

# ANITHAN

## *MAGAZINE*

Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

**Training-Empowered Women**  
Meet the enthusiast, the guru and the loyalist

**The Revitalizing Power of Moringa Powder**

**Juvy S. Gaton:**  
The feisty lady rural broadcaster with a heart

**This Lady Engineer is RED:**  
Advocate of Postharvest and Mechanization

**Women, Workers, Winners**

**Tularawan: Hindi Ako Babae Lang**

**Evelyn at Tessie:**  
Mga Modernong Maria Clara ng Norte

# ANTIHAN magazine



PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR POSTHARVEST  
DEVELOPMENT AND MECHANIZATION (PHILMECH)

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Meet the enthusiast, the guru and the loyalist



## Gender and Development

**M**agna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710). Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children (RA 9262). Women in Development and Nation Building (RA 7192). These are just some of the many Philippine laws on women, the considered marginalized sector of the society.

To implement these laws, the government is mainstreaming gender in its development programs.

This issue of the Anihan Magazine is part of the gender mainstreaming efforts of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech). It aims to create gender awareness and instill gender consciousness among its employees, partners and clientele.

PHilMech pays tribute to outstanding women and men in the postharvest industry, both from the government and private sectors. Their stories are published so that readers may be inspired and emulate their examples.



“The age of a woman doesn't mean a thing. The best tunes are played on the oldest fiddles.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson





# Training- Empowered Women

*Meet the enthusiast, the guru and the loyalist*

by Jett Molech G. Subaba

During the Spanish era, Filipino women were deprived of education. Thus, they were confined to doing household chores and child rearing. Since they knew nothing more than what they were confined to, they worked dependently behind the pursuits of men, no courage at all to even fight for their rights.

This scenario continued but not until the American era where a significant number of Filipino women were educated. From then on, different rights of women were fought for and these were granted by the government like their right to vote in 1937, and a lot more for the past 60 years.

Today, the equal rights of men and women to information and education paved the way for women empowerment in society. Women work hand in hand with men in pursuing socio-economic growth and in unfolding the human potentials in the community.

## *PHilMech Training Courses*

Knowledge is power. If you want to paralyze a person, deprive him of knowledge, but if you want to empower him, open to him the doors of learning.

The PHilMech as a government agency understands this principle. Thus, the agency works to empower the agriculture and fishery

sectors through research, development and extension.

Extension plays a big role in communicating new and innovative postharvest technologies of PHilMech to its stakeholders. The use of communication media and conduct of training courses are seen as one of the most effective tools not just in disseminating information but also in knowledge-transfer.

All these years, with the advent of new technologies, PHilMech has continuously explored different platforms to train the key players in the industry. Aside from the on-site national training courses conducted by the Technology Management and Training Division, PHilMech has also launched

School-on-the-Air in different corn and rice-producing regions in the country to cater to farmer's needs even those from the far-flung areas.

In 2012, in collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), PHilMech has also opened two online courses on rice and corn to train and educate farmers, agricultural extension workers (AEWs), prospective corn/rice farmer growers and other interested individuals who are planning to expand operations in the production and postproduction of rice and corn using mechanization technologies.

A few of the outstanding women empowered by training in its various forms—e-learning, School-on-the-Air, regular training course—shared their insights and experiences.

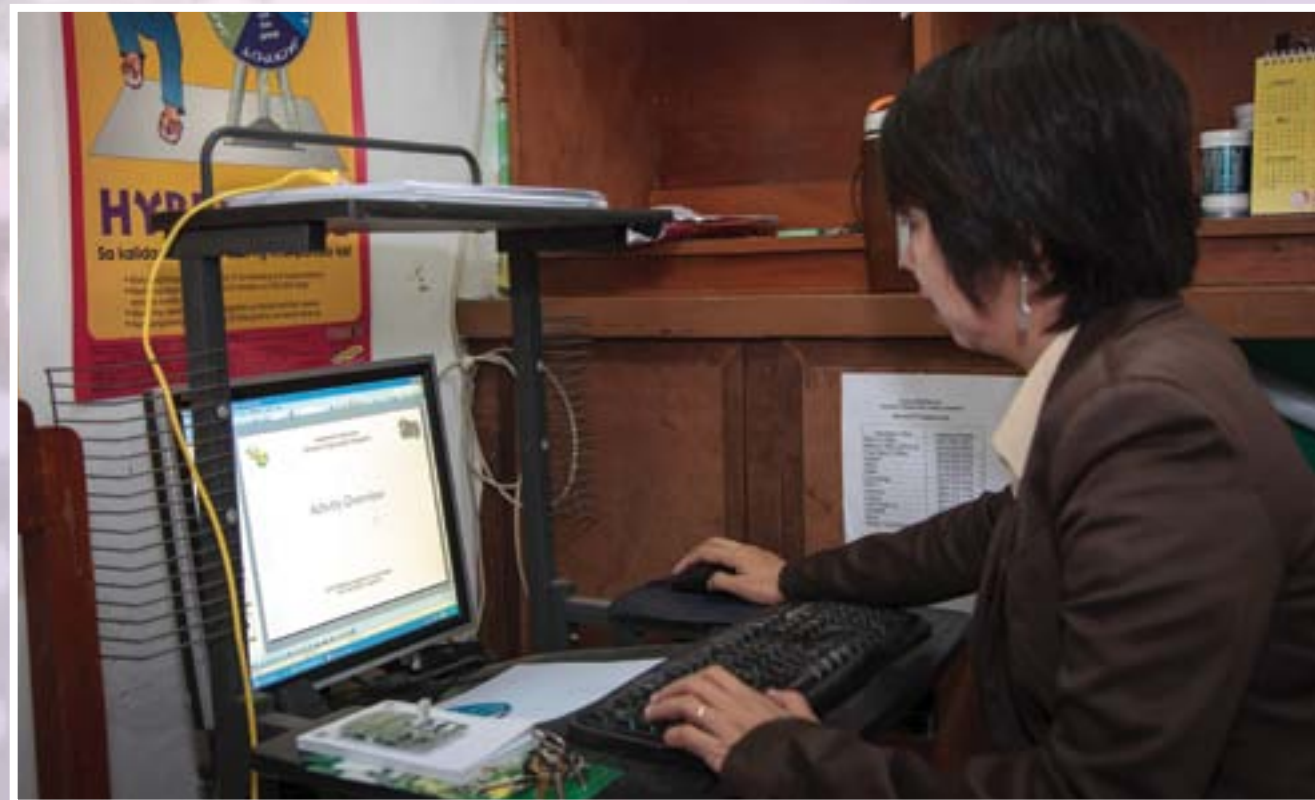
### *The E-learning Enthusiast*

Vilma L. Abalos, 44, may not always be delegated to seminars and training courses, but for her, it is not a hindrance to acquire new knowledge and be more effective at work. When she discovered the e-learning courses through a friend working at ATI, her life changed.

“Kasi sa office namin 27 kami lahat d’yan. So ‘pag may invitation for seminars, hindi naman pwedeng sabay-sabay kami. Ako madalang na madalang na maipadala sa seminar... Syempre ako naman, ayokong

maging stagnant. I’m glad na merong e-learning. Kaya nag-pursue ako sa e-learning,” said Vilma Abalos.

Since she started taking up online courses in 2007, she already finished more than 20 courses on different commodities related to her work as an agricultural technologist (AT) under the Municipal Agriculture Office of Umingan. One of the courses she finished is the course on “Increasing Corn Farm Productivity through the Use of Mechanization Technologies” developed by



PHilMech and being used by DA-ATI in its e-learning course.

The course aims to understand the level of mechanization technologies that will be used by the corn farmers in their respective areas. It covers three modules as follows: (1) the introduction of farm mechanization in corn production, (2) level of mechanization, and (3) economic benefits gained in adopting mechanized operations under medium-scale machinery.

Vilma finished the course in July 2012 and was recognized as one of the topnotchers from more than 50 e-learning graduates. She considers her actual experiences as field worker and her being an advocate of mechanization as an edge to top the course.

“Isang plus factor ko ay field worker ako talaga, so yung mga nandun somehow alam ko na at nirereinforce nalang din yung mga nakuha ko na sa mga farmers. Talagang naniniwala ako sa learning by doing e. At saka advocate ako ng mechanization,” explained Abalos.

She was able to impart the knowledge she gained to the farmers in Umingan especially those in barangays covered by the Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) of the DA-BAR where corn is one of the major commodity components.

Abalos considers e-learning as empowering because the knowledge she gained from it made her more equipped and confident in her field of work. “Nakaka-empower yung mga matututunan mo dun, ‘pag natapos mo, empowered ka talaga kasi magiging confident ka na marami kang bitbit (na kaalaman), na pwede mong i-share (sa farmers),” she said.

Aside from her designations as AT and head of the CPAR project, she is also the information service specialist of FITS, the coordinator of Umingan Council of Women

and the Municipal Population Officer of Umingan.

Moreover, she is also a hands-on mom to her two children and misses no activity in school (programs, family day, PTA meetings etc.) because she and her husband Alex prioritize their family above all. But at the end of the day, she finds herself tireless of doing things she love. “As long as you are happy with what you are doing, hindi ka napapagod,” she said.

### *The Farming Guru of Cagayan*

In 2009, she was recognized as the fourth highest yielder of SL8 rice variety in Cagayan, producing 240 cavans per hectare. Her rice farming practices presented at the ATI symposium on women in rice farming was also recognized as the 2nd most innovative practice in the national level. No wonder, 70 percent of the total number of farmers in their community follow her practices.

Josefina Talang of Peñablanca, Cagayan, 49, owns a 2.3 ha of land, planting different commodities like rice, corn and mongo beans. Since she is a widow, her two sisters and her mother are her companions in doing



different farm activities from production to postproduction. Her farming experiences, practices and attended training courses helped her build a strong foundation as a famer-led extension worker.

As an extension worker, she regularly meets more than 80 farmers in their barangay and adjacent barangays to impart her knowledge

gained from seminars or training courses she attended from different institutions like the Southern Cagayan Seed Center.

Josefina loves listening to radio every morning. One time, she heard an announcement about the upcoming School-on-the-Air (SOA) in their region which will be conducted by PHilMech. She inquired at their municipal agriculturist about the said program and was able to enroll on it.

School-on-the-Air (SOA) is one of the activities of PHilMech that aims to increase the level of knowledge of farmers on the new postharvest technologies and to increase their level of acceptance as well. It is usually conducted through a partnership with the regional field office (RFO) that taps local community radio stations to broadcast the information to the enrolled farmers from a certain region.

PHilMech's objective on the said project complements Josefina's intentions for enrolling to SOA. "Nag-enroll po ako para mas lumawak pa ang aking kaisipan tungkol sa mga bagong teknolohiya, at para may matutunan pa sa pagtatanim ng palay hanggang sa pag-aani nito," said Josefina. Talang finished as one of the topnotchers from more than 1,000 SOA graduates in 2011. She achieved it not for high scores but also because of the prizes awaiting the top

students. "Gusto ko po maging top tuwing meron silang question and answer sa radyo kasi gusto kong makakuha ng premyo," explained Josefina.

More than the prizes that motivated her, Josefina practiced discipline and perseverance so as not to miss any broadcast on the radio and be able to answer the

**"Palagi kong sinasabi sa kanila bakit ako, babae ako, pero nagagawa ko yung tamang practice...Kaya na-challenge po ang mga lalaki sa amin..."**

questions given to them. Whether she is tired, or on travel, or even during brownouts, she still made sure to still

listen to the broadcast.

"Kapag sinabing ang oras ng pakikinig ay 5:00 am nireready ko na po sa gabi yung mga kailangan ko sa pakikinig sa school on the air—yung notebook, ballpen at transistor radio. Tapos inalarm ko na yung cellphone ko para kahit pagod ako, magigising pa rin ng maaga at hindi ako makaabsent. Kapag brownout nagre-ready ako ng battery at kapag may seminar ako na 1 week, dinadala ko yung transistor radio ko para makapakinig pa rin dahil gusto kong tapusin yung kurso," said Talang.

Today, her learnings from the SOA especially on flatbed operations helped her community in experiencing the benefits of mechanical drying compared to their former practice of sundrying which is limiting during rainy season.

She teaches the farmers in their barangay by her example and experiences. Moreover, she leaves them challenged and changed in the way they do farming. "Palagi kong sinasabi sa kanila bakit ako babae ako, pero nagagawa ko yung tamang practice. Gaya ng ini-scatter ko yung mga dayami sa aking bukirin kasi yung pag-scatter ay isang magandang practice. Ibinabalik nuon ang abono sa lupa. Kaya na-challenge po ang mga lalaki sa amin. Nakikita kasi nila na ako mismo at mga kapatid kong babae ang gumagawa ng mga ganung gawain," said Josefina.

Josefina is not just a farming guru but a respected and empowered woman in their community in Cagayan.

### *The Loyal Network Specialist of Bicol*

Her invaluable years of service as a postharvest coordinator at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office V and as a member of the Postharvest Specialist Network (PHSN) member have brought forth impact in the lives of farmers, technicians, extensionists and other industry partners in the Bicol region.

