believes that her success stems from what she has invested in—herself, her family, her colleagues and her students.



# JONATHAN MANGMANG

COMING from a poor farming family, Jonathan—or Atan as he is fondly called—has always dreamed of a better life for Filipinos, particularly farmers.

Farming remains one of the marginalised sectors in the country, but through applied research and efficient extension services, Atan believes that this can change.

As an agricultural researcher in an ACIAR project, Atan has seen how farmers can be involved in projects from planning through to implementation. By teaching farmers to identify problems, offering them science-based solutions and helping them become educators to their colleagues, farmers can help change their lives for the better.

As a John Allwright Fellow, Atan was able to pursue his doctoral studies in agriculture at the University of Sydney. The experience augmented his knowledge and skills, and improved his credentials and employability.

The fellowship also gave him the chance to publish his work. In fact, one of Atan's biggest achievements was the publication of two research

papers from his thesis by his second year in the fellowship. He also had the opportunity to deliver oral and poster presentations in conferences held in different countries.

Atan was still able to enjoy his time in Australia despite his numerous academic requirements. He indulged himself with the serene environment and beautiful landscapes, and participated in events such as the Floriade Festival in Canberra.

Today, Atan is serving the Philippines as an instructor in the Agriculture Department of the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences at the University of Southeastern Philippines in Tagum City of Davao del Norte. He continues to inspire students to join his field of plant propagation and vegetable production.



# DENISE ANN DAYAO



**A**NIMAL disease control is an important process in making sure animals and animal products are safe. This is where Denise has focused her career, using research to ensure the diagnosis and delivery of appropriate treatment and control of animal diseases. Her

work was supported by the John Allwright Fellowship (JAF), which allowed her to pursue higher education at the University of Queensland.

On her return to the Philippines, Denise shared the experiences she gained during her doctoral studies with her colleagues at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 3 (DA-RFO3) in Pampanga. For her, this was the most valuable impact of the

fellowship.

Her JAF-funded doctoral degree strengthened the diagnostic capacity of the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory by including molecular techniques. Her role with the laboratory involved the optimisation of real-time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) assays for the detection of influenza A (avian and swine), Newcastle disease (ND) and porcine reproductive respiratory syndrome (PRRS) viruses.

Denise successfully established processes for the molecular detection (qPCR) of important diseases of pigs and poultry, such as influenza A, ND and PRRS. During the influenza A outbreak in the country, Denise helped with its initial detection. She also headed the investigation of goats positive for caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE) antibodies in DA-RFO 3 research stations and recommended measures to control CAE. And—most importantly—Denise provided technical assistance to farmers.

Denise is currently a postdoctoral scholar focusing on human enteric pathogens. She is involved in animal and laboratory experiments to develop and test vaccines.

Denise believes she owes her career advancement to JAF. She dreams that someday, the Philippines will have well-organised, modernised and well-financed animal disease diagnostic laboratories to benefit farmers, students and researchers.



# LITO BULAONG

**A**LREADY excellent in his field of study, Lito reached even greater heights when he received the John Allwright Fellowship (JAF) to complete his Masters in Applied Science on Food Engineering at the University of New South Wales.

During his fellowship, Lito won the Spruson and Ferguson Patent and Trademark Prize for best seminar presentation by a graduate student in the Department of Food Science and Technology. Since this was 1994—a time when digital presentation tools were limited—Lito used an overhead transparency projector for his winning presentation. The presentation also attracted media interest; he was featured in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in March of the same year.

Lito's JAF and study experiences provided some of the foundations for his success. He went back to the Bureau of Postharvest Research, Development and Extension, now called PhilMech, after obtaining his degree, and was immediately promoted to Chief Science Research Specialist in the Physical Processes Research Division. In 2001, he was appointed as

Director of the Research and Development Cluster.

At PhilMech, he developed a grain dryer with a biomass furnace as the heat source, which became a commercial success. Through his current company, the Agricom Machineries and Construction Corporation (AMCC), Lito developed various dryer models—both stationary and mobile—with capacities ranging from 4 to 300 tons. These dryers help to reduce postharvest losses while drying grains, and more than 300 units have been sold and installed nationwide in the Philippines.

