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Japan's JIRCAS and Philippine researchers partner to develop advanced sugarcane cultivation technologies

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Five Years of On-Site Joint Research Demonstration

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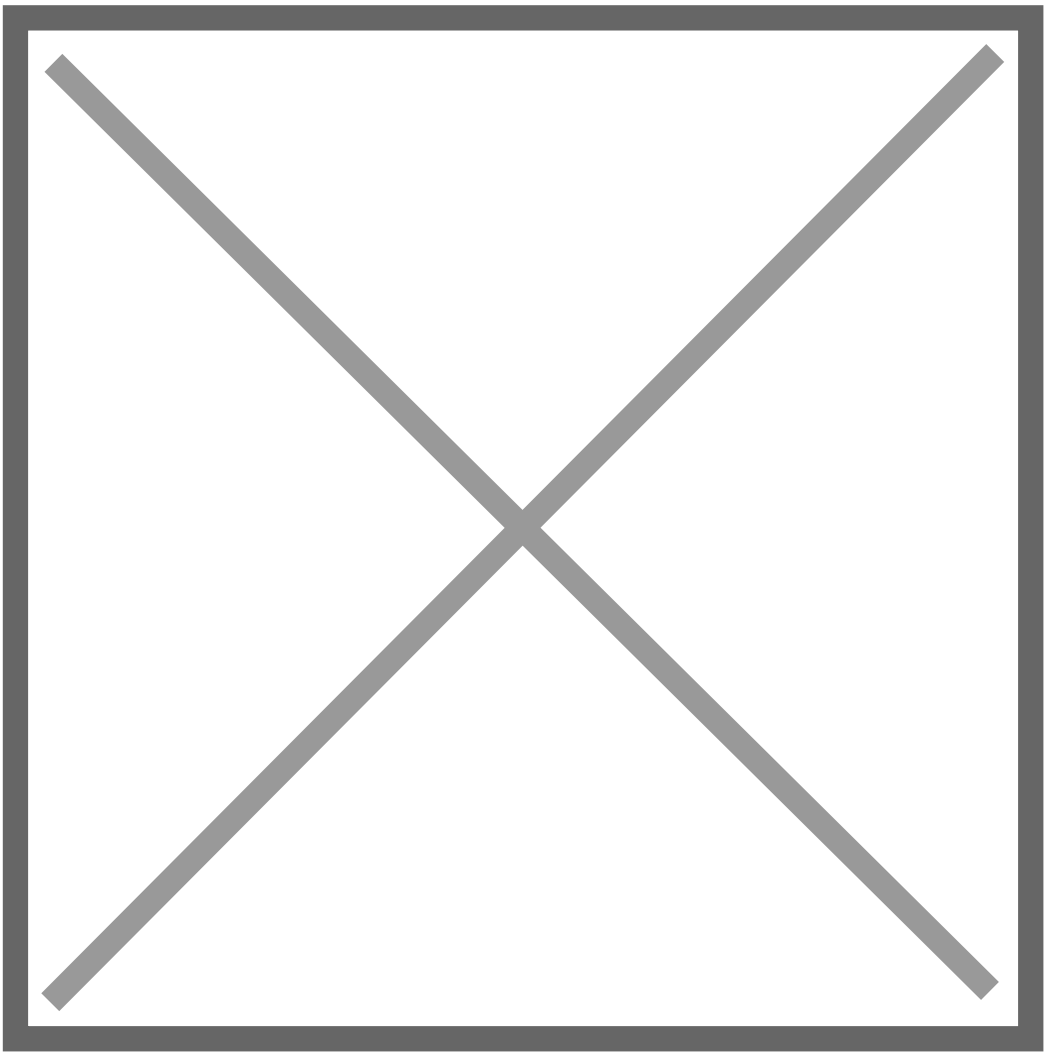
Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) in collaboration with its Philippine research partners hosted a symposium at Negros Island in the Republic of the Philippines. The event, held to mark the conclusion of a five-year international collaborative research initiative, brought together key stakeholders, including Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary ENDO Kazuya and First Secretary AKASAKA Hidenori from the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines. This gathering underscored the importance of Japanâ??Philippines cooperation in advancing agricultural and environmental research.

The symposium highlighted findings from two major projects: the "**Yama-Sato-Umi agroecosystem connectivity**" and "**Climate change measures in Monsoon Asia**." These projects, conducted under the overarching theme of "**Connectivity among the mountains, villages, and the sea**," showcased diverse outcomes. Presentations covered technologies for revegetating degraded mountain slopes, enhancing agricultural productivity with minimal environmental impact, conserving forests and mangroves, and studying soil carbon accumulation. The event also facilitated discussions on the role of Japanâ??Philippines collaboration in ensuring regional food security and mitigating climate change.



Ambassador Endo observed a demonstration of sugarcane cultivation technologies using a subsoiler and deep-planting planter. Negros Island is the largest sugarcane-producing region in the Philippines, and this technology is expected to contribute to increased productivity, energy efficiency, and soil conservation through the promotion of multi-ratoon cultivation. The technology has been jointly developed by JIRCAS, Yanmar Agribusiness Co., Ltd. (Okayama City), and the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) of the Philippine Department of Agriculture. Ambassador Endo also exchanged views with SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona, further raising expectations for the dissemination of the technology.

Building on the results achieved so far, JIRCAS plans to further promote the dissemination of this technology in the Philippines and Japanâ??s Ishigaki Island, while also exploring its application to other tropical island regions. The integrated approach emphasizing the interconnection among mountains, villages, and the sea is expected to play an increasingly important role in addressing global challenges such as climate change and food security.