

**37th UC Executive Board Meeting
23-24 September 2024
University of the Philippines Los Baños**

**UC Coordinator's Report
for the period 1 October 2023 – 31 July 2024**

KASETSART UNIVERSITY

I. University Activities under the UC Program

- Participation to UC activities

36th Executive Board Meeting at NTU

The authorized representatives of Kasetsart University, namely Asst. Prof. Dr. Naron Waramit, Dean, School of Integrated Science, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Jitsopin Meerakate, Assistant to the President participated in the 36th UC Executive Board Meeting at National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan during 30-31 October 2023.

9th Graduate Forum at UGM

Two presenters from Kasetsart University attended the 9th UC Graduate Forum with the theme “Sustaining Our Future: Circular Economy in Animal Production, Agriculture, and Forestry” at UGM, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 17-18 July 2024.

Mr. Thanawat Nithiwutratthasakul, MS student in Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, presented his study on the *Effect of Variety and Harvest date on Chemical Composition and Paper Physical Property of Napier Grass*, under the Innovation and Practices in Circular Economy session.

Mr. Sikharin Khotmanee, MS student in Knowledge of The Land for Sustainable Development, presented his study on *Effects of Light Intensity on Yield and Phytochemical Contents of Carrot Microgreens*, under the Technological Advancements and Digitalization in Food Security and Climate Change session.

6th Faculty Forum at UPM

Three presenters from Kasetsart University attended the 6th UC Faculty Forum with the theme “Resilience and Adaptation towards Innovation in Climate Crisis” at UPM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 28-29 August 2024.

Assoc. Prof. Buncha Chinnasri, Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, presented his study on *Effective and Environmentally-Friendly Management of Root-knot Nematodes, One of the Main Threats in Rice Production, under Conservation Agriculture System by Legume Cavalcade* (*Centrosema pascuorum*), under Session 2: Natural Resources, Sustainability and Management.

Dr. Sukontip Vianmana, Faculty of Natural Resources and Agro Industry, Kasetsart University Chalermprakiat Sakon Nakhon Campus, presented her study on *Characteristics of Rice Farmers Participating Large Land Plot of Rice Project in Sakon Nakhon Province, Thailand*, under Session 2: Natural Resources, Sustainability and Management.

Asst. Prof. Arissara Phosanam, Faculty of Natural Resources and Agro Industry, Kasetsart University Chalermprakiat Sakon Nakhon Campus, presented her study on *Development of Food Products from Local Agricultural Biodiversity*, under Session 4: Livestock and Agribusiness/ Livestock and Agricultural Production.

8th UC Summer School at NTU

Two graduate students from Kasetsart University attended 8th UC Summer School with the theme "*Current Agriculture in Taiwan with A Glance of Precision Agriculture - Applications of Imagery and Modelling*" at NTU, Taiwan, on 6-17 August 2024.

Mr. Kanokpoo Changwitchukarn, Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture.

Miss Kasamaporn Kaewprom, Faculty of Natural Resources and Agro Industry, Kasetsart University Chalermprakiat Sakon Nakhon Campus.

2024 Biodiversity, Agriculture & Culture of Taiwan Summer Program (BACT) at NTU

One graduate student from Kasetsart University attended the 2024 Biodiversity, Agriculture & Culture of Taiwan Summer Program (BACT) at NTU from 24 June - 23 July 2024.

Miss Waranun Wimonsuk, MS student, the Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture.

- Recipients of UC grant: travel grants, thesis grants for research activities, collaborative researches
 - 1) Miss Atcharapohn JAI-UEAN, a doctoral student, in the field of Genetics, the Faculty of Science, was a recipient of University Consortium Student Travel Grant for Research to conduct her research at Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan during 4 September 2024 - 30 November 2024.
- Updates on the status of approval/implementation of the ERASMUS+ funded MS FSCC project

