

# Strategies in Promoting Research Culture in SUCs and Countryside Development<sup>1</sup>

Merian C. Mani,<sup>2</sup> Jeter S. Sespeñe<sup>3</sup> and Eddie G. Fetalvero<sup>4</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*The Research, Extension and Production Center of Romblon State University employed strategic solutions to create a research climate, foster research interests and confidence and sustain the enthusiasm of faculty members through varied research capability building seminar workshops (RCBSW) and paper presentations. The R&D performance of the University was evaluated based on the indicators provided by the Commission on Higher Education, accreditation organizations, Department of Budget and Management and a self-assessment of R&D activities from 2003 to the present. The conduct of mandatory RCBSW in all the five colleges and eight campuses of the University increased substantially the number of active researchers and upgraded the performance of the faculty members and the University as a whole. The interventions made by the Southern Tagalog Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium ignited the enthusiasm of the R&D unit causing the institutes and campuses to follow suit. The Philippine Association of Research Managers, Inc. (PHILARM) through its President and the Commission on Higher Education – University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Zonal Research Center (CHED-UPLB-ZRC) have also played great roles in the awakening of the center. The series of collaborative RCBSW conducted by Philippine Association of Research Managers served as the groundwork in setting the directions and prioritizing the programs of the University. It also helped the University in defining its course of actions and in formulating annual performance targets for Research and Development. Institutional initiatives were fully implemented. Policies and guidelines on benefits, opportunities and grants were realized. Research linkages and networks were forged with local and international entities. Research climate was established and sustained. Research outputs were presented, published, disseminated and adopted, some were commercialized. Local government units facilitated the adoption of technologies in the countryside. Private entrepreneurs were also benefited from the technologies generated.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Winner, W.C. Medrano Award for Best R&D Management Paper and Poster during the 19<sup>th</sup> National Convention of Research Managers, Inc. in Mergrande Ocean Park, Talomo, Davao City on April 21-24, 2009. This paper was prepared before RSC was converted into a University.

<sup>2</sup> Doctor of Education; Vice President for Research, Extension and Production, RSU

<sup>3</sup> Doctor of Philosophy in Commerce; University President, RSU

<sup>4</sup> MA Science Education; Director for Research, RSU

**Key words:** *research capability building, research culture and research climate in SUCs, RDE management experience, PHILARM, STARRDEC and CHED-UPLB-ZRC's interventions in improving R&D management*

## RATIONALE

Romblon State College (RSC) is the only state college in the province of Romblon. Founded in 1915 as the Odiongan Farm School offering immediate courses in agriculture, it was converted into Odiongan Rural High School in 1929 offering complete secondary agricultural curriculum until 1946. In the following year, it was again converted into Odiongan High School offering four-year General Type A curriculum until 1956.

On December 31, 1956, by virtue of Republic Act 1391, the Odiongan High School was converted into Odiongan National Agricultural School offering complete Secondary Vocational Agricultural curriculum but was later renamed as the Romblon National Agricultural School by virtue of the General Appropriations Act of 1958. By virtue of Republic Act 4286 passed on July 1, 1965, Romblon National Agricultural School was converted into Romblon National Agricultural College in 1969. After five years, it became Romblon Agricultural College offering two-year Associate in Agriculture Technology under the Department of Education Culture and Sports Circular No. 8 S. 1974. On June 25, 1975, several four-year degree programs like Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education and Bachelor of Science in Home Technology were offered upon approval of then DECS Secretary Hon. Juan L. Manuel.

In 1983, the Hon. Nemesio V. Ganan, Jr. authored Parliamentary Bill 131 which was passed into law on May 18, 1983 known as Batas Pambansa Blg. 393 which mandated the college to offer eight undergraduate programs and three graduate degree programs.

The Board of Trustees of the College is empowered to offer additional programs aside from those that are embodied in the charter. Today the College offers nine graduate degree programs, 15 undergraduate degree programs, five ladderized courses, seven vocational/technical courses and a secondary course program. More over, there are two HEI's supervised by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) namely, the Romblon College of Fisheries and Forestry in San Andres, Romblon with eight satellite campuses and the Sibuyan Polytechnic College in San Fernando, Romblon that have been integrated with RSC. Being a Level II state college, RSC is tasked to perform instruction, research, extension and production. From its humble beginning as a farm school, it has grown into a comprehensive

college which now offers a Doctoral program in Educational Management, a consortium with the Philippine Normal University.

