DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Majors in Animal Science,
Crop Science, Crop Protection

3 COMMUNITY SERVICE

Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, Inc. (AACCUP)

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AREA III. EXTENSION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The University aspires to maintain its excellence in Research, Development, and Extension (RDE) as a key facet of its mission. Through its RDE function, the University aims to lead in progressive research projects and innovations, addressing contemporary needs. This involves consistently being the pioneering source of technology and information geared towards poverty reduction, food security, and global competitiveness. Additionally, the University is committed to fostering cohesive and sustainable development among its diverse socio-cultural clienteles.

RDE initiatives are aligned with the University's vision, mission, and objectives, supporting national and regional development thrusts, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dissemination of research and development outputs is essential through extension services. The University is actively developing, packaging, and extending relevant technologies and valuable information to its service areas, collaborating with various units within the institution. This commitment materializes through diverse approaches such as seminars, training, community engagements, and other outreach methods. Furthermore, as part of its information dissemination strategy, the University actively encourages the publication and patenting of research outputs, offering subsequent incentives to promote these efforts.

Guided by the principles outlined in the RDE Guidebook, the University Extension Services Office (ESO) anchors its projects and activities. The mandate of the Extension Services Office, as articulated in the Quality Policy Statement, places a strong emphasis on facilitating the transfer of technology from research to the community for sustainable development. This mandate is in alignment with the ESO's mission, which is to facilitate the transfer of applicable technology packages and the dissemination of useful information generated, developed, and adopted by the University. The ultimate goal is to enhance development, accelerate growth in terms of per capita income, and improve the socio-economic well-being of the clientele, particularly the less fortunate and underprivileged populace in the University's service areas.

The ESO's facilitation function is in harmony with its goal of making the technical assets, capabilities, and expertise of USM available, where needed, useful, and relevant in its service areas. This commitment is realized through projects and activities implemented by various Colleges and Institutes of the University.

The ESO, operating through the University Research, Development, and Extension Committee (URDEC), secured funding for different project proposals, utilizing funds from 101 and 164.

Thrust of Extension Service Office (ESO)

- **Training.** This takes the form of non-formal, continuing adult education designed for diverse audiences, contributing to community resource development. The ESO actively facilitates training requests from the community, interest groups, and institutions.

  Addressing capacity-building needs, the ESO conducts seminars, such as the Basics of Extension Management, specifically tailored for Colleges/Institutes whose designated College Extension Coordinators lack a background in extension education and management, as stipulated in the RDE Guidebook. Moreover, the ESO plays a vital role in supporting internships, welcoming students from the College of Arts and Social Sciences, College of Business, Development and Economic Management, and

the College of Agriculture. Additionally, the ESO Director serves as an advisor to the University Volunteers Club (UVC).

- **Development of IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials**, encompassing various mediums such as radio broadcast, print, video, and web-based platforms. ESO consistently update and validate our leaflets for distribution during exhibits and visits, as well as online via the RDE webpage.

- **Technical advisories**, which involves consultancy services through engagements with stakeholders for specific periods.

- **Technology demonstration**, where our innovations are showcased in the community and accessible to learners.