- 1) The MS FSCC Program (Master Degree in Food Security and Climate Change) is currently under the Kasetsart University International College (KUIC). The academic committee of the college has been working on developing the courses under the program.
- Updates on the activities and deliverables conducted/developed/attended for the ERASMUS+ funded PMC FSCC project
- 1) The PMC FSCC project officially started on 1 December 2023. However, the implementation of the project began early January 2024. As the PMC FSCC Project Lead, Kasetsart University began launching the project by holding the Project Kick-off Meeting between 31 January and 1 February 2024 at Kasetsart University, Bangkok. The main objective of the Kick-off Meeting was to communicate important details of the project to the entire team to ensure that all partners understand the expectations, deliverables, milestones and their deadlines. In addition, the budgetary issues and financial management were discussed at the Kick-off Meeting. At the meeting, resource speakers from different sectors, including academia, government, industry, and non-governmental organizations were given the opportunities to discuss the need for the offering of postgraduate micro-credentials in food security and climate change. Examples of the resource speakers included representatives from Thailand Department of Climate Change and Environment, Thailand Office of Agricultural Economics, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), the Wyss Academy for Nature, Sweden-funded EXPLORE project, USDA Thailand Regional Agriculture Innovation Network (RAIN) and Winrock International. The Kick-off Meeting also featured presentations on existing micro-credentials offered by project member universities and plans of activities committed by each Work Package. On the second day of the Meeting, the three committees were created: the Steering Committee, the Conflict Resolution Committee, and the Quality Assurance Committee.

The Steering Committee is chaired by Dr. Buncha Chinnasri (Project Coordinator, KU, Thailand). The members include Dr. Maria Cristeta Cauresma (SEAMEO SEARCA, Philippines), Dr. Hatma Suryatmojo (UGM, Indonesia), Prof. Dr. Zalilah Mohd Shariff (UPM, Malaysia), Dr. Hendrix Yulis Setyawan (UB, Indonesia), Dr. Lim Thien Sang (UMS, Malaysia), Prof. Dr. Ir. Titi Candra Sunarti (IPB, Indonesia), Dr. Prakash Murgappa Bhuyar (MJU, Thailand), Dr. Cesar Ontinero (CLSU, Philippines), Graduate School Dean (VSU, Philippines), Dr. Jomar F. Rabajanti (UPLB, Philippines), Dr. Simone

Pfeiffer (UGOE, Germany), and Dr. Lorenz Probst (BOKU, Austria). The Steering Committee is made of representatives/coordinators from each project partner and is higher up in the ladder in terms of decision-making structure. Quarterly committee meetings are expected to be held online to discuss the status of the project implementation, challenges encountered and recommendations.

The Quality Assurance Committee is chaired by Dr. Buncha Chinnasri (Project Coordinator, Kasetsart University, Thailand). The members include Dr. Benjamina Paula Flor (University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines), Dr. Cesar Ortinero (Central Luzon State University, Philippines), Prof. Dr. Ir. Imam Santoso (Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia), Dr. Anabella Tulin (Visayas State University, Philippines), and Dr. Lorenz Probst (The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria). This Committee is tasked with encouraging project partners to work professionally and actively. The Committee also develop or revise standards of practice and guidelines to ensure high quality of activities and deliveries. Before all deliverables are submitted to SYGMA, it is the responsibility of the Quality Assurance Committee to perform final check and assessment of the deliverables.

The Conflict Resolution Committee, on the other hand, is chaired by Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio (Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, Philippines). The members include Prof. Dr. Ir. Iskandar Zulkarnaen Siregar (The Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia), Prof. Dr. Zalilah Mohd Shariff (Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia), Prof. Budi Guntoro (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia), Asst. Prof. Anna F. Formalino (University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines), Prof. Dr. Lim Thien Sang (Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia), and Dr. Simone Pfeiffer (University of Gottingen, Germany). The Conflict Resolution Committee is to serve as a mediating body for the purpose of resolving conflicts related to financial, administrative, and implementation issues among project partners and co-ordinator. The Committee also has responsibility for proposing recommendations and resolutions aimed towards the satisfaction of all parties involved.

There were 67 participants attended the Kick-off Meeting. The Kick-off meeting report was submitted to the SYGMA platform on 31 May 2024.

- 2) In March, 2024, EU released 70% of the project fund to Kasetsart University's Main Bank Account.
- 3) Between 22 and 26 April 2024, Kasetsart University hosted the training workshop which was part of Work Package 2 and aimed at providing lessons

to participants on module writing and development based on the list of obtained learning outcomes of micro-credential courses. The general workshop agenda included (1) Orientation on micro-credentials, (2) Module writing and development, (3) Online Learning Materials (e.g., video lecture, e-handout, podcast, and (4) Packaging of modules in an online platform. At the workshop, representatives from each project member had chances to discuss and give their inputs on the content of each learning module. There were 24 participants from project partners attending the April 2024 workshop.