Nilda T. Albaño, 59, of Iriga City, Camarines Sur, is a member of the PHSN established by PHilMech since 1990. PHSN is a dynamic pool of postharvest experts who provides specific intervention and technical assistance

to the grassroots and other clientele. They are equipped with postharvest knowledge and skills learned through the participation to different training courses conducted by PHilMech.

Albaño has attended several training courses of PHilMech for the past 25 years particularly in establishment, operation and maintenance of mobile flash dryer operation, in-store dryer, multi-purpose drying pavement, mechanical thresher and other postharvest facilities granted to farmers and associations. Nilda has found these training courses as relevant to her work and helpful as well.

"Akmang-akma talaga yung mga natutuhan ko duon (sa training), sa trabaho ko (postharvest coordinator). Tapos nadagdagan talaga yung aking kaalaman, at naging successful ako sa larangan ng postharvest," said Albaño.

Through the years, she was able to impart her knowledge to other people through technical assistance in the operation of postharvest facilities and as subject matter specialist on different postharvest related training courses in their region. She even conducts training courses on sustainability, retooling and proper care and maintenance of postharvest technologies.

"Naipapasa ko sa mga farmers yung mga natututuhan ko. Nagcoconduct ako ng mga pa-training sa kanila tapos tinuturo ko sa

kanila yung tamang practice sa makatapos-ani. Three times akong nagka-conduct ng training nuon sa mga farmers on sustainability, proper care and maintenance ng kung anumang hawak nilang mga equipment or PH facility," says Nilda, an agricultural engineer by profession.

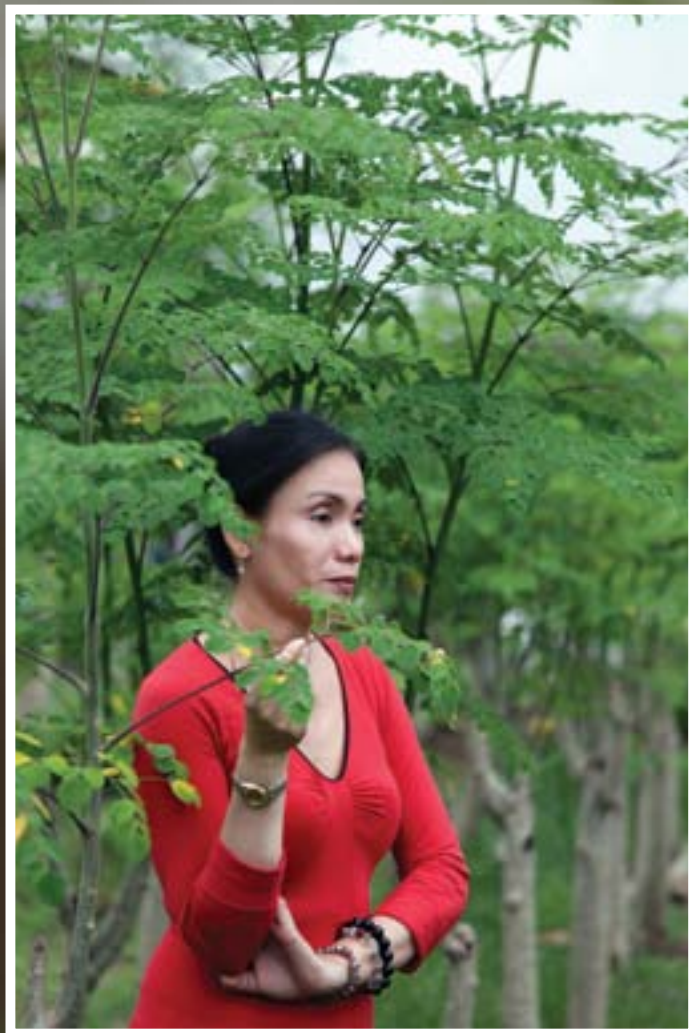
With all these accomplishments in the region, at the end of the day, Nilda still counts the unquantifiable impact she has brought to the lives of the people as her major achievement in her field.

"Kahit wala namang ganyang mga certificate, masarap pa rin yun sa pakiramdam. 'Yun ang pinakamagandang certificate—na maraming taong nagpapasalamat sa iyo na natutulungan mo," she said.

For Nilda, one of the best secrets of an empowered woman is the love for self, for people and for work. Apart from it, she sees all things as a waste. Moreover, she emphasized that training courses should not just remain learned but also applied and shared. She firmly believes that sharing what she has received makes her an empowered woman, too.



The stories of Abalos, Talang and Albaño are but a few of hundreds of stories of empowered women in the society today. Their stories were not just told to inspire women of today but to tell them that they can be the next in line, making a difference for tomorrow.



*“Kapag marami kang natutulungan, nag-eejoy ka.”*

-Gina Matsuoka

## The Revitalizing Power of MORINGA POWDER

by Vladimir B. Caliguiran

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*“Dasal lang din. Darating din ang tulong mula sa taas. Kapag bumagsak ka, huwag kang susuko,” said Genara Matsuoka, 46, president-owner of Japan-Philippine Malunggay Eco-farm in Laguna.*

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**B**ecause of her love for her ailing husband, she pursued the best natural medication for his condition which in turn became a blessing in disguise for her family.

friend recommended the malunggay (*Moringa oleifera*) seeds. “Nagulat ako noong sinabing buto ng malunggay. Dahil Bisaya ako, hindi ko alam na nakakain ‘yun,” she amusedly shared.

### *The Discovery*

It was nine-years ago when her Japanese husband was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis. Mr. Matsuoka’s cultural background made him decide not to take synthetic medicine. According to Gina, Genara’s *Pinay* name, in her search for alternative natural medication, a visiting family-

“Binigyan ako ng isang tupperware na buto. Mga tatlong kilo ‘yun,” Gina said. They sun dried it. Her husband ate 10 kernels every morning, noon, and evening.

In three months’ time, she and her friends noticed the improvement on Mr. Matsuoka’s health. Based on Gina’s account, she observed the changes on her husband’s skin. She continued to provide malunggay seeds for her husband.



But she encountered insufficient supply of the seeds during rainy season. Looking for alternatives, she found out that dried malunggay powder is a good substitute. That time, she met Mrs. Bernadette Arellano who owns a moringga processing center. “Bumili ako ng seed at capsulized powder leaves kay Ma’am Bernie,” she recalled.

*Business*

Her discovery on the

power of the malunggay products to manage the ailment of her husband led to the discovery of another opportunity to their family. “Isang araw, tumawag ang mga kaibigan niya from Japan. Nagpapahanap sila ng moringga powder,” she shared.

Mr. Matsuoka’s friends in Japan ordered 50 kg of dried moringga powder. “Tinawagan ko si Maam Bernie, tinanong ko kung kaya niya bang i-deliver ang 50 kg. Naibenta ko sa Japan ‘yun sa malaking halaga,” Gina said. According to her, the Japanese packages the malunggay powder in to tea and capsules. “After a month, nag-order ulit sila ng 100 kg, hanggang sa dumami na ang order.”

Because of the increasing demand and the need to maintain the quality of the moringga products being exported to Japan, she decided to build her own processing plant. Also, a Filipino partner suggested to her that they plant their own malunggay to augment the increasing demand of the products. Thus, the birth of the Japan-Philippine Malunggay Eco-farm (JPM) in 2011.



*Processing*

Gina became a member of Moringaling Philippines Foundation Inc. that expanded her network as she gained friends from the industry. She was then introduced to various organizations and to the Department of Agriculture. She attended training courses on processing at the Food and Drug Administration and Food Development Center.

“Noong umpisa, trial and error lang kami,” Gina revealed. Through her husband, they were able to purchase equipment from Japan such as dryer, pulveriser, vacuum packer and oil extractor.

“Naghanap kami ng machine, pero sobrang mahal dito sa Pilipinas. ‘Yung budget namin, dryer lang ang mabibili dito. Kaya nagpatulong ako sa husband ko maghanap sa Japan. Aba! ‘yung nakita niya kasya na ang pera naming

nakalaan para sa dryer, pulverizer, vacuum packer at oil extractor.”

However, the machines they bought were for green tea manufacturing. They were experimenting for eight months to adjust the machines to suit the requirements of the moringga leaves. “Trial and error kami for almost eight months... At naitaon din ang pagdating nila Dr. Cristy Gragasin. Kaya super thankful talaga ako sa PHilMech, lalo na sa group nila Dr. Gragasin,” Gina shared.

*R&D Partner*

The team of Dr. Gragasin of the Bioprocess Engineering Division of PHilMech was looking then for a partner for the project ‘Enhancing the Quality and Safety of Moringa Products’. According to Dr. Gragasin, Gina’s farm was recommended by the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Plant Industry. The JPM is one of the three partners of PHilMech for the said project.

Through the partnership, Gina said that



their existing practices were improved and the machines were optimized. Based on the observation of the researchers, the improvement of the drying system resulted to better preservation of nutrients and reduction of microbial loads.

*Expo means export*

Through this development, Gina said, the Department of Agriculture has also assisted her to join in international expositions in Japan and in Berlin, Germany. “Malaking tulong talaga ang expo. Kapag nagdadala ako ng mga products ko gaya ng tea at capsules, napakabilis nito maubos lalo na yung capsule,” she shared.

Gina is now working for the Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points (HACCP) certification and organic certification to further expand her market.

“Sa negosyong ito, kapag farming pala, kailangan mong magtiyaga, huwag kang sumuko lalo na kapag nakitaan mo ito ng potential sa market... Bakit hindi ako sumuko kahit hindi pa ako gaano

kumikita? Dahil sa tuwing expo, maraming kumpanya ang nagtatanong tungkol sa aking produkto,” Gina shared.

At present, Gina has now partners in the United States, Canada, Japan, and hopefully she will close the deal with her Danish associates. Also, she is now financing her own expenses in participating international expo.

*Sharing the blessing*

Gina, together with her colleagues from the industry, is conducting seminars and trainings to different parts of the country.

“Umaakyat kami sa mga bundok bundok. Tinuturuan namin ang mga kooperatiba at mga barangay. With the Moringaling group, ine-encourage namin na magtanim sila ng

malunggay,”

she happily shares.

“Kahit saan pinupuntahan

namin. Nagbibigay ako ng mga buto. Then kapag may harvest na, babalikan ko sila para turuan sila magpre-process.”

During training sessions, she assured that their group will buy the farmer’s produce because she knew that none will be interested planting malunggay without a guaranteed market.

She buys fresh moringa leaves at P15 per kg and P270 to 300 per kg of sun dried leaves.

The Moringaling group has now established local growers in Pangasinan, General Santos, Bacolod and Bicol region.

“Kapag marami kang natutulungan, nag-eeenjoy ka.”

*Moringa empowers*

For Gina, the moringa does not only revitalize the physical condition of her husband. It also unfolded in her the true spirit of being a Pinay—strong, diligent and perseverant.

“Ang Pinay ay hindi sumusuko; go lang nang go. Masipag at matiyaga; kahit walang tulugan.”

Feature

Partner in

R D & E



# Juvy S. Gatton

## the feisty lady rural broadcaster with a heart

by Rodolfo P. Estigoy, Ph.D.

She is a feisty lady, but deep inside, she is soft, sweet, and seasoned by life itself.

She started her career in communication as a script writer for development news while still a mass communication student at Saint Paul College, in Iloilo City in 1982. After that humble beginning, all her career life revolved around development communication specially rural broadcasting via radio and television programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Juvy Silario Gatton finds her roots in rural broadcasting when she wrote for development stories for the International Broadcasting Center (IBC) 13's "Good Morning, Philippines", a Southeast Asian

Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) radio broadcast program airing research and development (R&D) results. She gathered information from development institutions and translated these in the vernacular for easy reference and guide for radio listeners in the Region from 1982-1986.

Early on, Inday Juvy as she is fondly called, had a brief stint with the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study to profile the agriculture sector of Western Visayas while still working for IBC 13. She left IBC 13 in 1986 when she was hired as development writer for school on the air program with lessons on KABSACA at the Agricultural Communication (AgriCom) Section of the Department of Agriculture-Region VI.

Later on, she co-hosted the "Tion naton uswag banwa" (Time to develop the countryside), a regular radio program aired by the Western Visayas Agricultural Resources Research and Development Consortium (WESVARRDEC) at the Philippine Broadcasting System, Radio ng Bayan. A few years after, she was promoted as assistant information officer. As a budding broadcaster she writes her script and reads this in toto while on air.

The rest is history. Now, she is a veteran lady rural broadcaster reaching out to an estimated audience of 20,000 avid listeners to her daily radio program "Agri-Pinoy, a 30-minute broadcast beaming at 4:00 o'clock in the morning. She has to literally crawl out of bed that early to go to the radio station. "Inday Juvy has made a dent in the radio broadcasting field as she reaped regional awards for her dedicated service. She is a Hall of Famer having won several consecutive Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Regional Best Performing Information Officer and two time winner of Public Relation Organization of the Philippines (PROP) Best University on the Air Program as tool for development in 1998 and 2004.

