15 LIFE ON LAND

MMSU's Commitment

Take an active role in protecting and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, responsible land use, and biodiversity conservation.

MMSU's Central Seedbank for the Conservation of Various Seeds Especially the Indigenous Plant Materials of the Province

MMSU holds its commitment to help in the conservation of indigenous plant materials of Region 1. After years of research, MMSU established and operationalized a Central Seedbank (CSB) for seeded plant collections. At present, the CSB holds a base and active collection of vegetable landraces (84 accessions), traditional upland rice (130 accessions), glutinous corn, sorghum, and seeded indigenous vegetables.

Additionally, a field genebank (FGB) of alokon (70 hills) in the Forest Reserve of MMSU located in Payao, City of Batac, Ilocos Norte was established as an additional effort to support the conservation of indigenous plant material. At present, there are 872 propagated pots of different IFP species for piloting in Community foodscapes.

The IFP Field Genebank at the MMSU Forest Reserve in Payao, City of Batac

Highlights

Enrolment	2020	2021	2022	2023
BS Agriculture	497	591	563	748
BS Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	184	170	220	216
BS Forestry	154	165	190	171
BS Biology	74	120	294	284
BS Environmental Science	261	254	227	229
Number of Graduates				
BS Agriculture	60	20	42	117
BS Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	58	22	62	32
BS Forestry	16	9	10	24
BS Biology	n/a	2	12	50
BS Environmental Science	38	60	44	56

Key Activities and Accomplishments

- **Promotion and preservation of sustainable bamboo products.** Embracing the unique Ilokano tradition of rural festivities, Mariano Marcos State University culminated its foundation anniversary with the *"Parambak ditoy Away"* celebration at Brgy. Mabaleng, City of Batac, on January 31. Held at the heart of the university's R&D bamboo station, the event highlighted bamboo products such as salakot, kuribot, bilao, and baskets. Local Government Units (LGU) and schools participated in a bamboo weaving competition, showcasing the versatility and importance of bamboo, which symbolizes the resilience of the MMSU community. The Parambak served as a symbolic and vibrant conclusion to the anniversary celebration, promoting the enduring significance of bamboo in the community.
- **Professional development in the national convention.** Dr. Sean Vidad, chairperson of the Department of Agricultural Sciences at the College of Agriculture, Food, and Sustainable Development (CAFSD), won the Best Paper Award for his study, *"Apparent Metabolizable Energy of Basal Feeds for Itikpinas-Itim (Anas platyrhynchos)"* during the 60th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting of the Philippine Society of Animal Science (PSAS), held from October 17-20 at Bohol Tropics Resort in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Co-authored by Dr. Antonio Barroga, Dr. Joice San Andres, Dr. Claro Mingala, Dr. Anna Maria Latonio, and Dr. Sharon Lazaro, the study bested eight other entries under the animal nutrition category. The event, themed "Strengthening the Animal Industry towards Resiliency," provided a platform for knowledge-sharing among members through scientific paper and poster presentations, as well as plenary sessions.
- **Promotion of sustainable agriculture and livelihood creation.** Promoting sustainable agriculture and livelihood creation, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) Extension Directorate organized a skills training on organic fertilizer production on April 25 at the NBERIC Conference Hall. Forty-one participants, including MMSU utility workers, Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) teachers from the Schools Divisions of Batac and Laoag City, and a representative from Adams' local government, joined the event. The training included a hands-on demonstration, equipping participants with practical skills to produce organic fertilizer. This initiative supports the university's waste management efforts and DepEd's agri-based initiatives, while fostering earth-friendly approaches and capability-building for sustainable agriculture.