VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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VSU EXTENSION PROJECT
ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

CY 2022

I. Basic Information

1. Program/Project Title: Pest Clinic
   Program/Project Leader: Justine Bennette Millado/Fely Falcone

2. Project Component (s):
   Staff Involved: DPM Faculty as Subject-Matter Specialists

3. Implementing Unit: Department of Pest Management, Visayas State University

4. Cooperating Agencies: Local Government Units (LGUs), Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), and National Coconut Research Center-Visayas (NCRC-V)

5. Program/Project Sites: Region VIII

6. Duration

   a. Date Started: 1978
   b. Expected date of completion: Continuing

7. Financial report for the year under review
   a. Total approved budget: PhP 40,000.00
   b. Actual released budget: PhP 40,000.00
   c. External support or counterpart funds from cooperating agencies:
   d. Actual expenditures:

II. Technical Report

A. Executive Summary

The activities conducted by the Pest Clinic staff, upon request by clientele, can be grouped into the following: 1) pest diagnosis, identification and control/management recommendations; 2) pest surveillance or monitoring particularly for new/emerging pest problems in Region VIII; 3) practical trainings/briefings/info campaigns to clients on proper pest identification and management; 4) resource persons in trainings/seminars, farmers' fora, FFDs/FFS upon request.

Through the years, the Pest Clinic continued to serve clients not only from the region, but occasionally, from other parts of the country. These clients included farmers, commercial growers, private and government agencies, researchers and students. In the past years, practical trainings were conducted on pest identification including household pests and their management.

From 2013 to date, the usual activities were conducted on all crops but a generous part of the budget was allotted for the surveillance/assessments/familiarization and management of coconut pests in particular, *Brontispa,* rhinoceros beetle and "cocolisap" (coconut scale insects, *Aspidiotus rigidus*) and other emerging pests of coconut. Trainings/informal briefings on pest assessment, identification, and mass production and introduction of parasitoids (*Tetrastichus brontispae*) to *Brontispa*-infested plantations were conducted all over the region in collaboration with NCRC-V, PCA and LGUs. Although occasional minor infestations of the native scale insect *Aspidiotus destructor* have been observed, yet no infestation of the invasive "cocolisap" was observed in the region to date.

During this time of pandemic, the routine activities of the DPM Pest Clinic have been halted. Without proper surveillance and monitoring, pest problems might bloom again, which could have been addressed if strict border checks and community quarantines were not implemented, and field visits and consultations were not affected. As much as we want to keep in check the pest and disease status in the fields, Pest Clinic staff is also keen in observing the minimum health protocols because we ourselves know the impact if this COVID-19 will spread among us.

However, these challenges could not stop us to continue the services that we have been started wherein many clients have already benefited. That's why Pest Clinic pursues to adopt the technologies, like virtual consultations and on-air info campaign, in order to remain its goal to be partner of the farmers, students, and all other collaborating agencies in solving our pest and disease problems of the different crops in in the region and nearby areas. We have served a number of people in various ways such as in diagnosis (6); consultation (19); Facebook reach (21, 695); Training (727). We have also made partnerships with various universities such as BISU, Bilar Campus, De La Salle University Biological Control Research Unit, International Coconut Community, and University of St. La Salle Dasmariñas Campus.

B. Rationale

The presence of pests has always been one of the problems faced by crop growers since the start of agriculture. Pests cause severe damage to their crops which in extreme cases results in tremendous losses of their produce. Although solutions to some of these problematic pests have been identified, new pests have also emerged so that man is in constant battle against them. In addition, the population of pests attacking crops often changes from time to time. Therefore, information regarding these pests must be known so that the most appropriate management action against them can be efficiently implemented. Thus, the Pest Clinic of the Department of Pest Management must continue to operate. The Pest Clinic Staff, with their varied expertise and experiences in pest identification and management hopes that through this project, the clients' problems on pests, through correct pest diagnosis and pest management recommendations, would be alleviated.