She has run a series of School-on-the-Air Programs on various modules like organic poultry raising, organic vegetable production, indigenous vegetable

production, corn and rice production, postharvest handling and processing and other relevant topics sought by her ardent audience. So far, they have produced thousands of graduates who are now benefitted with information and knowledge to be used in practical ways at their farms and homes

Being a sturdy and hard worker, she is always on the go until a mild stroke hit her in February 2011 while covering a feature story on hydroponics in Hiniguan, Negros Occidental. She had to wake up early in the morning to catch an event to be later broadcasted in her program when the stroke got her noon time. She was rushed to a nearby hospital, but even with her tragic condition, she was still



thinking of the work and obligations she left at the office. From here she learned an important lesson not to exceed limits of our physical capabilities because we are not supermen. Since then, she learned to mellow and slow down and savor every bit her work still with fervor and passion but at a slower pace.

Starting March 2013, her radio program Agri Pinoy aired over DYRI, 774khz covered a series called Angat Ani, PHilMech's new postharvest technologies for rice, corn and high value crops. The nine month long radio broadcast created widened awareness and sustained interest among her listeners on the latest information and technologies developed and promoted by PHilMech.

Consequently, her listeners were guided by the information they have heard from the radio and became basis for their improved farm practices and use of new technologies. On the other hand, her efforts to localize information and advocacy campaigns in

rice mechanization involved the use of tri-media like television, radio and print to reach out to grassroots clients. She, together with her Team at the Regional Agriculture and Fishery Information Division (RAFID) produced jingles, flyers, brochures, posters, radio plugs on rice mechanization technologies and equipment in the local dialect. She has networked with other media outfits to maximize coverage and exposure like the Central Philippines University (CPU) Agriculture Program for cable TV and the local cable network in the DA-RFO VI TV Program "Kauswagan sa Kaumahan at Marami Pang Iba" aired weekly over Western Visayas.

Postharvest and mechanization technologies have become an added feature in her other broadcast like the use of rich media, television and cable network, and the regional television networks of GMA 7 and ABS-CBN.

Recognizing her team's effort to localize advocacy and information programs in postharvest and mechanization, she was awarded the "Outstanding Collaborator of PHilMech" in May 2014.

The voice of Inday Juvy continues to hover over the air in Western Visayas daily at her Agri-Pinoy Program. With a daily dose of short prayer at the beginning of her radio broadcast and a heapful of informative messages

This  
**LADY  
 ENGINEER**  
 is  
**RED,**  
 advocate of postharvest  
 and mechanization

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by Rodolfo P. Estigoy, Ph.D.

**R**egional Executive Director (RED) Remelyn Recoter of DA RFO XI may not be your typical “business as usual” manager. As a matter of fact, she is an epitome of a manager innovative of change. She welcomes change all the time.

Her being an engineer is a big advantage for this budding lady regional executive. She balances her managerial skills with technical expertise that not so many managers possess. As a career executive service officer (CESO) since 2010, RED Recoter does not budge under pressure. Actually, pressures always make her day being the lady boss at the Regional Field Office XI of the Department of Agriculture. Her typical daily routine might be tough, but her demeanor always beams a smile.



What makes this dainty lady different from the rest? A peek at her curriculum vitae speaks volume of her accomplishments before she became the RED for Region XI. She has held various positions at the DA before she was given this hefty assignment as the OIC RED.

She has prepared herself in the rigors of executive

service as early as 2007 when she assumed the position of regional technical director for operations at the DA- RFO VI.

On top of this, she also served as the Superintendent of the Regional Agricultural Training Institute in Banga, Aklan for over 15 years. Coupled with this, she has also undergone several training courses here and abroad to widen and deepen her competencies in agricultural management, women's participation and

micro enterprises in Australia, Malaysia, India and China. This lady RED is also a reserved lieutenant colonel of the Philippine Army having finished Master in National Security Administration at the National Defense College of the Philippines in 1999.

*"DA Rice Mechanization Program is the solution to the staggering postharvest losses."*

Tracking down her involvement in postharvest and mechanization,

Dir. Recoter has quite a list of accomplishments. One of the highlights was her groundwork for the establishment of Rice Processing Complex(RPC) when she was still the RTD for Operations at DA-RFO VI. The RPC is located in Pototan, Iloilo and now serving the needs of farmers in the rice granary of the Visayas islands. She with other technical staff has tediously mapped out the enabling mechanisms and support structure for the project to be successful.

Now, being the RED of Region XI, she has also a hand on the operationalization

of the RPC established in Matanao, Davao del Sur. Her engineering background has a lot to contribute to the successful operation of these facilities towards improving the quality of rice in the said two provinces. The RPCs boast a state of the art rice milling and drying facility from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) which can produce high-end quality rice. There are five RPCs located in major rice producing provinces in the country.

Asked about her insights on the DA Rice Mechanization Program, she readily quips that the program is the solution for the staggering postharvest losses. She said it will boil down to economic benefits to farmers specially curbing losses at the farm level. She further explains that a farmer with an average 1 ha of farm with a potential yield of 100 bags may potentially save his 15 bags when he uses machines and other recommended practices after harvest. Multiplying this to the millions of rice farmers in the country, then we can curb the gargantuan losses incurred at the farm level alone.

She also said that there should be a more rationalized distribution scheme among farmer's groups and cooperatives so that the program will continue to be sustainable in the long run. About the possible farm labor displacement, she said that the farm service provider (FSP) involving farm laborers will be the solution. Organized farm laborers can



avail of the package of farm machinery which they can offer custom services for farm operations.

This lady engineer is a staunch advocate of postharvest and farm mechanization, the avenue to modernize the agricultural landscape of the country.

Interview

She is funny, a natural comedian.  
She is merry, fun to be with.  
She is...

# Miriam A. Acda

## PHILMECH FOCAL PERSON FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Miriam is the chief science research specialist of the Food Protection Division of PHilMech. She is a BS Agriculture graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños in 1983. Also, earned her MS in Entomology and Zoology at the University of Queensland in Australia.

A resident of Binan City, Laguna, Miriam is the only rose in her family of three handsome sons, Russell, Rainier and Randolf, and husband, Atty. Roberto Acda.

For 10 years, Miriam has served as the GAD focal person of PHilMech. Always, she reminds the PHilMech management and staff to input gender concerns in their respective programs and projects. Though hesitantly, Miriam gave in to our request for an interview in her desire to create gender awareness among the readers of the Anihan Magazine.

**Q:** Gender, how do you define it? Is it synonymous with women empowerment?

**A:** Gender refers to the roles, attitudes and values that identify the social behavior of women and men, the relationship between them and the way it is socially constructed. Gender biases exist and these biases prevent people from attaining their full potentials, thus impeding development. To remove the actual and potential biases, the government embarked on Gender and Development (GAD) as a priority program. GAD focuses on the principle that development is for all, therefore GAD is for female and male. Everyone in the society has the right to equal opportunity. Women and men should enjoy the same conditions for realizing their full human rights and potentials to benefit and contribute to development.

Women empowerment happens after biases are removed. In the process, women are mobilized to understand, identify and overcome gender discrimination so as to achieve equality in welfare and equal access to resources. There is empowerment when they gain

not only access but even control of resources. They are not just participants nor the beneficiaries in the development efforts but rather they are able to make decisions based on their own views and perspectives.

**Q:** Phrases like gender sensitive and gender-responsive are buzzwords nowadays. What do you mean by these words?

**A:** Gender sensitivity is the ability to recognize gender issues. It is actually the beginning of gender awareness which is more analytical and critical, where one questions gender disparity and other motivates one to act or address the gender issues. Gender responsiveness on the other hand, is the consistent and systematic attention given to the differences between women and men in a society with a view to addressing structural constraints to achieve gender equality.

**Q:** Why should a government agency like PHilMech implement a Gender and Development (GAD) program?



# Interview

**A:** The 1987 Philippine Constitution, Section 14 Article II reads “the state recognizes the role of women in nation building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.” The RA 7192 of 1992 stipulated that all government agencies shall ensure women benefit equally and participate directly in all development programs especially those funded by foreign development assistance, EO 273 of 1995 further directed all government agencies to institutionalize GAD. The JC of PCW and NEDA (2010) provided for the use of 5 percent GAD budget for GAD mainstreaming and finally, the RA 9710 of 2009, the Magna Carta for Women, clearly stated that the DA-PHilMech shall “design and promote the commercial use of improved postharvest processing facilities and equipment of selected commercial crops among women and men, farmer groups, processors and small-holder entrepreneurs to reduce postharvest losses and increase demand from value-adding processing operations.”

**Q:** What comprises the GAD program of PHilMech?

**A:** Based on our mandate as an R and D institution, our GAD program includes design and development of gender-friendly production and postharvest equipment and viable processing systems. For promotion

and information dissemination of new technologies, we ensure that both men and women have equal access to information through training courses, workshops, seminars, IEC materials. For women economic empowerment, PHilMech program include projects on provision of technical assistance for PH enterprise development (coffee and cashew processing centers) and the development of micro-enterprises using MCSTD. For organization-focused programs, we conduct gender awareness and sensitivity seminars, gender tool analysis and gender mainstreaming for research project leaders and implementers. We also have the summer day care program for children of PHilMech employees.

**Q:** Are PHilMech technologies gender-friendly? What are some of these gender-friendly technologies?

**A:** Our researchers and extension workers always try to incorporate gender concerns in their design, development and promotion of PHilMech technologies. Among our gender-friendly technologies are the Multi-Commodity Solar Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD), cashew nut sheller, coffee pulper, coffee huller, and the tractor-mounted implements like the rice transplanter, combine harvester and cassava digger.

**Q:** How many employees does PHilMech have? How many of these employees are women?

**A:** PHilMech has a total personnel complement of 226, 49 percent of which are women!

**Q:** What is meant by gender mainstreaming? How does PHilMech sustain gender mainstreaming in its research and development activities?

**A:** Gender mainstreaming is a comprehensive approach to achieving gender equality making women’s as well as men’s concerns integral to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities. A gender focal system that crafts the yearly gender plan and monitors the accomplishments has been established in PHilMech within organizational mandates ensure that gender issues and concerns are considered to achieving gender equality.



*“GAD focuses on the principle that development is for all, therefore GAD is for female and male. Everyone in the society has the right to equal opportunity. Women and men should enjoy the same conditions for realizing their full human rights and potentials to benefit and contribute to development.”*

# WOMEN WORKERS WINNERS

by Milagros B. Gonzalez

Women used to be relegated in the confines of their homes, cooking for their families, taking care of their children, doing domestic chores. But these were the women of yester years.

Now, aside from being dutiful wives and mothers, women are working-- making a career for themselves as doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers, teachers, researchers, leaders. These women are proving to all that they are equally capable and accomplished as their male counterparts.

In the government sector, outstanding women abound. However, the negative publicities often attached to the bureaucracy blur their significant contribution to the industry.

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) is an agency of the Department of Agriculture that has produced women of caliber. They are PHilMech's Natatanging Kawani (Outstanding Employees) for the last two decades who made names in their realm of expertise, whether in research or extension.





### *The Prolific Achiever*

She joined PHilMech in the early 1990s. Since then, she has always added a feather to her cap not only as an extension worker but also as a researcher. Her name has become synonymous to awards and recognition, all living testaments to her numerous R & D achievements.

She is Dr. Renita SM. dela Cruz, “Dr. Babes” for short, chief science research specialist of the Socio-Economics and Policy Research Division (SEPRD) of PHilMech. A top-notched agricultural engineer (she placed fifth in the 1975 national board exam for professional agricultural engineers), she and her group have come up with recommended postharvest and processing technologies and systems for cashew, coffee and soybeans. These technology systems have been helping rural groups of women and farmers nationwide, then and now.

Dr. Babe’s awards are aplenty. She has nine national awards from award-giving bodies like the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Society of Agricultural Engineers (PSAE). She has 14 institutional awards including the Natatanging Kawani ng Muñoz in 2000, Natatanging Junior Executive in 2005 and Outstanding Agricultural Engineer (in the field of agricultural product processing and postharvest technology) in 2006.

Just recently, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Central Luzon State University Alumni Association, Inc. for being its distinguished alumna because of her notable R & D accomplishments. Dr. Babes earned her BS Agricultural Engineering (Soil and Water Management) and PhD in Rural Development from CLSU in 1974 and 2003, respectively.

But more than the awards she garnered, she has produced R & D outputs that have created impacts to the various stakeholders in the industry. In fact, her definition of a successful woman fits her to a T. Dr. Babes says, “a successful woman makes a significant impact on the lives of the people she serves... She leaves imprints, something that will be remembered even in her absence...”

The likes of Nanay Chayong, Raquel Duran, and the Alion Kapit Bisig SEA-K Association, all from Bataan, have improved lives because of their use of cashew processing technologies (e.g. the whole cashew nut sheller and cashew nut oven), along with their gained knowledge in processing cashew apples into prunes, jam, wine, and so forth.

As a result, Dr. Babes said that “ more than 50 percent of the total cashew produce in Bataan is currently being processed, generating jobs for 3,457 persons a year...”

