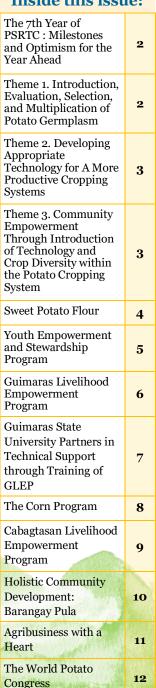


# Chronicles of Transformation Be Optimistic!

#### Issue 5 2022

#### Inside this issue:



#### SPSI's Model of Empowering Mountain Farm Communities Takes Off!



unrise Potato Systems Institute (SPSI) and PSRTC are now in the middle of year 7 (July 2022) of our program of empowering rural mountain communities. Year 7 is considered a sabbatical year when one takes stock of what has been accomplished and what needs to be done going forward. The end of the Covid pandemic fostered a time of less travel and more internal analysis while the work carried on with virtual meetings and communication. Clearly, our model is being readily adopted and rapidly taking hold in the communities where we have focused thus far. This newsletter highlights some of the successes in Pula, Guimaras, Don Salvador Benedicto and Cabagtasan. These are all mountainous regions with a need for financial support through locally managed interest bearing loans and grants as well as technical training and technology. There are diverse subsets of the model as illustrated by working strictly through church leadership in Guimaras to working with community leaders in a more informal way in DSB along with a lead pastor. Strategic local partners have come along side of us in every case to provide more synergy to our work through excellent collaboration and technical support.

As we look ahead, we are grateful for all who have shared and others who will join in our mission of "empowering mountain farm communities" as we really look forward to the fulfillment of our vision of thriving farm families and communities!

Peter VanderZaag, PhD SPSI Executive Director





# The 7th Year of PSRTC : Milestones and Optimism for the Year Ahead



Seven is a significant number since ancient times. In the Old Testament the world was created in six days and God rested on the seventh, creating the basis of the seven-day-week being used to this day. The number seven is featured in the Book of Revelation (7 churches, 7 angels, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 stars). The Koran has seven heavens and Muslim pilgrims walk around the Kaaba in Mecca (Islam's most sacred site) seven times while Hinduism believes in seven higher worlds and seven underworlds.

For PSRTC, it would mean looking back at the previous 6 years, evaluate and determine how **to learn from its shortcomings, capitalize from its gains and be optimistic in applying the lessons learned** to build better and more fruitful years ahead. There is a need to define priorities and set goals to achieve a meaningful and sustainable program with partner organizations/communities.

The foundations for PSRTC were laid by Canlaon Potatoes and Flowers through a partnership of Peter and Carla VanderZaag and Jose Regie and Victoria Demonteverde. The PSRTC facilities including a Tissue Culture Lab, offices, and lecture hall were constructed in 2016. Thematic programs were initiated to address the needs for crop diversity and quality planting materials; development of appropriate technology; and community empowerment through introduction of technology and crop diversity. The Milestones for each theme are as follows:



# Theme 1. Introduction, Evaluation, Selection, and Multiplication of Potato Germplasm



- 1. **Apical rooted cuttings (ARC)** were used for evaluation of potato germplasm in on-site and on-farm trials. Potential potato clones (CPF2, CPF14, and CPF15) were selected by farmers. Farmers in Cabagtasan, an area ideally suited, use ARC for production of tuber seed for sale to other farmers.
- 2. **Single node cuttings of Sweet Potatoes** expedited the multiplication, evaluation, and selection of new varieties. The predominate cultivar C1 is now largely replaced by the different colored sweet potato varieties (Immitlog -orange; Pacac- purple with white stripes; Haponita-Violet;, and SP-30, yellow) introduced by PSRTC.
  - 3. **Benchmark surveys of "Choi" potato clones** that were selected by farmers in the 1980"s is having a major impact on renewed production with healthy seed. The result of this research "Exceptional Potato Varieties Selected by Filipino Farmers from True Potato Seed: Status after 30 years" was published in American Journal of Potato Research in 2018. Use of these clones for breeding agile potato varieties yielded promising results. This research result was also shared during the poster presentation in the World Potato Congress held at Dublin, Ireland on May 30-June 2, 2022. Virus clean up and storage of these local "Choi" clones were done at Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center-Benquet State University (NPRCRTC-BSU). Hybrid crosses using the Choi clones were produced and are being evaluated.
    - 4. **Tissue culture laboratory maintenance of pathogen tested materials** of the selected potato and sweet potato germplasm is the essential basis for producing healthy planting material. The 4 greenhouses are being utilized for production of quality planting materials of potato, sweet potato, and vegetables which are demanded by farmers.



