MAP ABCDF:

A. Attendees

I. Foundation members
1. Meneleo Carlos
2. Marylou Estrada
3. Cef Follosco
4. Fe Gagno
5. Manuel Igual
6. Julius Labrador
7. Ramon Ilusorio

II. Guest speaker
8. Rose Mary Aquino

III. MFI/MIB
9. Marie Reyes
10. Romy Rodriguez

IV. Associate
11. Pol Bautista
12. Serge Montinola

Preliminaries:

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:45am. (It was delayed due to typhoon Pedring that brought rain and wind causing the cancellation of classes and no work in government.)
2. The Philippine and Finland national anthems and flags were honored.
3. The Chairman said a matter for discussion was how news has been coming out about how ACEF has been raided.
4. The Chairman mentioned he was gone for about 1.5 months to visit Finland which awarded him the Order of White Rose which was similarly awarded to 3 others like Rockefeller, Nixon and Gorbachev. He hopes he will not cause discrediting the others.
5. Ms. Gagno informed the body that the small generators for lighting were used during the month of Ramadan. For the brine immersion machine, the coop has bought a transformer which has been installed already. They are waiting for NABCOR to go to teach and demo the BIF. Governor Tan was informed by DA Secretary Alcala that his request for a BIF will not follow if he does not support the coop’s BIF’s running.
6. Dr. Follosco commented that as an engineer, he has to give feedback. If there is a transformer already why is there still a need for a generator? Dr. Follosco was informed that the generator was requested when the electric coop’s power supply was stopped by the National Power Corporation as the former was not up-to-date in remitting its payment. But it appears that currently, the electric power coop can supply power to run the BIF. But they still prefer to have a generator exclusive for the BIF.
7. Dr. Follosco also added that as a foundation, MAP ABCDF should focus on helping development.
8. Ms. Estrada introduced the day’s guest speaker in the person of Ms. Rose Mary Aquino who is a Senior Agriculturist of the Department of Agriculture’s Cagayan Valley Integrated Research Center Region 02. Ms. Aquino has 19 years experience in agricultural research, development and extension with emphasis on legumes, crop improvement and cereal-based cropping/farming systems. She is also a trainer/resource person for legumes production, research methodology, farming systems, technical writing, planning, project proposal preparation/development, and benchmark info survey. Ms. Aquino is a Gawa Sakad Outstanding Employee for Adaptive Research Category, a consistent awardee, and Best Paper Awardee for Research and Development Projects. Her complete presentation can be downloaded at www.map-abcdf.com.ph
9. Ms. Aquino said legumes production is going the organic way as it is the trend nowadays.
10. Legumes are protein rich foods.
11. In San Mateo, Isabela, they planted mungbean under Galing Pinoy with rice being harvested twice a year and the mungbean in-between the 2.
12. Mungbean which is also called blackgold has brought higher income than rice to the farmers. Mungbeans can be had from two months to 65 days. Students on summer break are usually able to help grow and harvest it. The mungbean uses the residual moisture from the rice crop, especially from the irrigated ones. The gross income from mungbean is about P50 to 60,000 with a production cost of P8000 to 10000.
13. Another marginal land is Enrile, Cagayan. The peanut, also called groundnut is usually the only one surviving in January.
14. Legumes are the only ones that fix nitrogen in air abundantly.
15. After rice is harvested, the farmers broadcast the mungbean. There is no need for land preparation so this is ideal for marginal farmers who do not have money for other needs.
16. Even in sandy loam soil, planting legumes will result in 3 crop harvests per year, maximizing land use. Cereal rotation leads to soil fertility.
17. The legumes can be had in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. In Region 2, yearly they experience drought then La Nina will follow. But legumes are drought tolerant crops so they survive.
18. In the Bicol region, zero tillage happens after rice is harvested and mungbean is planted. In Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, this applied for groundnut. In Isabela where there is sloping, rice and soybean were planted. And the rice here are the red rice and fancy rice kinds.
19. Namnama in Ilocano means hope. The Namnama is an all season peanut variety. The Asha variety is the 3 in 1 variety used in Echague, Isabela. Classes A and B command higher price. Class A nut size is like a cashew’s. Class B is for export, with 2 seeds. Class C is small to medium sized used more for planting purposes due to fast germination. Demand is high and the partnership is with India’s Dr. Dar. Each plant has the 3 pods and are used for confectionery/food.
