

National Biotechnology Week highlights BT opportunities in aggie, health, business



iPhilippines recently concluded the 18th National Biotechnology Week with the theme "Responding to the Challenges: Business Opportunity in Biotechnology" held at the Philippine Trade Training Center. The event, held from November 23-27, underscored the benefits of biotechnology in solving some of the major issues that the country is facing, including food security and health amid the pandemic.

Throughout the event, important topics on food security were discussed such as the environmental impact of biotechnology crops, gene editing and climate smart crops, biotechnology applications that contribute to resilience and sustainable agriculture, agri-aqua biotechnology, keeping food safe from contaminants, as well as biotechnology impact on the fisheries sector.

Biotechnology's implications on health care were also highlighted such as its contributions in the face of COVID-19, biotechnology management for COVID-19 laboratories, biotechnology for a healthy environment, mosquitoborne diseases and the use of modern biotechnology, and vaccine research and development as well as the process of approval.

In line with the government's thrust to encourage more science graduates to work locally, the event also focused on career opportunities available in the field of biotechnology.

This year's National Biotechnology Week was jointly held by the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Science and Technology and the Commission on Higher Education.