# Theme 2. Developing Appropriate Technology for A More Productive Cropping Systems



- 1. Conservation Agriculture using minimum tillage, strip till, and using corn stovers as mulch are used to conserve and improve the soil.
- 2. **Sweet potato flour** research and development of products by Technological University of the Philippines –Visayas (TUP-V) as an alternative source of flour in lieu of wheat flour. Research and development of SP-based processed products by Carlos Hilado Memorial State University (CHMSU) is leading to income generating possibilities for communities.
- 3. A village level corn mill was provided by Philippine Center of Postharvest Development (Philmech) to be able to process corn grits within the community.
- 4. **Biological pest control** with sweet potato weevil pheromones from Philippine Rootcrop Research and Training Center—Visayas State University (VSU) was found effective for control of the weevil population in fields. Initial stage of evaluating corn fall army worm pheromone is on-going.
- 5. Apical rooted cuttings for cabbage and broccoli production has potential, however, on farm economic evaluation trials are needed to determine its socio-economic acceptability.
- 6. **Farm management practices.** Fellow farmers observing the operations in the farm has started to do irrigation, and weed control the same way it is being done on the farm.

# Theme 3. Community Empowerment Through Introduction of Technology and Crop Diversity within the Potato Cropping System

- 1. **Farmers Fund**, founded as a credit facility to provide a non-collateral loan with minimum interest for agricultural inputs of farmers especially the members of Pula Potato and Vegetable Farmers Association (PPVFA). In 2021, the Credit facility was merge with the Marketing Program to be able to support farmers with crop production and marketing of their products. PSRTC strongly supports the PPVFA and is also an underwriter for Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.
- 2. **Prosperity Fund** provides an added source of loan money for farm workers to meet their occasional family needs.
- 3. Community Empowerment is now in its 2nd year of reaching new communities outside of Canlaon City. PSRTC partnered with Foursquare Gospel Church to implement the Guimaras Livelihood Empowerment Program with 8 communities in January of 2021. In December 2021, partnership was formed with Guimaras State College, now Guimaras State University. This 2022, PSRTC together with the Municipal Agriculture Office of Don Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental implements the Youth Stewardship and Empowerment Program for 4 communities. The Cabagtasan Livelihood Empowerment Program in Cabagtasan, Brgy. Codcod, San Carlos City. Negros Occidental was also organized. Other interested areas of the Philippines with needy communities are being considered for adding to the program in 2023.
- 4. **Training** has been and remains an integral part of PSRTC's activity. Victoria Demonteverde is also an accredited Mentor of the Kapatid Agri Mentor Me Program (KAMMP) of the Department of Agriculture and Go Negosyo. She also serve as KAMMP Coach.
- 5. Partnerships and networking with government and non-government organizations to work together for the common good is integrated into the PSRTC mandate.

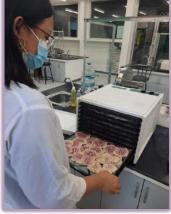
In summary, PSRTC will move forward working with partner organizations and communities to meet and address changes and challenges collaborately. Our model of success really depends on partner organizations whose role is to properly manage these programs. Once established, the resources will be initially provided by PSRTC and it is up to the community organizations to make these resources grow.