Coffee farmers, both from the highlands and lowland, are equally benefited from the Arabica and Robusta coffee processing technologies and systems developed by Dr. Babes and company. Coffee pulpers, hullers and all weather dryers are being used now by coffee farmers to process their green coffee beans. Various agencies like the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and even DA have identified these coffee postharvest technologies as part of their facility assistance program.

Other technologies and knowledge systems attributed to Dr. Babes and her group include the postharvest and processing systems for soybean farmers and processors; economic analysis of the provision of different corn machines for hire services; and the mono-cable tramline from which the bi-cable tramline evolved, an alternative transport system for agricultural products and inputs to and from the mountainous and rugged terrains.

Aside from being a researcher, Dr. Babes shares her knowledge as a technical writer in various journals and other publications,

**“More than 50 percent of the total cashew produce in Bataan is currently being processed, generating jobs for 3,457 persons a year...”**

and as a resource person during trainings and conferences.

As a woman, Dr. Babes considers her roles as a wife and mother as among her joys in life. She believes that a woman plays a big role in raising and molding children into law abiding and productive citizens of the society. Dr. Babes is a loving mother to Leah, her only daughter, who is presently taking her MS Biotechnology at

the Maejo University in Thailand. Dr. Babes is also the proud wife of CLSU Professor, Dr. Quirino dela Cruz, whom she fondly describes as “extremely humorous and a wonderful man.”

A few years from now, Dr. Babes is retiring from government service. She advises women working and would-be entering in the government to have passion for the job. “Serve others as you would like others to serve you — this is the essence of government service... Sacrifices, big or small, will be necessary at some points of the service. Be ready to give it with a joyful heart...”



## *The Effective Trainer*

Her petite size conceals her true persona. Because behind her diminutive figure is a tough lady, winning life's battles, one after another.

She is an athlete, a very good lawn tennis player. She is a benefactress, helping many of her family members in their needs. Although single, she has raised her grandson, Glenn, like her own son. As a public servant, she has trained more than 10,000 beneficiaries on postharvest and mechanization.

The lady trainer is Helen R. Calica, 51, a supervising science research specialist at the Technology Management and Training Division (TMTD) of PHilMech. Twice, she has been recognized as PHilMech's Natatanging Kawani for Training and Extension in 2002 and 2010. She was cited by the Science City of Muñoz in 2010 as one of the city's outstanding employees.

Helen has been well groomed for her role as a trainer. Equipped with an MS in Rural Development from the Central Luzon State University, she is also a product of numerous training courses, one of which is the International Training for Rural Extension Trainers. This is on top of her 27 years of experience on the job.

Through the years, Helen has packaged several training designs for different clienteles in the postharvest industry. She has also implemented several local and international training courses on postharvest and mechanization with the TMTD where she belongs.

For every training conducted by the TMTD, Helen has always exhibited a high degree of professionalism. She always follow the unwritten policy of their division: "The first man to come and the last one to go out of the training room should be the training staff."

Helen believes that the success of one in a team, is the success of everyone; the failure of another is the failure of all. Thus, Helen encourages the training staff to work as a team, always. No wonder, PHilMech training courses are effective as can be gleaned from the feedback of the trainees. Always, the training participants have rated the PHilMech training courses as either very good or excellent.

Helen finds joy in her work next to serving God and family. "... The satisfaction of our participants and stakeholders in the training we conduct gives me joy and inspiration to always do my best...It is always a joy working with our team (the training management and support staff, our Subject Matter Specialists, and everybody) behind the success of our training," she shares.

In 2007, Helen won a string of awards, both regional and national, for her paper, "Enhancing the Technical Capability of Agrarian Reform Community Beneficiaries on Postharvest Technologies and Enterprise Development." The paper garnered first place in the PHilMech In-house Review; adjudged as best paper in the development category in the Regional Symposium of the Central Luzon Agricultural Resources Research and Development Consortium (CLARRDEC); and won a national award, as Best Development Paper (third place) in Agriculture and Natural Resources, from the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) of DOST. Said paper emphasized the importance of monitoring, coaching and mentoring of trainees even after the conduct of the training courses.

But beyond these awards, Ms. Helen Calica's major contribution is the empowerment of many people in the agriculture industry particularly the program implementers and intermediaries like the regional agricultural engineers of the DA technical staff from other agencies, provincial agricultural engineers, State Universities and Colleges the Agricultural Extension Services and the farmer leaders. By giving them knowledge and skills through the training courses she implements, Helen paves the way for improving lives and creating better future for the end beneficiaries.



As a mentor, Helen points out for the need to set the right example. Public servants, she says, should have good character and right work attitude. "Good work attitude is very important; knowledge and skills follow..." She also advises, "We must always love what we do."

Helen believes that work is not simply earning a living, it has a higher purpose and meaning. "We must always find fulfillment in our daily labor; work hard to accomplish our goal."

The lady trainer also finds inspiration from the passage, Colossians 3:23-24: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

*The Innovative Scientist*

She could have been working abroad or in a private company, but she chooses to stay at PHilMech, and by the sweat of her brow she leads various innovative projects.

Starting out as a young research assistant at the Food Protection Department of the then National Postharvest Institute for Research and Extension (NAPHIRE), now PHilMech, she rose from the ranks. She is Dr. Maria Cristina Gragasin, 53, supervising science research specialist at the Bio-Process Engineering Division of PHilMech.

Dr. Cristy earned her BS in Chemistry at the Far Eastern University (FEU) in Manila. She also holds a doctorate degree in Pesticide Toxicology from the Chiba University in Japan.

In 2013, PHilMech recognized her as Natatanging Kawani for the Senior Research Category. The Department of Agriculture also cited her as regional finalist in the Gawad Saka Outstanding Researcher.

Innovative, environment-friendly, relevant – these describe Dr. Cristy’s research works. Said Dr. Cristy to fellow researchers: “Be sensitive to the social and environmental issues around you. Analyze how you, as a public servant, can integrate your perceived solutions.”

Thus, her research results such as the use of Philippine Carabao Mango peels as source of pectin has earned the nods of award-giving bodies, both local and national. In November 2013, she received the Best Research Paper in the National Research Symposium of PCAARRD-DOST. During the 24th BAR National Research Symposium in October 2012, she garnered the gold award as AFMA Best R & D Paper for applied research (technology generation agriculture category) and the Best R & D Poster gold award. She also placed first in both poster and paper awards for the same research in the 23rd CLARRDEC Regional Symposium. In the 34th, PHilMech In-House Review, she garnered second place and first place in the research paper and poster, respectively.

Topping all these research achievements, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP) granted patent for the utility model of the pharmaceutical grade pectin from mango peels including the process of producing it (Reg. # 22013000466) on May 21, 2014.

Aside from her grand-slam awards on pectin from mango peels, Dr. Cristy has also been involved in the improvement of existing practices in the processing of

malunggay leaves. She was instrumental in the establishment of the best practices in malunggay processing, enhancing its physical, nutritional and microbial qualities.

**“Partnership with development partners is one of the effective strategies toward the timely and successful implementation of research undertakings...”**

Dr. Cristy was also involved in projects such as the potential of Piper betel oil for the control of postharvest fungi and in the botanical treatment for the control of mango pulp weevil and storage insect pests. Her other project involvements include contamination of selected vegetables, aflatoxin contamination in peanuts and the kinetics of decay of pesticides.

As a researcher, Dr. Cristy values partnership with development partners, both from the government and private sectors. She believes that this is one of her “effective strategies toward the timely and successful implementation of her research undertakings.”

Aside from her research undertakings, Dr. Cristy also serves as resource person in numerous local and international technical conferences, training and symposia. She also publishes her research outputs in local and international refereed scientific journals.

As a woman, Dr. Cristy finds joy when her research outputs satisfy the target sectors,

when she could be of help to the needy, and be a channel of God’s blessings. Seeing the success of her children in their chosen careers and families in the future also makes Dr. Cristy happy.

Married to Dr. Michael Gragasin, another award-winning engineer of PHilMech, Dr. Cristy is also a loving mother to three children, Chester, Cristel and Mike Christian.

Her advice to women in government? “Be a conscientious worker. Do your job to give glory and honor not only to yourself but to Someone above who gives you strength and wisdom to do what is right.”

Dr. Cristy also advises women workers in government -- Create a good legacy, not just in the work place but also in the family and community one belongs. Yes, Dr. Cristy walks her talk.

**What makes Dr. Maria Cristina B. Gragasin, Dr. Renita SM. Dela Cruz and Ms. Helen R. Calica a cut above the rest? For one, they have struck a harmonious balance between their working careers and family lives. Secondly, they are among the women achievers of PHilMech who have worked silently as public servants and have won accolades for their hard work, integrity and excellence. Bravo to these women, workers, winners!**



# Dr. Alexander THE SINGING

Joel G. Gibe

# SCIENTIST

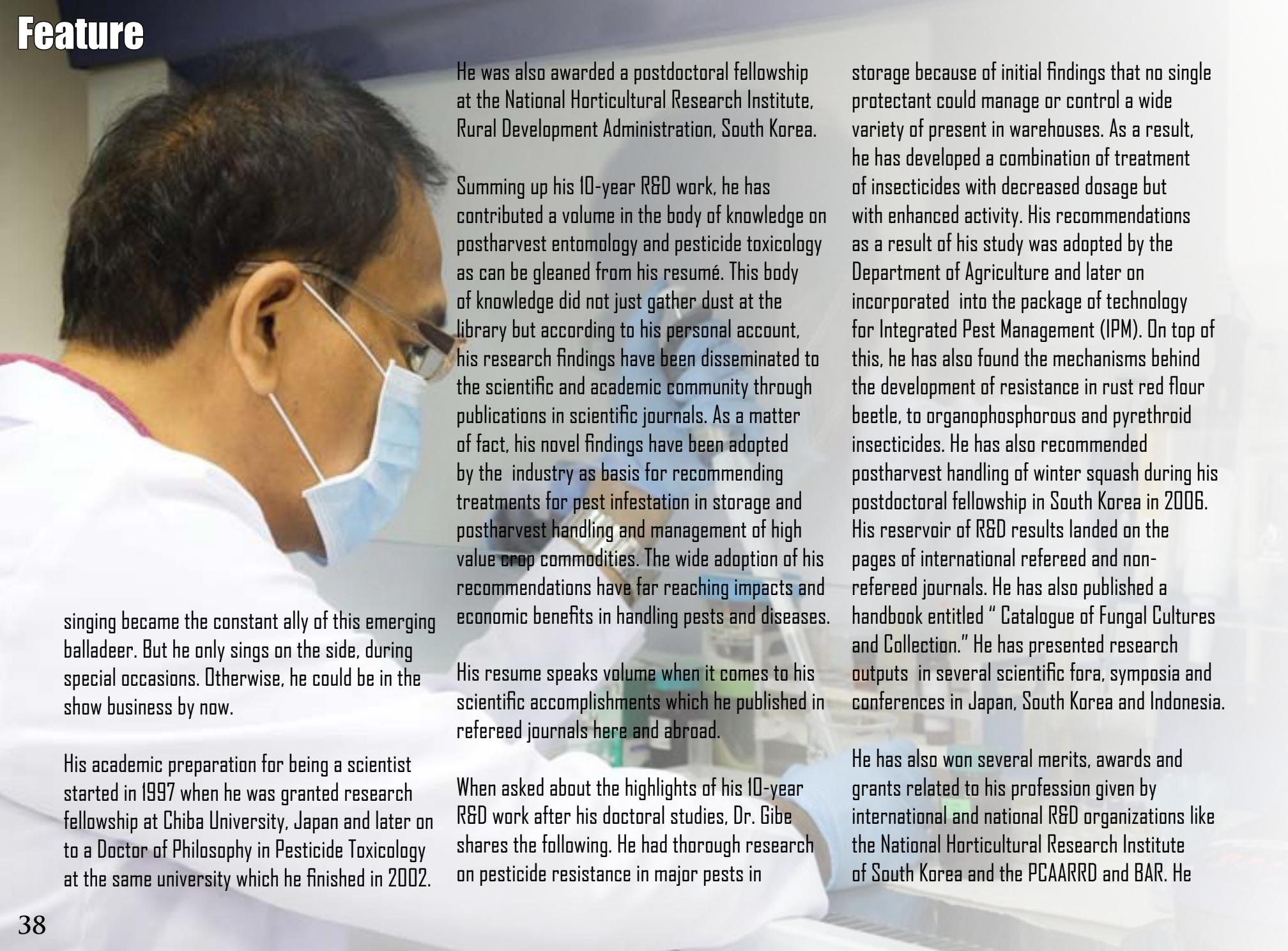


*I*t is very rare for a person to excel both in science and the arts. But Dr. Alexander Joel G. Gibe, newly conferred Scientist I by the Scientific Career System of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is both a scientist and artist rolled into one. He truly excels in both!

He started his romantic journey in science when he enrolled at the Central Luzon State University to prepare himself to be an entomologist, where he majored in his bachelor's degree in 1985. After his studies at CLSU, he was hired by the then National Postharvest Institute for Research and Extension (NAPHIRE) as research aide. This humble beginning did not deter this fellow to climb the corporate ladder. After 29 long years of meritorious service, he has made a niche for himself in the scientific field. His sterling R&D results attest to his prolific scientific work here and abroad.