20. Mungbean is what we call monggo; it is popular to have it after rice. The Pag-asa’s 7 has long pods, bigger seeds and yield 3 to 4 times more. The Pag-asa 19 pods are usually on the top making it harder for frogs and pests to reach.
20. Soybean can be grown in the whole Philippines and is the ideal health food. It is a good source of inexpensive protein.
21. Isoflavones are related to hormones and can reduce cardiovascular diseases and cancer.
22. The Soy Prescription was issued in 1999.
23. She gives training on Soybean Production and Product Utilization Training. Soybean is also used as estrogen replacement therapy. And its calcium content to address osteoporosis.
24. The country imports 90 to 95% of its animal feeds that can actually be met by legumes. A very important program now of the Department of Agriculture is on soybean, the organic way.
25. The soybean sepal can be cooked as burgers or like meatball especially for remote areas where access to meat is difficult. And the people earn a lot there.
26. People often blame the soil for low yields when the culprit is poor farming practice. Remember that only legumes are capable of fixing nitrogen from the air.
27. Rhizobium can supply 225 kgs. of nitrogen per hectare per year equivalent to 4.5 bags N-fertilizer or a savings of P4000.00.
28. The // signifies intercrop.
29. Organically grown soybean commands higher price than conventional kind.
30. There are 5 big peanut processors in Manila in need; anyone who can supply will milk the opportunity.
31. 90% of the country’s demand is imported. The proposed supply chain was presented.
32. The Chairman acknowledged Ms. Aquino who gave a fact-filled presentation though it may be too fast for some. He also added they may want to get in touch with Mr. Montinola’s group that does Vilmoca for malnourished children.
33. Mr. Montinola commented that agriculture before always included legumes when planting rice or corn. The DA Secretary is right in bringing this aspect back.
34. Mr. Montinola wanted to know where to buy soybean seeds and Ms. Aquino said for the Luzon area it is her office in Ilagan that is responsible for it.
35. Mr. Montinola suggested Ms. Aquino visit the rice farmer cooperative he works with in Nueva Ecija as the government gave 2000 hectares to the Israelis for high value crops. The Israelis are very efficient in agriculture so they may include legumes.
36. In response to Mr. Igual’s query, Ms. Aquino said about 50-60% of its monggo production is consumed locally and the rest is sent to Metro Manila. It is really a pity that local producers have not been given priority/focus. Ms. Aquino was thankful to DOST that partly financed this program.
37. Dr. Follosco said globalization and nationalization are the issues of the day. 8 free trade agreements have been entered into by the Philippines but some people he talked with claimed they were negotiated without telling them. He is most worried about the Asean Free Trade which will make everything tax and duty free.
38. Dr. Follosco stated that he will not plant mungbean as it is difficult to harvest properly. And the Philippines will not be competitive versus Iowa’s.
39. To Dr. Follosco these agreements will most affect Agriculture negatively.
40. Ms. Aquino informed the body that there is a grain center in Isabela to handle grains processing.
41. Mr. Montinola said the poor farmer should not be left because there is globalization. The farmer productivity should still be improved. With globalization, it will also work for us if we have surplus. Mr. Montinola underscored that we should continue helping the farmer.
42. Mr. Carlos is concerned about the national greening program of planting trees. Legumes must be added to tree planting. To him, trees are globally competitive.
43. Responding to Mr. Labrador, Ms. Aquino affirmed that legumes can be planted in slopes like Quirino province and intercropped with cacao and coffee. The number of rows must have to be given because of partial shading effects of growing trees.
44. The Chairman suggested to Ms. Aquino that a 1 pager be made with the foundation’s Secretariat on this legumes advocacy. Ms. Aquino consented.
45. The Chairman asked that we keep an open mind. He also said he has written a book about Philippine poverty, its cause and cure.
46. Ms. Estrada awarded the certificate of appreciation to Ms. Aquino together with the 2 most recent books of the Chairman.
47. The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20am.