

Snubnose pompano, a high-value commodity, was netted from the marine cages of SEAFDEC/AQD's Igang Marine Station in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, last 18 August 2022. The harvest is the product of the research institution's technology verification test using high-value commercial feed in pompano rearing. Photo by NG Armada



aqd matters

July-August 2022

Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

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Collab with Japanese research center kicks off



During a tour of SEAFDEC/AQD facilities, Senior Technical Assistant Nestor Bayona, assigned to the Abalone Hatchery, showed the Japanese researchers the abalone juveniles. Photo by DEVCOM OJTs

NEW research projects between SEAFDEC/AQD and the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) kicked off during a project meeting last 2 August 2022.

The upcoming research projects were on the theme, "Development of Sustainable

Agriculture Technologies in Tropical Areas" and included the following sub-studies: Development of surrogation technique and genetic resource conservation system by transplantation and cryopreservation of germ cells in fish; Improvement of larval settlement and post-larval production for abalone

(*Haliotis asinina*) and sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*); and Assessment and development of an intermediate culture system for tropical aquaculture species.

The attendees also had an exchange of ideas for another project on seaweed research.

The Executive Committee, headed by Chief Dan Baliao,

Continued on next page...





To prevent mortality during transport, slipper lobster broodstock are wrapped in a damp towel and placed in an oxygen-filled bag (left). Photo on the right shows a SEAFDEC/AQD staff meticulously packing the slipper lobster broodstocks while a local fisherman assists. Photos by NG Armada

More slipper lobsters arrive for ongoing breeding trials

ANOTHER batch of slipper lobster (*Thenus orientalis*) broodstock from the islands of Molocaboc and Suyac in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, arrived at SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station last 10 July 2022.

The broodstock will be used to further the research on breeding slipper lobster (locally known as *pitik-pitik*) in captivity as SEAFDEC/AQD pushes toward

developing its nursery and grow-out culture techniques under Philippine conditions.

SEAFDEC/AQD hatched its first slipper lobster in September 2021, as part of a project supported by the Government of Japan Trust Fund. The study is still in the early stages of completing the life cycle of the slipper lobster in captivity. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

Continued from the next page...

along with Filipino and Japanese researchers, attended the hybrid program. The JIRCAS participants were led by Dr. Kazuo Nakashima, its director for the Food Program.

“We are glad to finally hold this workshop to introduce the research plan and progress of our collaborative research and to exchange views and ideas with our counterparts at SEAFDEC/AQD,” according to Dr. Nakashima, who attended the program through teleconference.

“I hope that through this workshop, we will deepen our understanding of the significance of each activity in our collaborative research and the importance of cooperation and strengthen our collaboration. So that, as we call partners, we can address various issues in developing sustainable agriculture technologies in tropical areas,” he added.

The workshop capped off with a tour of SEAFDEC/AQD facilities and an inspection of prospective experimental areas at Tigbauan Main Station.

Prior to the activity, a Memorandum of Agreement was inked on 29 March



The Executive Committee and researchers from SEAFDEC/AQD and JIRCAS participants attend the hybrid meeting on 2 August 2022, in The Training and Information Division Conference Room. Photo JF Aldon

2022 between SEAFDEC/AQD and JIRCAS to formalize their research collaboration which will remain effective until 31 March 2026.

The ecosystem approach to the aquaculture project is one of the projects under the JIRCAS Food Program on technology development toward building a new food system with improved productivity, sustainability, and

resilience. It started in April last year as part of the JIRCAS' mission to undertake comprehensive experimental research for the technological advancement of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and related industries in tropical and subtropical zones of developing regions. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

Oplan Balik Sugpo update

AFTER three consecutive years of successful verification runs at its Dumangas Brackishwater Station (DBS), SEAFDEC/AQD collaborated with the Department of Agriculture-National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI) for this year's continuation of the Oplan Balik Sugpo Program.

Four 500-square-meter HDPE-lined rectangular grow-out ponds and one 2,000 square-meter HDPE-lined reservoir pond located at DA-NFRDI's Freshwater Fisheries Research and Development Center in Brgy. Butong, Taal, Batangas were utilized for the grow-out culture of black tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*). The operation adopts environment-friendly schemes in shrimp farming through proper biosecurity measures and biomanipulators.

