



PSAS Dispatch

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2015 PSAS Lecture Series

Though there are numerous industries thriving in the City of Naga of the province of Cebu, agriculture still plays a considerable role in the livelihood income of its people. The city is ranked third in terms of income in the whole province with diversified business interests. To further bolster household income, the city government encourages its people to cultivate sustainable livelihood. Backyard farming is one of the areas being supported through its "Food for Table" program to increase availability of agricultural produce like meat and milk.

Ruminant production is one of the commodities being supported by the local government. Several communities are already recipients of breeding programs and are utilizing available technologies like artificial insemination and genetic upgrades. To support and cultivate current initiatives of the local government, the Philippine Society of Animal Science decided to hold its 2nd Lecture Series in the city with the theme, Increasing Farmers' competitiveness through Science-based initiatives.

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The event was participated by 68 backyard farmers engaged in cattle and goat raising. Speakers were invited to provide lectures on ruminant nutrition and production to better improve the productivity of local farmers. The first speaker, Dr Rosalina M. Lapitan (Scientist II) from Philippine Carabao Center, provided new tips and information on silage technology. In her lecture, the importance of grass availability and adaptation to available local sources were emphasized. The participants intently listened to the detailed information on silage making as the lecturer patiently explained each step.

The second speaker focused on the science behind ruminant nutrition and production. As one of the Professor Emeriti of the College of Agriculture in UP Los Baños, Dr. Cesar C. Sevilla demonstrated his decades of experience in teaching and research in providing simple explanations on the current technologies and practice in ruminants. He provided very detailed demographics of farmers and their corresponding productivity indices and how to better improve them. He emphasized the need to understand local breeds vis-à-vis upgrades in finding best solutions to markedly improve

production. He also emphasized the need for maintaining genetic variability in breeding programs to maximize benefits. The lecture series ended with an open forum. The participants demonstrated their keen interests through questions as they plan to integrate their new learning into their current practices. The questions were addressed by the lecturers together with the Cebu Provincial Veterinarian, Dr. Mary Rose Vincoy. The participants requested, through the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (OPV), for a demo workshop in silage making so that they will be able to apply what they have learned in the lecture series (to be scheduled).

The event ended with a sumptuous lunch provided by the OPV and city government and was shared by everyone. Questions and discussions abound each table as they go through their lunch, a reflection of their utmost interests on the topics presented. At the end of the day, happy smiles and thankful gestures were offered by each participant to the lecturers and organizers. Hopefully, they will be able to use the knowledge to increase their productivity and improve their competitiveness in the ever changing landscape of livestock trade. *(KRB Gicana)*



Extension Activity

Writershop at CapSU, BISU and Cebu

“Based on the fact that slaughter weight decreased...” is just one of the phrases that are presented – to be corrected – by participants to the PSAS Writershop.

So, how does one correct this phrase?

Let’s try: “Since the slaughter weight decreased...”;

Or “Due to the decrease in slaughter weight...”;

Or maybe, “Because slaughter weight decreased...”.

No matter how that phrase is edited, the activity is an exercise to review the participants’ knowledge in the use of scientific language and proper presentation of technical data. The Writershops that the PSAS has been conducting is far from boring. In fact, participants are clamoring for more, no matter where in the land of the Pearl of the Orient Seas it is held.

For the third quarter of 2015, PSAS conducted three writershops, all in the Visayas region: at Capiz State University, Roxas City, 14-

15 July, at Bohol Island State University, Tagbilaran, 6-7 August, and at Cebu, 8-9 September with 26, 32 and 17 participants, respectively.

The PSAS Writershops would not have been possible without the cooperation of the hosts. At Capiz, close coordination was made with Dr. Pedro G. Gavino, VP for RDE and Dr. Emmanuel V. Perez, Training Director, with the nod of the CapSU President Dr. Editha L. Magallanes. The Bohol activity was spurred first by former PSAS President Dr. William C. Medrano and followed up in coordination with Dr. Regucivilla A. Pobar, with the approval of BISU President, Dr. Elpidio T. Magante. Finally, the event at Cebu was arranged with Dr. Mary Rose B. Vincoy, Cebu Provincial Veterinarian.

Dr. Perez, in his closing remarks, made a play of words with some of our names in summarizing and thanking the PSAS Team for the Writershop – “In order for us in the academe not to perez but to flores, ang PSAS team ay napakadaling lapitan, and they have acorda-d us a very helpful and motivational Writershop! Madamo gid nga salamat!” (LSF)



Extension Activity



Around the Pasture

33rd PSAS-Visayas Chapter holds its Annual Scientific Conference and Convention

The 33rd PSAS-Visayas Scientific Seminar and Annual Convention were held at Tagbilaran City, Bohol, a well-known tourist attraction. The convention proper location was in JJ's Seafood Restaurant Convention Hall. The theme, "Development of indigenous resources towards globalization and environmental challenges," supports the vision of an empowered livestock sector, to quote DA Secretary, the Hon. Proceso J. Alcala.

