



Republic of the Philippines

**TARLAC AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

Camiling, Tarlac

## OFFICE OF EXTERNAL LINKAGES AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

4 March 2022

### **The Evaluation Committee**

*Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)*

Dear AASHE Evaluators,

Sustainable Development has always been at the heart of Tarlac Agricultural University's (TAU) policy direction since its conversion to a full-fledged university. From our research and development efforts to our special projects and programs, we have effectively integrated sustainability, embraced Futures Thinking, and engaged climate champions and sustainability advocates.

To date, we have been working on a number of endeavors that seek to help our agro-industrial sector in mitigating the impacts of climate change. As an advocate of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our university has continually improved the lives of its stakeholders through the Sustainable, Integrated, and Comprehensive Agricultural Programs (SICAP).

Foremost in the SICAP initiatives is the Satellite-Imagery Crop Monitoring and Forecasting Systems for Agriculture and Technology (SICAT) project which examines data from Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing, and DIWATA-1, the country's first microsatellite, for crop monitoring and forecasting.

Leading the way towards augmenting the university's agricultural capacity is the TAU-SMART Agriculture Center which maintains the internal environment of greenhouses and serves as a year-round source of high-value crops. Also, developed by engineering students, the Floating Agricultural Garden (FAG) had been since implemented at TAU to help farmers save resources. These initiatives are showcased during the Global Discourses in Agri-Intelligence Engineering and Technology where participants share data to achieve a more effective agricultural strategy.

Meanwhile, contemporary problems beset communities elsewhere. However, through inter-institutional dialogues, greater efficiency is achieved. Thus, Global Discourses was conceived by TAU and its collaborative network to push the boundaries of traditional education and foster a dynamic and responsive education for its stakeholders.

Devoted to adapt to the evolving pedagogical environment, our university steered the Global Discourses in Agriculture, Engineering and Technology, Veterinary Medicine, and Education. TAU engaged esteemed scholars by navigating through the delicate waters of international education. This is TAU's answer to the increasing pressure on natural and human resources. Participants also learned from industry experts in emerging learning frameworks, modalities, and





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technologies, food security, sustainable farming practices, IT and industry innovations, animal production, and bio-systems management.

The Philippine Mental Health Act was signed into law in 2018. However, three years after its passage, mental health services and facilities remain limited. Hence, TAU launched the program entitled “Fostering Mental Well-Being amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Developed using the ADDIE model, the project involved 44 key partners. Volunteer work in the Central Luzon Volunteer Mental health professionals was also undertaken.

Activities such as mental health assessment, telecounseling, psychosocial support, critical incident stress debriefing, webinars, online assembly, virtual contests, and mental health breaks were initiated. As a manifestation of its effectiveness, it was extended to 46 local institutions and 4 international partners. This helped the cohorts come up with their own mental health policy and programs. Also, it has been selected for priority funding by the Department of Science and Technology’s Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD).

Furthermore, the strategic programs of Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) seek to address *glocal* concerns. As complex issues encourage inter-institutional synergy, TAU steered the Global Discourses Series. Slated in 34 sessions, 12,000+ participants learned about advancements in bio-resources management and educational approaches.

United by a shared heritage, TAU and 19 institutions pay homage to Southeast Asian arts and culture as they launched the three-month ASEAN Festival. Aside from competitions, they also hosted virtual conferences on the competitiveness of ASEAN graduates and conservation of biodiversity hotspots.

TAU, guided by the UN blueprint in fostering sustainability, established the SDGs Academy Philippines with 788 pioneer members. As part of its key initiatives, it commenced the Global Goals Cross-Sectoral Dialogues by hosting SDG advocates. TAU involved 559 global ambassadors from 115 institutions in its mobility programs.

Reflecting sustainability in TAU’s vision and acting on it through its instructional, research, and extension mandates bring unfaltering environmental, social, and economic development on our side of the world. TAU will continue to navigate uncharted territories through the agency of its stakeholders and collaborative networks today and beyond.

Sincerely,

MAX P. GUILLERMO, Ph.D.  
*President, Tarlac Agricultural University*