His singing career likewise took roots during his college days when some of his friends discovered that this budding scientist can also belt a tune. After that,

by **Rodolfo P. Estigoy, Ph.D.**



He was also awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Horticultural Research Institute, Rural Development Administration, South Korea.

Summing up his 10-year R&D work, he has contributed a volume in the body of knowledge on postharvest entomology and pesticide toxicology as can be gleaned from his resumé. This body of knowledge did not just gather dust at the library but according to his personal account, his research findings have been disseminated to the scientific and academic community through publications in scientific journals. As a matter of fact, his novel findings have been adopted by the industry as basis for recommending treatments for pest infestation in storage and postharvest handling and management of high value crop commodities. The wide adoption of his recommendations have far reaching impacts and economic benefits in handling pests and diseases.

His resume speaks volume when it comes to his scientific accomplishments which he published in refereed journals here and abroad.

When asked about the highlights of his 10-year R&D work after his doctoral studies, Dr. Gibe shares the following. He had thorough research on pesticide resistance in major pests in

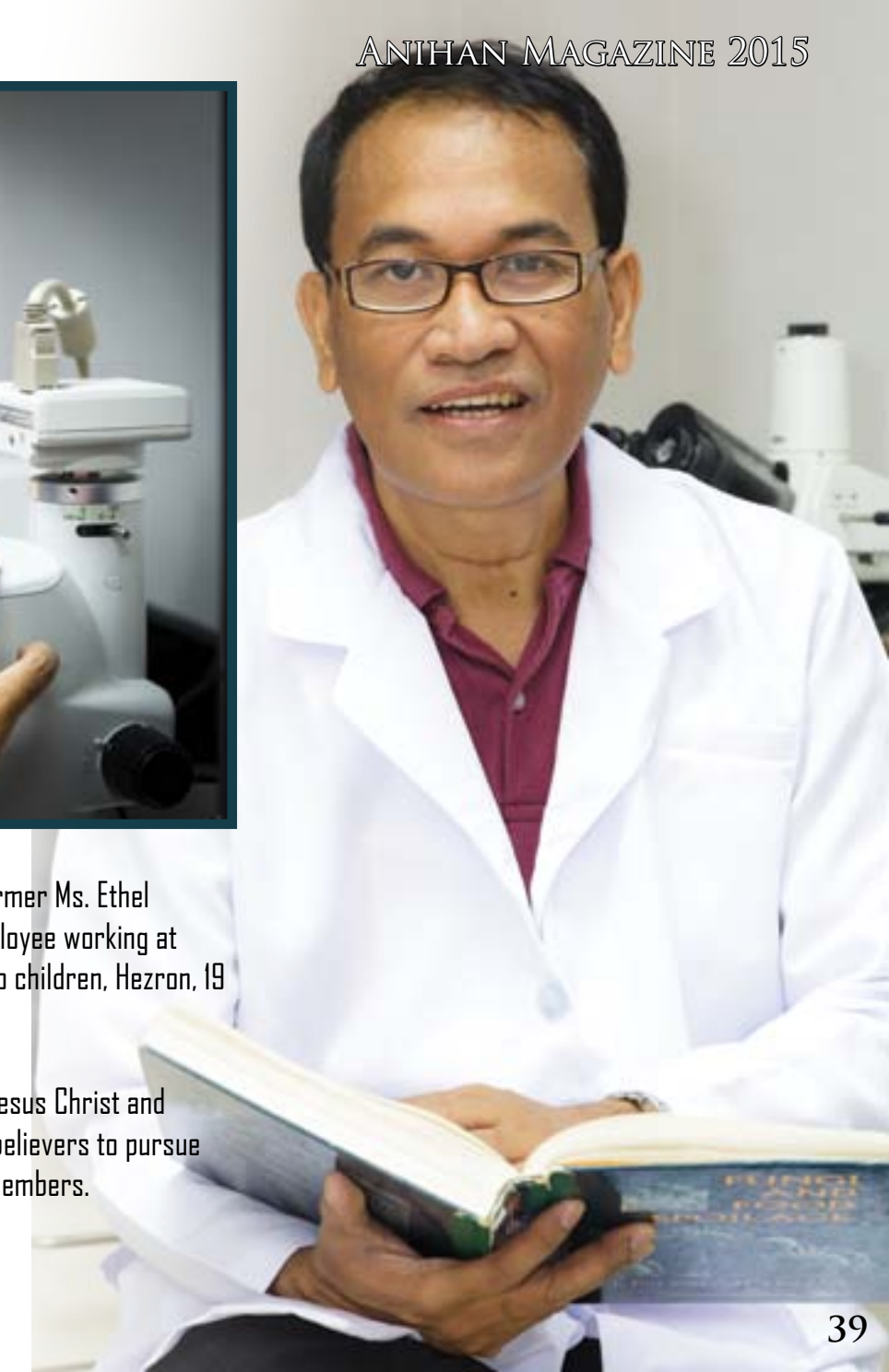
storage because of initial findings that no single protectant could manage or control a wide variety of present in warehouses. As a result, he has developed a combination of treatment of insecticides with decreased dosage but with enhanced activity. His recommendations as a result of his study was adopted by the Department of Agriculture and later on incorporated into the package of technology for Integrated Pest Management (IPM). On top of this, he has also found the mechanisms behind the development of resistance in rust red flour beetle, to organophosphorous and pyrethroid insecticides. He has also recommended postharvest handling of winter squash during his postdoctoral fellowship in South Korea in 2006. His reservoir of R&D results landed on the pages of international refereed and non-refereed journals. He has also published a handbook entitled " Catalogue of Fungal Cultures and Collection." He has presented research outputs in several scientific fora, symposia and conferences in Japan, South Korea and Indonesia.

He has also won several merits, awards and grants related to his profession given by international and national R&D organizations like the National Horticultural Research Institute of South Korea and the PCAARRD and BAR. He



has already extended consultancy services and technical assistance to several R&D agencies like the ACIAR, NHRI, BAFPS and PhilRice.

With this various undertakings, he still finds time to sing on his free time. At his home in the Science City of Munoz, he maintains a singing lounge, where he continues to hone his golden voice and engages his friends to belt a tune or two to release stress.



Dr. Gibe is married to the former Ms. Ethel Pamiloza, a government employee working at PhilRice and blessed with two children, Hezron, 19 and Hanna Kei, 14.

He is a staunch believer of Jesus Christ and leads a small community of believers to pursue spiritual growth among its members.



**VISION**  
Premier center for postharvest and mechanization development for a globally competitive and sustainable agriculture and fishery sector

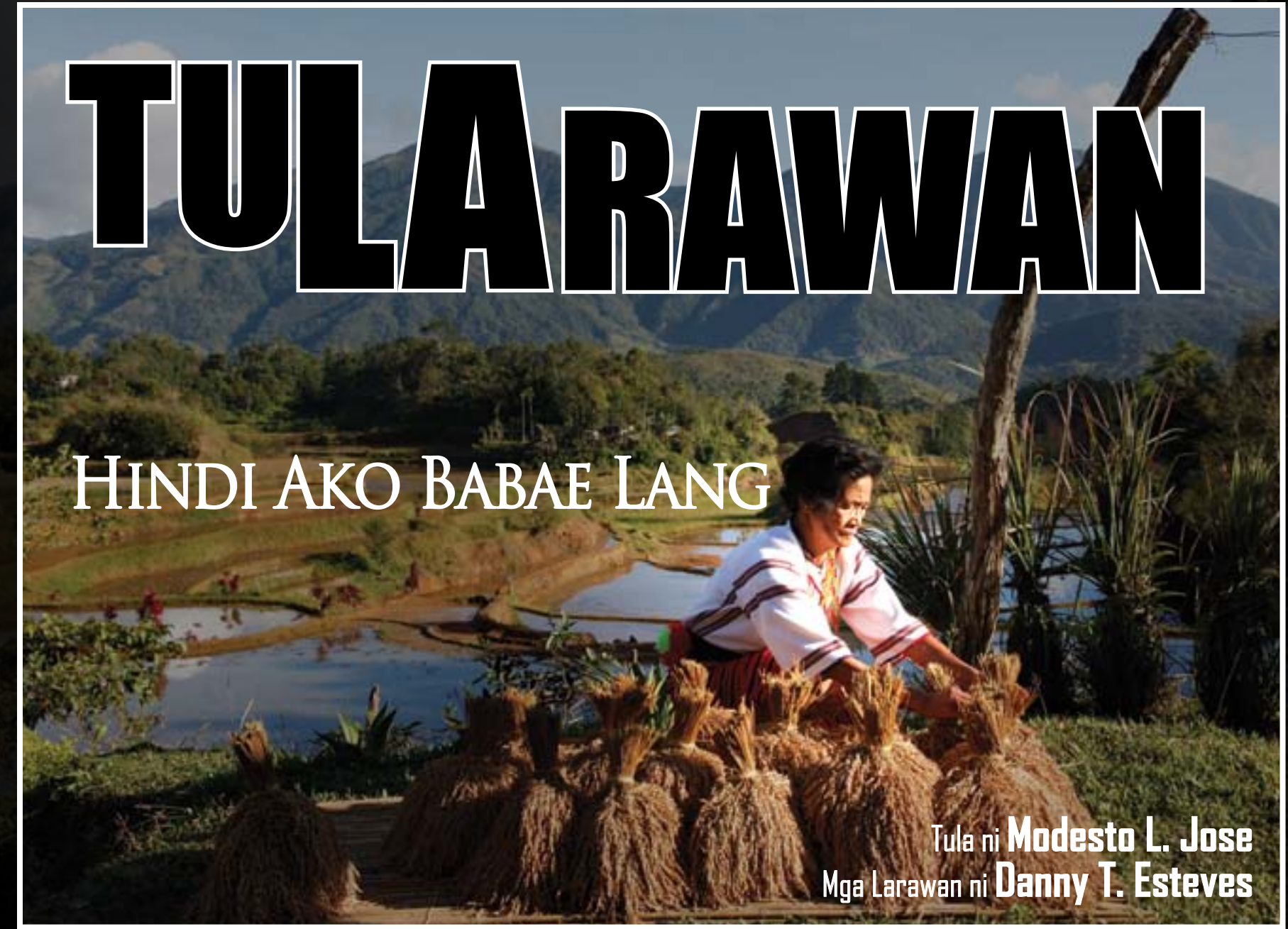
**MISSION**  
Empower the agriculture and fishery sector by increasing resource-use efficiency and productivity, reducing losses and adding value to the produce through research, development and extension

**MANDATE**  
Generate, extend and commercialize appropriate and problem-oriented agriculture and fishery postharvest and mechanization technologies

**PHiMech**  
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHiMech)  
ELSU Compound, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija  
Tel. Nos.: (044) 4560-213/290/282  
Fax No.: (044) 4560-110  
Website: www.phimech.gov.ph

# TULARAWAN

HINDI AKO BABAE LANG



Tula ni **Modesto L. Jose**  
Mga Larawan ni **Danny T. Esteves**



Hindi ako “babae lang” na puro salita  
Na kung tingnan mo’y tunay na mababa

Hindi ako “babae lang” na walang magawa  
Kundi magpasailalim at magpakumbaba





Babae ako na may karapatan  
 Na mamuno at maglingkod kaninuman  
 Babae ako na may lakas at sigla  
 Na sa lipunan ay may magagawa