A total of 170 participants from different government agencies, local government units, academe and non-government organization were present, along with the PSAS-National Governing Council, led by PSAS President Dr. Jezie A. Acorda and PSAS Past President and PCC Executive Director, Dr Arnel Del Barrio.

The highlight of the Convention was the series of scientific paper presentations. The authors shared the results of their researches and their technical knowledge with the participants. Among these, three were adjudged as winners:

- Best Paper in Animal Health Category: "Detection of *Helicobacter* spp. in the proventriculus of broiler chicken" by Dr Gilda M. Mahinay (University of Eastern Samar);
- Best Paper in Animal Production Category: "Growth performance of Philippine native chicken fed diet supplemented with varying levels of madre de agua (*Trichantera gigantea*) leaf meal" by Dr. Clarita E. Morbos (Visayas State University)

- Best Paper in Undergraduate Category: "Serological detection of *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria (Babesia) equi* in horses in Cebu, Philippines" by Miss Rinna T. Arreglo (Southwestern University)
- Best Poster: "Forage establishment in Cebu province: the effective strategy in farmers learning" by Dr. Ma Verna B. Ducante (Cebu Provincial Veterinary Office)

The winning authors received cash awards; while the other presenters were given incentive awards. The plaques of recognition will be given during the next PSAS-Visayas Convention.

In behalf of the PSAS-Visayas Chapter, our heartfelt thanks to the province of Bohol for hosting the 33rd PSAS Scientific Conference and Annual Convention. (RBCadeliña)



Interview with

Dr. Teodulo M. Topacio, Jr.

One of the founding members of the Philippine Society of Animal Science is still with us today. It is but natural that PSAS Dispatch takes the opportunity to have a chat with him in order to learn from him, firsthand about the early days of the Society.

Dr. Teodulo M. Topacio, Jr. graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of the Philippines Diliman (CVM, UPD), cum laude, in 1951. He spent a semester in Cornell University in 1955 (which is crucial, as we will learn later) then transferred to Michigan State University to finish his MSc in Veterinary Microbiology in 1956. He then went to Purdue University in Indiana to earn his PhD in Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology in 1963. In the following year until 1969, he served as the Dean of the CVM, UPD.

The following is an excerpt of the interview with Dr. Topacio, Professor Emeritus and National Scientist.

PD: *How did your involvement with PSAS start? What roles have you played in the PSAS throughout the decades?*

TCP, Jr.: "In 1963 when I arrived from my PhD studies, I was asked by my former teacher and fellow CVM faculty, Dr. Amado E. Baladad, to assist him in forming a group composed of veterinarians and animal scientists. He saw that both professions have an overlap of functions in the agriculture field and it was best to work together, exchange ideas and research results, and just to forge a good relationship with each other. If I remember it right, aside from teaching, Dr. Baladad was also involved in the feed mill industry.

At that time, I was the only one from CVM with the connection with the College of Agriculture, UPLB through the UPCA-Cornell University Contract group. Dr. Leopoldo Castillo, an animal scientist,

was my roommate at Cornell U., along with a fellow veterinarian Dr. Gonzalo Garcia. Dr. Amado Campos, an animal scientist, was also at Cornell around the same time we were there. They [Castillo and Campos] were then CA faculty members. I was tasked to go to UPLB to convince my animal scientist-friends to join the veterinarians in forming a group. They took us up on that invitation and about 6-7 of them came to the CVM Assembly Hall, then within Bartlett Hall of UP Diliman for the first meeting of the Society in the first semester of 1963-'64. All – about 12 – CVM faculty members were also present in this meeting.

The first President elected was, naturally, Dr. Baladad as the idea of the Society came from him.

During the first meeting and after this election, I suggested – and it was approved – that the President of the Society should alternate between a veterinarian and an animal scientist to make sure that there is a balance between the two professions within the group. I am happy that this has continued to this day.

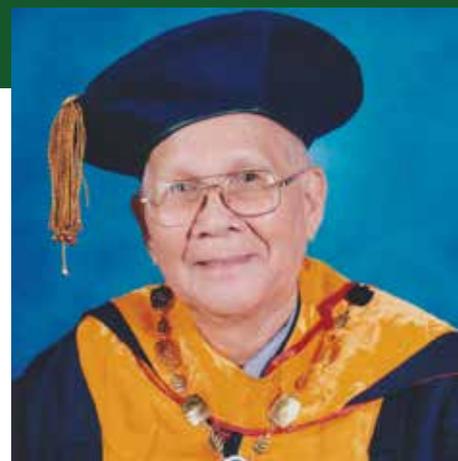
I was elected Secretary-cum-Treasurer during that first election.