### **Sweet Potato Flour Processing**

By: Engr. Junella Trixia C. Porol







Project Harinang Lokal Leader, Engr. Junella Trixia C. Porol, conducting experiments

With the commitment of the Technological University of the Philippines Visayas (TUPV) to provide solutions to real-life problems and improve livelihood of communities through research and extension, TUPV continues with its research for the production of sweet potato flour. The ongoing research project, "Harinang Lokal: A Study on the Viability of Producing Sweet Potato Flour as an Alternative for Wheat Flour" of TUPV aims to determine optimum processing technologies for the production of sweet potato flour from local varieties. The project is especially targeted to utilizing sweet potato wastage (i.e., surplus and small-sized sweet potatoes) and convert it into a staple product which will maximize its potential and increase its value.

To replace wheat in flour production, the sweet potato flour must be of high quality in terms of color, flavor, and shelf life. During processing, flesh of sweet potatoes tends to discolor or "brown" due to oxidation. This is what the first phase of Project Harinang Lokal aims to solve. A viable treatment will be determined and will be introduced during sweet potato flour processing so as to retain the characteristic color of sweet potato and possibly enhance its physical and functional properties.

So far, some treatments have showed encouraging results in preserving the characteristic colors (purple, yellow, and orange) of the different sweet potatoes tested. Validation and optimization experiments are still being conducted at the Chemical Laboratory of TUPV to ensure the technology's readiness for pilot testing and community transfer. The Project Harinang Lokal team looks forward to exploring more opportunities related to sweet potato flour as this is just but the first phase of the project. The team envisions to further the research by developing more products and improving processes not only for food products but also for possible non-food applications of sweet potatoes.



SP flour products from different varieties



Comparison of SP flour products applied with different treatments (Variety: NSIC-30)



Baking expansion test of the SP flour products

## Youth Empowerment and Stewardship Program

By: Nanette Pakingking













In line with its Vision of "Empowering Mountain Farm Communities, the Potato Systems Research and Training Center, Inc.(PSRTC) and Sunrise Potato Systems Institute (SPSI) were looking for partner communities for empowering farm families. It was timely, for in December 2020, a retired couple, Pastor Benito Pakingking and his wife Nanette visited PSRTC. They conveyed their interest in farming, although they have no experience. They invited PSRTC to visit the farm communities in Don Salvador Benedicto (DSB), Negros Occidental. DSB, the "Little Baguio of Negros" is well known for its beautiful panorama of mountains. This municipality has some remote poor farm communities.

Starting February 2021, PSRTC made exploratory trips to DSB. Initially, a courtesy visit to the Municipal Agriculture Office was made to get a bird's eye view of the status of farming in the area. This was followed by visits to farmers' fields and church communities. Interviews with key leaders and farmers were also conducted. Common problems were lack of access to basic resources including crop/agricultural inputs and financing; difficulty in marketing of harvested products and lack of technical guidance and support. During the meetings conducted with Mr. Mark Lloyd Magallona, DSB Municipal Agriculturist and the community leaders, an idea was conceived to involve the youth of target communities in the livelihood program. The young people can help introduce innovative agricultural practices to the community while nurturing their leadership, stewardship and agricultural skills.

PSRTC also applied for Accreditation in the Municipality. It was awarded a Certificate of Accreditation in the Municipality of Don Salvador Benedicto on August 18,2021.

After a series of interviews and screening, four target communities and their Pastors were identified namely: Kumaliskis - Pastor Cristituto Aguilar; Spur 11-Pastor Sarnel Silvano; Spur 16 - Pastor Jeffrey Benonggil; and Bunga - Pastor Benito Pakingking. Seminars on stewardship, crop and animal production, and financial management were conducted to the target communities were to introduce and equip them for the program. The livelihood program initiated were coffee business, hog raising, ginger production and other small businesses.