RSC is aggressively pushing to be a center of excellence for *instruction* in Agriculture, the art, sciences and functional scientific, social and technological *researches*; relevant *extension* services and quality *production* towards empowerment of graduates for sustainable development. It provides quality *education* through modernization, accreditation and effective consultation and linkages. It enhances *research* through expansion of commodity coverage and empowerment of faculty and staff members; intensifies *extension* through provision of impact projects; and improves *production* through the optimal utilization of available resources making its graduates effective development managers and useful citizens in the community.

In the previous years, R&D focused on the four areas of discipline: agriculture and fisheries, social sciences and education, vocational and technical education and arts and sciences. Now, the unit has metamorphosed into a Research and Development Center with eight areas. It has institutionalized the research function of the College. The 14- hectare campus in Odiongan is utilized for agricultural researches. It has acquired another 82 hectare agricultural land in Agpudlos, San Andres, Romblon where the AgroMet, RATC, ROCKS and the small ruminants are housed. It has expanded into campuses. Today the college has 13 research centers.

Side by side with the research function, the extension function is in close coordination in order to complete the RD&E continuum thus making the College responsive to the needs and concerns of the stakeholders in various areas.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To assess the research capability of the faculty members and the extent of the R&D functions of the College as a whole from school year 2003-04 to 2008-09;
2. To promote research capability building activities as a strategic solution in fostering interests of faculty and in establishing research culture among SUCs with poor R&D performance;
3. To account the extent of utilization of the research outputs by different stakeholders;
4. To trace how R&D outputs contribute in countryside development

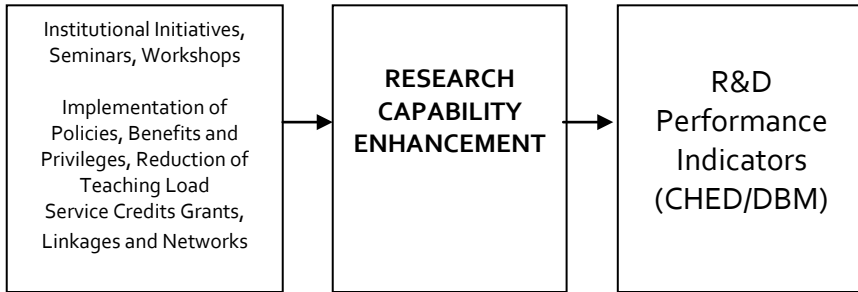


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted to assess the performance of the research and development function of the College. It specifically determined the research capability of the faculty members and the College as a whole after interventions had been provided. These activities involved the conduct of research capability building seminars and workshops, implementation of guidelines in the conduct of research, provisions of benefits and privileges and other institutional initiatives to further motivate faculty members to engage in research. After these activities and interventions had been made, the outputs of the faculty members and the College as a whole were summarized using the criteria set by the Commission on Higher Education and Department of Budget and Management.

Research capability indicators of faculty members and the College are the following:

1. Number of active researchers
2. Number of researches published in refereed journals locally and abroad
3. Number of research outputs utilized
4. Number of research disseminated in appropriate scientific symposia, seminars, conferences
5. Number of R&D proposals endorsed by DBM for funding
6. Number of R&D projects funded by external sources locally and abroad.
7. Number of GAA and locally funded R&D projects
8. Number of completed R & D projects not yet reported and published
9. Number of awards of distinction given to faculty R&D projects
10. Number of R&D reviews, seminars and symposia conducted

11. Annual appropriation (GAA) for research in pesos

Other indicators to evaluate the College which served as bases in determining research capability are:

1. Publications (flyers, brochures, books, newsletters, video CD)
2. Patents
3. Copyrights
4. MOA
5. Technology adopters

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **The RDE Unit: Then and Now**

Research activities have never been attractive to the faculty members since the school was established in 1915 until it became an Agricultural College in 1969. Within almost 40 years of existence as a college, its Research Development and Extension Center (RDEC) has not fully matured. The RDE unit of the college was established in 1980 only. The unit then focused on agricultural researches particularly crop and animal sciences. In 1988 the unit was manned by an agricultural engineer who planned the organizational structure of the unit and established linkages with other State Universities and Colleges, Government and Non-Government Agencies. The directorship of the unit was then transferred in 1996 to another expert whose leadership focused on the framing of the RDE Manual of Operations aside from the experimental researches conducted. After three years, the headship of the RDE unit was given to another senior faculty member. From 2002 until October 2007, three more directors were appointed one at a time. There was a fast turn over of leadership of the unit. This might be accounted to the earnest desire of the administration to make the unit functional and operational. Unfortunately, earning the first point in Research and Development was not met. In October 2007, the administration decided to appoint one director for research and one extension director under the office of the Vice President for Research Development and Extension. This decision was in compliance with one of the recommendations made by the AACUP Accreditation team. The outset of 2008 brought new opportunities for the college' RDE unit.