ENGAGEMENT OF FACULTY and STUDENTS IN EXTENSION SERVICE

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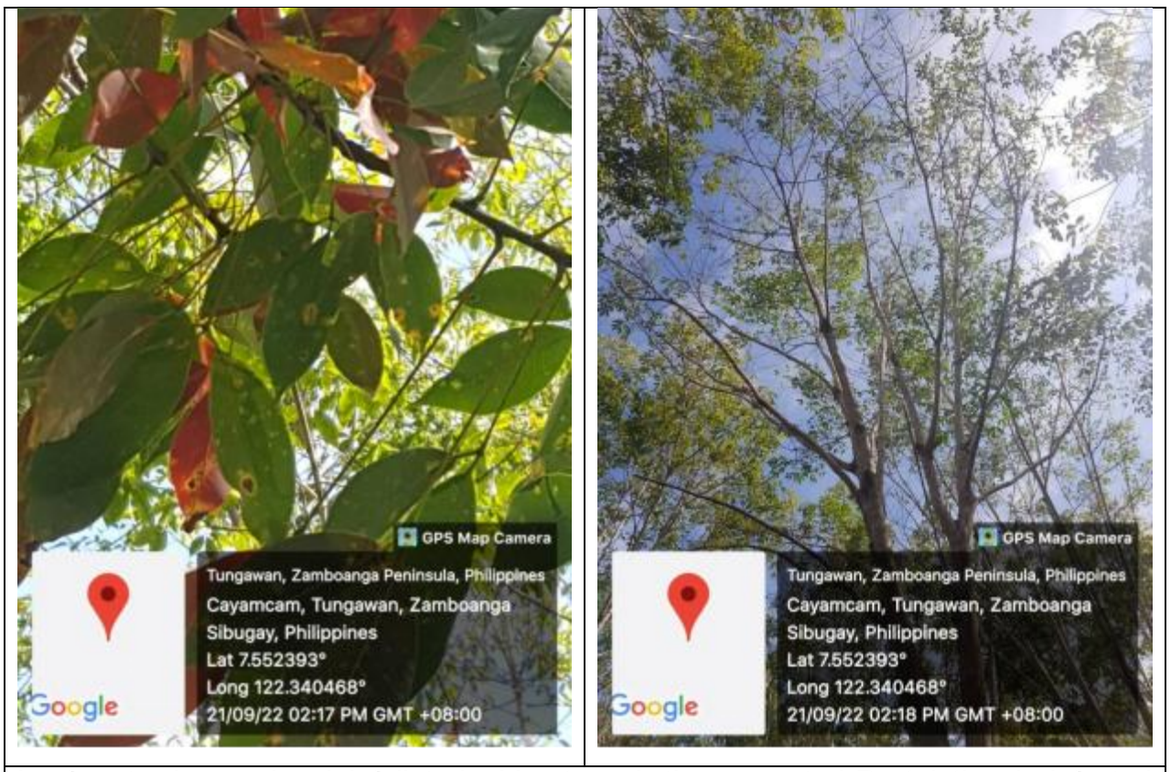
Research cum Extension Project: Etiology, Detection, and Management Strategies against *Pestalotiopsis* Disease of Rubber
(Proponent: Tamie C. Solpot)

A faculty of the College of Agriculture and Graduate School, Dr. Tamie C. Solpot, was involved in research cum extension project dealing with etiological studies, detection and management of a dreadful disease of rubber, Pestalotiopsis leaf fall disease. The project was carried out in partnership with the Philippine Rubber Research Institute (PRRI) as the implementing agency; while the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) served as the funding institution. The occurrence of the disease posed a threat to every rubber stakeholder not only in Cotabato Province but as well as in every rubber-growing region of the country. Apart from etiological and detection studies of the disease, the project aimed at developing a sustainable plan model for local government units (LGUs) and containment measures of such disease. With this, an awareness campaign and containment measures were carried out in different LGUs, and information dissemination was conducted to rubber stakeholders and farmers. Through this endeavor, the awareness campaign benefited six rubber growing regions, 51 municipalities and 1,951 rubber farmers. Such farmers were trained and capacitated for the mitigation of Pestalotiopsis leaf fall disease (PLFD) of rubber. Moreover, 6,405 hectares of rubber plantation in six provinces of Mindanao, infected with the disease, were treated. (***Please see accomplishment report attachment***).

Leaf-diseased samples from the suspected *Pestalotiopsis* infected rubber plantation in Barangay Cayamcam, Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay (Image source: Dr. TCSolpot)



Leaf spots observed and defoliated rubber trees in the suspected *Pestalotiopsis* -infected rubber plantation in Barangay Cayamcam, Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay (Image source: Dr. TCSolpot)

Awareness campaign and intervention activities of the project

Field Application of Chemical treatments at Barangay Sta. Maria, Matalam Cotabato as part of interventions to manage Pestalotiopsis leaf Fall Disease of rubber made by the LGU, DA-PRRI, assisted by the USM researchers (Image source: Dr. TCSolpot).