The Municipal Agricultural Office provides technical support; PSRTC provides technical and financial support; whereas, the Pastors will monitor the projects and also provide the spiritual needs of the members. A start up fund of Php 40,000.00 was released to each group. Each group will manage their own funds to help each member purchase input costs. This is a stewardship program, hence the revolving fund will be owned, managed and increased by the recipient church/ communities. This program is such a blessing of empowerment to us, the recipient churches/communities. We fervently pray that God will prosper us so that in return, we can empower more and more communities around us.

To God be the Glory!!!

#### **Guimaras Livelihood Empowerment Program**

ne of the goals of SPSI–PSRTC is to empower communities through partnerships with local churches/organizations. After a survey of the small province of Guimaras and identifying an interested partnership a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between PSRTC and the Foursquare Gospel Church of the Province of Guimaras on January 25, 2021. The Guimaras Livelihood Empowerment Program (GLEP) was organized under the leadership of the Superintendent, Pastor Roy E. Nunes. The spiritual development will be undertaken by the churches while the livelihood and related programs by PSRTC. Eight church communities were each given a Php 40,000 to 60,000 revolving fund to be used for giving loans to beneficiaries (member/non member) in the community. The livelihood projects varied depending on needs and preferences of each community from livestock (pigs, chicken, goats), crops, fisheries (needs of fisherman), and various types of marketing and small businesses. Each community managed their funds according to their members needs. The loans once repaid were used to finance other livelihood projects.

For technical support, PSRTC partnered with the College of Agriculture and Fisheries of Guimaras State University (GSU). An Evaluation and Planning Workshop with GSU and the churches was done on December 7, 2021. GLEP became a project within their program: "CagS BUILDS (Builds, Unifies, Intensifies, Leads, Develops, and Sustains): Gearing Towards Agriculture and Economic Sustainability". The work plan includes skills training on various topics and project implementation so as their learned skills can be used in recipients' livelihood projects. GSC conducted a series of seminars and hands on training on crops and animal production. The trainees enjoyed these learning experiences and are applying what they learned. Special thanks to the Dean of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Julius Vergara and Rhea Joy Decalso Flora, Assistant Professor and Community Outreach Coordinator for making all these technical trainings for the GLEP members possible. Thank you for all the trainers and facilitators. Your efforts are highly appreciated.

The Living Hope Empowered Farmers Association (LHEFA), one of the 8 groups, was given an amount of Php 40,000 grant to address their dire need for irrigation water. The members of this group worked together to set up an irrigation facility that could provide irrigation water during the dry months and enable them to grow crops all year. Recently, PSRTC linked the group to the Municipal Agriculture Office of Jordan to help them be registered as an official Farmers Association. With the support of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Jordan and Provincial Economic Development Office, a meeting was held on June 24,2022. The registration process is on-going for LHEFA to become an accredited organization of Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Department of Agriculture. LHEFA looks forward to also closely work with these local government units. The story of GLEP shows the importance of integration and collaboration. GLEP is having great success. Thanks for having technical and financial partners supporting their efforts.















#### Guimaras State University Partners in Technical Support through Training of GLEP



By: Ms Rhea Joy Descalso

The Guimaras State University-College of Agricultural Sciences and Potato Systems Research and Training Center collaborated to boost the Guimaras Livelihood Empowerment Program (GLEP) through a series of skills training. The trainings were identified during the Needs Assessment and Planning Workshop conducted by GSC-CAgS last December 9, 2021, at the Temple of Praise, San Miguel, Jordan, Guimaras. The activity was participated by the Guimaras Foursquare Gospel Church leaders and church members, and the Potato Systems Research and Training Center. The needs assessment aims to identify the problems of the group and prioritize solutions to the problem. The activity was attended by the selected members of the Guimaras Foursquare Gospel Church as beneficiaries of the Guimaras Livelihood Empowerment Program. It was graced by Dr. Julius T. Vergara, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences of the Guimaras State College, Dr. Victoria Demonteverde of the Potato Systems Research and Training Center, Pastor Roy Nunes of the Guimaras Foursquare Gospel Church, and Dr. Margie dela Cruz, Director for Extension Services of the Guimaras State College. The activity resulted in the identification of skills training necessary to strengthen the implementation of GLEP. The trainings were identified and prioritized by the members of the Guimaras Foursquare Gospel Church. After the needs assessment, a planning workshop was conducted where the participants identified the schedules of the skills training.