C. Logical Framework

	Project Summary	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumption(s)
Goal	Empowered clientele aware of the importance and proper management of pests	Number of clients served and able to manage pest problems	DA reports, field visits and monitoring reports, feedback from clients	Clients are willing to learn and adopt new technologies/ strategies of managing pests
Purpose	Reduced pest incidence through proper pest identification and pest management recommendation	Reduced pest incidence by at least 30% in farmers' field	Pictorial, field visit and monitoring reports by Pest Clinic Specialists, DA reports	Clients are willing to adopt the pest management recommendations
Objectives	1. To provide diagnosis to pest problems and recommended options	At least 2 clients per year	Number of specimens submitted and diagnosed	Clients have the means and willing to submit specimens for identification/ diagnosis; sustained assistance of DA technicians
	2. To provide surveillance and monitoring activities particularly for new/emerging pest problems in Region VIII	At least 1 per year	Number of trips conducted; number of requests served	Pest Clinic specialists are available for travel, DA, PCA and other clients are willing to report new pest problems
	3. To provide practical trainings/briefings/info campaigns on proper pest identification and management	At least 1 per year	Number of requests received; number of trainings/ briefings/ info campaigns conducted	Pest Clinic Specialists are available; sustained assistance of DA, PCA and LGUs
	4. To establish/ strengthen/ sustain linkages with LGUs/ NGOs/ Government/ private agencies for	Sustained linkages with at least 2 agencies	Communications/ requests received and dialogues conducted	Pest Clinic specialists are willing to assist concerned agencies

	capability building particularly in the field of crop protection			
Output	1. 100% of requests granted on diagnosis of specimens and recommended management options	All requests processed within the year	Number of specimens submitted and diagnosed	Clients have the means and willing to submit specimens for identification/ diagnosis; sustained assistance of DA technicians
	2. Conduct of surveillance and monitoring activities particularly for new/ emerging pest problems in Region VII upon request	At least 1 per year	Number of trips conducted; number of requests served	Pest Clinic specialists are available for travel; DA, PCA and other clients are willing to report new pest problems
	3. Conduct trainings/ briefings/ info campaigns on proper pest identification and management	At least 2 per year	Number of requests received; number of trainings/ briefings/ info campaigns conducted	Pest Clinic specialists are available; sustained assistance of DA, PCA and LGUs
	4. Established/ strengthened/ sustained linkages with LGUs/NGOs/ Government/ private agencies for capability building particularly in the field of crop protection	Sustained linkages with at least 2 agencies	Communications/ requests received and dialogues conducted	Pest Clinic specialists are always willing to assist concerned clients
Activities	1.1 Diagnose specimens and recommended management options from walk-in clients	Diagnose 100% of specimens submitted within the time frame	Pest Clinic report	Pest Clinic specialists are always available
	1.2 On-field diagnosis of specimens	Conduct upon request by	Field visits and monitoring	Sustained assistance of LGUs/NGOs,

		client/partner agency	reports; feedback from clients	Pest Clinic Specialists are always available
	1.3 Identify insect specimens from student thesis	Identify specimens submitted	Pest Clinic report	Identification references and experts are available
	2.1 Conduct pest surveillance and monitoring activities on coconut pests	Conduct upon request by client/partner agency	DA and PCA reports, feedback from clients, travel orders (TO) of pest clinic staff	Clients are willing to attend trainings; Pest Clinic staff are always available; budget is available
	3.1 Conduct trainings on pest identification and management	Conduct at least 1 per year, upon request	Attendance sheet; certificate of appearance	Pest Clinic specialists are always available; sustained collaboration with LGUs and NGOs
	3.2 Conduct briefings on pest identification in vegetables and coconut and their management options	Conduct briefings of emerging pest problems, or upon request	Pest Clinic report, travel orders (TO) and certificate of appearance	Pest Clinic specialists are always available; sustained collaboration with LGUs and NGOs
	3.3 Preparation of information materials	Prepared at least 1	Number of information materials prepared and distributed	Clients are willing to learn and adopt new information
	4.1 Conduct dialogues/ consultations with LGUs, DA and PCA	Conduct at least 1 per year	Travel order (TO) and certificate of appearance	Sustained assistance of LGUs/ NGOs, Pest Clinic specialists are always available
	4.2 Serve requests for assistance from LGUs and PCA on pest monitoring in coconut	Serve 100% of requests	Request letters, TO and certificate of appearance	Pest Clinic specialists are always available for travel; cost-sharing of travel expenses with requesting party

D. Methodologies Employed

1. Pest Diagnosis
    a. Walk-in clients
    Samples brought to the Pest Clinic were forwarded to the Pest Clinic staff who are experts on the pest problem at hand:
        i. Weeds – Weed scientists
        ii. Diseases – Plant Pathologists/Microbiologist
        iii. Water samples – Microbiologist
        iv. Arthropod pests – Entomologists/Acarologists
    b. Samples were examined and/or processed by the assigned staff.
    The causal factors were examined and appropriate control actions were recommended to the clients through collaborative decision making. For the specimens that cannot be diagnosed using the commonly used procedures, they were submitted to the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (PDDL).

