

**Awards received by SUC graduates (All batches)**

| <b>TITLE</b>                                                                                                                                                             | <b>NAME OF AWARDEE</b>            | <b>AWARD GIVING BODY</b>                           | <b>NATURE OF AWARD<br/>(Insitutional/<br/>National<br/>International)</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recipient of USM Gawad Parangal: Gawad Lathala and Gawad Sulong sa Pananaliksik                                                                                          | <b>Mark Al-jamie J. Muttulani</b> | University of Southern Mindanao                    | Institutional                                                             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Best Paper-Innovation Research Category (USM In-House Review 2023)<br><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Best Paper- Basic Research Category (USM In-House Review 2022) | <b>Mark Al-jamie J. Muttulani</b> | University of Southern Mindanao                    | Institutional                                                             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Plance- Best Paper and Poster in Innovation Category- 1 <sup>st</sup> R & D Symposium on Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources                      | <b>Mark Al-jamie J. Muttulani</b> | University of Southern Mindanao                    | Institutional                                                             |
| 2022 Most Outstanding Teacher                                                                                                                                            | <b>Abubakar, Bhing</b>            | Department of Education Pikit National High School | Institutional                                                             |
| Best Webpage- Champion Secondary Level                                                                                                                                   | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>               | ARMM, Division of Maguindanao                      | Institutional                                                             |
| Winning Coach in Academic                                                                                                                                                | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>               | Datu Paglas National High School                   | Institutional                                                             |
| Most Deligent Teacher                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>               | Datu Paglas National High School                   | Institutional                                                             |

|                                                                                                   |                                           |                                                                                          |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Most Maintain Classroom, 2020                                                                     | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>                       | Datu Paglas National High School                                                         | Institutional |
| Certificate of Recognition as trainor to the out of school youth USAID Opportunity 2.0            | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>                       | Caraga Integrated School, USAID, EDC                                                     | Institutional |
| Exemplary Award as Brida Eskwela Coordinator, 2024                                                | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>                       | BARMM, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, Division of Maguindanao de Sur | Institutional |
| Certification of Recognition as Resource Person to the In Service (INSET) Training Program (2024) | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>                       | BARMM, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, Division of Maguindanao de Sur | Institutional |
| Best Research Paper Award                                                                         | <b>Mercy Sacriz</b>                       | International Conference of Multidisciplinary Research                                   | International |
| Best Paper Research Award                                                                         | <b>Richel Garrigues, Marlon Garrigues</b> | International Conference of Multidisciplinary Research                                   | International |
| Best Paper Finalist                                                                               | <b>Riza D. Meperanum</b>                  | Philippine Fruits Association                                                            | National      |

The Master of Science in Horticulture program of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) has produced graduates who have demonstrated excellence in research, teaching, innovation, and professional service. The awards and recognitions received by its graduates provide evidence of their professional competence and the effective application of knowledge and skills gained from the program. These accomplishments also reflect the program's contribution to developing graduates who are capable of making meaningful contributions to their respective institutions and communities.

Among the notable awardees is **Mark Al-jamie J. Muttulani**, a graduate of the MS in Horticulture program, who has received several institutional recognitions from the University of Southern Mindanao. He was a recipient of the **USM Gawad Parangal: Gawad Lathala and Gawad Sulong sa Pananaliksik**, recognizing his accomplishments in research and scholarly publication. He also received **3rd Best Paper Awards** in both the **Innovation Research Category during the USM In-House Review 2023** and the **Basic Research Category during the USM In-House Review 2022**. Furthermore, he was awarded **2nd Place for Best Paper and Poster in the Innovation Category** during the **1st R&D Symposium on Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources**. These recognitions demonstrate his sustained commitment to research excellence, innovation, and the dissemination of research outputs, while also reflecting the research competencies developed through the MS Horticulture program.

Other graduates have likewise distinguished themselves in the field of education and professional service. **Abubakar Bhing**, for instance, was recognized as the **2022 Most Outstanding Teacher** at Pikit National High School under the Department of Education. This recognition reflects his dedication to teaching and his contribution to the delivery of quality education. Similarly, **Mercy Sacriz** has received multiple awards and recognitions for her outstanding performance as an educator and school leader. Her accomplishments include being recognized as **Best Webpage Champion at the Secondary Level**, a **Winning Coach in Academic Competitions**, **Most Diligent Teacher**, and recipient of the **Most Maintained Classroom Award in 2020**. These awards demonstrate her commitment to teaching excellence, student development, and the improvement of the school learning environment.