Over 600 pieces of tilapia and milkfish juveniles were stocked at the reservoir pond. The fish will serve as biomanipulators for the greenwater technology that prevents the production of luminous bacteria in the grow-out ponds.

The culture areas are secured from predators by a perimeter fence and bird scares. High-quality and disease-free postlarvae produced at SEAFDEC/AQD's Shrimp Hatchery Complex in Tigbauan, Iloilo were utilized.

A parallel verification run is also conducted at DBS using soil-bottom ponds. The same source of fry, stocking density (30 fry per square meter), and culture techniques were used in DBS and Batangas but only differed on the culture environment.

The Oplan Balik Sugpo Program is a joint initiative of SEAFDEC/AQD, DA-BFAR, and DA-NFRDI under the banner Joint Mission on Accelerated Techno-Transfer Program (JMANTTP) that aims to revive the black tiger shrimp industry in the Philippines. **a**

SEAFDEC/AQD aims to revive the black tiger shrimp industry in the Philippines through the Oplan Balik Sugpo Program.



Use of paddle wheel aerators as life support system for the shrimps in Butong, Taal, Batangas. Photo by R Traviña



High-quality and disease-free postlarvae sourced from SEAFDEC/AQD's Shrimp Hatchery Complex in Tigbauan, Iloilo, were stocked in Butong, Taal, Batangas. Photo by E Somblingo



Dr. Leobert de la Peña (left) with other participants in the "ASEAN-CGIAR: Innovate for Food Regional Program" planning workshop in Muntinlupa City, Manila. The attendees were representatives from ASEAN, CGIAR research centers, government agencies, and funders. *Photo courtesy of IRRRI*

Scientist attends planning workshop for ASEAN-CGIAR

Dr. Leobert de la Peña, scientist and Research Division head of SEAFDEC/AQD, was among those who attended the planning workshop titled "ASEAN-CGIAR (Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research): Innovate for Food Regional Program" in Muntinlupa City, Manila on 27–29 July 2022.

Representatives from ASEAN, CGIAR research centers, government agencies, and funders were present. They met to discuss the ASEAN-CGIAR Regional Program, which includes intervention packages representing a combination of research

and innovation priority areas in agriculture throughout the region. They were developed following national consultations with the ASEAN Member States.

Participants dived deep into the seven intervention packages (such as regenerative agriculture and aquaculture; carbon neutrality and climate change; and enhancing value chains and regional trade) and identified how they align with the region's needs and challenges.

The three-day workshop aims to review research and innovation priority areas to address agriculture and food security challenges and build a more resilient ASEAN agri-food system. Also, it seeks to identify the next steps in developing a regional program and the engagement process among CGIAR, its research centers, and the various ASEAN stakeholders. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

USDA trade mission conducts feed forecast

A DELEGATE from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) trade mission arrived at SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station on 5 August 2022 to forecast feed ingredient (soybeans, wheat, corn, etc.) production and imports for aquaculture.

Morgan Haas, representing the US Soybean Export Council, talked briefly with Technology Verification and Extension Division Head Dr. Roger Edward Mamauag regarding the research center's production of cost-efficient feeds for milkfish and tilapia.

Mamauag shared that SEAFDEC/AQD utilizes byproducts from corn, poultry abattoirs, and coconut-fermented copra meal to replace fish meal, an expensive feed ingredient, as a protein source.

Part of the forecasting task of the delegation is visiting farmers and related facilities before publishing their grain, feed, and oilseeds forecasts; hence, Haas' visit to the Feed Mill facility and some hatcheries of the Department. This is to learn about the current and future trends that will impact their outlook. [a](#)



US Soybean Export Council representative Morgan Haas examines the feed mill facilities during his visit to SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station. *Photo by NG Armada*

— NG ARMADA



The trainees during their practical session in feed formulation and preparation. *Photo by AL Ramos*

Milkfish culture training for two

A SPECIALIZED training program on milkfish culture and production requested by two trainees from Iloilo City was conducted from 4–15 July 2022.

During the 12-day training course, SEAFDEC/AQD experts provided lectures on topics such as milkfish biology and broodstock management, hatchery design and construction, natural food culture, biosecurity measures and protocols for hatcheries, brackishwater nursery management, pond selection, and site preparation, grow-out culture of milkfish in ponds, diseases of marine fish, feed formulation and preparation, and nutrient requirements of tropical marine fishes.