As AMCC's Research and Development head, Lito used his JAF training and experience to continue to develop and commercialise new postharvest technologies. He hopes to fulfil his aspiration to improve agricultural mechanisation and achieve more efficient farm operations in the Philippines.



# DINDO CAMPILAN

**A** CIAR projects and activities have been a major part of Dindo's research program and career since 2008. He was ACIAR project leader for vegetable value-chain development in Indonesia before applying for the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) in 2011. For Dindo, the fellowship was a career-defining opportunity.

Dindo believes that the JDF helped to build his core professional skill set and embark on an international career as a research leader and science manager. The fellowship provided guided peer-to-peer learning and taught him how to learn from project experiences, including best practices in Australia. It also allowed him to forge new professional and institutional links.

One thing Dindo will

never forget during his ACIAR experience was when he visited the Australian Parliament House, which was the venue for the JDF's closing ceremonies. The opportunity to witness the prime minister and legislators in action was an eye-opener for Dindo. And as fate would have it, Dindo was invited back to the same place just months after his JDF experience to deliver a keynote message for that year's annual Crawford Fund Conference which was that year themed 'The supermarket revolution in food' at Parliament House.

The JDF experience in 2011 was also a timely learning process in research leadership and management, as Dindo transitioned from one professional challenge to another in the CGIAR (a global research partnership). That year, he completed his





India-based assignment with the Centro Internacional de la Papa (International Potato Center; CIP) as regional leader for a 15-country program in South-West and Central Asia. He moved soon after to the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (International Center for Tropical Agriculture; CIAT) as director for Asia, managing an 18-country research program.

Ever since his JDF stint, Dindo has also been involved in various ACIAR initiatives across Asia. He had multiple roles as project leader, trainer, external reviewer for proposals and projects, and workshop resource person.

Although his position requires overseeing many countries at once, Dindo maintains a close engagement in key collaborative activities in the Philippines. This includes an ongoing initiative with the national government on decision-support tools for policy development, investment planning and community action towards a more climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries sector in the country. And as someone who grew up in a typhoon-prone country, Dindo hopes to see climate-risk vulnerable communities achieve more resilient lives and livelihoods by harnessing the combined potential of global science and local knowledge.

Dindo believes that, as the world's development challenges become more complex, science remains the

key to providing evidence-based, yet field-grounded, solutions. He encourages young researchers to pursue a career that helps promote the role of science to serve a human purpose.

Looking through his 20-year journey in international agricultural research, Dindo believes the JDF was a career milestone that opened doors to many opportunities, particularly in expanding his network of professional and institutional contacts. His experience shows that for those who pursue professional pathways in science-for-development, ACIAR fellowships such as the JDF are a unique platform for knowledge sharing and cross-boundary learning.



# EDWIN CEDAMON



As a forester, Edwin knew that there was considerable work to be done in the Philippines. But he only realised the true value of his work after he finished his doctoral studies in Tropical Forestry at the University of Queensland under ACIAR's John Allwright Fellowship (JAF).

Edwin's research on small-scale forest silviculture in the Philippines

broadened his forestry knowledge beyond growing seedlings and trees for profit. With his research, Edwin learned there are socioeconomic and environmental functions of growing and managing forests that are yet to be fully realised by growers, local and community forest managers, and forest users.

His further studies and training helped him to acquire skills and knowledge for his research career. Edwin credits his academic experience in Australia for his strong foundation in research and the development of his own personality.

Through the JAF, Edwin was mentored by top scientists in his field. He also made a lasting bond with his colleagues, particularly a JAF fellow with whom he exchanged several ideas that advanced and refined their individual research projects. Edwin says it was a memorable experience, emphasising the

importance of creating networks and connecting to other peers outside his host institution.

Today, Edwin works at the University of Adelaide as a postdoctoral researcher for an ACIAR project in Nepal. Although he has only worked in the Philippines for a couple of years after his fellowship, Edwin dreams that one day he will be involved in a research project in the country. He is particularly interested in improving the management of secondary forests and monoculture plantations to improve the livelihoods and climate resilience of poor forest users and forest occupants.

