

**2020 CSSP
Achievement
Awardees**

The 2020 CSSP Achievement Award in Teaching
is awarded to

Edna A. Aguilar

In recognition of her continuing excellence and valuable contributions in the academe and in the field of Plant Science. She has shared her knowledge and expertise as a professor of crop science, farming systems, multiple cropping, and advanced fruit crop physiology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). Prof. Aguilar has served as a thesis adviser and committee member to 43 BS, MS, and PhD students. She is also active in pursuing international collaboration and served as a member of the team that developed the Dual PhD by Research Program involving UPLB and the University of Reading. She coordinated the summer program on Master of Science in Food Security and Climate Change attended by students and faculties from 17 countries. Prof. Aguilar is also a committed researcher and project leader, having completed over 30 projects. She is also a consultant to various organizations and has published over 30 scientific papers in local and international journals. Prof. Aguilar currently serves as an active member and officer of seven local and international scientific societies. Her dedication and outstanding research works were recognized by scientific award giving bodies including the recent Achievement Award in Teaching conferred by the Philippine Fruits Association.

Given this 11th day of November 2020 on the occasion of 50th CSSP Annual Scientific Conference.



Edna A. Anit
*Chair, Awards and
Recognition Committee*



Tonette P. Laude
President, 2019-2020

The 2020 CSSP Achievement Award in Research
is awarded to

Ma. Rebecca C. Laza

In recognition of her continuing excellence and significant contributions in the field of crop physiology and agronomy. One of the novel results of her 10-year extensive field studies in rice was on the effect of high night temperature (HNT) on yield. This was published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) and won the CGIAR Science Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement. She and her team from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) are credited for developing the first *in situ* environment controlled field chambers to study the response of rice to HNT, which greatly benefited scientists and students from different countries. She is also instrumental in developing the chlorophyll meter-based N management, which was used as the basis for the development of real-time nutrient management strategies called Crop Manager. Her dedication to science is not limited to conducting research. She also devotes her time to reviewing journal articles and currently serves as an editorial advisory board of various local and international journals. To date, Dr. Laza has contributed over a hundred publications in refereed local and international journals—one of which is considered as one of the most outstanding papers chosen by the Crop Science Journal.

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The 2020 CSSP Achievement Award
in Research Management
is awarded to

Erlene C. Manohar

In recognition of her exemplary leadership as the Deputy Administrator for Research and Development of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). She ignites the transformation of the coconut R and D by focusing on agribusiness strategies. To invigorate and upscale the R & D programs, she organized the 2019 coconut R and D summit with the theme: “Challenges and Opportunities in the Development of Coconut Technologies,” which served as a guide in refocusing research to the needs of the industry.

As a great resource mobilizer, she was able to get approval of five projects worth Php 25M from DOST-PCAARRD, and a Php 761M 5-year Coconut Hybridization (2018-2022) special project aimed to produce hybrid planting materials in 2022. As visionary leader, she conceptualized the on-farm hybridization scheme to produce the high yielding hybrids for the massive planting/replanting program of coconut. She also served as the Team Leader of the National Integrated Pest Management Program for coconut and was instrumental in the Rapid Ground Assessment for Coconut Scale Insect (CSI), the development of automated CSI counting computer program, farmer-based training module for IPM, and the adoption of the Farmers Field Schools (FFS) in the IPM program. She was awarded the prestigious Outstanding UPLB Alumni conferred in 2017 for her commitment and exemplary leadership skill.

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The 2020 CSSP Honorary Fellow
is awarded to

Arthur R. Baria

In recognition for his exemplary leadership and involvement to the Society, his notable achievements, and professional affiliations while ensuring the highest standards for good governance. He has been responsible for developing the agricultural upstream value chain of coffee that ensured sustainable source of green coffee supply for Nestlé, Philippines factories. As a biotechnology advocate, he was instrumental in the commercialization of Monsanto's first biotech corn in the country benefiting thousands of Filipino farmers today. He co-authored the book "Modern Biotechnology & Agriculture: A History of the Commercialization of Biotech Maize in the Philippines" which was given the National Academy of Science and Technology Outstanding Book Award in 2010. During his term as CSSP President, he concurrently served as President of the Philippine Agriculturist Association (PAA) and sat as one of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Council Members for Agriculture under the auspice of the Professional Regulatory Commission. He contributed in obtaining the accreditation for CSSP as CPD provider since 2018. As an active Council of Representative of PAA, he initiated the participation of the licensed agriculturists in crafting the Philippine Qualifications Framework Implementing Rules and Regulations for the ASEAN Integration and the Philippine Agriculturist Bill. His firm advocacy for inclusive development in the entire agriculture value chain, his multi-sectoral experience, and his passion to serve were recognized by the current Department of Agriculture Secretary, Dr. William D. Dar, who invited him as a member of his Technical Advisory Group.

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The 2020 CSSP Honorary Fellow
is awarded to

Leoncia L. Tandang

In recognition for her exemplary leadership in vegetable research, development, and extension while serving as professor in crop science. She has co-authored lecture and laboratory manuals for breeding and genetics, and has mentored more than 50 undergraduate and graduate students, some are now leading in the academe and industry. She continually receives the highest evaluation rating among her students, which is the most fulfilling achievement as a professor. She is a multi-awarded crop scientist who led the development and release of more than 20 vegetable varieties such as cowpea, bush and pole sitao, snap beans, and salad tomato. She has served in various capacities in government institutions as chair or member of the Technical Working Groups (TWG) for the Vegetable Crops, Root and Tuber Crops, and the Seed Extension/ Promotion of the Bureau of Plant Industry - National Seed Industry Council; as Accreditor for vegetable crops of the Plant Variety Protection Office; and member and chair of the TWG for drafting the Philippine National Standards for Fruit and Vegetable Crops of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards. Trained in the Netherlands and Korea, she has established both national and international collaborative projects, with funding from both the Philippine government, China, and International Development Research Centre, Canada. Her accolades as an outstanding leader, professor, and scientist prove that Dr. Tandang, a woman plant breeder, achieved great heights in her career, and is truly an inspiration to other Filipinas. Dr. Tandang served as the fourth female President of the CSSP.

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