The two participants were also immersed in hands-on activities such as larval rearing tank preparation and setup, plankton identification, harvesting, packing, and transporting milkfish fry. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

BFAR staff train on marine fish hatchery operations

THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Inland Fisheries Aquaculture Division (BFAR-IFAD) enrolled 10 participants in the training course on marine fish hatchery operations provided by SEAFDEC/AQD to improve and strengthen the capacity of the technical staff from its regional offices in conducting and implementing trainings and projects on the production of marine fish seed.

The 36-day training course from 20 June to 25 July 2022 included lectures and practical sessions on broodstock management of marine fishes, marine fish hatchery operations, natural food culture, nutrient requirements

of marine fishes, and feed formulation and preparation. It also covered special topics on biosecurity measures and protocols for hatcheries, fish health management, and nutritional diseases of marine fishes.

Additionally, trainees had the opportunity to conduct broodstock sampling for milkfish, seabass, grouper, siganid, and pompano at the Tigbauan Main Station and Igang Marine Station. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



Participants from the regional offices of BFAR-IFAD observe a demonstration done by SEAFDEC/AQD staff at Igang Marine Station. *Photo by EV Antolino*

SEAFDEC/AQD bids farewell to virtual OJT as F2F mode resumes

For two months, more than 83 students from 14 universities in the Philippines became on-the-job trainees at this research institution.

Now that restrictions have eased and the majority vaccinated, students are once more flocking to the portals of SEAFDEC/AQD. After a two-year hiatus, face-to-face on-the-job training (OJT) has returned.

For two months, more than 73 students from 11 universities in the Philippines signed up for the research center's OJT program.

They received hands-on training at the institution's various facilities as part of the program's goal to provide students with practical aquaculture knowledge and skills to supplement their theoretical orientation in school.

"It's good to know that the students chose SEAFDEC/AQD. Based on the feedback,

their learning experiences are maximized," according to Training Section Officer-in-Charge Caryl Vincent Genzola.

Before admission, the Training Section requires students to be fully vaccinated.

"That is to ensure the health and safety of everyone," he added.

In addition, they must pass a medical certificate, declaration form, and parental consent as a training waiver. Aside from that, students must submit specific credentials, such as their grades, since the Department has minimum grade requirements.

The internship generally lasts for a month. During the training, students were assigned to different hatcheries and laboratories,

where they were trained and guided by a mentor.

'WE WANT THE BEST'

Asked why they chose SEAFDEC/AQD for their OJT, Aladin Udag of the Mindanao State University (MSU) assigned at the Big Hatchery answered: "I chose SEAFDEC/AQD because I heard a lot about it. Most of the feedback is good, so it makes me curious. I heard that SEAFDEC is one of the best institutions that provide the best service related to our field. As a student who craves knowledge and experience, I want the best, so I chose the best."

Novelyn Kate Selerio, a student from Siliman University, assigned to the Engineering Section, stated that since SEAFDEC is an

organization that promotes sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, it also involves mechanical engineering works. She firmly believes this will give her exposure to evaluate her capabilities and potential and give her more insights into mechanical engineering.

"I chose SEAFDEC/AQD for my OJT because it's the perfect place to feed my hunger for knowledge in the fisheries sector. The Philippines faces challenges in fish production and other marine and freshwater products; I wanted to learn how to combat those to have sustainable fishery products in the present and the future," added Rowel Saldajeno Jr. of the University of Antique-Tario Lim Memorial Campus.

GOING VIRTUAL

In 2019, OJTs went online due to the coronavirus pandemic. This way, students can still enhance their knowledge and capabilities in aquaculture despite the restrictions.

"We were also quite successful with that last year," Genzola further stated.

SEAFDEC/AQD specialists conducted virtual lectures on aquaculture topics such as broodstock management of marine fish, biology and ecology of shrimp,



The OJTs and trainees pose with Chief Dan Baliao, Training and Information Division Head Dr. Edgar Amar, Training Section Officer-in-Charge Caryl Vincent Genzola, and foreign interns from Ghent University in Belgium. Photo by JF Aldon



Aljoemaih Adzad, an OJT assigned at the Big Hatchery carries a grouper broodstock. Photo courtesy of Edcel Jed Samson

biology and identification of mangrove crab, biology and reproduction of giant freshwater prawn, micropropagation of seaweeds, and diseases and health management of aquaculture species.