Fertilization of the selected Rubber plantation for field application of Chemical treatments (Image source: Dr. TCSolpot)

Through such research cum extension endeavors, rubber stakeholders in rubber-growing areas of the country benefited the interventions such as proper fertilization of rubber trees, sanitation and chemical application. **(*Please watch video testimonials attached*)**.

Extension Project: CA-CARES: Capacity and Resiliency Enhancement of Agricultural Technologists (Proponents: Noe S. Mamon and Julius Jerome G. Ele)

During 2023, the College of Agriculture implemented an extension project led by the then College Extension Coordinator, Prof. Noe S. Mamon and Dr. Julius Jerome G. Ele. The project aimed to capacitate the agricultural technologists of the Municipal Agriculturist Office in Antipas, Cotabato, in addressing gaps and issues related to agriculture through enhanced knowledge. Pre-implementation activities such as coordination and inception meeting, and training needs assessment were carried out. After which, creation of the training management team, crafting of the training plan (based on the results of the training needs assessment) and conduct of training were conducted. The banner theme of the capacity building on Community Seed Banking was dubbed as “Binhi ng Buhay or Bibu. The training was conducted on November 9-10, 2023; Graduate School faculty was involved in the activity serving as resource person for the topic “Insect Pest and Disease Management of Vegetable Crops”.

Capacity building for Agricultural Technologists at the Municipal Agriculturist Office, Antipas, Cotabato. (Image source: NSMamon)

Capacity building activities featured on the FB page of the Municipal Agriculturist Office of Antipas, Cotabato.

Extension Project: Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Practice in Urban Spaces (Proponents: Joan P. Sadoral and Geoffray R. Atok)

This year's extension project of the college is under the banner program, Unibersidad at Komunidad (UniK) 2025: The Kasunayan Program, in partnership with Inter-Cultural Organizations Network for Solidarity and Peace (ICON-SP). The project is implemented in the IP Kasunayan Village, San Vicente, Makilala, Cotabato. Specifically, it aimed to capacitate indigenous people, particularly the Bagobo and Tagabawa, on communal and container gardening of lowland vegetables; provide information on sustainable vegetable production and management; and promote wider adoption of the technologies demonstrated. The first phase of capacity building was already conducted, and the remaining training activities will be done with the involvement of PhD in Agricultural Sciences major in Crop Protection students. ***(Please see attached narrative report).***

Have any questions? (064) 572 2138 op@usm.edu.ph

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ESO & ICON-SP Align Expectations Ahead of UniK Launching

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Published by Rey John Cortez at February 6, 2025

To ensure a clear understanding of the direction that the Unibersidad at Komunidad (UniK) 2025 Program would take, the University of Southern Mindanao Extension Services Office (USM-ESO) convened a strategic meeting on February 5, 2025, at the ESO Conference Room.

The meeting aimed to triangulate the needs assessment results conducted in Kasunayan and formalize a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the program's implementation in Kasunayan Village, Brgy. San Vicente, Makilala.

Led by ESO Director Dr. Glyn G. Magbanua, the discussion focused on addressing community needs identified in previous engagements with both the Inter-Cultural Organizations' Network for Solidarity and Peace (ICON-SP) and local stakeholders. Key topics included identifying additional concerns not captured in the initial proposal, determining available community resources that could be utilized during project implementation, and setting timelines for various activities. Additionally, ICON-SP outlined potential challenges that might arise during the program implementation.

A crucial aspect of the meeting was the discussion of the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process—an essential requirement from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for projects in Indigenous communities. Given that the initiative involves primary cultural properties such as the art, cultural practices, and language of the Bagobo-Tagabawa residents of Kasunayan Village, securing FPIC is vital before full-scale implementation.

Strategic meeting with the Extension Service Office (ESO) director, college extension coordinator and project partner, Inter-cultural Organizations Network for Solidarity and Peace.