

4th KOICA-UPLB-IRRI International Conference

Future-Proofing Agriculture Through Science and Collaboration

26 June 2025

D.L. Umali Auditorium, SEARCA Headquarters

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

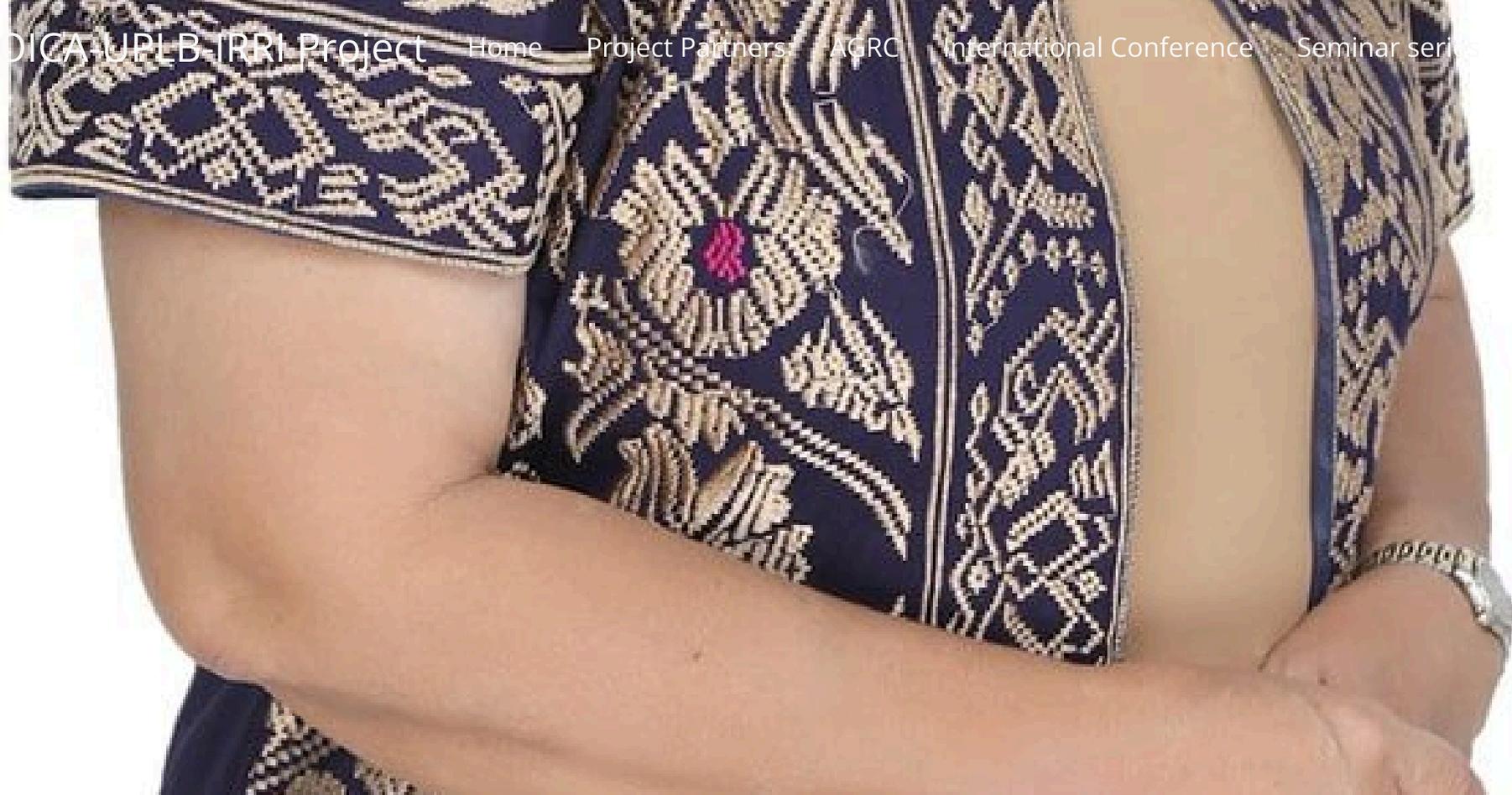
The 4th KOICA-UPLB-IRRI International Conference (KUIIC) is a collaborative effort among the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) that gathers scientists, researchers, and development partners working together towards a resilient future for agriculture. This year's theme, **"Future-Proofing Agriculture Through Science and Collaboration,"** reflects our shared commitment to addressing the growing challenges of the agricultural sector through innovative research, capacity building, and international cooperation.

The highlight of this year's program is the keynote address by a distinguished leader in agricultural science, who will offer critical perspectives on how global partnerships and emerging technologies are shaping the future of agri-food systems. Complementing this, the panel discussions will focus on (a) *Strengthening Capacity for Cutting-Edge Agricultural Research*, (b) *Future Directions in Agricultural Genomics and Innovation*, and (c) *Stories of Scholars/Researchers in Agricultural Genomics*, providing an avenue to explore how investments in human capital, infrastructure, and institutional linkages can accelerate innovation and development.

This hybrid international conference aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange, providing a platform for participants to explore how agricultural genomics can address pressing challenges in food security and environmental sustainability, contributing to the improvement of livelihoods, and safeguarding the environment for future generations.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS





Mercedita A. Sombilla, PhD

Center Director

Southeast Asian Regional Center for
Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)

[Program](#)

[Organizing committee](#)



PANEL DISCUSSIONS



1:00 PM | Drilon Hall, SEARCA

1st Panel Discussion

AGRC in Action: Strengthening Capacity for Cutting-Edge Agricultural Research



Moderator
NATHANIEL C. BANTAYAN, PhD
*Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension
University of the Philippines Los Baños*



Rapporteur
Engr. LAVINIA MARIE MANAIG-ABUCAY, EnP, MSc
*University Extension Specialist II
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension
University of the Philippines Los Baños*

Panel Discussants



REYNALDO V. ERORA, PhD



ROGELIO T. GALERA, JR., CESO III



WILMER S. FAYLON, PhD

Chief
Quezon Agricultural Research and Experiment Station
Department of Agriculture



JOELL H. LALES, PhD

Assistant Director
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HOMER D. PANTUA, PhD

President
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