Hindi ako “babae lang”  
 Na ‘di bumabangon sa pagkakadapa



Hindi ako babae lang  
 Na sa sarili ay hindi nagtitiwala

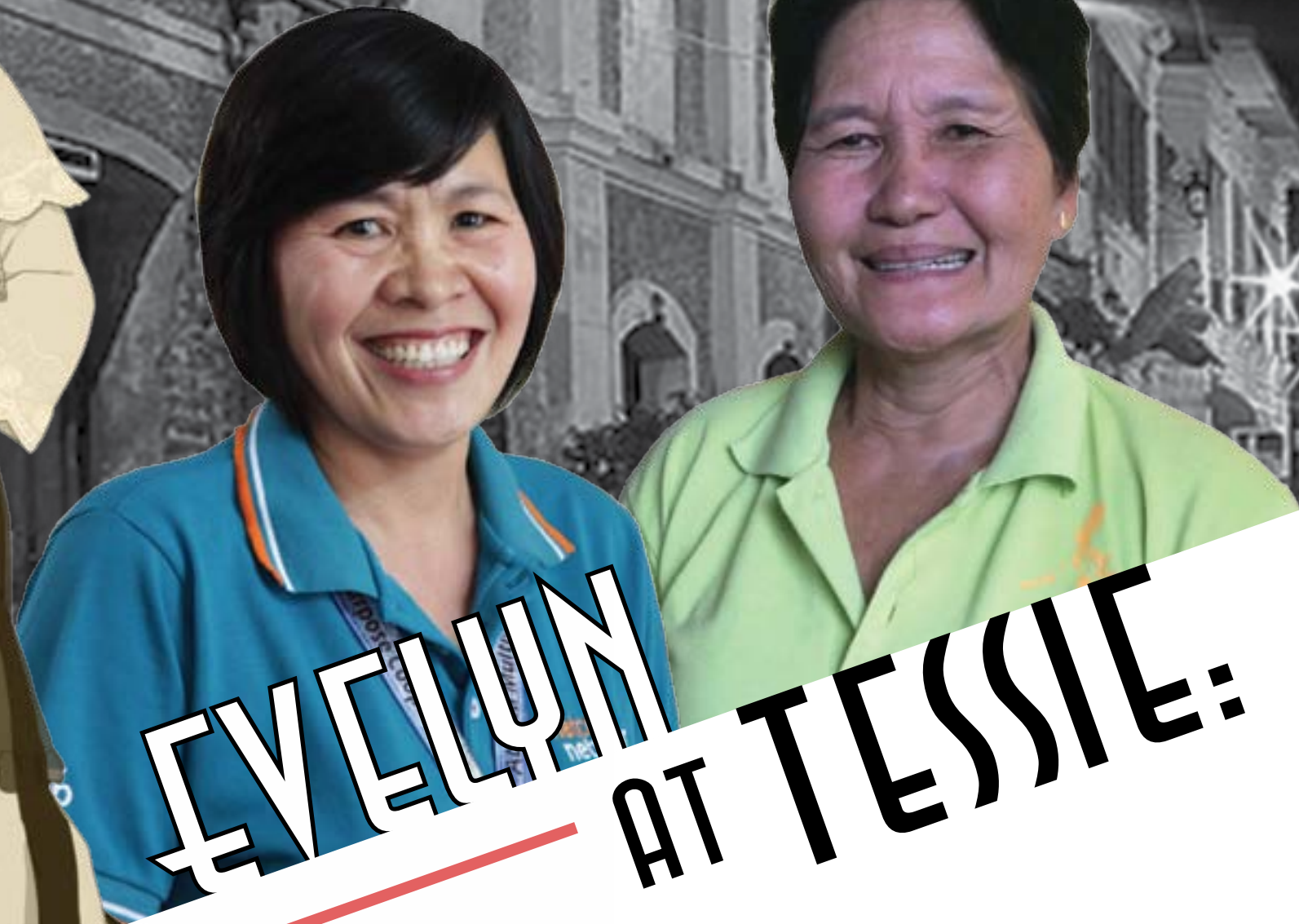


Babae ako na matapang at marangal  
Na ang tanging hangad ay pantay na karapatan



Bukod sa pag-aaruga at pagmamahal  
Talino at galing ay kaya ring ialay





# EVALUYN AT TESSIE:

## Mga Modernong Maria Clara ng Norte

ni Modesto L. Jose

*M*aria Clara, kumakatawan sa isang dalagang Pilipina. Nagtataglay ng katangian ng pagiging isang babaeng maganda, mayumi, relihiyosa at magalang. Sinasalamín niya ang isang babaeng pantahanan na walang karapatan na humawak ng tungkulin sa pamahalaan at maging sa kahit anong sektor ng lipunan. Ganyan siya noon pero iba na ngayon.

Si Maria Clara ng makabagong panahon ay pumantay na sa kalalakihan. Pareho na silang may pantay na katayuan sa tahanan. May propesyon na rin siya sa napili niyang larangan, naghahanap-buhay para sa pamilya at humahawak na rin ng tungkulin sa pamahalaan.

Ilan lamang sa mga modernong Maria Clara ay sina Evelyn T. Clemente ng Diffun, Quirino at Trinidad V. Velasco ng San Jacinto, Pangasinan. Sila ang mga kababaihang patuloy na nagwawagayway ng bandila ng mga makabagong kababaihan sa bansa.

## Ang Coop Leader ng Diffun, Quirino

Si Evelyn T. Clemente, 55 taong gulang ay ang kasalukuyang chief executive officer ng Abrasa Multi-Purpose Cooperative.



Ang Abrasa MPC ay naging kaakibat ng PHilMech sa kanyang mga gawaing pananaliksik. Ito ay isang class A agri-based cooperative sa Diffun, Quirino, isang organisasyon na may simulaing paunlarin ang buhay ng bawat miyembro sa pamamagitan ng sama-samang pag-iimpok at pagbabahagi ng tulong pinansyal upang gamitin sa mga pangangailangan sa pagsasaka at iba pa sa mababang interes lamang.

Bilang anak ng mga magsasaka, nagsumikap si Evelyn na makapagtapos ng pag-aaral. Inspirasyon niya ang hirap na dinanas ng kanyang ama at ina sa pagsasaka upang maitaguyod ang kanilang pamilya. Nakatapos siya ng kursong Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Major in Finance. Ito ang naging kasangkapan niya sa pag-abot sa kung ano ang meron siya ngayon.

Isa si Gng Evelyn sa mga nagsumikap na maitayo ang Abrasa MPC. Nagsimula sa isang asosasyon ay napatatag nila ito at napalawak. Mula sa serbisyong lending ay nakapagbukas ang coop ng iba't-ibang loan assistance sa mga kasapi ng samahan tulad ng providential loan, production loan, commercial at micro-finance loan para sa mga maliliit na negosyo.

Dala ng kanyang kahusayan sa pamamahala sampu ng Board of Directors ng coop ay mayroon na rin na grains center at tractor services ang coop na malaki ang naitutulong sa mga magsasaka ng palay at mais para sa

mas mabilis na proseso sa mga gawain sa bukid. Mayroon na rin silang Agri-Vet Supply Center at production and contract growing ng Eco-V Organic Fertilizer at Eco-Plus Foliar Fertilizer. Dagdag pa rito ay ang pagpapatayo ng isang hotel na madalas magamit para sa mga social functions ng kooperatiba, iba't-ibang samahan at maging mga turista. Nakapagbukas din sila ng outlet ng Western-Union Money Transfer sa kanilang opisina.

Bilang isang lider, ay kinikilalang mabuti ni CEO Evelyn ang mga empleyado ng MPC. Kinikilatis niya ang bawat kasama niya sa trabaho at inalam ang kanilang abilidad at kakayahan. Isa niya itong estratehiya upang makita ang kagalingan ng mga miyembro. Higit ay upang makita ang kanilang mga pangangailangan at kahinaan at nang sa gayon ay mabigyan ng karampatang pagtuturo at paggabay upang mas mapaunlad ang kanilang mga sarili.

Inalam rin ni Evelyn ang mga personal na pangangailangan ng kanyang mga

kasamahan at tinutulungan niya ang mga ito na masolusyunan. Naniniwala siya na sa pagbibigay ng mga pangangailangan at nararapat na benepisyong para sa mga empleyado ay isang paraan upang maiwasan ang korapsyon.

Binibigyan din niya ng pagkakataon ang bawat miyembro na ma-develop ang kanilang mga sarili sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalawak ng kanilang mga kaalaman at kakayahan. “I-maximize natin dapat ang mga potentials at skills nila. Kahit nga wala silang alam, kahit zero knowledge, matututo naman sila basta tututukan lang mabuti at pagtitiyagaan. Nagka-conduct tayo ng iba't-ibang training. Tinuturuan natin sila at tinutulungan na mapataas yung antas ng kanilang pamumuhay at nang sa gayon ay mabigyan ng pagkakataon na makapag-aral ang kanilang mga anak na sa huli ay sila ring tutulong sa kani-kanilang pamilya. Sa ganung paraan ay mas minamahal at pinagpapahalagahan nila ang kooperatiba. At iyon ang legacy na maaari kong iwan sa kanila. Mahirap kasi ang magsaka at nakita ko iyan sa aking mga magulang kaya nag-aral akong mabuti. Ngayon naman ay ang tamang panahon para ibalik ko ang pagpapahalaga ko sa mga magsasaka,” wika niya.

“Nakatutuwa na sa pagbibigay natin ng continuous learning at capacity building

sa mga miyembro na maimprove ang production nila ay marami na ngayon ang nagdedeliver ng mga ani nila dito sa coop gamit ang mga sarili nilang mga sasakyan bunga ng mga pagsisikap nila,” masaya niyang pagbabahagi.

Isinasabuhay din ni Evelyn ang pagiging transparent sa lahat ng transaksyon sa kooperatiba. “Naniniwala ako na “Honesty is the best policy”. Kung magiging matapat ka at transparent sa lahat ng mga transaksyon sa kooperatiba ay maiwasan ang intriga at hindi pagkakaunawaan. May involve mang pera o wala ay dapat alam ng bawat miyembro ang mga proyekto, gawain at pagbabago sa MPC,” dagdag niya.

Dulot ng kanilang pagsusumikap ay kinilala ang Abrasa MPC bilang Gawad Saka Outstanding Small Farmers and Fisherfolk's Organization (OSFFO) sa ilalim ng group category sa buong bansa. Kaakibat ng parangal na ito ay ang lalo at higit na pagpupursigi ni Evelyn

na mas mapaunlad pa ang kabuhayan ng mga miyembro ng kooperatiba.

Sa katunayan ay nagdadagdag pa sila ng mga makabagong teknolohiya na magagamit ng mga magsasaka. Sa tulong ng PHilMech ay mayroon na silang ginagamit na moisture meter at flatbed dryer na malaki ang kapakinabangan sa pagtutuyo ng mga bagong aning cassava ng mga miyembro para sa cassava peat production ng coop.



Sa kasalukuyan, ay nagsasagawa rin sila ng pag-aaral para sa paggamit ng cassava digger ng PHilMech para sa mas mabilis at epektibong pag-ani ng kamoteng-kahoy.

Ang Outstanding Rural Woman ng San Jacinto, Pangasinan

Si Trinidad Velasco, 59 taong gulang, mas kilala na Tessie ay kabiyak ni Saturnino Velasco, mas kilala na Boy, na isang magsasaka. Si Tessie ang katuwang ng kanyang asawa sa pagsasaka. Subalit nang maaksidente si Boy ng taong 2000 at hindi makapagtrabaho sa loob ng dalawang buwan ay ginampanan ni Tessie ang pamamahala sa kanilang sakahan dagdag sa kanyang tungkulin bilang Kapitana ng kanilang Barangay Imelda.



Bilang nakapagtapos ng kursong Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education, naging guro si Tessie sa kanyang mga limang anak. Tinuruan niya ang mga ito sa mga gawain sa bukid ganun din sa mga gawaing-bahay. “Ang hirap sa simula. Mabigat ang trabaho kaya’t kailangan talaga ang pagtutulongan. Sa murang edad ng mga anak ko ay kinailangan ko silang sanayin sa mga gawain sa bukid at sa bahay. Minsan nga ay tinatanong ako ng mga anak ko kung anak ko daw ba sila o trabahador. Ang lagi ko na lang sagot ay pagtiyagaan ninyo ang mga hayop at lupa sapagkat ang mga produkto nito ay para sa inyong pag-aaral,” pagbabalik-tanaw ni Tessie.

**“Pagtiyagaan ninyo ang mga hayop at lupa sapagkat ang mga produkto nito ay para sa inyong pag-aaral.”**

Sinigurado rin niya na makadalo sa mga mahahalagang pagsasanay at seminar, tungkol man ito sa paghahalaman, pagsasaka o paghahayupan upang maging maalam siya sa mga makabagong teknolohiya sa pagsasaka. Dulot nito ay naging integrated farm ang kanilang lupain na mayroong crop, livestock at backyard fishpond.

Dahil sa pabagu-bagong panahon at upang magamit ng husto ang kanilang lupa ay nag-intercropping sila. Bukod sa palay at mais ay nagtanim rin sila ng iba’t-ibang pananim sa kanilang lupain. Sa taniman nila ng guapple at manga ay nagtanim din sila ng mga kalamansi. Sa ilalim naman ng kanilang niyugan ay tinamnan nila ng saging. Bunga ng matiyaga nilang pag-aalaga ng mga halaman ay nakapundar sila ng isang tractor na malaki ang naidudulot na kapakinabangan sa kanila ngayon lalo na sa panahon ng paghahanda ng lupa.

Dala ng pagmamahal sa kalikasan ay gumagawa sila ng organikong abono sa pamamagitan ng vermicomposting mula sa dumi ng kanilang mga alagang hayop, mga pinagpispisan sa kusina, mga natuyong dahon sa kanilang bakuran, at iba pa.

Si Gng. Tessie ay likas na palakaibigan. Madali niyang nahihikayat ang kanyang mga kapwa magsasaka na dumalo sa mga gawaing pang-agrikultura. Hindi naglaon ay naging isang local farmer-technician siya at naging bukas ang kanyang bakuran upang maging regular na pagdausan ng mga pulong at iba pang mga gawain sa barangay. Ang kanilang farm naman ay nagsilbing showcase techno-demo farm para sa modernong



teknolohiyang pang-agrikultura. Dulot nito ay itinalaga si Tessie bilang Ingat-Yaman ng Municipal Agriculture at Fishery Council (MAFC) at ng Farmers League of San Jacinto, Inc.

Sa kanyang katapangan bilang Kapitana ng barangay ay nabawi nila ang mga lupang pag-aari ng gobyerno na inangkin na ng mga pribadong tao. Pinatayuan nila ito ng Day Care Center at multi-purpose solar drying pavement na hanggang sa ngayon ay pinakikinabangan ng maraming magsasaka sa kanilang lugar.