After the prioritization of solutions, skills trainings were identified such as plant propagation/ crop production and management, organic poultry and swine production, goat and large ruminant production, financial management and simple bookkeeping, basic food processing (fish and meat processing), and many others. As initial training, organic fertilizer and vegetable production cum plant propagation was conducted last January 27, February 3, and February 10, 2022. The training aims to discuss and produce Bokashi and vermicompost; make different types of natural farming systems (NFS) concoctions; appropriately carry out different management practices in organic vegetable production, and propagate fruit tree seedlings. The participants learned about biochar, Bokashi, and vermicompost production on the first day, preparation of organic concoctions on the second day, and plant propagation on the 3rd day. The lecturers of the said training were Prof. Rhea Joy D. Flora, Instr. Reynro T. Herrera, Instr. Marie Cris David, and Instr. Vivian Segbre who are all faculty of the Guimaras State College (now Guimaras State University).



Dr. Julius Vergara, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, GSU during his welcome remarks



The participants with their grafted seedlings



**Demonstration on making Urea** 

To further educate the GLEP beneficiaries on agricultural production, another series of training on organic poultry, swine, and small ruminant production was conducted last March 10, 17, and 24, 2022. The training aims to appropriately carry out different management practices in organic poultry, swine, and small ruminant production, formulate feeds for swine, poultry, and small ruminants, and produce urea molasses mineral blocks. The lecturers of this training were Instr. Marie Cris David and Instr. Vivian A. Segobre who are both from Guimaras State University. They discussed topics on organic poultry, swine, and small ruminant production, performing feed formulation, and making urea molasses mineral blocks.

There are still numerous trainings prepared to improve the Guimaras Livelihood Empowerment Program that will be conducted by the Guimaras State University. These trainings will be conducted before December 2022 ends.



# The Corn Program

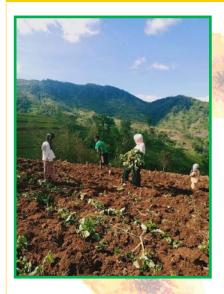


orn is an important staple crop in the Philippines, 2nd to rice in the utilization of agricultural resources. Corn is for human consumption, animal feed and industrial uses. At PSRTC, corn is mainly used as a rotational crop with sweet potatoes and vegetables. Corn stalks are used as mulch and to improve soil properties.

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (Philmech) provided as a grant to PSRTC: a corn mill, de-stoner, and de-stoner cleaner. This is designed as an income generating activity aimed to respond to the need to process corn at the village level. Present during the turnover ceremony were LGU representatives, City Agriculturist, Philmech Researchers, Agricultural Marketing Development, PPVFA President, and officers of other organizations. The turnover was on Nov 24, 2021. After the turnover ceremony, Philmech researchers visited the farm to discuss different activities that will be jointly implemented with Philmech. This includes training, research on storage of grits, market development, and food safety.

PSRTC also facilitated the corn seeds for farmers especially for members of Pula Potatoes and Vegetable Farmers Association (PPVFA). On December 1, 2021 the Bureau of Plant Industry turned over 2.7 tons of basic, certified, and registered corn seeds. Present during the turnover ceremony at PSRTC were BPI representatives, City Agriculturist, PPVFA President, and 48 farmers. The seeds were distributed to more than 200 farmers.









The Cabagtasan Livelihood Empowerment Program (CLEP) is being implemented in a group of potato farmers that are living within the mountainous area of Sitio Cabagtasan, Barangay Codcod. San Carlos City. They are "Bukidnon", an indigenous people belonging to the Cabagtasan tribe. PSRTC met this group of farmers in 2016 during the research to determine the clones that were previously selected from True Potato Seeds. The group was able to produce seed potatoes for other farmers in 2018 and 2019. Unluckily the work stopped due to the pandemic and reasons beyond control. Last year, it was decided to include Cabagtasan as one of the 2 communities for the Community Empowerment Program.