- 4) In May, 2024, Kasetsart University transferred 70% of the project fund to PMC FSCC Project's Bank Account.
- 5) On 30 May 2024, Kasetsart University submitted "Quality Assurance Strategies" for the PMC FSCC project to EU, the project funding agency. Quality Assurance Strategies are created by Kasetsart University with the prime objective of establishing criteria, tools and procedures for monitoring and evaluating the project in terms of processes, practices in line with the project aims and objectives, methodologies and strategies adopted, the timeframe of deliverables, and the budget. The Quality Assurance Strategies focus on identifying processes that will be applied to assure quality, define roles and responsibilities to ensure a successful project and deliverables, provide PMC FSCC management with indicators to allow them to take appropriate decisions, and to track and report on project progress. The Quality Assurance Strategies address three levels: 1) design 2) development, and 3) implementation. They need the coordinated efforts of many individuals, such as those who generate information and those who use the information or make decisions based on those. These individuals include: project members, project coordinators, work package leaders, stakeholders, project staff, etc. In addition, peer reviewers and individuals with varied expertise will be tapped so that critical issues for the success of the project are sufficiently addressed, thus, helping to minimize problems during planning, implementation, and evaluation. The Quality Assurance Strategies also define the roles of project coordinator (PC) and project partners or beneficiaries, the decision-making structure, work package (WP) management, risk management plan, risk handling and monitoring.
- 6) In June 2024, the PMC FSCC project was moved from the Kasetsart University International College (KUIC) to the Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University. From June 2024 to the present time, the PMC FSCC project has been under the supervision of the Faculty of Agriculture: all administrative work and implementation of the PMC FSCC project is led by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. The signatories of the project's bank account were also changed to staff of the Faculty of Agriculture.

- 7) In September 2024, the PMC FSCC project started releasing 30% personnel cost and expenses for organizing activities or workshops to all partners and hosts. The partnership agreement is also sent out for signatures of all project partners.

II. University Activities Relevant to the UC

Date	Activities
<p>19-22 August 2024</p>	<p>The 15th International Fundamentak Science Congress (IFSC2024) hosted by UPM</p> <p>Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, Acting President and Associate Professor Dr. Apisit Songsasen, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Lifelong Learning together with the representatives from the Faculty of Science and students participated in IFSC 2024, Malaysia.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>15th INTERNATIONAL FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE CONGRESS (IFSC2024)</p>  </div>
<p>25 July 2024</p>	<p>KU and UPLB representatives had a meeting at the School of Integrated Science (SIS) in the main campus of KU for event planning of the 4th International Conference on Governance and Development (ICGD4), to be jointly organized by SIS and College of Public Affairs and Development (CPAf), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) under the theme of “Governance for Impact: Promoting Global Citizenship and Empowering Communities” during 31 July – 2 August 2025 at Kasetsart University.</p>
<p>12 June 2024</p>	<p>MOU Signing Ceremony between KU and IPB University</p> <p>During this visit, Prof. Arif Satria, Rector of IPB University expressed interest in furthering academic collaboration with Kasetsart University through joint activities under the renewed MOU. Areas of focus include promoting research in agriculture, agro-industry, medical science, forestry, environment, and social sciences, as well as supporting the development of joint degree programs at the graduate level to enhance both the quantity and quality of collaborative research.</p>

	<p>https://iad.intaff.ku.ac.th/portal/iad/news_view.php?lang=en&ku_url=NDEw</p> <p>Under the framework of the MOU between IPB and KU signed on 12 June 2024, KU set up board committees for the Co-Research Project Collaboration between IPB and KU (CRPC-IPB&KU) Grant Project, of which the KU President served as Advisor, Vice President for Research and Internationalization as Chair, and Assistant to the President for Research and Internationalization as Committee Secretary, on 15 August 2024</p>
10 June 2024	<p>Prof. Dr. Anuraga Jayanegara, S. Pt., M. Sc., Director of Strategic Studies and Academic Reputation, and 12 academic staff from IPB University, visited Kasetsart University to discuss academic collaboration to increase the quantity and quality of academic publications in social sciences on.</p> <p>https://iad.intaff.ku.ac.th/portal/iad/news_view.php?ku_url=NDA2</p>
7-9 May 2024	<p>The 6th SEARCA: The Leadership Development Program for Higher Education in Southeast Asia (LDP-HEIs in SEA)</p> <p>SEARCA and KU jointly hosted the 6th SEARCA Leadership Development Program for Higher Education in Southeast Asia (LDP-HEIs in SEA) from May 7th to 9th, 2024, at the Maruay Garden Hotel and Kasetsart University.</p> <p>https://iad.intaff.ku.ac.th/portal/iad/news_view.php?lang=en&ku_url=Mzk0</p>

III. Suggestions, Recommendations, Proposals for Consideration of the UC

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