Nagbuo rin sila ng asosasyon ng kababaihan, ang Cooperative Agriculture Rural Development (CARD) na siya ang naging

pangulo. Naging daan ang samahang ito upang makapag-loan sila para sa kanilang pagsasaka.

Hindi nailihim ang kagalingan ni Tessie bilang isang magsasaka at bilang isang lider. Taong 2002 nang hirangin siya bilang Gawad-Saka Outstanding Animal Raiser mula sa Department of Agriculture (DA). Sinundan ito ng parangal noong 2006 bilang Regional Gawad-Saka Awardee for Outstanding Farm Family mula rin sa DA at One of the Most Outstanding Families in the Region mula naman sa DSWD. Taong 2013 nang hirangin naman siya bilang isa sa anim na Outstanding Rural Women in Agriculture sa buong bansa na iginawad din ng DA.

Ngunit ang pinakamataas na parangal na kanyang natanggap ay ang mga titulong nakaukit sa harapang-dingding ng kanilang tahanan. Itong mga titulo ng kanilang napagtapos na mga anak sa kolehiyo at ngayon ay mga matatagumpay ng propesyunal. Dalawa sa mga ito ay naging inhinyero, isa ang naging dentista at dalawa ang naging nurse.

**“Kapag may pangarap ka sa buhay, gagawin mo talaga ang lahat ng makakaya mo upang matupad mo ito.”**

Sa ibaba ng mga titulong nakaukit ay isang lumang araro na tanda ng kanilang pinagmulan- pagbubungkal ng lupa na pinagyaman ng sigasig at pagtutulongan ng kanilang buong pamilya.

“Kapag may pangarap ka sa buhay, gagawin mo talaga ang lahat ng makakaya mo upang matupad mo ito. Ngayon na nakamit ko na ang mga ito, satisfied na ako kasi nasa akin na ang lahat,” wika niya.

**Tunay ngang sina Evelyn T. Clemente at Trinidad V. Velasco ay mga Maria Clara ng modernong panahon-- masigasig, matapang, tapat at may kakayahang mamuno at maglingkod sa lipunan.**



# Salamat sa Abot-Kayang Teknolohiya

**A**ko po si Shirley Palao-ay, pangulo ng Tuba Benguet Coffee Growers Association o mas kilala sa tawag na TuBengCoGA. Isang samahan ng mga magsasaka ng kape mula sa Tuba, Benguet. At heto ang angking kwentong-kape.

Mahabang panahon na nagtiis kami sa mga makalumang pagpoproseso ng kape. Gamit lamang namin sa samahan noon ay mortar at pestle o kaya naman ay tinatapan lamang namin upang mabalatan ang mga bagong aning bunga ng kape.

Resulta nito ay hindi magandang kalidad. Nagagasgas kasi ang beans, minsan ay nabibiyak. Kung kaya't sa halip na iproseso ang ani naming kape noon ay ibinebenta na lang namin sa mga traders.

Katwiran ng karamihan ay magpapakahirap pa kami sa pagpoproseso gayong binabarat lang naman din ang presyo.

Kung kaya't laking-tuwa ng lahat nang makilala namin ang PHilMech. Sa pamamagitan ng DA ay nakilala

namin sina Dr. Babes dela Cruz at Engr. Rodel Idago. Tinuruan nila kami ng tamang sistema sa pagpoproseso ng kape. Ibinahagi nila ang kanilang mga kaalaman at ipinakilala sa amin ang mga teknolohiyang dinedevelop nila.

Malaki ang naging tulong ng PHilMech Manual Coffee Pulper at Rubber-Roll Huller sa amin. Ang kainaman sa PHilMech coffee pulper ay nakadisenyo ito sa pagpoproseso ng mga basang beans kaya naiiwasan ang pagkasira ng beans. Maginhawa itong gamitin. At ang kagandahan ay gawa sa rubber ang roller nito kaya't naiiwasan ang pagkagasgas ng mga beans. Sa kasalukuyan ay marami na sa amin ang natuto sa paggamit ng pulper at huller.

Sa tulong din ng PHilMech ay naging maalam kami sa mas epektibong sistema ng pagpoproseso ng kape. Nalaman namin na mahalaga ang tamang sistema sa kalidad ng kape. Mula

sa pag-aalaga ng mga halaman, pagpitas ng mga hinog na berries hanggang sa pagtutuyo nito, pag-sort at pagro-roast. Nakatutuwa dahil marami na ang mga miyembro na nagpoproseso ng kape sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan at ibinebenta naman nila sa asosasyon ang mga naproseso nilang kape. Akalain ba naman namin na maganda pala ang klase ng kape namin dito sa Tuba. Pinipili namin ang mga pinaka-magagandang ani na beans. Iyon ang ginagawa naming roasted coffee. Ang mga napagpilian naman na ay ibinebenta namin sa mga private traders upang maging pera rin.

Sa tulong ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ay nabigyan ng maayos na packaging at label ang aming produkto na pinangalanan namin na "Sijop-Kapi", kasingkahulugan ng higop ng kape.



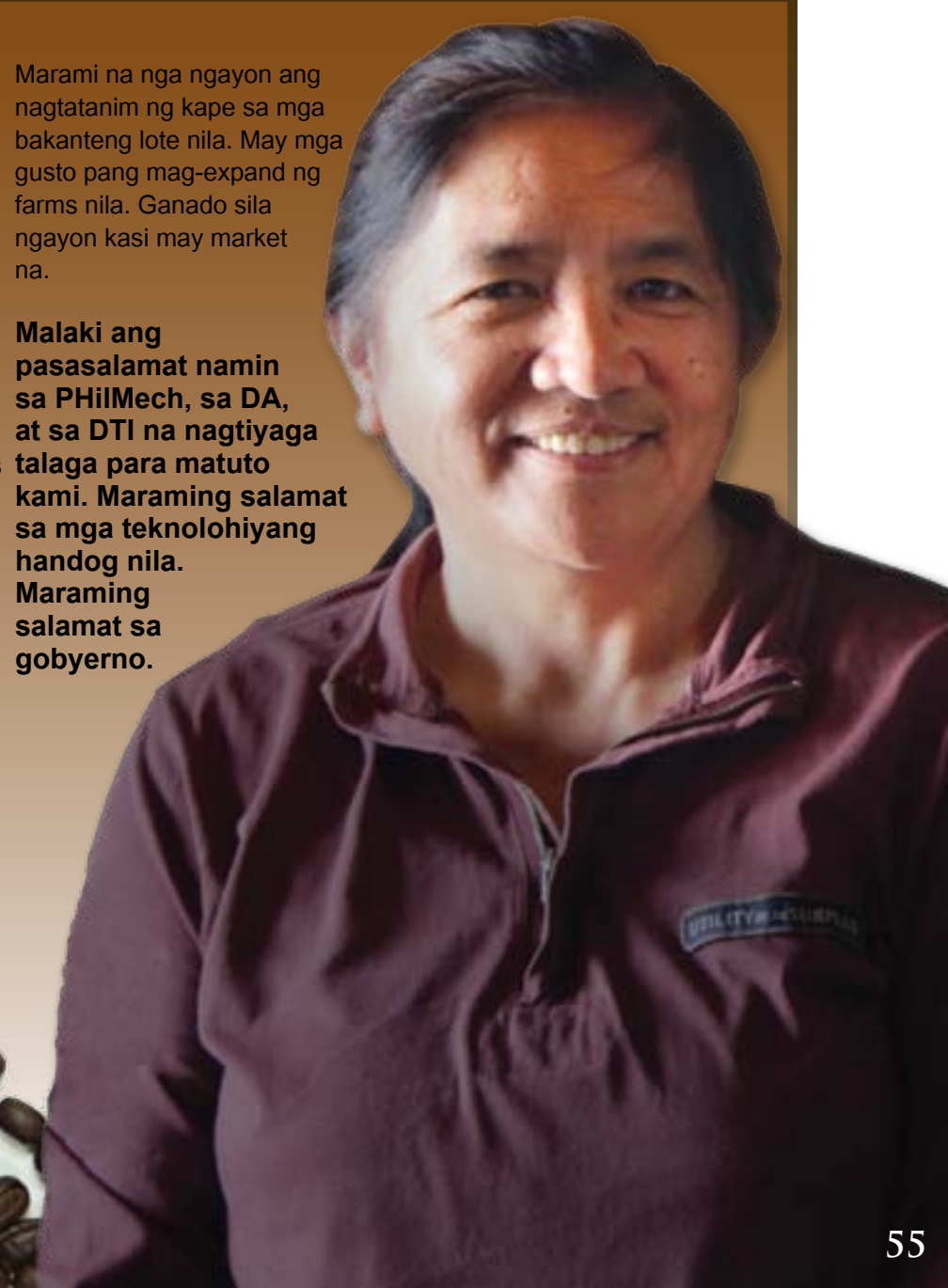
Nakasasali na rin kami sa mga Trade Fair ng DA. At masaya kami na marami na rin ang tumatangkilik ng aming produkto. Mayroon na rin kaming produkto sa Brent School, Tam-awan Village, DTI-CAR Product outlet at Tuba market. May mga nag-oorder na rin sa amin sa iba't-ibang parte ng Luzon.

Ang laki ng nagawa ng kape sa buhay ng mga taga-Tuba. Dahil sa kape, nalaman ng mga coffee farmers dito na may tumutulong pala sa kanila, hindi lang yung tanim-harvest-market. May mga government agencies pala na tumulong sa kanila. Sabi nga ng iba, "may gobyerno pala".



Marami na nga ngayon ang nagtatanim ng kape sa mga bakanteng lote nila. May mga gusto pang mag-expand ng farms nila. Ganado sila ngayon kasi may market na.

**Malaki ang pasasalamat namin sa PHilMech, sa DA, at sa DTI na nagtiyaga talaga para matuto kami. Maraming salamat sa mga teknolohiyang handog nila. Maraming salamat sa gobyerno.**



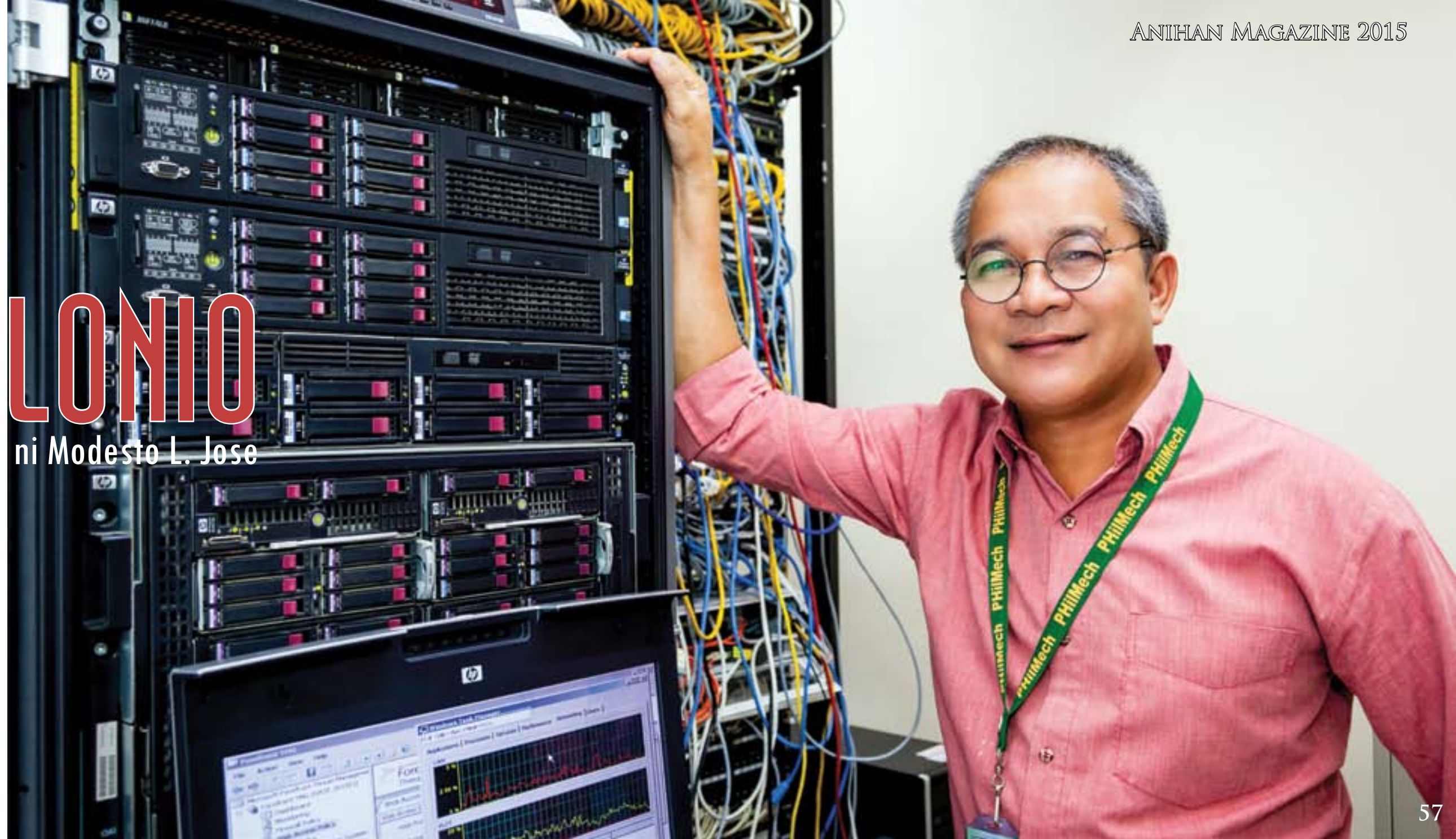
# Dangal ng PHilMech

# ENGR. BILLY T. BELONIO

ni Modesto L. Jose

*Malikot ang isip... mahilig gumawa ng mga computer programs...  
bukas sa mga innovations... masayahin at mapagbiro...  
ganyan ilarawan si Engr. Billy Tanangonan Belonio,  
ang Dangal ng PHilMech 2014!*

Magtapos sa kursong Bachelor of Science noong 1982 at Master of Science in Agricultural Engineering noong 2002, major in Crop Processing, nagsimula si Engr. Billy T. Belonio bilang isang Research Assistant sa Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), taong 1985. Matapos ang dalawang taon ay nabigyan siya ng pagkakataon na magtrabaho sa National Postharvest Research Institute for Research and Extension o NAPHIRE (PHilMech ngayon) sa parehong posisyon. “Na-assign ako noon sa Postharvest Systems Analysis Department. Ang trabaho ko ay sa physical analysis ng grains. Inuuri namin isa-isa at iginu-grupo ang mga butil base sa klase nito—whole, half, broken, chalky...”, pagbabalik-tanaw niya.