Dr. Castillo was elected the President during the second year.

Then, I became the 2nd veterinarian-President during the third year [1965-66]."

PD: *How was the name of the Society decided upon?*

TCP, Jr.: "During one of the first few meetings, a lot of names were suggested until it boiled down to choose between 'Philippine Society for Animal Production' and 'Philippine Society for Animal Science'. After much debate and discussions, the latter name was finally voted and decided by the body. As an aside, I don't know when and how the



word 'for' was replaced by 'of'; but as far as I can remember, the original name was 'for Animal Science'."

PD: *How did the Philippine Journal of Veterinary and Animal Science come about?*

TCP, Jr.: "That is the influence of UP Los Baños thinking. Our animal science colleagues pushed for this so that there will be a venue for the worthwhile scientific papers presented during the Annual Conventions."

PD: *How did PSAS help your professional growth in the Animal Science industry?*

TCP, Jr.: "The PSAS reinforced my good working relationships and friendship with the animal scientists and veterinarians in our country."

PD: *You have been conferred numerous Awards throughout the years. Which do you consider the pinnacle of your awards?*

TCP, Jr.: "The National Scientist title would be it. There are only few of us who were conferred as thus."

PD: *What do you hope for the PSAS and her members?*

TCP, Jr.: "My fervent hope is for the PSAS to continue, and for her members to maintain and keep up whatever grounds we have covered. We should encourage new membership, especially from the veterinary side since, in the first place, this Society was conceptualized by a veterinarian." (LSF)

President's Nook

A Message from the PSAS President

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
II Timothy 4:7

It has been a tradition for any outgoing leader to rattle off his accomplishments at the end of his term. Instead of doing this, acknowledging that it is God who works through all things, I will be listing down what God has done to the PSAS through the Governing Council, in the light of Paul's farewell message as stated above.

I have fought the good fight...

This year has been fraught with various challenges in the PSAS Governing Council (GC), including sicknesses of council members and their families, new appointments and new responsibilities leading to limited availability of Council members to perform various tasks. But through all these, God has been gracious in inspiring, leading, strengthening and sustaining the GC to accomplish the multitude of tasks assign to it. I praise God for the dedication and commitment of the hard-working members of the GC, who stepped-up in the face of various challenges and supported one another to make this year a fruitful one.

I have finished the race...

In my ten years of serving the GC in various capacities, I am delighted to say that this is the year in which God has abundantly blessed PSAS. The GC has conducted the lecture series at UPLB and Cebu, two outreaches consisting of seminar with anti-rabies vaccination in Rosario, Batangas and seminar with artificial insemination in Daet, Camarines Norte. From four writeshops in 2013 and 2014, the GC has conducted six writeshops in the provinces of Benguet, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija, Capiz, Bohol and Cebu, in coordination with state

universities and colleges, government agency and local government unit. Two issues of the Philippine Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and four issues of the PSAS Dispatch were also published this year. The GC also made efforts to communicate with and support our regional chapters. Furthermore, the GC has made the PJVAS website workable and has exerted efforts to address the concerns raised during the Forum on Regional Animal Industry Issues. And now, finally, after several years of waiting and preparation, we are able to hold our Convention in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

I have kept the faith...

In all of these activities, the GC has endeavored to remain true to the PSAS Constitution and by-laws and the vision God has set for us during the start of my term as president, "PSAS: one heart, one quest." For one heart, the GC strove to have unity in the Governing Council, to involve the regional chapters in policies and activities of the GC, to link with our PSAS members, to partner with state universities and colleges, government agencies, local government units and animal industry players. For one quest, the GC exerted all efforts to fulfill the goals of the Society through lecture series, outreaches, regional writeshops, publications of PJVAS and PSAS Dispatch. In all these, the GC aimed to work together with one heart and one direction with all concerned to make our animal industry competitive not only in the ASEAN region but in the international arena.

I thank everyone for joining us in this journey. May the Lord continue to guide, sustain and bless PSAS through the coming years.

Jezie



“

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Philippine Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences

The Philippine Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (PJVAS) is an open access journal dealing with both basic and applied researches as well as special topics in all species of animals, including companion, laboratory and farm animals and wildlife. It is a peer-reviewed journal which publishes full research works, short communications, research notes, case reports and review articles which advance the knowledge of animal and veterinary sciences and enhance the development of the livestock and poultry industry.

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