“That was an excellent experience for the students, wherein we maximized their potential, even if it was virtually,” he continued.

However, Genzola mentioned that face-to-face training is better for students since there is a thorough interaction while allowing for the practical development of their skills. They are also immersed in the actual job as they train in various laboratories and hatcheries.

He quipped: “The beauty of face-to-face is that there are more learning opportunities. When you have the lecture, you apply it afterward as a practical component. But in a virtual case, it’s more theoretical.”

MEMORIES

For a short period, students created memories in SEAFDEC/AQD that they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

Some students stated that this was their first-time performing cannulation; others narrated that having an OJT at the research center allowed them to have physical contact with high-value species and witness the

induced spawning process.

One of the unforgettable memories Fairodz Kayubog of MSU-Maguindanao had during his stay was feeding larvae and broodstock and checking water parameters in the crab hatchery.

Rahma Mulod, another MSU student, described how a staff member demonstrated siphoning from a tank on her first day at the Milkfish Satellite Hatchery. She attempted it after the demonstration, but the water rushed directly into her mouth as she sipped the hose.

Ruby Cagas of the University of Science and Technology of the Southern Philippines-Panaon recalled that her unforgettable experiences in the Giant Freshwater Prawn Hatchery were siphoning, feeding, sorting, and counting. She also did egg preparation and culture of artemia cysts to be given to the larvae or nauplii.

NIGHT OF FESTIVITY

Last 4 August 2022, a Student-Trainees Get-Together was held for students who joined the OJT Program this year. Five interns from Ghent University in Belgium also participated in the

activity.

It served as a platform for trainees to interact with one another and form bonds amid diversity. The event was an icebreaker to the student interns’ regular hustle and bustle life, with numerous activities and contests.

The talent contest, judged by Chief Dan Baliao, TID Head Dr. Edgar Amar, Training Section Officer-in-Charge Caryl Vincent Genzola, and Consultant Angelita Tillo, was the celebration’s highlight.

The night ended with karaoke, where students sang to their hearts’ desire.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Training Section hopes to expand the number of schools served and the number of students accepted per school in future OJT programs.

Aside from that, they will continue to maximize students’ learning experiences by exposing them to more laboratory and hatchery works, lectures, and station visits and foster social interaction among students from the OJT community within SEAFDEC. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



Students assigned at the Seaweed Hatchery clean tissue-cultured seaweeds. Photo courtesy of Mary Jane Prado

WPU freshwater prawn project visits SEAFDEC/AQD in Iloilo



The GEM-PHIL project visited SEAFDEC/AQD to become acquainted with the research facility's equipment and setup for the mass production of natural food for feeding prawns. Photo by NG Armada

THE GEM-PHIL Project of the Western Philippines University (WPU) in Palawan went to SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station on 4 August 2022 to gain familiarity with the research institution's equipment and setup for the mass production of natural food for feeding prawns.

The WPU project, "GeM-PHIL: Genetic Characterization of *Macrobrachium* populations in the Philippines for broodstock development and seed production," with the primary goal of mapping the genetic resources of the freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* populations in the Philippines, is funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD).

The four-person team had a coordination meeting with SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dan Baliao before touring the FishWorld Museum, Integrated Marine Finfish Broodstock and Hatchery Complex, Multi-species Freshwater Hatchery, and Phycology Laboratory. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



aqd matters

is published bimonthly by the Development Communication Section, SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

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AQD's blood donation drive generates 20 bags



A SEAFDEC/AQD staff participates in the blood-letting activity. Photo by JF Aldon

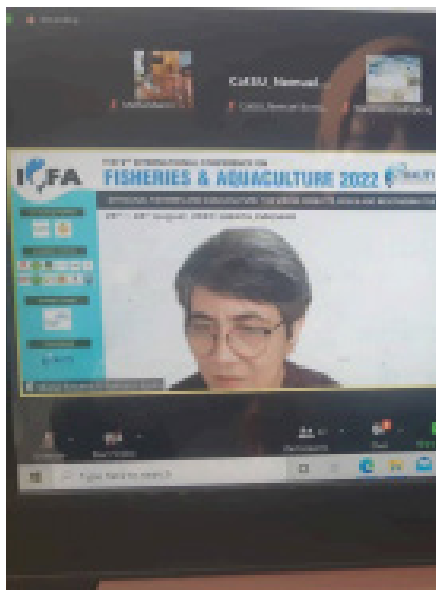
AFTER a two-year hiatus, SEAFDEC/AQD, in collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross, conducted a blood-letting activity on 5 August 2022.