Bagama't ang trabaho ay sa physical analysis, hindi niya naitago ang likas na pagkahilig sa computer. "Nang minsan, natuklasan ng mga kasamahan ko na marunong pala akong mag-program. Nakagawa ako noon ng program para sa feasibility study (FS) at statistical analysis. Nagamit ng mga researchers sa PHilMech noon iyon sa mga ginagawa nilang pag-aaral".

Matapos ang kulang apat na taon bilang Research Assistant, dulot ng kagalingang-likas sa computer ay nabigyan siya ng pagkakataon na sundin ang kanyang hilig

nang malipat siya sa Planning Department bilang isang computer programmer.

Wala mang pormal na edukasyon sa Information Technology (IT) ay nakagawa siya ng computer network ng buong ahensya. "Malikot kasi ang isip ko. Kahit wala akong formal education sa IT, mahilig naman akong magbasa at mag-attend ng mga exhibits tungkol sa IT. Binisita ko rin ang mga ahensya na meron ng computer network at saka ko pinag-aralan ang pasikut-sikot sa paggawa nito," ang kwento niya.

Sa mahigit dalawang dekada sa pagsisikap ni Belonio ay malayo na rin ang kanyang narating. Mula sa pagiging isang computer programmer noong 1989, Information Systems Analyst II noong 1991 at Information Technology Officer I noong 1992 ay naging Information Technology Officer II na siya simula taong 2010 hanggang kasalukuyan.

Kaakibat ng pag-akyat ng kanyang posisyon ay ang pag-unlad ng Information Technology ng PHilMech. Sa kanyang pangunguna, sampu ng kanyang mga kasamahan sa Information and Communication Technology Section (ICTS) ay malaki ang naiaambag niya sa pagpapanatili at pagpapaunlad ng Information Sytem ng PHilMech gayundin sa pag-aalaga at pagpapatakbo ng mga makabagong kagamitan at pasilidad sa IT na malaking tulong sa mga gawain ng ahensya.

Sa pangunguna rin niya ay nakapagpundar na ang PHilMech ng blade/rack-mounted servers, fiber optics with Gigabit Ethernet network backbone, Wi-Fi connections at iba pa na siyang nagpapabilis sa pagtugon ng Local Area Network (LAN) sa mga pangangailangan ng ahensya.

Si Belonio rin ang tumitingin sa mga pangangailanagang pang-IT ng bawat Division ng PHilMech. Inaalam niya at isinasaayos ang mga problemang pang-IT

upang maiwasan ang pagkawala ng mga mahahalagang datos. Siya rin ang utak ng iba't-ibang Information Systems na sa kasalukuyan ay ginagamit na ng PHilMech. Halimbawa nito ay ang Personnel System, Daily Time Record (DTR), payroll, Financial Status Report (FSR), Vehicle Dispatching with Preventive Maintenance System at iba pa.

Isa pa sa mga malalaking kontribusyon ni Belonio sa ahensya ay ang pagpapabuti ng telephone system ng PHilMech. Inirekomenda niya at ipinatupad ang paggamit ng Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) upang mabawasan ang gastos sa mga long-distance calls sa PHilMech Liaison Office at iba pang opisina sa Maynila.

Inirekomenda rin niya ang pagdadagdag ng Cellular trunkline sa Telephone System Private Automatic Branch Exchange (PABX) gamit ang kanyang personal na Postpaid line sa pagsisimula ng sistema. Nakatulong ito sa mga empleyado ng PHilMech na nasa labas ng opisina dahil sa mga opisyal na gawain sa labas. Dahil sa malaking tulong nito sa pagbaba ng gastusin sa mga phone calls gamit ang landline ay ginamit na ang sistemang ito sa ahensya. Sa pamamagitan nito ay napadali ang pagtawag sa PHilMech main office gamit ang mga Cellular mobile phone.

**"If you have knowledge, you have to share it..."**

Dahil sa katangi-tanging kontibusyon ni Belonio ay ginawaran siya noong May 2014 bilang Dangal ng PHilMech, pinakamataas na pagkilala sa mga natatanging kawani ng ahensya.

Kapag nagkukwento si Belonio tungkol sa mga karanasan niya sa pagbuo ng mga IT system sa PHilMech ay makikita mo na hindi biro ang mga nagiging sakripisyo niya upang maging matagumpay ang mga ito. Isa na rito ang maraming oras na ginugugol niya upang mas mapahusay ang kanyang trabaho. Sa maraming pagkakataon ay naibibigay din niya sa trabaho ang personal niyang oras. "Malaki ang naisasakripisyo kong oras para sa pagpapaunlad ng IT system ng PHilMech. Kahit oras na sana ay para sa pamilya ko ay naibibigay ko kung kinakailangan. Madalas kasi kapag nag-aayos kami ng network server ay inaabot kami ng magdamag o kung minsan ay higit pa upang matapos. Nang minsan nga, sabi ni misis ay dalhin ko na daw ang mga damit ko at sa office na ako tumira", kwento niya.

Bagama't may mga isinasakripisyo ay patuloy pa rin niyang niyayakap ang mga bagong kaalaman sa IT. Patuloy pa rin ang kanyang pag-aaral at pagtuklas ng mga makabagong sistema na makatutulong sa ahensya.

Sa kasalukuyan ay pinag-aaralan nila na ipakilala ang paggamit ng mobile phones, tablets at iba pang mga makabagong gadgets para sa mas mabilis na proseso ng pag-aapprove o pagmonitor ng mga dokumento sa opisina. "Halimbawa, makatatanggap ang isang empleyado ng short message service (SMS) sa kanyang cellphone kung kaarawan niya o may cheke na siya sa cashier o kaya naman ay makatatanggap ng SMS ang driver at mga pasahero tungkol sa detalye ng kanyang byahe sa mga susunod na araw. Maaari rin naman na ang mga Division Chief o mga designated personnel ay mag-aapruba ng mga dokumento gamit ang android tablets. Sa ganitong paraan ay mapabibilis ang proseso at maging paperless ang sistema," paliwanag niya.

Kasabay ng pagtuklas at paggawa ni Belonio at ng kanyang mga kasamahan ng mga bagong sistema ng





kaalaman ay ang pagbabahagi rin nila nito sa iba't-ibang ahensya. Ang mga sistemang nagagawa nila sa PHilMech ay naibabahagi rin nila at ginagamit na ng iba't-ibang ahensya tulad ng National Dairy Authority (NDA), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region III, Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR) at Central Luzon Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (CLARRDEC) na nakabase sa Central Luzon State University. Ilang parangal na rin ang natanggap ng ICTS na pinamumunuan niya dahil sa mga serbisyong iginawad.

Naniniwala kasi siya na dapat ay ibinabahagi ang kaalaman. "If you have knowledge, you have to share it. Sinasabi sa Bible na dapat nating ibahagi ang mga kaalaman natin, ang mga blessings natin at nang sa gayon ay bigyan pa tayo ni Lord ng karagdagang kaalaman at blessings," ang masaya niyang pagbabahagi.

Sa katunayan ay naiimbitahan din siyang magbahagi ng kaalaman sa iba't-ibang pagsasanay bilang isang Subject Matter Specialist sa larangan ng IT.

"Kapag nagbabahagi naman ako ay sinasabi ko sa nabahaginan ko na ibahagi rin nila ito sa iba upang mas magamit ang kaalaman at mas mapabilis ang pag-unlad. Maganda kasi ang 'domino effect'. Selfish ang taong hindi marunong magbahagi," dagdag niya.

**"Ang Dangal ay higit sa pagiging kapuri-puri... Hindi naman ito nangangahulugan ng pagiging isang perpekto, sapagkat nagkakamali rin naman ang tao..."**

Bagaman masipag at tapat sa trabaho ay hindi rin naman

niya napapabayaang iba pang aspeto ng kanyang buhay. Bilang isang kabiyak ng kanyang may-bahay na si Lourdes Belonio ay magkatuwang nilang pinalalago ang kanilang palayan. "Maganda ang partnership namin sa rice farming. Nagtatrabaho kasi siya sa City Agriculture Office at ako naman ay sa PHilMech kaya siya ang namamahala sa rice production at ako naman ang sa postharvest," malugod niyang pagkukwento.

Bilang isang ama naman, sa pagtutulungan nilang mag-asawa ay natutustusan nila ang mga pangangailangan ng kanilang mga anak. Ang kanilang panganay na si Bea Hewlett ay isa ng Registered Nurse at kasalukuyang

nagtatrabaho sa Australia. Sinundan ito ni Billy Joseph na isa namang Electronic and Communications Engineer na nagtapos sa Mapua Institute of Technology at nagtatrabaho sa Maynila. Ang kanilang bunsong anak na si Bea Cheyenne ay nasa kolehiyo naman at kumukuha ng kursong Business Economics sa University of the Philippines-Clark (extension program ng UP-Diliman) sa Pampanga.

Si Belonio ay aktibo rin na miyembro at tumatayong executive vice-president ng Kabalikat Civicom 410 Science City of Muñoz Chapter na nakikiisa sa mga gawaing pang-komunidad tulad ng pagtulong sa panahon ng kalamidad. Hindi rin niya napapabayaang kanyang buhay-isperitwal. Sa katunayan ay nagsisilbi siya sa simbahan bilang miyembro ng Knights of Columbus (KofC) sa Central Luzon State University (CLSU). Nanungkulan na rin siya bilang isang Grand Knight noong taong 2005.

Masasabi na hindi lamang sa aspetong propesyon, higit ay sa bawat bahagi ng buhay ang napapayaman ni Belonio. At gaya



ng pagpapakahulugan niya sa salitang 'dangal'—"Ang Dangal ay higit sa pagiging kapuri-puri. Pagpapakita ito hindi lamang ng kagalingan sa trabaho bagkus ay kagandahan ng pagkatao at pag-uugali. Hindi naman ito nangangahulugan ng pagiging isang perpekto, sapagkat nagkakamali rin naman ang tao. Ang importante ay kaya mong tanggapin ang iyong pagkakamali at handa kang pagsumikapan na itama ito." At sa kanyang patuloy na pagtupad sa kanyang tungkulin sa iba't-ibang aspeto ng kanyang buhay, tunay na si Engr. Billy T. Belonio ay isang Dangal ng PHilMech.





Sa anumang larangan,  
bida ang kababaihan.

## Ang PHilMech

Sa maraming taon, ang Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) ay nagsasagawa ng mga pananaliksik, pagpapaunlad at pagpapalaganap ng mga gawaing makatapos-ani.

Sa ngayon, ito ay nagpapalaganap na ng mga teknolohiyang makatapos-ani sa merkado.

Sa pagpasa ng Batas Republika bilang 8435 o Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Act (AFMA) noong 1997, pinapangunahan ng PHilMech ang pagbibigay ng mga pamamaraang makatapos-ani upang palakas ang mga sektor ng agrikultura, pangisdaan at paghahayupan.



PARA SA KARAGDAGANG KAALAMAN,  
MAKIPAG-UGNAYAN SA:

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## IRON LADY

Welding prototype agricultural machines is one of her toughest jobs. This lady works in a research and development agency at the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija. Women are the most opted welders here and abroad because of their meticulous craft.

Photo by Danny T. Esteves

One of the Top 12 winners in the 2015 Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) National Photo Contest, as part of its calendar activities for the National Women's Month Celebration.