

Seaweed Projects Funded by DA-BAR

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The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), one of the staff bureaus of the Department of Agriculture (DA), is mandated to plan, coordinate, monitor and source out funds for Research and Development (R & D) in agriculture and fisheries. This task has been emphasized with the implementation of the Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), where BAR is entrusted to enhance, support, consolidate and strengthen the existing National R&D System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NARDSAF).

For over fifteen years, cultivation of seaweed has been identified as a priority commodity in the national R & D agenda and programs. These are the following: National Fisheries Research and Extension Agenda (NAREA) for Agriculture and Fisheries (1987-1989); National Fisheries Research Program (NFRP) in 1990-1994; and the National Fisheries Research & Extension Agenda (NAFREA) in 1995-1998. The latest updating was in 1999 when the National Integrated Research, Development and Extension Agenda and Program (NIRDEAP) for fisheries was formulated for the three subsectors: Capture Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Fisheries Post-harvest & Marketing. The national program embodies the priority R&D thrusts and priorities of the sector.

Very few R&D projects were funded by BAR due to limited budget allocation for grants and lack of proposals submitted and approved for implementation. However, when AFMA was implemented, there was a little increase in BAR's budget for R&D. It was also during this period when the National RDE Networks for Capture Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Fisheries Post-harvest & Marketing were organized. The NIRDEAPs were formulated and based on these, priority R&D projects were reviewed and funded to address the seaweed industry's need for improving farming systems, improvement of strains and development of new strains for culture, and post-harvest concerns. Tables 1 and 2 show the completed and on-going BAR-funded projects on seaweeds.

Table 1. Completed BAR-funded Projects on Seaweed

Title	Institution	Project Leader	Period of Implementation
Polyculture of <i>Gracilaria heteroclada</i> and <i>Penaeus monodon</i> in brackishwater ponds	SEAFDEC AQD	Anicia Q. Hurtado	December 1992- November 1993
Seasonal variation in agar quality and quantity of <i>G. heteroclada</i> cultured in ponds		Ma. Teresa de Castro	
Economic feasibility of the polyculture of seaweed (<i>Gracilaria</i> sp.) with tiger prawn (<i>P. monodon</i>) in brackishwater ponds		R. Agbayani	
Field Guide & Atlas of the Seaweed Resources of the Philippines	UP Marine Science Institute	Dr. Gavino S. Trono	1995-1997

Table 2. On-going BAR-funded Projects on Seaweed

Title	Institution	Project Leader	Period of Implementation
Evaluation of different culture systems of seaweed farming in the coastal areas of Malalag Bay	Department of Agriculture, RFU IX, Davao City	Mr. Jose A. Villanueva	January 1999-December 2001
Development of mitigating strategies for seaweed diseases to sustain/enhance production in farms	UP Marine Science	Dr. Edna Ganzon-Fortes	January 2000 - December 2003
Development of quality criteria for cultured carrageenophytes based on harvest time	UP Marine Science Institute	Dr. Nemesio E. Montaño	July 2001 - December 2003
Characterization of carrageenan from selected Philippine red algae and its interaction with food systems	Mariano Marcos State University-College of Fisheries	Prof. Anita Linda R. Ragasa	April 2001 - March 2004
Use of spores and sporelings in the development of strains and farming techniques for <i>Gracilaria</i>	UP Marine Science Institute	Dr. Rhodora V. Azanza	May 2001 - April 2004
Development of culture and post harvest technologies for small-size and/or mucilaginous seaweed species with high value natural products	UP Marine Science Institute	Dr. Gavino C. Trono	July 2001 - August 2004
Field Guide & Atlas of the seaweed resources of the Philippines. Volume II	UP Marine Science Institute	Dr. Gavino C. Trono	May 2001- April 2002