A total of 20 blood bags were collected from 20 donors, which included AQD's employees and residents of Brgy. Buyu-an, Tigbauan, Iloilo.

The activity happened at the Multi-Purpose Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It was previously held annually but halted due to the pandemic.

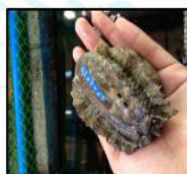
The Philippine Red Cross has consistently recognized AQD for its support of the blood donation campaign. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



25th – 26th August 2022 | Jakarta, Indonesia

Comparison of Production Traits in Philippine Stocks of Domesticated and Wild Donkey's Ear Abalone *Haliotis asinina* for Farm-based Genetic Improvement



MRR Romana-Eguia, LHA Delgado-Maquilan, RM Piloton RM and MR De la Peña MR
 SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Philippines

Dr. Maria Rowena R. Eguia (left), a SEAFDEC/AQD scientist at the Binangonan Freshwater Station, virtually presented her study "Comparison of Production Traits in Philippine Stocks of Domesticated and Wild Donkey's Ear Abalone *Haliotis Asinina* for Farm-Based Genetic Improvement" at the 9th International Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture2022. The event themed: "Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture: The Vision, Benefits, Roles and Responsibilities" was held on 25 to 26 August. *Photo courtesy of MRRE Eguia*

Researchers from Southeast Asia train on fish health management

THE 11-DAY training course on Fish Health Management offered by SEAFDEC/AQD from 15 to 26 August 2022 was attended by 15 participants from Southeast Asian countries.

The Government of Japan-Trust Fund sponsored eight trainees – four from the Philippines, two from Brunei Darussalam, and one each from Myanmar and Viet Nam – while the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) funded the training of seven other participants.

During the training, SEAFDEC/AQD resource persons lectured about disease development in aquaculture; viral diseases of fish and crustaceans; aseptic techniques & safety in the laboratory; bacterial diseases; parasitic diseases; biosecurity measures in shrimp & fish culture; and serological & DNA-based techniques in disease diagnosis.

There were also practical sessions on processing shrimp and fish samples for disease diagnosis, fungal diseases in fish and crustaceans, fungal isolation, parasitic detection



During the training, the trainees were immersed in practical sessions on processing shrimp and fish samples for disease diagnosis, fungal diseases in fish and crustaceans, fungal isolation, parasitic detection in crustaceans, and bacterial isolation. *Photo by EV Antolino*

in crustaceans, and bacterial isolation.

For NFRDI Senior Science Research Specialist Cristan Joy Campo, the best aspect of the training was the confluence between theoretical and practical sessions.

"SEAFDEC not only taught us what and how things are done in the fish laboratory,

but they also provided us with in-depth knowledge and appreciation for why these things are and should be done," he said.

Clark Adrian Abao, on the other hand, will put his knowledge to good use. "Perhaps be at the forefront of disease diagnostics in Northern Mindanao, assisting

in reducing the risks of aquaculture diseases in the region."

"I could also use the knowledge I gained from SEAFDEC to train government agencies and the academe," he added. **a**

— NG ARMADA

MSU's College of Fisheries alumni visit AQD

FOURTEEN Mindanao State University (MSU) College of Fisheries alumni visited the SEAFDEC/AQD Tigbauan Main Station on 2 August 2022.

The group was given a tour of the FishWorld Museum and the Integrated Marine Finfish Broodstock and Hatchery Complex. The visit allowed them to reconnect with former colleagues and stay updated on the ongoing activities and developments at the institution that was once their workplace and home.



Economic planners at SEAFDEC/AQD

SOME 26 staff from the National Economic and Development Authority Region VI (NEDA-6) and the Regional Development Council Region VI (RDC-6) went on a learning visit to SEAFDEC/AQD on 26 August 2022.