### **Agenda Setting and Program Prioritization Through PHILARM, CHED-UPLB-ZRC and STARRDEC**

The new leadership believed in the scientific and teamwork management approach in sustaining the research climate in a comprehensive college. The director believed that success in research could

only be possible by joining the loop and networking with other SUCs, NGOs, GAs and funding agencies, thus, breaking the wall of inculturation and paving the way for the new ideas and methodology in RDE. The RDE management had to employ unique strategies and appropriate and relevant techniques. The research and development activities must jibe with the national, regional, and local research agenda. Most likely these agenda spelled out the needs and concerns of stakeholders. Guided by the above principles, the unit conducted an RCBSW. This was a rigid situational analysis which involved participation from different agencies, whose thrusts and priorities were highly considered and SWOT Analysis. In the environmental analysis, the opportunities and threats were summarized. The organizational analysis dissected the assessment areas with the corresponding strengths and weaknesses. This was followed by the identification of the Key Areas of Concern using the external and internal analysis method. The process moved to the criteria setting employing the "must" and "discriminating" criteria. Then, the evaluation and priority setting was done. Finally the College was able to come up with a reliable and clear R&D program priorities. This was one of the most helpful activities among the many research capability building seminars and workshops done in the past.

The above activity facilitated by an expert from PHILARM, CHED-UPLB Zonal Research Center and STARRDEC confirmed the data gathered by the RDE Center through its director in an area scanning which revealed the following findings: that RSC has potential researchers and rich researchable areas; that the previous directors of the unit conducted several basic and applied researches, but only two were presented in a research symposium; many experimental researches were conducted but were not properly documented and completed; funding was insufficient; the administration and faculty members have concentrated more on instruction, production and extension thereby neglecting research. Only three percent of the 218 faculty members were actively involved in research. Findings also revealed that research proposals were not subjected to panel or audience for critiquing. Very few research proposals were processed and completed. It was also found out that for the first 15 years of operation of the unit; only three R&D agenda were set: agricultural development, home technology and agricultural education. Thus, the research function was not able to cater the entire needs of the College particularly the faculty members and the community. The direction of the unit was vague and funding was very scarce.

## Joining the Loop: The Conduct of Research Capability Building Seminars and Workshops

The conduct of research capability building seminar workshops (RCBSW) was planned and implemented to solve the problems of low profile and interests along research function. Prior to 2003-04, RCBSW conducted were limited to (1) research agenda setting, (2) identification of research problems and (3) research format. Only those who had interests in the field joined the research capability building. With this situation, not many were convinced and motivated to conduct researches. Many would see research as a tedious and unrewarding job.

In 2006, one of the policies of the college was to require all faculty members with a rank of Assistant Professor up to conduct researches related to the field of their specialization hence they were obliged to undergo RCBSW to prepare them for the job. At the start, there was some animosity on the part of the faculty maybe because they had not yet fully realized the value of research. In the middle part of 2007, the RDE unit conducted an area scanning among the institutes in the main campus and the eight campuses of RSC. Findings revealed that the faculty members were passive towards research activities because they lacked the knowledge and skills in the conduct of research. This was where the PHILARM and STARRDEC came to the picture.

*R&D Agenda Formation and Program Prioritization.* The collaborative activity on RCBSW was sponsored by the two organizations on May 4-5, 2008. The first was the R&D Agenda Formation and Program Prioritization followed by the formulation of the RDE Manual and the Organizational Set Up. Policies and procedures were presented, discussed and finalized. One of the outputs in the RCBSW was the formulation of the Annual Performance Target based on the results of the R&D agenda setting. Few months later, the RCBSW was replicated in different campuses.

*Research Proposal Writeshop.* The next phases of training assistance given by PHILARM, STARRDEC and CHED-UPLB-ZRC came last August 25-26, 2008, where they facilitated a Research Proposal Writeshop con review. This was participated in by all Research Coordinators and selected researchers from the five institutes in the main campus and the other eight campuses of the RSC system. In this activity, all participants were required to write and present their research proposals for critiquing and evaluation in front of panelists coming from the pool of experts from different government and non-government agencies. The Vice President and Director of the RDE Unit and the facilitators were part of the panel.

