

02 February 2024

**Dr. Romel B. Armecin**

Director, National Abaca Research Center  
Visayas State University

Dear Dr. Armecin,

I would like to apply for the Instructor III position in Plant Pathology at the National Abaca Research Center. I am currently working as a Science Research Specialist I at the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in the Visayas State University (VSU). However, the position in NARC would allow me to grow more professionally and it is a better fit to my academic qualifications and work experience.

I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Plant Protection specializing in Plant Pathology and a Master's Degree in Plant Pathology from VSU. My undergraduate and graduate studies have developed my passion, knowledge, and skills in plant diagnostics, specifically disease identification based on morphological, physiological, and molecular characteristics of the pathogens. My theses and work exposures helped me develop my skills in DNA extraction, both from plants and microorganisms, and in doing Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). My undergraduate research on PCR-based identification of bacterial heart rot of abaca, funded by the Pest Management Council of the Philippines (PMCP), was awarded the Best Undergraduate Thesis by the Phi Delta Honor Society of VSU. It was also published in the Journal of Tropical Plant Pathology, a refereed scientific journal. My graduate research, on the other hand, focused on the characterization of tomato bacterial diseases and their causal organisms including their morphological, cultural, physiological, and molecular characteristics.

Since 2014, I have worked as a research assistant in different research projects in VSU. My job was mostly field and laboratory-based. Through the years as an RA and SRS, I have been exposed to work on abaca such as bunchy-top virus and *Fusarium* sp. detection and identification in abaca planting materials. I have also been tapped as a resource person in NARC trainings on abaca good agricultural practices and integrated pest management.

In addition, I had worked as a lecturer at the College of Agriculture and Agri-Industries at Caraga State University in 2020, handling Crop Protection 21 and 22 courses, and as a part-time instructor at the Department of Pest Management in 2021 handling Microbiology 22." These experiences have honed my knowledge and skills in research, laboratory work, and imparting knowledge not only to students but also to our abaca farmers.

I wish to continue my work in research and teaching. I believe that the position I am applying for will give me the opportunity to do so. Thank you for considering my application.

Respectfully,

  
**JOY ADELINE C. NUÑEZ-CADALIN**  
Applicant