



VISAYAS
STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF **ECONOMICS**

DR. PROSE IVY G. YEPES

President

Visayas State University

Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Thru: **Dr. Rotacio Gravoso**

Vice President for Academic Affairs
& Chairman, VSU-SC

Dear President Yepes,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally inform you of the successful completion of my Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Agricultural and Environmental Economics at the University of Queensland, Australia. My doctoral research, titled *"Productivity, Profitability, and Nitrogen Use Efficiency of Rice Cropping in the Philippines,"* has been a culmination of extensive academic inquiry and practical analysis aimed at advancing the agricultural sector in the Philippines.

The official conferment of my degree took place on November 1, 2024. This journey was made possible through the generous support of the Australia Awards Scholarship Program, which funded my studies for four years, from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2023. As part of the scholarship program, I am required to develop a Re-Entry Action Plan (REAP), and I am pleased to inform you that I have selected Visayas State University as one of the key institutions to partner with in conducting this plan. I am excited about the potential to collaborate on initiatives that can further support the agricultural and environmental goals of the Philippines.

The primary motivation behind my research was to generate high-level insights that can inform policy-making and support Filipino farmers in improving nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This research is driven by the vision of balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. By identifying key drivers of both economic and environmental goals, I believe it is possible to enhance farm production efficiency through targeted interventions that benefit both farmers and the environment.

The study utilized a multi-level assessment approach to capture insights from global, national, provincial, and farm-level perspectives. By doing so, it aimed to identify cost-saving opportunities and improve both technical and ecological efficiency in rice production. One of the central goals of the thesis was to explore the potential of recycled waste in rice cultivation as part of a broader initiative for sustainable cropping and a circular nutrient economy in the Philippines.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Department of Economics, the College of Management and Economics, and Visayas State University for their continued support throughout my academic journey. Your encouragement, guidance, and dedication have been instrumental in my success, and I truly appreciate the opportunities that the university has provided me.

I am confident that the insights gained from my research can contribute to ongoing efforts to support Filipino farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices in the country. I look forward to any opportunities to collaborate with your office of the university on further advancing this important work.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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FM-VSU-03

V3 06-06-2024

No. DOE-2024-IC