*National Environmental Summit.* In the same month, the RDE Unit spearheaded the first ever national research event hosted by the college, the National Environmental Summit. The summit featured Paper Presentation, Symposia, Ugnayan at Talakyan sa Isyu ng Pagmimina, Essay Writing and On-the-Spot Poster making Contests. The activity was in collaboration with the DENR, DA, DOLE, DOST, DTI, STARRDEC, PHILARM, CHED-UPLB-ZRC, NGO's, SUCS and LGU's. The theme centered on: "Enhancing Sustainable Agriculture, Economic and Environmental Development Through R & D Initiatives". The Summit made an indelible mark in the R&D aspect of the College because there were six researchers from RSC who presented their papers and three of them were adjudged as first, second and third in the Environment and Sustainable Development Category. The participants came from SUCS, NGO's, the religious sector and private institutions from different regions. Twenty eight papers were submitted for presentation and 16 were chosen and presented. The activity boosted the morale of the local researchers. Many faculty members showed interest in RDE after that experience because local presenters were given plaque of recognition and cash incentives by the College President. This ignited the enthusiasm of many faculty members to engage in research. Majority of the faculty members witnessed the presentation which made them realize that they, too, had potentials of their own.

*IBA Research Symposium.* A month after (Oct. 3-4, 2008), the Institute of Business and Accountancy initiated the first Research Symposium on the institute level. They highlighted presentations of eight papers relevant to the theme "Cultivation of Research Culture Towards a State of the Art Business Education." This was participated in by amateur researchers from other institutes and campuses. The highlights of the papers presented were released in monographs and journals. After this experience, they gained confidence towards research works and were highly motivated to undertake or be a part of a research project.

*Going International for the First Time.* In the same month, two researchers of the College participated in international conferences on separate occasions, where they presented a paper and a poster, the first time for the College. This was a bold step towards higher achievement of the RDE unit.

*R&D Initiatives in Full Swing.* Inspired by the events and opportunities, the College administration declared full support to the Research and Development programs and thrusts, and to the faculty researchers. The RDE team conducted several RCBSWs in different campuses as requested. Various institutes and campuses initiated In-house Reviews. Last February 2-4, 2009, the RDE Center sponsored the Research



Capability Building and Agency In-House Review to screen research proposals for institutional funding. Twenty of these proposals were funded by the GAA and three were submitted to DBM for possible financial assistance. Another inspiring event concerning the RDE happened last February 17-20, 2009, where two RSC researchers were accepted to present their papers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of State Universities and Colleges Teacher Educators Association (SUCTEA), held at the University of Rizal System in Morong, Rizal.

Recently, Romblon State College was one of the eleven research proponents from Region IV and V that received a two hundred thousand peso-grant from CHED-UPLB-ZRC to fund its research project. Aside from this grant, four proposals were accepted by various funding agencies like PCARRD, NEDA, FIDA and DA. The releases were programmed for 2009.

Moreover, as the researchers gained confidence through various exposure and capability building, they tried to embrace and promote a culture of research, thus, the research climate in the college has tremendously heightened within a short span of time.

After the conduct of RCBSW and the attendance of research coordinators and researchers in off-campus research capability building, the research climate of the College was strengthened thereby fostering a research culture. This was manifested by the submission of research proposals attuned to the research agenda of the College, the region and the country. The number of active researchers quantum leaped from 3 percent to 8.72 percent. These were the faculty members who had actually conducted and presented their outputs in local, regional, national and international conferences. Several research outputs were published as monographs, sporadic papers, and journals. These researches were self-financed; others were partly funded by NGOs, NGAs and GAA. The figures show that now, there are already 52 faculty members out of 218 who are actively involved in research. Said figures are much higher than the figures prior to 2004.