The trip led by Engr. Arcio Casing, Jr., vice chairperson of RDC-6 and officer-in-charge regional director of NEDA-6, aimed at gaining insights on the research center's priority programs and current aquaculture activities.



LGU-Sagay conducts exposure trip

THE office of the City Agricultural Services of the local government of Sagay in Negros Occidental went to SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station last 22 July 2022 for an exposure trip.

The trip aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of their technical personnel on aquaculture technologies and practices.

The team made a courtesy call to SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dan Baliao and toured AQD's facilities and hatcheries.



SKU faculty seek fresh aquaculture insights

SOME faculty members from Sultan Kudarat University (SKU) in Mindanao visited SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo on 8 August 2022 to tour the research center's hatcheries and other aquaculture facilities.

According to one of the visitors, they went to SEAFDEC/AQD to see what it could offer in terms of aquaculture. In addition, the group of four wanted to observe the technologies and innovations that they can share with aquaculture farmers and entrepreneurs in their province now that several projects are being implemented there.





« BFAR IV-A, LGU technicians visit Tigbauan facilities

THE LEGISLATED hatchery team of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of Region IV-A, together with several technicians from CALABARZON's local government units, went to SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station on 11 July 2022, for an exposure trip.

The group, headed by Freshwater Demonstration Fish Farm (FDFF) Center Chief Josephine dela Vega, aimed to canvass the prices of commodities and seek expertise and information on hatcheries and other aquaculture projects that could be applied in Quezon Province.

Japanese university students tour TMS »»

TWO students from the Faculty of Fisheries of Kagoshima University in Japan went to SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station (TMS) on 18 July 2022 to observe the operations of the research center's laboratories and facilities.

They took a tour of the FishWorld Museum, the Integrated Marine Finfish Broodstock and Hatchery Complex, and the Multi-species Freshwater Hatchery.



« NFRDI Fisheries Biotechnology Center goes to SEAFDEC/AQD

THE National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) Fisheries Biotechnology Center (FBC) project team went to SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station on 11 August 2022 to conduct benchmarking of the research institutions' facilities and laboratories.

Along with the three NFRDI visitors were two representatives from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRICE). The latter is NFRDI's consultant on the FBC project.

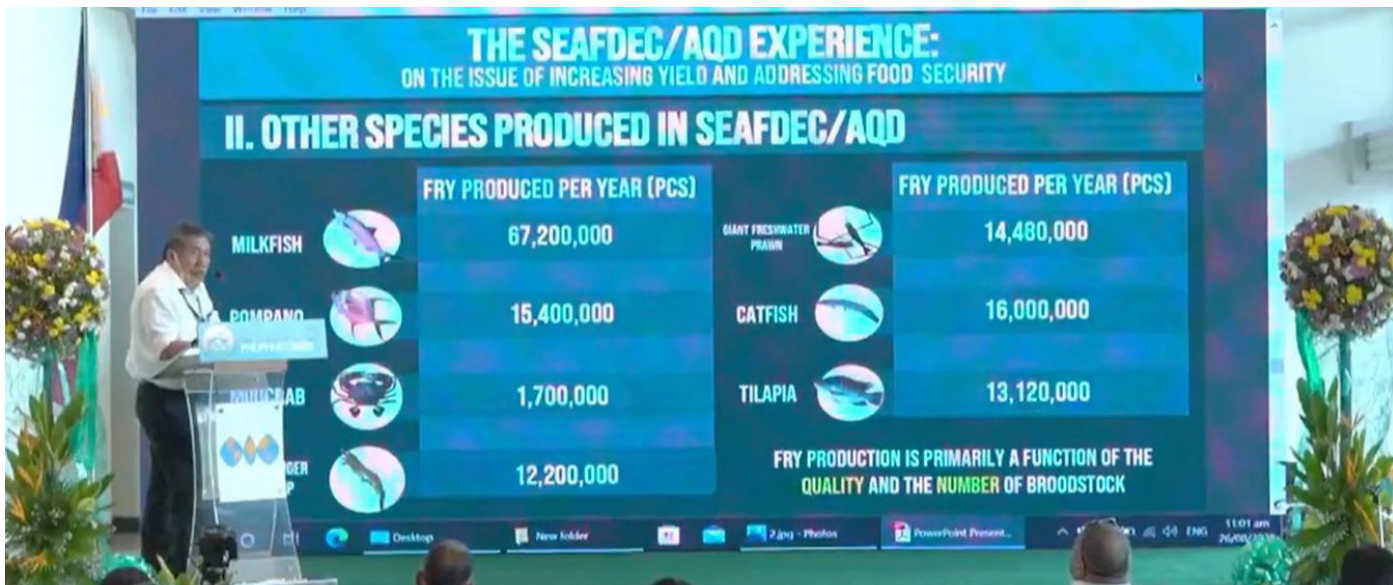
Study tour at SEAFDEC/AQD »»