At an era of climate change, Edwin's work is undeniably important to the survival of not just our forests but the human species as well.



# NELDA GONZAGA

NELDA has always sought and pursued opportunities to keep her passion for research going. When she learned about the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF), she applied and was successful. She has now used her learnings to attain excellence in her field and teach the younger generation to chase the same dreams.

The JDF gave Nelda the chance to improve herself. It boosted her confidence to take on responsibilities as the Director for Research, Development and Extension in the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines in Claveria, Misamis Oriental—a position she has held for the past seven years.

Nelda remembers very well the New Leaders Development Program (NLDP) at the Mount Eliza–Melbourne Business School, which was part of the JDF curriculum. The week-long course offered excellent learning methods and styles. Her experience with the NLDP helped her to interact with her colleagues, and made her a great team player who became more motivated and productive. She believes the program contributed to her promotion in the university.

The JDF also helped her to improve her communication and presentation skills. Nelda applied what she had learned when she prepared and presented a research action plan to ACIAR research

program managers at the ACIAR headquarters in Canberra. She also had the rare chance to witness a session at the Australian Parliament House and see Australian Government officials in action.

Because of the JDF, Nelda travelled internationally, and had the opportunity to present research at international conferences and publish scientific papers.

As an associate professor at the College of Agriculture in her university, she wants to continue collaborative work with international research partners such as ACIAR. Nelda wants to build and push young researchers to be well-rounded individuals and contribute not just in the field of science, but to society as a whole.



# IME TORREFRANCA



THE John Allwright Fellowship (JAF) propelled Ime's career to new heights and served as a tool that made Ime who she is today—personally and academically.

Currently an assistant professor at Bohol Island State University, Ime is grateful to have had a JAF because it helped to build

her confidence and self-esteem, as well as her knowledge and skills. With the JAF, Ime learned natural resource management using geographical information system (GIS) tools.

The fellowship also opened a lot of opportunities for Ime, and she capitalised on those chances to kickstart her academic career. For Ime, education and research are the ways to move forward. The

master's degree she obtained from the University of Western Sydney under the JAF was her ticket to getting a permanent academic teaching position and receiving further training abroad. After Ime published her first work, she began to pursue her doctoral degree in engineering at the University of San Carlos in Cebu.

Ime's experience in Australia was wonderful. Even though she found it hard to be alone in a new country and initially struggled in her studies, she eventually adjusted and enjoyed life in Australia. There, she learned how to appreciate the simplest yet mesmerising things nature has to offer. One of her memorable moments was when she visited Taronga Zoo and learned how to tell the difference between a zebra and a giraffe, after she first confused the two.

With her academic training, Ime became involved as a collaborating scientist in various ACIAR projects in the country. This also helped to increase her knowledge in agricultural sciences, specifically in soil and water management.

Ime dreams that someday the Philippines will have the ability and

capability to adopt new agriculture technologies to be able to make use of its rich resources, and that farms in the country will have bountiful harvests and create a sustainable environment.



# MABEL JALALON



As part of Mabel's current position, she has a huge responsibility for ensuring reliable laboratory research and research results.

Mabel is one of the section chiefs and deputy quality manager of the Laboratory Services Division at the Philippines' Bureau of Soils and Water Management. She is also the co-chair of the technical working group supporting Department of Agriculture laboratories throughout the country.

As a John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) recipient, Mabel credits the leadership module with improving her as a person. She was able to recognise and reflect on her weaknesses

and strengths, learn different approaches to critical thinking, and enhance her leadership and management skills. She also learned the importance of mentoring, engaging and taking risks to achieve organisational goals.

Mabel's participation in the JDF also exposed her to multifunctional laboratories that use environment-friendly equipment. She was able to observe the genetic engineering of various high-value crops to improve their nutrient content and resistance to diseases. She also had the opportunity to visit successful agribusiness industries.