Table 1a. Number of RCBSWs conducted in the College

	2003	2004 –	2005 –	2006 –	2007 –	2008 –
SEMINARS-WORKSHOPS	-	05	06	07	08	09
	04					
<b>Main Campus:</b>						
Institute of Business & Accountancy	0	1	1	2	3	4
Institute of Arts and Sciences	0	1	1	1	2	2
Institute of Agriculture, Fishery & Forestry	0	1	1	1	2	2
Institute of Engineering &	0	1	1	2	2	2

SEMINARS-WORKSHOPS	2003 - 04	2004 - 05	2005 - 06	2006 - 07	2007 - 08	2008 - 09
Technology Institute of Professional Studies & Teacher Education	0	1	1	2	2	3
Science Laboratory High School	0	1	1	1	1	2
<b>Satellite Campuses:</b>						
San Andres Campus	0	0	1	1	2	2
Calatrava Campus	0	0	1	1	2	2
Cabolutan Campus (RCFF)	0	0	1	2	2	2
Sta. Maria Campus	0	0	1	0	1	2
Sawang Campus	0	0	1	0	1	2
San Fernando Campus	0	1	1	2	2	2
Cajidiocan Campus	0	0	1	1	1	2
<b>Institutional Level</b>						
Research Agenda Setting	-	/	/	/	/	/
In-House Review- Research Proposal	-	-	/	/	/	/
In-House-Review-Completed Researches	-	-	-	-	/	/
Research Proposal Writeshop	-	-	-	-	/	/
Technical Writing	-	-	-	-	/	/
Intellectual Property Rights/Patenting	-	-	-	-	/	/
Ethics in Research	-	-	-	-	/	/
Prescribe Research Proposal Formats	-	-	-	-	-	/
RDE Manual, Rules & Procedures	-	-	-	-	-	/
Workshop on the Preparation of Annual Performance Target of RDE	-	-	-	-	/	/

Table 1b. Number of RCBSWs Attended Off-Campus

AY	TOTAL	OFF-CAMPUS RCBSW
2004-05	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthening Research Capability of Educators, Researchers and Thesis Advisers in Humanities, Social Sciences and Communication-UP-QC</li> <li>▪ Statistical Data Processing and Interpretation</li> </ul>
2005-06	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Seminar Workshop on Research Education &amp; Development</li> <li>▪ 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Beyond Research Forum-Ramon Magsaysay Technological University</li> </ul>
2006-07	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research Capability Enhancement Training Workshop-DOST</li> </ul>
2007-08	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical Report Writing-PCARRD</li> <li>▪ Research Symposium-STARRDEC</li> <li>▪ Women's International Conference – Thailand</li> <li>▪ Research Proposal Writeshop (4 RCBSWs)</li> <li>▪ STARRDEC - 2</li> </ul>

AY	TOTAL	OFF-CAMPUS RCBSW
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PCARRD - 1</li> <li>▪ DA-BAR – 1</li> </ul>
2008-09	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intellectual Property Rights/Patenting</li> <li>▪ CHED_UPLB_ZRC Orientation on MOA and Fund Management</li> <li>▪ SUCTEA International Conference- URS- Morong, Rizal</li> <li>▪ International Research Capability Building – CLSU – Laguna</li> <li>▪ Research Proposal Writeshop (7 RCBSWs)</li> <li>▪ STARRDEC - 1</li> <li>▪ PCARRD - 2</li> <li>▪ DA-BAR – 2</li> <li>▪ CHED-UPLB-CRC - 2</li> </ul>

Research proposals submitted and reviewed are prioritized by the RDE Center. Researches with significance to the regional and national agenda are endorsed to various government agencies and to linkages and networks of the College. Some even financed their own projects due to limited budget.

Table 2. Comparison of Research Information

Research Information	BEFORE 2003	2004 – 2009
No. of Research Areas	3	8
No. of active researchers	3	52
No. of Research Centers	1	15

There are now eight areas of R & D at the college. These are the following:

1. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery and Natural Resources
2. Business, Management and Cooperatives Researches
3. Marine and Freshwater Researches
4. Education, Curriculum, Culture and Sports Researches
5. Socio-Economics, Political Science and Gender Studies
6. Industry & Energy Researches
7. Mining, Ecotourism, and Environmental Researches
8. Information Technology and other Field of Engineering Researches

The rise in enthusiasm and motivations of the faculty researchers paved the way to the creation of new areas of discipline. Originally, there were only three, by 2004 - 2007 there were already eight. With the varied expertise and the education the researchers finished in graduate studies, new research and research-related centers were established. Five centers have been established recently; the Agricultural Meteorological Station (AgroMet), Banana Tissue Culture and Diagnostic Laboratory, the Romblon Agriculture Technology Center (RATC),

The Romblon Center for Kanidugan Studies (ROCKS) and the Organic Vegetable Experimental Station (OVES).

