



CropLife supports PMCP's five-year thrust for pest management in the Philippines

CropLife Philippines recently joined the successful celebration of PMCP's 51st anniversary with an annual scientific conference entitled "Embracing Science, Engaging Legislation for More Effective Pest Management." In a bid to sustain the momentum of this year's conference, the theme presents the overarching goal of the organization for the next five years.

The PMCP or the Pest Management Council of the Philippines founded in 1969, is an organization of plant pathologists, entomologist, weed scientists, public and private pest control operators, as well as sales and technical representatives of pesticide industries in the country. It has been going strong for the past 51 years, at the forefront of advancing responsible pest management advocacies even before the issue became a national concern.

Participants were treated to a wealth of information with scientific sessions on the latest and most relevant studies pertaining to new diseases, microorganisms, bacteria as well as strategies to counteract them. Studies have also presented the impact of weather on pests and diseases affecting the vegetable industry which proves helpful to the participants in developing the most effective methods of management.

This year, the conference sought to share valuable developments in science among expert resource persons and participants but in keeping with the spirit of scientific inquiry, it also shone the spotlight on innovative studies and theses from undergraduate students. Among the research presented at the conference was that of CLSU BS Agriculture student Jeremy Carino Eugenio Rivera. His study, adjudged as the Best Undergraduate Thesis and Best Paper, was entitled "Extraction of onion fields infected by anthracnose-twister disease in selected municipalities of Nueva Ecija using unmanned aerial vehicle imagers."

For the plenary sessions, no less than International Weed Science Society President Dr. Nilda Roma Burgos shared the latest Technological Advances in Weed Management while Corteva Agriscience regulatory policy manager for Asia Pacific Dr. Arnold Estrada presented CRISPR Gene Editing Technology for Revolutionizing Crop Improvement and Developing Future Pest and Disease Management Solutions.

It is also important to understand "Current Approaches, Challenges and Global Novel Responses to Control Vectors of Human Diseases" so RITM Chief Science Research Specialist Dr. Ferdinand V. Salazar took point on the topic. Corteva Agriscience regulatory

and stewardship manager Bella Victoria G. Ermita also spoke about Floryprauxifen benzyl as green herbicide technology for sustainable rice farming.

For his part, Croplife Philippines Executive Director presented the topic “Herbicide Resistance Management: Perspectives and Update from HRAC Workshop.” Crop Protection Association of the Philippines’ Arturo A. Alejar shared the perspectives of the industry on Herbicide Resistance Management while PhilRice experts Leylani M. Juliano, Edwin C. Martin and Dindo King M. Donayre outlined the perspectives of research and extension.

“We are always happy to do our part and come together with our brilliant partners to share and learn about scientific discoveries, developments and thrusts in the advocacy of responsible pest control and management. This conference is a testament to the evolution of this industry in the last fifty years and we are excited to take this journey with the PMCP for the next five decades and beyond,” de Luna pledged.