PSRTC applied for accreditation and it was approved by the Sanguniang Panlungsod (City Council) of San Carlos City to officially start a program in the area. A planning workshop with Cabagtasan farmers was done on December 17, 2021 as a preparation for community empowerment initiatives in 2022. It was decided that they will plant potato or sweet potato in rotation with corn and other crops.







A total of Php 60,000 was released to the group in early 2022. It is a revolving fund to be used as loan for farm inputs and is repayable after harvest and sale of the crops. PSRTC provided 16 sacks of sweet potato cuttings as initial planting materials and 10 pcs. of sweet potato weevil pheromones. The funds were primarily used to purchase fertilizer. To date, two of the 8 farmers who availed of the loan had repaid and others had partial payment. Full payment is required to avail of new loans. The farmers testified that their yields increased as they had applied fertilizers to their crops. They will also start planting potato in July.

PSRTC note with appreciation the commitment of Pastor Ben Pakingking in providing spiritual guidance and enlightenment to the group. Devotionals are conducted during group meetings and recently, the group started to have prayer fellowship. Thank God for providing the spiritual component of this holistic program.







## Holistic Community Development: Barangay Pula

SRTC and Canlaon Bible Community Church Lampara (CBCC-Lampara) has been working together implementing a holistic development strategy in Barangay Pula, Canlaon City. Development activities for children and bible studies for adults that were conducted weekly on Saturdays prior to the pandemic were stopped. Family Fellowship and short lecture on various topics for small groups continued by CBCC-Lampara both for children and adults on a monthly basis. Goods were also distributed to the families. A mobile moving up graduation for kids was also conducted on June 23, 2021.

Bible studies resumed in the 3rd quarter of 2021. Leadership training was done to discover and nurture the leadership skills and other talents of the farm workers and other members. Since May 2022, worship service on Sundays are also being conducted for adults. There are also 3 study groups for farmers children such as: ages below 7; 9 to 12; and teens.

The farm workers and other beneficiaries are learning to lead and they led some activity in the bible studies and worship service. Many of them had got out of their shells and started leading and offering songs of praise. The incremental step of skills development had contributed to their social development. From the very shy people who would hardly talk in the crowd, they now have courage and are willing to lead in various ways.







## **Agribusiness with a Heart**





"Agribusiness with a Heart" is the mantra of Canlaon Potatoes and Flowers (CP&F). Sharecropping is an internal arrangement whereby CP&F encourages workers to have additional sources of income by providing the land (demo farm) and inputs for workers to grow crops. The workers provide the labor with the net income divided equally between the worker and CP&F.

The Prosperity Fund is a separate funding window initiated with CP&F equity and has 17 families who contribute to the fund and loan from it for personal income generating activities, repair and extension of houses, purchase of motorcycle, construction of house, personal, educational, and medical expenses, and support for extended families in times of needs. Another benefit of the fund is savings as they learn to save even in small amount per week.



Michael Pamposa and his fiancé Mary Jane Ringcon sorting through their sweet potato harvest





A house built from "Katas ng Camote"

Apolonio Olacio, nicknamed Poloy, is a farm worker who started sharecropping 3 years ago planting different crops including lettuce, sweet potato, corn, and pole snap beans. He also availed of the Prosperity Fund. He said that both programs were beneficial in providing for his families household needs, construction of an extension to their home and purchase of appliances.