Mercy Sacriz has also extended her professional contributions beyond classroom instruction. She received a **Certificate of Recognition as a Trainer for Out-of-School Youth under the USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program**, demonstrating her involvement in community and youth development initiatives. In 2024, she was recognized with an **Exemplary Award as Brigada Eskwela Coordinator**, highlighting her leadership and active participation in school-community partnership activities. She was also recognized as a **Resource Person for the In-Service (INSET) Training Program in 2024**, demonstrating her capacity to share professional knowledge and expertise with fellow educators.

The research accomplishments of the graduates are likewise demonstrated through recognition at the international level. **Mercy Sacriz** received a **Best Research Paper Award** during the **International Conference of Multidisciplinary Research**, reflecting the quality and relevance of her research work. Similarly, **Richel Garrigues and Marlon Garrigues** received a **Best Paper Research Award** at the same international conference. These recognitions demonstrate that graduates of the program are capable of producing research outputs that gain recognition beyond the institutional level and contribute to broader academic and professional discourse.

The program's recent graduates have also begun to demonstrate research excellence at the national level. **Riza D. Meperanum** was recognized as a **Best Paper Finalist** by the **Philippine Fruits Association**. This achievement is particularly significant as it demonstrates the capacity of recent graduates to present and communicate research findings in a national professional forum. It also reflects the relevance of horticultural research to the Philippine fruit industry and its stakeholders.

Taken collectively, these awards and recognitions demonstrate the diverse ways in which MS Horticulture graduates contribute to their professions. Their achievements encompass **research excellence, scholarly publication, innovation, teaching, academic leadership, coaching, community engagement, training, and professional service**. The range of awards—from institutional recognition at USM, to national-level distinctions, and international research awards—indicates the growing professional impact and visibility of the program's graduates.

These accomplishments further provide evidence that the competencies developed through the MS Horticulture program extend beyond the completion of graduate studies. Graduates have successfully translated their knowledge and research skills into productive professional activities, resulting in recognized contributions to their institutions, communities, and professional organizations. Their achievements serve as positive indicators of the program's effectiveness in developing competent, research-oriented, innovative, and socially responsive professionals.

The awards and recognitions received by MS Horticulture graduates affirm the quality and relevance of the program. The accomplishments of graduates in research, innovation, education, leadership, and community service strengthen the program's contribution to USM's mission of producing graduates who can address agricultural and societal challenges through knowledge, research, and professional excellence. These achievements provide strong supporting evidence for the program's attainment of its intended graduate outcomes and its continuing commitment to excellence in graduate education.



**Prof. Mark Al-Jamie J. Muttulani, an MS Horticulture alumnus of the University of Southern Mindanao, received the awards (Gawad Lathala, Gawad Tagumpay at Gawas Sulong sa Pananaliksik)**



**Prof. Muttulani (MS Horticulture alumnus wins) 3rd Best Paper-Innovation Research Category (USM In-House Review 2023)**



Prof. Mark Al-jamie Muttulani (MS Horticulture Alumni) and team wins 2<sup>nd</sup> best paper and poster in 1<sup>st</sup> USM R& D Symposium on Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources

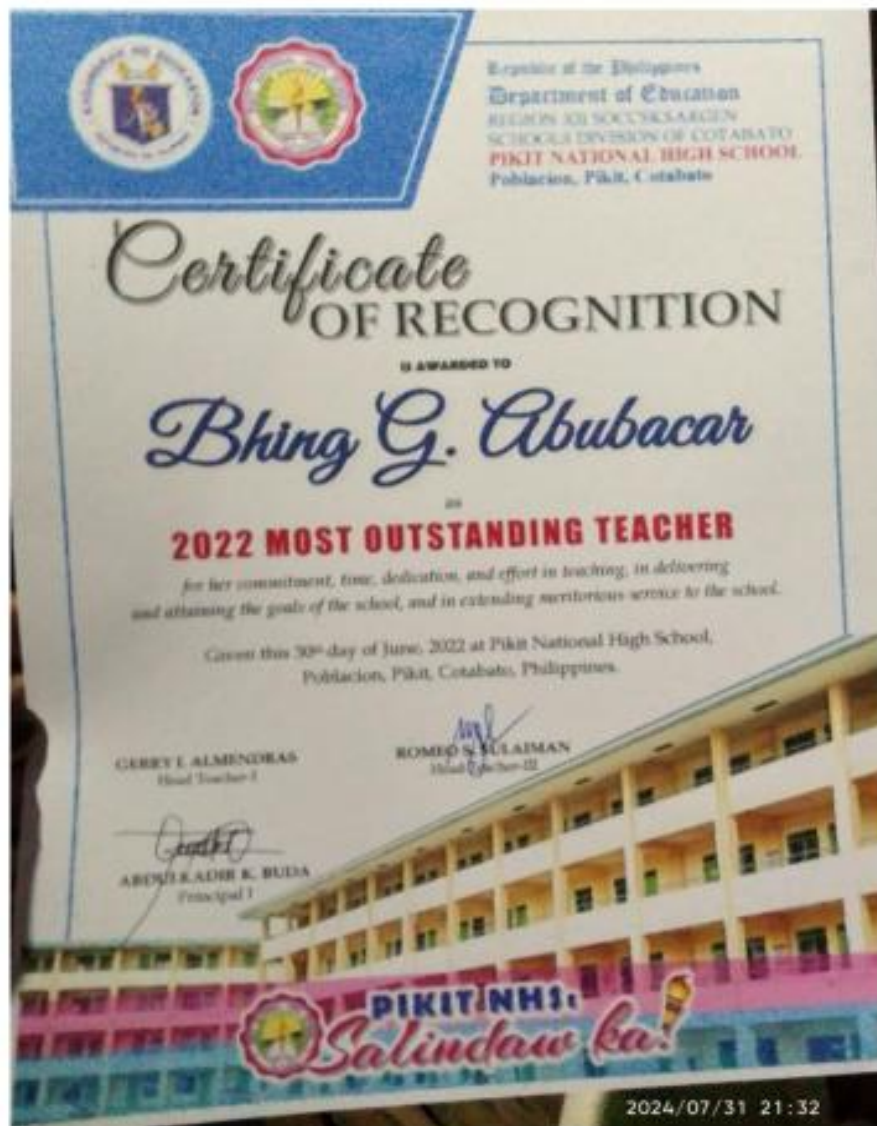


Ms. Mercy Sacriz (MS Horticulture alumni) received multiple awards of recognition to different award giving bodies as presented.

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Prof. Marlon M. Garrigues and Ms. Richel Garrigues (both MS Horticulture Alumni) received best paper award in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research (ICMR 2023).



Ms. Bhing G. Abubakar received the 2022 Most Outstanding Teacher in Pikit NHS Salindaw Ka Awarding Program Ceremony.



PhilFruits Association

Agosto 1 · 🌐

[Event Highlight | Best Scientific Paper Competition]

The afternoon session is filled with insightful learning and engaging discussions as researchers presented their latest findings through the best scientific paper competition.

The Best Paper Competition was evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges: Dr. Pablito M. Magdalita (PFA President and Chair of the Papers Committee), Dr. Analissa Aquino of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and Dr. Lorina A. Galvez of Visayas State University. Their expertise and dedication helped recognize the outstanding research presented during the competition.

We would also like to recognize the dedicated members of the Papers Committee for their invaluable contributions in shortlisting candidates for the Best Paper Competition: Dr. Felipe S. Dela Cruz, Jr., Ms. Glaisa R. Garcia, and Engr. Maria Katrina N. Alaon. Their commitment and support played an essential role in ensuring the smooth conduct of the paper evaluation and selection process.

The best paper finalist are:

Upcycling Fruit Waste into High-Value Biofertilizers: Enhancing Strawberry Yield, Quality, and Profitability under Lowland Tropical Conditions

Riza D. Meperanum\*, Mark Al-Jamie J. Muttulani, and Lorelyn Joy N. Turnos-Milagrosa



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17 June 2026

**RIZA D. MEPERANUM**

Graduate School

University of Southern Mindanao

Kabacan, Cotabato, Philippines

Dear **Ms. Meperanum**:

Greetings from the PhilFruits Association, Inc.!

We are pleased to inform you that your abstract entitled, "**UPCYCLING FRUIT WASTE INTO HIGH-VALUE BIOFERTILIZERS: ENHANCING STRAWBERRY YIELD, QUALITY, AND PROFITABILITY UNDER LOWLAND TROPICAL CONDITIONS**", co-authored by Mark Al-Jamie J. Muttulani and Lorelyn Joy N. Turnos-Milagrosa, has been considered for presentation in the **Best Paper competition** in the **32<sup>nd</sup> National Fruit Symposium** to be held at the **Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay City, Cavite** on **July 13-17, 2026**. Your temporary presentation number is **BP1 (Best Paper 1)**

Ms. Riza D. Meperanum (MS Horticulture alumni), selected as Best Paper finalist in the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Fruits Symposium held at Tagaytay City

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