

Alice Escalante De Cruz, PhD

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Professional Summary

PhD in Agricultural Sciences with 19 years of teaching and leadership in biotechnology, plant cell & tissue culture, hydroponics, and green nanotechnology. Consistently achieved >90% student evaluation scores through innovative education and blended learning. Strong record in curriculum development, programme accreditation, and research capacity building. Published extensively and secured national and international research grants. Committed to advancing biotechnology education, sustainable agriculture, and food security.

Education

PhD Agricultural Sciences, Iwate University, Japan – 1999

MSc Botany, National University of Singapore – 1993

BSc Agriculture (Magna cum laude), Visayas State College of Agriculture (now VSU) – 1988

Academic & Administrative Experience

Associate Professor, Nilai University (2013–present)

- Taught Plant Cell & Tissue Culture, Molecular Biology, and Research Methods.
- Supervised 30+ research projects in plant biotechnology, hydroponics & nanotechnology.
- Implemented blended learning for enhanced student outcomes.

Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Nilai University (2015–2018)

- Oversaw 40 faculty, secured postgraduate accreditations, and initiated Health Promotion Centre.

Director, Research & Postgraduate Studies / Quality Assurance, Nilai University (2017–2020)

- Led postgraduate systems, ISO-based academic audits, and staff training in OBE/QMS.

Head, Maths and Science Department (2008–2014)

- Established labs, secured programme accreditations, developed internships, and integrated Bloom's taxonomy in assessments.

Earlier Roles: Affiliate Instructor & Research Specialist, ViSCA (1988–1995).

Research & Publications

- **Grants:** Tissue culture of ornamentals (Nilai Univ.); MSc Food Security & Climate Change (SEARCA/Erasmus+); Plant-mediated nanoparticle biosynthesis (MMU).
- **Publications:** 25+ peer-reviewed papers in biotechnology, plant sciences & nanotechnology. Recent work on pak choy under salinity stress (2025) and orchid micropropagation (2024).
- **Conferences:** Presented at 30+ international/national conferences.

Awards & Recognition

- Best Paper Award, Multimedia University Engineering Conference (2022).
- Silver Medal, Research Program on Digital Futures (2021).

Professional Memberships

International Association for Plant Biotechnology

International Society for Southeast Asian Agriculture Science – Malaysia Chapter

Expertise

Plant Biotechnology | Tissue Culture & Micropropagation | Sustainable Agriculture | Hydroponics | Green Nanotechnology | Curriculum & Programme Development