Another farm worker is Michael Pamposa, who is 34 years old and engaged to Mary Jane Ringcon. Michael wanted to have a house before marriage so both worked together to make this dream a reality. Michael had already applied for loans from the Prosperity Fund. The 1st was for purchase of goats and pigs. The 2nd loan was for motorcycle. This year, he applied for the 3rd loan intended to start the construction of their dream house. Both also decided to do sharecropping by planting sweet potato. The income from the 3 successive harvest of sweet potato were used to purchase additional materials for the house. They look forward to use the income of their 4th sharecrop for their wedding, hopefully to happen this year. Michael refers to this house as "Katas ng Camote, literally "juice of sweet potato" meaning the benefit of labor working with sweet potato. He is very thankful and grateful for the offer of support through sharecropping and the prosperity fund.





## **The World Potato Congress**







Dr. Qu Dongyu with Dr. Peter VanderZaag

"The Changing World of Potatoes" is the theme for the 11th World Potato Congress held at Royal Dublin Society, Main Arena, Dublin, Ireland. The event was participated by more 900 delegates from over 60 countries. Multidisciplinary in nature, this event is held every 3 years assembling together stakeholders to exchange expertise, ideas, innovations, and opportunities. Renowned scientist, farmers, businessmen, companies, gather to promote the potato, the world's 3rd most important food crop. Social events and field tours were done for participants to get a glimpse of the beauty of Ireland and its people.

The plenary sessions, exhibits, poster presentations and field tours tackled the impact of the potato crop ranging from health, nutrition, production, breeding, food industry, food security, trade, and sustainability. The speakers provided valuable information and insights on how to use and innovate on technology available for better potato productivity, trade and to address the changing needs and expectations of customers. Likewise, how can potato continue to address food sufficiency and sustainability for the present and future generations.

One of the distinguished speakers was Dr. Qu Dongyu, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He stressed the challenges the world faced today especially on food sufficiency and sustainability. Considering the fact that 2/3 of the world's population consumes potato as staple crop, there is a need to improve potato food supply capacity and to establish agile and sustainable agrifood systems. Similarly, to diversify potato products to meet consumption demands. He will also move for the declaration of May 30 as International Potato Day.

The Director General awarded distinct honors to persons that made great contribution to the potato industry. Awarded such Honor was "Dr. Peter Vander Zaag". He was given a gift with a Handwritten scroll message in Chinese which is translated as: "Lifelong Relationship with Potatoes; Struggle Endlessly; Remain Unselfish; Benefit the people; for my teacher and friend". Peter was also speaker for the Session 3 on "Successful Poverty alleviation through the Potato Empire Strategy in SW China".

Out of the 112 research abstracts, PSRTC was co-author in 2 posters namely:

- Apical rooted cuttings of potatoes revolutionized how generation 1 seed potatoes are produced in the Philippine Highlands by Cynthia Kiswa, Teresita Masangcay, Jocelyn Perez, Jennie Balao, Joseph Galian, Victoria Demonteverde, and Peter VanderZaag.
- Resilient potato varieties selected from True Potato Seeds by Filipino Farmers by Victoria Demonteverde, Peter VanderZaag, Pham Xuan Tung, Teresita Masangcay, and Cynthia Kiswa.

I am very grateful to SPSI for the financial and earnest support; and to the Irish Government for the Bursary Grant. Praise God for providing opportunities and avenues for friendship and collaboration.



Victoria Demonteverde with the poster: 'Resilient potato varieties selected from True Potato Seeds by Filipino Farmers'



## **The World Potato Congress**























#### **Contributors:**

- <page-header> ♦ Peter VanderZaag, Ph.D.
  - ♦ Victoria Demonteverde, Ed.D.
  - ♦ Engr. Junella Trixia C. Porol Technological University of the Philippines - Visayas
  - ♦ Rhea Joy Descalso Guimaras State University
  - ♦ Nanette Pakingking

#### **Layout Artist:**

◊ Vickie Joy Demonteverde



"Optimism is the most important human trait because it allows us to evolve our ideas, to improve our situation, and to hope for a better tomorrow"

-Seth Godin

#### Find us at:

PSRTC email: potatosystemsrtc@gmail.com

Facebook account: Potato Systems Research and Training Center; psrtc

#### **Visit SPSI at:**

www.sunrisepsi.com