### **Implementation of Policies Benefits, Incentives and Motivations**

The Research and Development Office which is tasked to oversee all research programs and projects, policies and guidelines conducted a one day orientation on the RDE Manual and Research Institutional Format. Procedures were discussed thoroughly. It was made clear that upon notification on the approval for funding, researchers are required to submit their operational plans, conduct their activities and submit their accomplishments. The researchers are required to prepare a publishable copy of the results of their outputs upon incorporating all suggestions for publication. Service credits are given to them as long as their regular teaching load is not lessened. Such is attested by the VPAA. Their works are to be published in the RSC Research Journal and endorsed to refereed journals. Any approved research that cannot be completed at the approved time frame is to be accompanied with a written explanation which will be evaluated and recommended by the Research Council for another grant in the succeeding year depending on its merit.

The researchers are to be provided with funding after presenting their research output in local, regional and international venues. These will be endorsed by the R&D Office after presenting a letter of acceptance from organizing or sponsoring agencies. Researches that have been completed and published are given two points in the NBC 461. Researches are packaged into matured technologies. The College provides funds for production of flyers, brochures, patenting and copyright applications and processing.

### **Linkages and Networks**

During 2004 -2009, the College got a substantial number of linkages and networks. Much effort was spent and the initiative was spearheaded by the RDE office and other college offices including the Office of the President and the Office of the VPRDE. The R&D Office has eight international and 45 national and regional linkages thus contributing to the sustained increase in the indicators. The partnerships and collaborations they generated and forged paved the way to a better and sustained performance of the researchers. Highlights included the memberships of RSC to STARRDEC, a regional agriculture consortium, and the Philippine Council for Agriculture Research and Resources Development (PCARRD). PHILARM and CHED-UPLB-ZRC have been very influential in the revitalization of the RDE center of the

college. The RCBSW on R&D Agenda Formation and Program Prioritization facilitated by the Dr. Erlinda B. Aromin of PHILARM in collaboration with STARRDEC served as the take off point of the R&D activities of the college. This was followed by the team from DOST that conducted a one day orientation on funding assistance and grants for qualifiers to their S & T Priority Thrust.

The existence of collaborations between the College and each of the organizations facilitated the fast movement of expertise to and from the collaborators. All started from the spirit of partnership and cooperation which brought the College to join the loop and into global perspectives. With each organization working hand in hand with RSC, the college, which was on the height of working hard for the accreditation of programs and its quest for its university status, benefited a lot. The College passed several evaluation committees, particularly in the RDE aspect and recently has been favorably recommended for university conversion by the evaluators from the office of the CHED Commissioner, Hon. Emmanuel Y. Angeles.

Table 4. Research Linkages and Networks of RSC

LINKAGES AND NETWORKS		OFFICE LOCATION	YEAR
INTERNATIONAL			
1.	Australian Agricultural Technology Center	Australia	2000
2.	Intl Timber Trade Organization (ITTO)	Nagoya, Japan	2002
3.	Romblon Discussion List – Cultural, Livelihood and Educational Assistance for Romblon	Chicago, Illinois, USA	2003
4.	Ministry of Education and Training-Vietnam	Vietnam	2004
5.	JICA	Japan	2005
6.	Cuban Government	Cuba	2005
7.	Intl Network for Bamboo & Rattan (INBAR)	Beijing, China	2006
8.	Japan Businessmen Organization	Japan	2007
9.	Theresian International Foundation	Phoenix, Arizona USA	2008
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL			
1.	DEPED	Romblon	1983
2.	NEDA	Quezon City	1986
3.	NRCP	Taguig City	1986
4.	Department of Agriculture	Quezon City	1990
5.	DBM	Quezon City	1997
6.	Natural Products Society of the Philippines (NPSF)	UP Diliman, Q.C.	1997
7.	STARRDEC-PCARRD	Los Banos, Laguna	1998
8.	BFAR	Quezon City	1998
9.	Cavite State University	Indang, Cavite	2000
10.	DOST	Bicutan, Metro Manila	2000
11.	PCIERD	Taguig City, Manila	2000
12.	UPLB-FPRDI-ERDB-BioTech-CFNR	Los Banos, Laguna	2000
13.	Agriculture Technology Institute	Quezon City	2000
14.	TESDA		2000
15.	Batangas State University	Batangas City	2004
16.	Mindoro College of Agriculture and	Oriental, Mindoro	2004