2. Field Visits or Monitoring
    a. Field reported by clients (farmers, researchers, technicians, thesis students, among others) to have pest problems or as part of the routine pest surveillance activity, they were visited upon the request. Surveillance and monitoring of coconut pests were done in coordination with NCRC-V, PCA and LGUs.
    b. Possible factors causing the problem in the field were identified through the symptoms manifested in the plant.
    c. Samples of affected plants were collected for laboratory examinations by the staff.
    d. Appropriate pest management strategies were formulated and recommended.

3. Consultations
    a. Clients (whether appearing in person or through telephone conversation) who need assistance on pest-related matters were attended to.
    b. Problems were identified whenever possible.
    c. Possible solutions to the problem were recommended.

4. Trainings/Briefings
    a. Request from LGUs, NGOs, and any other groups for trainings/assistance in trainings/briefings on pest management were addressed to the department head who notifies the staff concerned based on the training requested.
    b. The materials needed for the training were prepared by the concerned staff who served as the resource person.

5. Linkages with Collaborating Agencies
    a. Constant dialogue with PCA and DA was done to follow-up/monitor progress/status of the pest problems in the region.
    b. Conducted routine/requested field visits to monitor or identify pest problems and recommended management options; conducted training when the need arises.

E. Results/Accomplishments

1. Pest Diagnosis, Management Recommendations, Consultations/Field Visits and Trainings

a. Due to the limited on-campus access by the clientele, consultations with the Pest Clinic were mostly held virtually and requests were made through electronic platforms. Walk-in clients composed of staff and faculty from inside the university seeking assistance with projects and/or with their student advisees. These included pest identification and/or confirmation. We have served a number of people in various ways such as in diagnosis (6); consultation (19); Facebook reach (21, 695); Training (727).
b. The social media page for the Pest Clinic was opened to cater for a wider audience without compromising the health of the specialists and the clients. Inquiries were received through messages sent thru the page's inbox. These inquiries were answered by the resident page managers or were forwarded to specialists when necessary. The page also published some infographics on many common pests that could possibly be encountered at home or in the farm.
c. On the other hand, field visits were limited to project-related farms due to travel restrictions imposed by the city.
d. Dr. Millado served as trainor and resource speaker face to face and via online in partner universities such as Bohol Island State University, De La Salle University, and University of St. La Salle.
e. Trainings and briefing on pest identification and management options were done to help coconut and vegetable farmers in the region.
f. Served as moderator in the 1st International IPM symposium on coconut.
g. Made partnerships with various universities such as BISU, Bilar Campus, De La Salle University Biological Control Research Unit, International Coconut Community, and University of St. La Salle Dasmariñas Campus and agencies such as PCA Region VII, PCA region VIII, DA-RCPC Region VII and DA-RCPC Region VIII. These partnerships provide an avenue for future consultation, resource person and training needs.

F. Problems Met and Recommendations

1. Still adjusting to face-to-face conduct and limited time of resource persons/technical experts
   a. Online platforms should be promoted for the information dissemination and consultations such as the use of social media, teleconferencing or subject-matter specialist guesting through the local radio stations.

2. Due to the bulk of academic work, some of the planned activities of the pest clinic could not be carried out due to the lack of manpower.
   a. Accept fourth year plant protection majors for OJT training to assist in the classification of specimen and teach them on the basics of extension organization in the field of Pest Management.

G. Plans and Target for the next year (if continuing program/projects)

1. Conduct a needs assessment to determine the training needs of the target online audience. Based on the results of the consultation, a webinar will be organized on the identified topic/s to have an interactive consultation and info dissemination with the clients.

2. Re-arrangement of the Pest Clinic room and set-up of acquired laboratory materials needed for an effective diagnosis.

3. Organize pest specimens and prepare samples for donation to local agriculture offices to be included in setting up their pest library used for teaching farmer field schools.

4. Development of brochures, hand-outs and IEC materials for pests and diseases.