For Mabel, ACIAR and the fellowship paved the way for her to realise her aspirations for the Philippines. Mabel longs for agricultural sustainability in a country where sustainable

agriculture could be a potent antidote for the poverty experienced by many Filipinos. With the help of the JDF, Mabel believes her job and passion can contribute to the development of agriculture in the Philippines to serve Filipinos more efficiently. She also believes that food security is the key to a peaceful and productive society.

Also a collaborating scientist of ACIAR's Soil Vegetable Project, Mabel encourages young researchers and scientists to pursue further studies. She also encourages them to distinguish fact from fiction and communicate their results.

She abides by her beliefs that change is the only thing that is permanent, and that doing research can be a catalyst for change, unlocking the potential of nature.





# KAREN BARROGA

**B**REAKING barriers is a skill that Karen has perfected throughout her career. K, as she is called by her peers, has been paving the way for new roads and opportunities everywhere she goes.

K is part of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Development sector that handles technology promotion, community relations, training programs, communication and advocacy, and other extension services. With support from the ACIAR John Allwright Fellowship (JAF), she was able to break the PhilRice tradition where research-based staff had more opportunities to pursue doctoral studies than other staff. Her JAF experience encouraged her development-sector colleagues to pursue postgraduate studies.

Focusing on development communication, agricultural extension and knowledge management, K's doctoral research dealt with improving the adoption of more environment-friendly and sustainable rice production technologies in the country. This supports her life-long dream for Filipino farmers to become more competitive in the market by

increasing yield and reducing production cost using eco-friendly technologies.

After completing her degree, K returned to PhilRice and proposed the institutionalisation of development and action research. She convinced management that regular funding and a focused program would encourage returning scholars from the development sector to continue their career at PhilRice.

Today, the development sector has five staff members who hold a doctoral degree. The group has completed several research projects that aim to improve the understanding of the different pathways by which technologies can effectively reach and be adopted by farmers.

On her return to the Philippines, K also put forward a project proposal inspired by a publication she came across during the John Allwright fellows meeting in Canberra. It was about making science easy to understand for decision-makers. This was positively received at PhilRice.

The biggest project K undertook after completing her fellowship was the

development of a new breed of agricultural extension workers, branded as AgRiDOCs or Agricultural Development Officers of the Community. This is one of K's most significant achievements to date.

Together with her team, K developed and pilot-tested a training curriculum and modules for AgRiDOCs. K's unconventional idea, which used transformational leadership as a base for several creative learning strategies, resulted in achievements that drew the attention of the Department of Agriculture (DA) secretary. The project was upscaled and today there are more than 500 AgRiDOCs nationwide. Some have been nationally recognised and promoted to positions of leadership. These AgRiDOCs are now active partners in the field for PhilRice, the International Rice Research Institute and the DA Regional Field Offices.

In 2018, K was appointed as PhilRice's Deputy Executive Director for Development. She acknowledges JAF for not only improving her credentials that qualified her for the post, but also for the training that is helping her to lead the team. The fellowship also built her confidence, enabling her to effectively work with scientists and researchers. Moreover, it paved the way for K to be invited to international conferences and workshops, and as an evaluator for agriculture extension projects in China, Thailand and Vietnam.

K has taken on the

leadership role at PhilEASNet, a professional organisation of people involved in extension and technical advisory services. She continues to think of ideas that can further nurture and encourage the new breed of extension professionals who face numerous challenges in translating and communicating research results to help Filipino farmers. For the farmers and fishers, K remains grateful for their hard work in putting food on the plates of Filipino families.

For K, the JAF molded her character and provided her with the tools to cope with the challenges of her current position. She believes the fellowship transformed her into an individual who is more well-rounded and equipped to better handle not only work, but also life in general.



# LUIS ANTONIO HUALDA



**D**URING Luis' John Allwright Fellowship (JAF), one of his motivations in pursuing his research was to find ways to develop an enabling environment to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers. Luis found that this may be done by increasing the role of local governments—an idea that was not considered as crucial as it is today.

As a consultant to a project of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAORAP), Luis develops recommendations to create an enabling environment for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food to address hunger and malnutrition. Luis credits the JAF with honing his skills and giving him the experience to properly handle his important

position. He can also see the similarities between his research in agriculture and agribusiness at Curtin University and his current project. It was therefore easy for Luis to understand and handle this project by applying the concepts he had learned in Australia.

