

William Dar bio- Aug 2007

William D. Dar, PhD, is Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) near Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, India, since January 2000. ICRISAT is a non-profit, non-political and pro-poor institute and a member of the Alliance of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Dr Dar holds the distinction of being the first Filipino and Asian to be Director General of ICRISAT and Chair of the Alliance Executive of the Alliance of Centers in 2005, a collegial body that facilitates collective action among the fifteen (15) CGIAR Centers. He was recently elected Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Dr Dar was Member of the UN Millennium Task Force on Hunger.

Prior to joining ICRISAT, he served as Presidential Adviser for Rural Development, and Secretary of Agriculture in the Philippines (equivalent to Minister of Agriculture), the first ever alumnus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) to become one. Before this, he was Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA).

Dr Dar also served on the governing boards of the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the CGIAR's International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) as well as of ICRISAT. Moreover, he was Chair of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Coarse Grains, Pulses Research and Training (CGPRT) Center based in Indonesia.

Dr Dar received a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Horticulture from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and an MS

(Agronomy) and BS in Agricultural Education from Benguet State University (BSU) in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines. He taught at BSU for 11 years and rose from the ranks to become full Professor and Vice President for Research and Extension.

He has received a number of awards and honors, including the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines , Outstanding Young Scientist of the Year, Crop Science Society of the Philippines ' Achievement Award for Research Management and Outstanding Science Administrator given by the Philippines Department of Science and Technology. He was also awarded as Distinguished Alumnus of UPLB and the Most Outstanding Alumnus of BSU and the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC). In November 2002, PCARRD honored him with its highest and most prestigious award, the Symbol of Excellence in R&D Management.

On April 2003, Dr Dar was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Batac, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. On October 2003, the Vietnamese Government honored him with the, "For the Sake of Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam Award" while the Philippine Bureau of Agricultural Research awarded him with a Plaque of Recognition for his outstanding performance as its First Director. He is also the recipient of the "Anahaw Leaf Award" for being the Most Outstanding Alumnus of the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC) High School Class of '69.

In April 2004, the Central Luzon State University in the Philippines awarded him the Golden Grain Award, commending him for his "deep concern and intense advocacy for the promotion of a global yet equitable program for food security and reduction of poverty through pioneering scientific and technological innovations".

In the same year (2004), he was given the Research Leadership Excellence Award, the most prestigious award of the Philippine Association of Research Managers (PhilARM). In 2005, he was given a plaque of recognition by the Philippine

Department of Agriculture for his outstanding contributions when he was Secretary of Agriculture.

In 2006, he was awarded the “KALSA: The Most Distinguished Alumnus Award” by the Benguet State University in recognition of his being the first Filipino and Asian to serve ICRISAT and for the heights he has reached in the management of research and agricultural resources, through Science with a Human face. Recently, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) of the Philippine Government awarded him the 2007 Outstanding Professional of the Year Award in the field of Agriculture for displaying professional excellence in both private and public practice in the Philippines and abroad and for his noble advocacy of promoting a global yet equitable program of food security in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

With his outstanding leadership as Chair of the Alliance Executive (2005), the Alliance of Centers was made the third pillar of the CGIAR system.

Since leading ICRISAT, Dr Dar has intensively advocated a *Grey to Green Revolution* in the dry tropics of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa through Science with a Human Face. Towards this, he spurred the development of a new vision, mission and strategy for the Institute. In pursuing it, he has strengthened strategic partnerships with an array of stakeholders – NARS, ARIs, NGOs, development agencies and the private sector. These initiatives led to a stronger ICRISAT working for a food-secure SAT.

In 2004, ICRISAT led by Dr Dar, won for the fourth time the King Baudouin Award (the most prestigious in the CGIAR) together with CIMMYT, IRRI, IWMI and other national systems in the CIMMYT-led Rice-Wheat Consortium for the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Earlier in 2002, again under his leadership, the Institute together with ICARDA had bagged the award for developing new chickpea varieties with higher tolerance to drought and heat, greater resistance to pests and diseases that provide stable and profitable yields. ICRISAT is the only CGIAR Center to have bagged this award four times.

In 2003, ICRISAT underwent two external reviews from the CGIAR, acknowledging outstanding science quality and sound and excellent management under Dr Dar. These reviews gave the impetus for ICRISAT to carve out a new strategy for its transformation and renewal as a premier center of scientific excellence for the people of the dry tropics in the 21st century. In the same year, ICRISAT stood second among the 15 CGIAR Centers in terms of financial health indicators developed by the World Bank. Dr Dar's astute and decisive leadership was repeatedly manifest in the Institute's surplus budgets in the years 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

There were more research outputs and impacts created by the Institute during the last seven years as well, both in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The turnaround for the Institute was possible because of his effective and human-oriented management, big-picture decisions and innovations and the positive attitude and high morale he infused in the staff. As a demonstration of the strong faith in his outstanding leadership in turning ICRISAT around, the Governing Board awarded Dr Dar a new five-year term starting January 2005. In 2006, he led the whole Institute in the formulation of the new ICRISAT Vision and Strategy to 2015, a road map to empowering the poor in the drylands.

Dr Dar's transformational leadership has turned ICRISAT into a forward looking institution, which is now ranked 'Outstanding' among the CGIAR centers. A man on a mission and a champion of the poor, Dr Dar has made a big difference and continues with conviction his mission of helping alleviate the conditions of the poor people living in the drylands of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.