



December 8, 2021

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR TERMINAL REPORT SUBMISSION

FELICIANO G. CALORA, Jr. PhD
Deputy Executive Director for R&D
DOST-PCAARRD
Los Baños, Laguna

Dear Dr. Calora;

Good day!

This is in reference to your letter dated November 25, 2021, requiring us to submit the terminal report on or before January 31, 2022 of the project entitled **"Establishment of ten hectares' abaca hybrid plantation at VSU and evaluation of fiber quality for pulp industry"** as the 2nd year of project extension has finally ended last October 30, 2021. However, the data required to complete the project is still insufficient and nonconclusive, thus we are requesting you to extend the deadline of the said report until May 30, 2022 as laboratory pulping activities are to be conducted yet.

Please allow me to explain my side as to what happened in the project implementation. Yes, I received the leadership of the project for the second year of extension, fully aware that the project was already a "failure" since in the first place all the Inosa plants were already eradicated by ABTV before I took over, and there is no more way of comparing fairly the fibers of Inosa and Bandala without question of bias. However, it was my goal to save the face of the University to produce the data needed and to have closure of the issue regarding the variety. (It is even unfair in my part during our annual in-house review that the project's failure is already put into my blame as the current project leader).

Unfortunately, during my leadership, Q1 and Q2 budget for the second year of extension was only released 10 months after the implementation. It was not the fault of PCAARRD and neither mine but the inefficiency of our Accounting Office that regularly submitted erroneous Financial Reports. Even until this time, FRs for the first year of extension and Q1 and Q2 releases have not yet been prepared. This is the reason why I was not able to request earlier for further extension due to the absence of FRs.

During this extension year, we focused on extracting the fiber from the Bandala to reach the required volume even just for 1 trial which is about 3,500 kgs, yet we fall short to only about 2,000 kgs. Because of this observation, I conducted a side study **"Comparative fiber recovery of Inosa and Bandala using spindle stripping, manual stripping, and decortication methods"**. In fact, I developed a decortication machine suitable for Bandala hybrid using resources from other project. The results showed a low recovery of Bandala compared to Inosa of 0.5% is to 1.8% in spindle stripping, 2.3% is to 3.2% in decortication, and 1.8% is to 3.7% in handstripping, respectively. The low recovery of Bandala in spindle stripping is the reason for low volume of fiber production. The five laborers can only process 50 stalks a day which is only equivalent to 10 kgs. With this, technically speaking we need 10 laborers, 2 stripping machines and 500 days to produce the required 10 tons of fiber from Bandala. It was also here that I