LINKAGES AND NETWORKS	OFFICE LOCATION	YEAR
Technology		
17. Occidental Mindoro National College	Occidental, Mindoro	2004
18. Palawan State University	Puerto Princesa City	2004
19. UST	Espana, Manila	2004
20. De la Salle University	Manila	2005
21. UP Diliman –NISMED	Quezon City	2005
22. NIA Reg. !V-B	Metro Manila	2005
23. KALAH!-DAR	Quezon City	2005
24. Development Academy of the Philippines	Pasig City	2005
25. National Commission for Indigenous People	Quezon City	2005
26. Central Phil. University	Iloilo City	2005
27. University of Northern Philippines	Ilocos Norte	2005
28. DOLE	Metro Manila	2006
29. AACCU!P		2006
30. PASUC		2006
31. STAVE		2006
32. CHEd-UPLB-ZRC	OVCRE-Los Banos	2007
33. Grassland Society of the Philippines	ERDB, Laguna	2007
34. Local Government Training Research Institute Philippine Network	Mandaluyong	2007
35. PUP	Sta. Mesa, Manila	2007
36. Western Philippine University	Aborlan, Palawan	2007
37. UCPB-CIF	Metro Manila	2007
38. DTI	Makati City	2007
39. Peace and Equity Foundation	Quezon City	2007
40. AROPAD	Romblon	2007
41. University of Asia and the Pacific	Ortigas, Pasig City	2008
42. West Visayas State University	La Paz, Iloilo	2008
43. FIDA	Quezon City	2008
44. PHILRICE	Nueva Ecija	2008
45. OVCRE-UPLB	Los Banos, Laguna	2008

## Indicators

As shown by the dramatic change in values and work attitudes towards research work, the performance of the faculty members improved after the series of RCBSW had been conducted to them. The activity created an awareness and provided motivations for them to start and think of research topics in their respective fields of discipline (Table 5). The capability of the researcher was measured through his finished outputs, like research papers or posters presented locally or internationally and the publications of these papers in research journals. There were RSC researchers who were able to present their outputs in Thailand and Japan. Some faculty researches presented their papers in International Conferences held here in the Philippines. Three research proposals have been presented recently at DBM and have been endorsed for funding. Another four proposals have been evaluated and approved for funding by other funding institutions. Fifteen proposals are now funded under GAA. There is a more substantial increase of proposals and GAA funded projects compared to the earlier time frame. The RDE unit already received a Php2.4 million

funding assistance for R&D and Php 1.4 million for Extension from the Congressional Development Fund for 2009.

Table 5. RSC R&D Performance from AY 2003-04 to AY 2008-09

INDICATORS	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	TOTAL
1. No. of faculty involved in research	3	18	14	10	28	52	125
2. No. of researches published in refereed journals local & international	0	0	4	1	1	0	6
3. No. of research outputs utilized	0	0	2	5	6	8	21
4. No. of research disseminated in symposia, seminars and conferences	0	1	2	5	5	12	25
5. No. of R&D proposals endorsed by DBM for funding	0	0	0	1	1	3	5
6. No. of R&D projects funded by external sources:	0	0	2	2	3	6	13
a. DA – (P3M)							
b. DOST- (P250,000.00)							
c. PEF-AROPAD – (P70,000.00)							
d. CHED-UPLB-ZRC – (P200,000.00)							
e. DTI – (P17,000.00)							
f. Cong. Madrona’s CDF – (P3.8M)							
7. No. of GAA and locally funded R&D Projects	0	0	0	0	3	15	18
8. No. of completed R&D not yet reported and published	5	9	7	6	16	20	63
9. No. of Awards of distinction given to faculty R&D Projects	1	0	0	0	3		11
a. *National- 3						3*	
b. **International – 4						4**	
10. No. of R&D reviews, seminars and symposia conducted	0	5	1	2	4	6	18
11. Annual Appropriation (GAA) for Research (in thousand pesos)	145	365	365	365	335	511	2,086

### Research Results Dissemination and Utilization

The research generated were packaged in forms understood and utilized by the target clients, beneficiaries and end-users. From 2003 to 2009, 19 out of 23 or 52.1 percent were utilized. Flyers, brochures and CDs of the technologies were also distributed to the end-users. Other media include the assembly called by the local executives where seminars and workshops were conducted. Furthermore, demonstration of matured technologies was done in the presence of the participants.