Luis relished his experiences during the JAF, from living overseas to studying in a different academic environment and working in a different cultural setting. Luis is grateful to the program that helped him grow personally and adjust to a multicultural environment and work with international teams. The opportunity to attend international conferences and meetings and encounter other like-minded individuals was also memorable for him.

After his JAF stint, Luis was invited to attend a Cross-Cutting Expert Group meeting on Integrating Food Security and Nutrition into Urban and Territorial Planning at the United Nations headquarters. He was proud to have the chance to participate in a meeting that recognised the importance of his focus disciplines, which included agriculture and food systems, and urban and regional planning, and their role in ensuring food security and nutrition for the world.

Luis believes that pursuing further studies creates new knowledge and eventually contributes to development. According to him, true passion stems from hard work and perseverance in research.



# ELAGO CARUSOS

THE John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) came at the most opportune time for Evy, who was just starting her new job as the executive director of the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.

The new opportunity to head an organisation came with a lot of pressure and challenges she had not faced before. Evy saw it as a balancing act—she needed to make the right decisions to achieve the organisation's goals while keeping the team inspired.

Throughout this transition, Evy appreciated how the JDF had greatly helped her to cope with all the responsibilities the organisation had set for her. The JDF gave Evy the chance to meet practitioners and managers, participate in learning exercises, and be exposed to new ways of thinking and insights on how to be both a better leader and a good research manager.

She also gained skills in networking, communication, project management and partnership building. But Evy particularly noted the self-development she went through during the fellowship. She realised that to learn is to aim and strive so one can become better each day, and that it takes self-discipline, guts and hard work to achieve it.

Evy has been grateful to ACIAR for the privilege of being part of the JDF. For her, everything during the fellowship was memorable—from the wonderful places visited to the amazing people met, and all the

experiences undertaken together with other fellows. She remembers the visit to the Parliament House in Brisbane, where she witnessed the debate on protecting the Great Barrier Reef by strengthening the regulation on agri-

culture production to improve run-off water quality. Evy was impressed with how the state government made an effort to inform their constituents on the policy issue and its impact, and noted that it was something the Philippines can learn from and emulate.

Together with her colleagues, Evy links researchers to farmers and other individuals who provide agricultural extension services. Evy hopes that more avenues can be created in the Philippines where researchers and practitioners can easily share ideas with each other. This way, research activities can be more meaningful to both the academics and the practitioners. Ultimately, Evy finds fulfilment in seeing change in practice that is transforming the lives of farmers.



# DEE ROMO



**D**EE has many goals in life. One of her top priorities is to empower women, which is what she aims to achieve through relevant training.

Along with other faculty members from the University of the Philippines Mindanao School of Management, Dee started a project in Barangay Oshiro, Davao City, called 'Strategic planning for women's enterprise', which encourages women to boldly take a role in generating additional income for the family. Dee is hopeful the project will be replicated in other parts of the country.

Fueled by her dedication and passion to help farmers, Dee aims to raise the bar in agriculture by advocating for organic farming to ensure that safe and affordable food is available for everyone. These interests grew while she was doing her doctoral studies at the

University of Queensland St. Lucia under the auspices of the John Allwright Fellowship (JAF).

For Dee, one of the benefits of the fellowship was being able to establish linkages with university experts, researchers and potential project collaborators. She takes pride in having worked with outstanding mentors who guided her in the completion of her postgraduate program. Through the JAF, Dee was also able to participate in various workshops geared towards helping fellows become better researchers.

Her experiences throughout her fellowship made Dee realise the importance of focusing research efforts on topics that you are passionate about. Dee believes that perseverance is the key to completing a doctoral degree, as well as surrounding yourself with people who can provide encouragement and support.



# SHANG FUENTES

**A**GNAFAT, the B'laan word for hope, has been the driving force for Shang to engage communities to move towards social change and gender equality through agriculture.

