

Extension and Collaborative Success: Presenting Project Wild Tea Outputs in Barlig

The project team recently conducted a comprehensive dissemination session titled "Extension and Collaborative Success: Presenting Project Wild Tea Outputs in Barlig," showcasing results from the initiative funded by DOST PCAARRD-FERD. The activity commenced with a project overview and progress reports from individual team members regarding their respective studies. Project Leader Dr. Lichelyn M. Nasungan spearheaded the presentation by introducing research papers and field guides for ethnobotanical and morphological characterization, alongside key policy recommendations. Supplementing these findings, Dr. Alexander T. Baldic provided updates on the propagation status of selected wild tea plants and Sir Rolando M. Tawanna on the future processing techniques of the wild tea plants. Central to this presentation was the project's core mission: the conservation of wild tea plants. Dr. Nasungan emphasized that establishing domesticated cultivation methods is vital to prevent the over-exploitation of natural habitats, allowing farmers to harvest from propagated sources rather than the wild.

To transition these conservation goals into local livelihoods, the project is launching a series of extension activities designed to capacitate the farmers of Barlig. These activities focus specifically on the technical propagation and standardized processing of wild tea, ensuring that local stakeholders possess the skills to sustain the industry independently. To support these efforts, Dr. Epiphania B. Magwilang discussed the establishment of a dedicated greenhouse and nursery at the university's site in Chatol. While the university finalizes the legal documentation for this land, the project team has formally requested the use of the municipal nursery as an interim facility. This collaboration includes identifying partner organizations and farmer-cooperators to manage demonstration farms, processing centers, and marketing networks.

The MPSU-Wild Tea Project has solidified its commitment to Barlig through a structured timeline of deliverables.







Figure 6: Dr. Joyce D. Cuyangoan providing the plan for feasibility study of the project.