People in the countryside were the primary targets of the utilization of matured technologies. Some technologies were adopted for commercialization. The R&D Office and the Extension Services Office of the College arranged with local chief executives and officials on the dispersion of technologies and research findings. Needs assessment data were the bases for the delivery of appropriate technologies and research findings in the countryside. After which, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the College and the stakeholders were forged. The significant findings of researches and the technologies generated, disseminated, utilized and adopted helped upgrade the living conditions of the people in the countryside of Romblon and neighboring island provinces. Several R&D outputs were utilized to wit:

1. The research output of the Socio-Economic Profiling of the five poorest municipalities in the province of Romblon conducted by the Institute of Business and Accountancy was utilized by the NGOs and LGUs in formulating a five-year Development Plan to help alleviate poverty in the province.
2. The results of the study initiated by the RDE unit on the Plight of Filipino Women in Rural Communities were utilized as bases of the advocacy and program identification of the RWL-KALIPI.
3. The research outputs on the graduate tracer studies conducted by various institutes served as bases for curriculum revision and program enhancement.
4. The R&D outputs on Environmental Researches resulted to the production of instructional materials for environmental education.
5. The technologies generated on agricultural R&D about Off-Season Vegetable Production Organic Farming, High Valued Vegetable Production, etc. were now adopted by local farmers.

The RDE center had eight programs that served about 2,500 clients through seminars, information dissemination and trainings conducted from 2005 to date. Dissemination of present programs of the College on the utilization of matured technologies was highly commendable. A sample of matured technologies was popularized locally and nationally consisting of related technologies duly accepted by scientists, researchers, farmers and households.



## CONCLUSION

Research capability building activities created a research climate at the Romblon State College. Institutional initiatives along research functions were geared towards faculty motivation to go into research. Interests, enthusiasm and confidence that were established in the faculty members ushered a sustained performance in R&D putting the College in the local, national and international perspectives. Most importantly, the effort expended by the researchers helped win the most sought endorsement by various evaluators for the university conversion of the College. With the scientific generation of information resulting from research findings, the College was able to disseminate, utilize and convince people, particularly in the rural areas, to use local technologies that will surely protect and benefit them. In totality, R&D projects are highly valued when the results are utilized by stakeholders in policy formulation or revision and program prioritization towards sustainable countryside development.

RCBSW is only effective when it is conducted by experts and is based on what the clients really need. It could be instrumental to promote a culture of research when the top and middle managers are good role models. They need to establish their own credibility in terms of R&D achievement before they can make their colleagues follow suit. Their very own performance is more than enough motivation for others to see the value of R&D to their chosen profession, to the organization, to the community, and to the countryside development. However, the importance of merits and incentives to the researchers should not be discounted to sustain their enthusiasm.

Finally, empowered researchers can easily get their research proposals funded. The question of scarcity of funds due to limited GAA seems not to be a major concern. The few thousands from GAA, when spent for a well-organized RCBSW, will generate millions if properly mentored.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Linkaging, networking and mentoring of SUCs with well-established R&D centers should be developed. The RCBSW should be based from a scientific diagnosis to be more effective and must be a continuous program. Sufficient funding for R&D centers is indispensable. Everyone is expected to help source out funds for research by preparing quality research proposals knowing that financial assistance for R&D is all proposal driven.

Different units of the SUCs must be furnished with the R&D performance indicators for them to have a guide in the quest for excellence and relevance in research and development. The administration should assign competent staff with strong team spirit and high sense of professionalism to run the RDE unit. Government agencies must assist and be deeply interested in SUCs in the realization of the R&D functions. There must be a monitoring mechanism in assisting SUCs in order to determine the status and extent of their R&D activities.

## REFERENCES

- Foja, Alice F. 2005-2008. *Research, Development & Extension Unit Annual Reports*, Romblon State College, Odiongan, Romblon
- Foja, Lou. 2007. Personal Communications. Budget Office, Odiongan, Romblon
- Mani, M. & Foja, A. 2007. *R & D Manual of Operations*, RSC, Odiongan, Romblon
- Papa, A. 2006. Personal Communications on NBC 461. Special Paper, Cavite State University
- Puriran, M.T. V. *SUCs Levelling Evaluation*, CHED, Pasig City
- Reyes, R. 2007. Personal Communications. Accounting Office, RSC Odiongan, Romblon
- Sespene, J. 2004 -2008. *College Annual Reports*. RSC, Odiongan, Romblon  
\_\_\_\_\_. 2007. *RSC Manual of Operations*, Odiongan, Romblon  
\_\_\_\_\_. *College Code*, RSC Odiongan, Romblon