Shang is a collaborating scientist in the ACIAR Mindanao Agricultural Extension Project (AMAEP). For her, it is a privilege to work with brilliant and experienced researchers. She also finds the project fulfilling because it improves the lives of farmers in conflict-vulnerable areas. AMAEP is an ongoing project that is working on innovative extension approaches to help farmers in Mindanao.

Shang shared that the town of Salman in Maguindanao, the province where the infamous 'Maguindanao massacre' took place in 2009, is slowly but surely building its new identity through vegetable production and agroforestry. Shang notes how proud locals are of their gardens where local tourists, such as farmers from other communities, are already visiting. When she was chosen for the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF), Shang shared these memories and experiences with other fellows. She forged friendships with like-minded people who



share the same passion for not only doing research but also for helping others, especially those who are marginalised, to improve their lives.

The JDF helped Shang in her career and personal life. It afforded her the opportunity to learn how to manage multidisciplinary research collaborations, and to understand how government research centres work with the academic and the private sector. She remembers her trip to Stradbroke Island and lunch at Parliament House in Brisbane. She recalls how remarkable it was to witness the deliberation of a bill there, and to meet and talk with the Members of Parliament.

Through the JDF, Shang also met with academics and fellow researchers at different universities in Australia. She enjoyed the trips to the CSIRO, the

James Cook University and other research laboratories. These institutions were generous in sharing their insights and initiatives that were applicable to the fellows' research activities. Shang also recalls her trip to Mossman Gorge where she learned about the Australian Aboriginal people and their way of life. For her, JDF was not only educational but also certainly a boatload of fun.

The learning never ends and Shang encourages young researchers to get out of their comfort zone and try new things—whether it is learning about new research methods, handling multidisciplinary collaborations or facilitating stakeholder meetings. She also encourages them to use ACIAR's support to pursue their further learning and training goals.

# MARILOU MONTIFLOR

**D**URING the challenging times throughout her career, Marilou always looks at the positive and encouraging feedback from her peers and supervisor that she received through the 360 Leadership Assessment she took during the New Leaders Development Program at the Melbourne Business School. This program was one of many activities that was part of the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF).

Being awarded the JDF was one of her career highlights, and it kept her grounded and motivated to be a better and responsible individual in society. The fellowship exposed her to many unique and worthwhile experiences, such as being able to witness an Australian parliament session presided over by the prime minister. In that session, she was greatly impressed by the public access to government information and how the sessions were organised and handled.

Along with Marilou's JDF, she also received a John Allwright Fellowship (JAF) where she was able to pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in Rural Management at the Curtin University of Technology. It was also through the JAF that she and her son built lasting memories and shared experiences of

