

**2020 CSSP
Distinguished
Fellow**

**The 2020 CSSP Distinguished Fellow
is awarded to**

EMIL QUINTO JAVIER

The youngest among the five convenors of the CSSP, the then newly minted PhD holder, National Scientist Emil Q. Javier was the first vice-president of the CSSP. He tirelessly worked on the first successful conference held in 1970 at the then University of Philippines College of Agriculture. But his efforts did not end there. With his visionary leadership and nurturing hand, he shepherded CSSP from its infancy to a more active and stable organization. Driven by his passion for science, love for his craft and care for the crop science community, he dedicated years of his time and energies to ensure that CSSP became an excellent venue for crop scientists to converge, network and establish professional and personal relationships.

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

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RUBEN LOPEZ VILLAREAL

With his undeniable wit and charm, Academician Ruben L. Villareal was tasked to recruit members during the early days of the CSSP. And he did the assigned job not only well, but he single-mindedly worked on it excellently. He networked with regional offices of the Department of Agriculture and the state colleges and universities to convince and encourage young agriculture professionals to sign up with the Society. His appeal and persuasion power were such that members and would-be members trooped to the first and succeeding conferences with enthusiasm and excitement. But recruitment of members was not only his contribution to the Society. The CSSP family cannot ignore his first-rate leadership quality for long. This brilliant vegetable breeder, was voted president of the Society from 1985 to 1986.

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RICARDO MANZO LANTICAN

The founding president of the CSSP was not new in leading organizations when he held the helm of the Society. National Scientist Ricardo M. Lantican was at that time Chairman of the Department of Agronomy of the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture. As the first CSSP president, NS Lantican's role was key in the design, plans and implementation of the conference. He worked tirelessly with the other convenors to guarantee the success of inaugural conference and to inspire members to collaborate and to share their science with each other.

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DOLORES ALTOVEROS RAMIREZ

National Scientist Dolores A. Ramirez was CSSP's secretary/treasurer when the Society started in 1970. She not only prepared the minutes of the meeting and filed the documents of the Society, but she made sure that the Society's financial standing was never in the red. Her attention to details ensured that the first few conferences run smoothly and efficiently. NS Ramirez was also the first editor of the Philippine Journal of Crop Science, which published its Volume 1 in 1976. She not only encouraged young researchers to write scientific papers but she also taught them to learn to love publication writing.

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GURDEV SINGH KHUSH

In recognition of his exemplary contributions in advancing the frontiers of crop science and food security. Dr. Khush and his colleagues were instrumental to bring Green Revolution in rice farming. He led the rice breeding program of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for 35 years, which resulted to more than double the world's rice production from 1972. Among the varieties he bred is IR 36, which was remarked as its impact alone would more than justify the investment in IRRI since its inception. Dr. Khush has been fervent to translate his knowledge to various forms such as trainings, books and publications, and mentoring hundreds of scientists as well as postgraduate students. He has a strong commitment to promote the field of crop science through its active participation in its events. In 1986, Dr. Khush was recognized as one of the Honorary Fellows of the Crop Science Society of the Philippines. In partnership with the Department of Agriculture, the DA-Khush Award of Distinction was created by the Federation of Crop Science Societies of the Philippines and is given to Filipino crop scientist for his outstanding contribution to crop science in improving the welfare of the small Filipino farmers. The remarkable work done by Dr. Khush has won several world recognitions including the World Food Prize, which is widely regarded as equivalent to the Nobel Prize for agriculture.

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WILLAM DOLLENTE DAR

In recognition of his exemplary leadership and valuable contributions in the field of crop science and research administration. Dr. Dar has been one of the best examples of an agricultural research manager of several generations. From being the Benguet State University (BSU) Vice President for Research and Development, to Department of Agriculture –Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) Director, to Department of Science and Technology- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) Executive Director and then before retiring International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)'s Director General and finally as the DA Secretary, all of which he has uplifted the status of these institutions before he relinquished his post.

With the purpose of encouraging fellow Filipino academicians and scientists to take on the challenging role of being the scientist and managing the research, during his term as President of the Crop Science Society of the Philippines in 1986, he installed the research management award, which he eventually sponsored starting 2008. This award recognizes Filipino leaders who had taken on the role of research management of their home institutions.

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SANTIAGO RIGONAN OBIEN

In recognition of his exemplary leadership and valuable contributions in the field of crop science and research administration. Dr. Obien led the establishment of the Federation of Crop Science Societies of the Philippines (FCSSP) in 1985. This was composed of five national organizations focusing on different fields of crop science, namely the Crop Science Society of the Philippines, the Society for the Advancement of the Vegetable Industry (SAVI), the Philippine Association for Tissue Culture and Biotechnology (PAPTCB), Philippine Fruit Association (PFA), and the Philippine Seed Industry Association (PSIA). Majority of the delegation came from the top three leading agricultural institutions namely the University of the Philippines Los Baños, the International Rice Research Institute and the Philippine Rice Research Institute. The annual scientific and business meetings of FCSSP became a common venue for exchanges of basic research knowledge and priority areas of those in the industry sector. This venue promoted private-public partnerships which led to more productive years of research and extension in different fields of crop science for the whole country until now. Because of his dedication and commitment, Dr. Obien is a recipient of multiple awards as a scientist and as an administrator and his excellent leadership is also reflected in the awards received by the institutions he served.

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