

September 18, 2023

**Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin**  
President  
Visayas State University  
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

**Thru: Dr. Maria Juliet C. Ceniza**  
Vice-President for Research, Extension and Innovation

Dear **Dr. Tulin**,

This is to recommend the appointment of **Dr. Cecille Marie O. Quiñones** as Study Leader of the research entitled “**Changes in soil organic carbon and nutrient stock after natural vegetation removal for *Aquilaria* plantation establishment in Leyte, Philippines**”, study 2 of the research project entitled “*Ecological Assessment and Conservation of *Aquilaria malaccensis* Through Sustainable Agarwood Production in Leyte and Biliran Islands, Philippines (ECoSAP)*” (**Project Code: VSU-IP-2021-9**), charged to the Internationalization Program subject to the availability of funds, effective October 1, 2023 until December 31, 2023, with equivalent workload units renewable every year until completion of the project.

As Study Leader, Dr. Quiñones is expected to perform the following responsibilities:

1. Exercise supervision and control in the implementation of the study, in coordination with the other study leaders;
2. Evaluate and compare the stocks of soil organic C in *Aquilaria* plantations, using the forest as reference;
3. Identify which soil nutrient and other dynamic soil properties are largely influenced by forest conversion to *Aquilaria* plantations;
4. Propose management practices in *Aquilaria* plantations to potentially offset the land-use conversion effects to dynamic soil properties;
5. Submit to OVPREI, through the Project Leader, the following:
  - a. Report on the significant outputs/outcomes of the research;
  - b. Quarterly research progress reports to the OVPREI-RPO (**Attachment 1**);
  - c. Midyear research progress reports every 1<sup>st</sup> week of July of every year (**Attachment 2**);
  - d. Annual research progress reports every 1<sup>st</sup> week of January of the succeeding year (**Attachment 3**);
6. Present the research highlights or papers during the Research In-house Review and Evaluation (**Attachment 4**);
7. Present a paper in the regional/national R&D Symposia/fora (**as scheduled by Consortium/National agency concerned with the prescribed standard format**);
8. Submit terminal report three (3) months after completion of the research project (**Attachment 5**);
9. Publish articles of significant research findings in indexed/peer-reviewed journals.

For any changes in the title, methodology, project site, and/or budget, approval should first be sought from the University President upon recommendation by the concerned College Dean, Center Director, Director for Research, and the Vice President for Research, Extension, and Innovation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Very truly yours,

**MARLITO M. BANDE**  
Project Leader, ECoSAP

***Conformé:***

**CECILLE MARIE O. QUIÑONES**  
Assistant Professor IV  
Department of Soil Science (DSS)

***Endorsed by:***

**DENNIS P. PEQUE**  
Dean, College of Forestry and  
Environmental Science (CFES)

***Recommending Approval:***

**MARIA JULIET C. CENIZA**  
VP for Research, Extension and Innovation

***Certified Funds Available:***

**ALICIA M. FLORES**  
Head, Budget Office

***Noted:***

**ROSA OPHELIA D. VELARDE**  
Director for Research

cc: OVPREI (VP)  
OVPREI (RPO)  
Head, Budget Office  
Dean, CFES  
Head, DSS  
CMOQuiñones  
RSPPRO  
ITEEM (File)