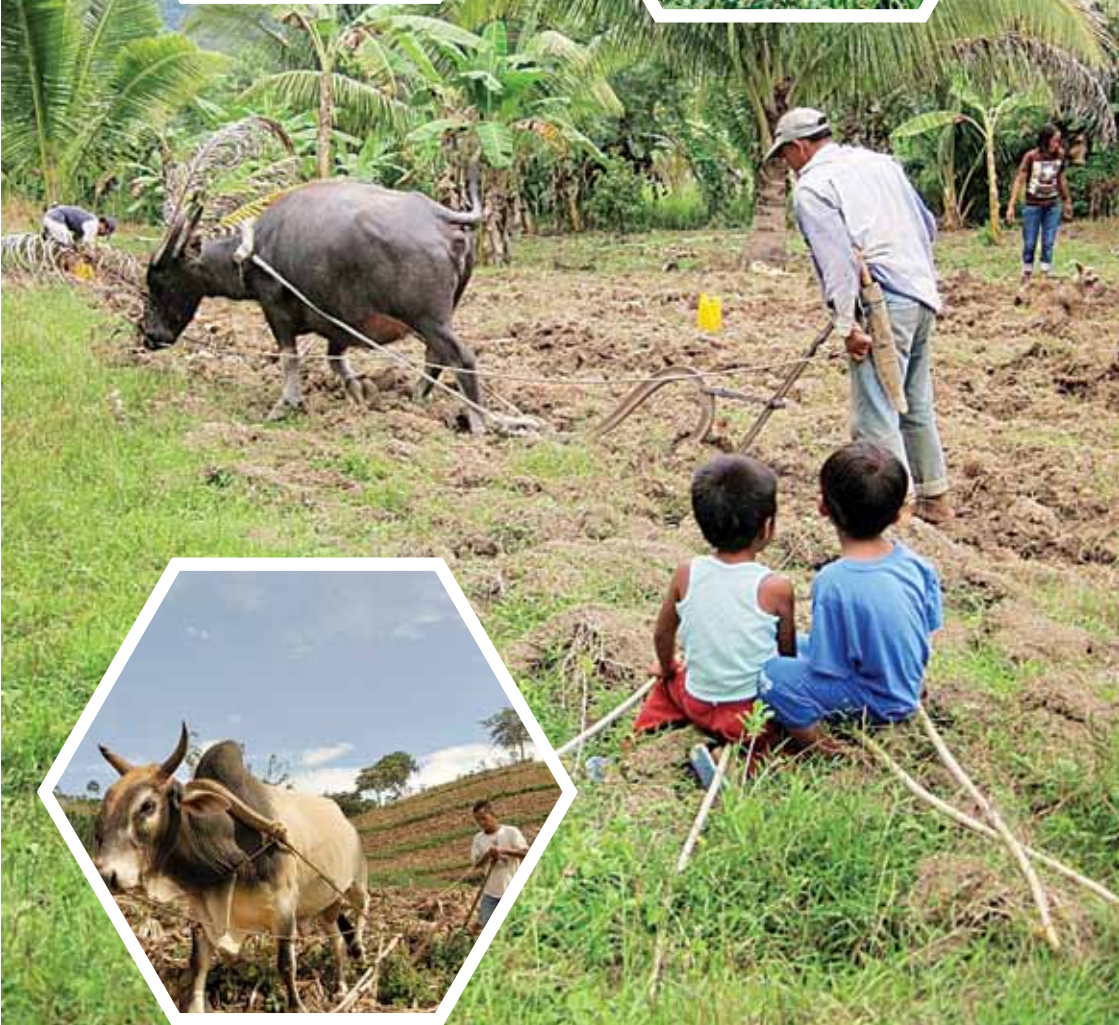


living abroad.

Her wide list of research and publications focus on agricultural issues in Mindanao. For Marilou, the Philippines has rich resources, including productive soil, relatively good weather for agriculture and, most importantly, resilient people. She enjoys engaging with smallholder farmers and improving their access to information, support and services.

Marilou believes it is important to share one's dreams with others because, according to her, collective efforts can magnify the little steps, small victories and few resources. The ACIAR fellowship gave her an opportunity for lifelong learning, honed her leadership skills, expanded her networks, supported gender equity and encouraged her to participate in public service. After the fellowship, she continued to serve the Philippines through the university that introduced her to ACIAR. She is grateful to ACIAR and the mentors who opened the doors for her, and now she is paying it forward.





