



## RESPONSE TO RTEC COMMENTS

SETUP CORE ☐ LOCAL GIA ☒

Project Title:	Compatibility Testing of Indigenous Crops with Cacao for the Formulation of New Chocolate Products
Beneficiary/Proponent:	Western Philippines University
Province:	Palawan
Amount Requested:	P 370,000.00
Date of Evaluation:	October 19, 2023


RTEC Comments	Response
In incorporating indigenous crops in the chocolate, consider starting with cashew since it is available all year round.	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> or cashew will be the priority native fruit in this study considering the abundance of this crop in the province, but cashew is seasonal and the nuts may not be available year round.
As part of the sustainability plan, establish the data on the distribution and fruiting season of the indigenous crops that will be used in this project.	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. The project implementers will also establish the data on the distribution and fruiting season of the indigenous crops that will be used in this project to provide a reference for future studies.
Since there is an ongoing shortage of chocolates worldwide, consider the potential of this study on an international scale.	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. Products developed will not only be for local consumption but also the priority for the international market will be considered since these kinds of products are in demand in the world market considering many are now health conscious because of increasing health risks of people consuming animal-based products in chocolates and low supply of cacao beans in the international market. One stakeholder in this project, Ms. Angeleah Montilde already has international connections and experience.
Ensure that the quality of the cacao does not vary widely to avoid rejects in the production.	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. The researchers of this project will consider this suggestion once the project is in implementation phase.
Consider incorporating virgin coconut oil in chocolate production.	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. The researchers of this project will consider this suggestion once the project is in implementation phase.



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Science and Technology**  
**MIMAROPA Region**

<b>Consider coordinating with Mr. Melvin Allan Hipol, co-founder of Brewsco Coffee Roasters, in sourcing single-source beans.</b>	Mr. Melvin Allan Hipol already has previous engagements with PSTO-Palawan for certain cacao-related pieces of training and, since then, has been instrumental in the conceptualization of this project. He is also the one who introduced the KoKoMo Chocolate to the PSTO-Palawan and helped link cacao farmers with potential markets.
<b>Conduct acceptability tests and cost analyses in testing the compatibility of the indigenous crops in chocolates.</b>	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. This has been included in the specific objectives of the proposal. Refer to 7.3 of the proposal.
<b>After the completion of this project, consider proposing another project under CRADLE as a follow-through project focused on commercialization.</b>	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. As part of the sustainability plan, after the completion of this project, the project implementers will consider proposing another project under CRADLE as a follow-through project focused on commercialization.
<b>Define in the contract the specific roles and responsibilities of all parties involved.</b>	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. Refer to part 20 of the proposal under the Personnel Requirement where the responsibilities of each personnel are summarized.
<b>Consider changing the project title to, "Compatibility Testing of Indigenous Crops with Cacao for the Formulation of New Chocolate Products".</b>	Comment incorporated in the revised proposal. The project title was changed from "Research and Development of New Chocolate Products" to "Compatibility Testing of Indigenous Crops with Cacao for the Formulation of New Chocolate Products".

Prepared by:

  
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Noted by:

  
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