NINETEEN students from the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City visited SEAFDEC/AQD on 9 August 2022 to learn about scientific breakthroughs and innovations, particularly in the field of aquaculture.

The Bachelor of Science in Biology students were accompanied by their professors as they toured the research center's facilities beginning with the FishWorld Museum.

According to their professor, the trip is an alternative to their Summer Abroad Program, supposedly in Singapore, which was hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic.





Chief Dan Baliao talks about “Increase Yield in Aquaculture Farming in the Philippines,” where he shared the farm and industry-level approaches to maximizing yield. He also mentioned the innovations and priority programs of SEAFDEC/AQD. Photo courtesy of Livestock Philippines Expo

Chief Baliao shares strategies on increasing aquaculture yield in expo

SEAFDEC/AQD Chief Dan Baliao was one of the guest speakers at the recently concluded Livestock Expo Philippines 2022, an international trade fair for innovative poultry and livestock production and processing held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Baliao talked about *Increase Yield in Aquaculture Farming in the Philippines*, where he shared the farm and industry-level approaches to maximizing yield. The Chief also mentioned the innovations and priority programs of SEAFDEC/AQD.

Another topic he discussed was the research institution's experience with increasing yield and addressing food security, citing the following:

- * Milkfish Fry Sufficiency Program aims to solve the problem of seed insufficiency in the Philippines by constructing and operating more hatcheries, rehabilitating unproductive ones, and enhancing milkfish breeder performance;

- * Development of cost-efficient feeds, in which SEAFDEC/AQD formulated a more cost-efficient feed for milkfish and tilapia by replacing fish-based ingredients with locally sourced and less expensive alternatives such as distillers' dried grain solubles, a by-

product of the distillery industry;

- * *Oplan Balik Sugpo*, in which this project was carried out to revive the black tiger shrimp industry;

- * Accelerated Techno-transfer, in which onsite, technical, and hands-on training courses were designed to intensify the techno-transfer of mature aquaculture technologies to stakeholders; and

- * Manpower Development, which intends to fill in the industry's dire need for younger, dedicated, and skilled aquaculturists. SEAFDEC/AQD established this training/mentoring program to help fisheries graduates improve their technical skills.

The expo, which took place from 24 to 26 August 2022, served as a venue for globally-available cutting-edge technologies and solutions, conferences and technical seminars, and networking with other players in the country's livestock industry. It is organized by the international exhibition expert group Informa Markets and is hosted by the Department of Agriculture.

On the first day of the event, over 3,500 stakeholder participants from all over the world attended. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

Science communication tips for fisheries bureau staff

SENIOR Information Specialist Rex Delsar Dianala shared SEAFDEC/AQD's strategies and experiences in science communication with personnel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 6 during a recent writing workshop.

Dianala, who heads SEAFDEC/AQD's Development Communication Section, spoke on “Popularizing Scientific Breakthroughs,” wherein he presented the research center's work on producing information materials and approaches to disseminating them online and offline.

The lecture was part of the first day of the Technical Writing and Feature Writing Workshop, which was organized by BFAR 6 and held on 11–12 August 2022 at the Fig Tree Hotel in Iloilo City.

Twenty participants, who were Capacity Building Focals of Provincial Fisheries Offices and Report Officers of BFAR-6, attended. [a](#)

— RD DIANALA



During the talk, Senior Information Specialist Rex Delsar Dianala emphasized that communicators should constantly adjust their words and communication style to capture their audience's interest while clearly delivering information. Photo courtesy of BFAR-6