TITLE (MR, MRS, DR)	FULL NAME (SURNAME, GIVEN NAME)	PREFERRED NAME	AREA OF EXPERTISE	FELLOWSHIP (JAF/ JDF*)	POSITION	AGENCY	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.
Dr	Barroga, Karen Eloisa	K	Development communication, agricultural extension, knowledge management	JAF	Deputy Executive Director IV	Philippine Rice Research Institute	ket.barroga@philrice.gov.ph	+63 (44) 456 0277 loc 140 +639238490463
Dr	Beltran, Jesusa	Jessie	Agricultural economics, bioeconomic modeling, trade and policy, marketing and production economics	JAF	Chief Science Research Specialist	Philippine Rice Research Institute	jc.beltran@philrice.gov.ph	+63 (44) 456 0285 +639224283483
Dr	Borines, Lucia	Lucy	Plant Pathology, phyto bacteriology	JDF	Professor VI	Visayas State University	lucyborines@vsu.edu.ph	+63 (53) 563 7250 +639176576908
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Dr	Campilan, Dindo	Dindo	Science management, agri-food systems, climate-resilience, value chain development	JDF	Director for Asia	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical or the International Center for Tropical Agriculture	d.campilan@cgiar.org	+639175447712
Mr	Carpio, Angelito	Lito	Research management, development management	JDF	Senior Science Research Specialist	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development	litocarpio@yahoo.com	+639153387965
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Dr	Casimero, Madonna	Donna	Weed science, agronomy, farming systems, natural resource management, capacity development	JDF	Senior Scientist	International Rice Research Institute	m.casimero@irri.org	+63 (49) 536 2701 to 05 +639175096737
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Dr	Estacion, Janet	Janet	Marine biology (giant dams, seagrasses)	JAF	Director/ Professor	Silliman University	jsestacion@gmail.com	+63 (35) 522 7549 +639056496406
Ms	Fuentes, Anne Shangrila	Shang	Sociology, gender, social capital	JDF	Senior Lecturer	University of the Philippines Mindanao	asyfuentes@gmail.com	+639398433228
Dr	Gonzaga, Nelda	Nelda	Horticulture	JDF	Associate Professor V	University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines	nelda.gonzaga@ustp.edu.ph	+639069175082
Dr	Gonzaga, Zenaida	Zeny	Horticulture	JDF	Professor IV	Visayas State University	zcgonzaga@yahoo.com	+639176320387
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Mr	Hualda, Luis	Luis	Agriculture and food systems	JAF	Consultant	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	hualda@gmail.com	-

TITLE (MR, MRS, DR)	FULL NAME (SURNAME, GIVEN NAME)	PREFERRED NAME	AREA OF EXPERTISE	FELLOWSHIP (JAF/ JDF*)	POSITION	AGENCY	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.
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Mr	Mangmang, Jonathan	Atan	Horticulture: Plant propagation and vegetable production	JAF	Instructor	University of Southeastern Philippines,	jsm_yan@yahoo.com	+ 639389906043
Ms	Montiflor, Marilou	Marilou	Rural management, development communication, agribusines systems, sociology	JAF JDF	Researcher	University of the Philippines Mindanao	momontiflor@up.edu.ph	+63 (82) 295 2750 +639173426674
Dr	Notarte, Anastacia	Ana	Plant pathology, entomology, agronomy, horticulture	JDF	Provincial Agriculturist	Provincial Agriculturist's Office, Davao del Norte	acg_notarte@yahoo.com.au	+639178111494 +639177714369
Mr	Palma, Peter	Peter	Aquaculture biotechnology, fish breeding, fish physiology	JAF	Researcher	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center – Aquaculture Department	ppalma@seafdec.org.ph	+639778206593
Dr	Pinon, Caroline	Yuyen	Social science (natural resource management), land use, watershed management, protected area management, policy and institutional aspect of agroforestry	JAF	Associate Scientist	World Agroforestry Centre	c.pinon@cgiar.org	+63 (49) 536 2701 +639171728567
Mr	Preciados, Lemuel	Lemuel	Project feasibility study, benefit-cost analysis, impact assessment, trade and finance, farm systems modelling, econometrics modelling	JAF	Assistant Professor I	Visayas State University	lemuel.preciados@vsu.edu.ph	+63 (53) 563 7751 +639278541410
Dr	Romo, Glory Dee	Dee	Value chain, food security, gender, rural development	JAF	Assistant Professor	University of the Philippines Mindanao,	garomo@up.edu.ph	+639338521456
Mr	Sanidad, Wilfredo	Willy	Soil science	JAF	Supervising Agriculturist (retired)	Bureau of Soils and Water Management		
Ms	Torrefranca, Imelida	Ime	Hydrology, erosion modelling, watershed management, soil and water conservation engineering, GIS	JAF	Assistant Professor	Bohol Island State University	imetorrefranca@gmail.com	+63 (38) 525 9200 +639173093382
Mr	Tumanut, Michael	Michael	Local government, governance, institutions	JAF	Assistant Professor	University of the Philippines Diliman	michaeltumanut@gmail.com	-
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Ms	Vega, Maria Lilia	Lilia	Coordination, facilitation, communication, gender	JDF	ACIAR VSU Coordinator	Visayas State University	mallilia_vega@yahoo.com	+63 (53) 563 7271 +639771892837



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