

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### MARI NEILA P. SECO

Master of Science in Plant Pathology

Registered Agriculturist

Central Philippines State University, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental 6111

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### I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth : November 12, 1996  
Place of Birth : Baybay, Leyte  
Nationality : Filipino  
Civil Status : Single  
Sex : Female  
Home Address : Brgy. Villa Solidaridad, Baybay City, Leyte, 6521

### II. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- 2016 – 2019     **Master of Science in Plant Pathology**  
Cognate: Molecular Biology and Biotechnology  
University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Los Baños, College, Laguna 4031  
Thesis: Phenotypic Reaction and Expression of Wheat-Durable Resistance Gene *Lr67* in Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) Against Fungal Pathogens
- 2012 – 2016     **Bachelor of Science in Agriculture**  
Major: Plant Protection specializing in Plant Pathology  
Visayas State University (VSU), Visca, Baybay City, Leyte 6521  
*Magna cum laude*  
Thesis: Characterization and Identification of *Phytophthora* Species Affecting Eggplant (*Solanum melongena* L.) and Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) in Leyte, Philippines
- 2012 – 2014     **Certificate of Agriculture Science (BSA Ladderized Program)**  
Visayas State University (VSU), Visca, Baybay City, Leyte 6521  
With High Honors
- 2008 – 2012     **High School**  
Visayas State University Laboratory High School (VSU-LHS), Visca, Baybay City, Leyte 6521  
With Honors  
Research: Seed Germination of Abaca (*Musa Textilis* Nee) var. *Inosa* as Affected by Different Storage Temperatures and Longevity of Storage

### III. WORK EXPERIENCE

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|----------------------------|--|
| February 2023 – present    | <b>Instructor III</b><br>College of Agriculture and Forestry<br>Central Philippines State University<br>Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental 6111  |
| March 2022 – January 2023  | <b>Part-time Instructor</b><br>College of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Sciences<br>Western Philippines University<br>San Juan, Aborlan, Palawan   |
| August 2019- December 2022 | <b>MS Graduate Fellow (Senior Science Research Specialist)</b><br>DOST-SEI Graduate Career Incentive Program<br>DOST, Bicutan, Taguig City<br>Stationed at Plant Pathology Laboratory, Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños |
| July – August 2019         | <b>University Research Associate I</b><br>Plant Pathology Laboratory, Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños  |

### IV. SCHOLARSHIP/HONORS/AWARDS

#### A. Scholarship

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|-------------|--|
| 2017 – 2019 | <b>Affiliate MS Thesis Research Scholarship</b><br>Rice Breeding, International Rice Research Institute<br>Los Baños, Laguna 4031  |
| 2016 – 2018 | <b>DOST-ASTHRDP Scholarship</b><br>Department of Science and Technology- Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program- National Science Consortium (DOST-ASTHRDP-NSC), Master of Science in Plant Pathology, UP Los Baños |
| 2012 – 2016 | <b>University Scholarship</b><br>Visayas State University  |
| 2012 – 2013 | <b>Government Employee VSU Dependent Scholarship</b><br>Visayas State University   |

#### B. Honors

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| 2012- 2016 | <b>Consistent University Honors</b><br>Visayas State University |
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### **C. Awards**

- April 1, 2023      **Young Investigator in Plant Pathology (YIPP Fellow)**  
The Plant and Soil Health Research Unit  
Department of Biology, College of Sciences  
De La Salle University
- January 27, 2022      **NS Ramon C. Barba Award**  
2nd IPB-JRO Scientific Conference  
Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science,  
University of the Philippines Los Baños
- September 18, 2021      **2021 Young Investigator in Plant Pathology (YIPP)**  
Plant Pathology Laboratory, Institute of Plant Breeding, College of  
Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños
- November 18, 2020      **2020 Young Investigator in Plant Pathology (YIPP)**  
Plant Pathology Laboratory, Institute of Plant Breeding, College of  
Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños
- April 19, 2020      **Special Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement (Q1 of 2020)**  
Plant Pathology Laboratory, Institute of Plant Breeding, College of  
Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños
- March 6, 2020      **2020 Outstanding Research Team Award**  
Team Member, Plant Pathology Program  
Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science,  
University of the Philippines Los Baños

### **V. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- March 13, 2023      **Registered Agriculturist (Professional ID No. 0040175)**  
Professional Regulation Commission  
Date of Exam: November 22-24, 2022
- December 8-9, 2022      **Paper Presenter**  
*Bacillus* spp. controls growth of three mycotoxigenic fungi in corn  
seeds  
13th IMT-GT UNINET Bioscience International Conference 2022  
Songkhla, Thailand
- October 26-27, 2022      **Panel of Evaluators (Paper and Scientific Poster Presentations)**  
Regional Research and Development Symposium  
Central Visayas Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources  
Research and Development Consortium (CVAARRDEC)  
St. Mark Hotel, Brgy. Kamputhaw, Cebu City
- October 13-14, 2022      **Paper Presenter**

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|                     | <p>Mycoflora distribution in corn seeds and milled products of different varieties in the Philippines</p> <p>2022 ISSAAS National Virtual Scientific Congress</p>   |
| October 3-7, 2022   | <p><b>Training Facilitator</b></p> <p>Basic Plant Disease Diagnosis Workshop</p> <p>A Capacity-building Workshop for Staff of the Mindoro State University</p> <p>Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños</p>                                   |
| August 18-19, 2022  | <p><b>Paper Presenter</b></p> <p>New Records of Fungi Associated with Plant Diseases in the Philippines</p> <p>52<sup>nd</sup> CSSP Scientific Conference</p> <p>Crop Science Society of the Philippines</p>  |
| July 14-15, 2022    | <p><b>Poster Presenter</b></p> <p>Isolation of <i>Hyphopichia burtonii</i> from corn weevil (<i>Sitophilus zeamais</i>) and its antagonistic activity against mycotoxigenic fungi</p> <p>54<sup>th</sup> PMCP Anniversary and Annual Conference</p>   |
| July 14-15, 2022    | <p><b>Poster Presenter</b></p> <p>Culture filtrate from <i>Bacillus</i> spp. controls growth of mycotoxigenic fungal pathogens in corn seeds</p> <p>54<sup>th</sup> PMCP Anniversary and Annual Conference</p>  |
| March 15, 2022      | <p><b>Poster Presenter</b></p> <p>Intervention in Corn Seeds Using Physical and Non-physical Control Method against Mycotoxigenic Fungi</p> <p>NRCP Annual Scientific Conference and 89<sup>th</sup> General Membership Assembly</p>  |
| January 26-27, 2022 | <p><b>Poster Presenter</b></p> <p>Efficacy of <i>Bacillus</i> spp. isolated from corn seeds against three mycotoxigenic fungal pathogens</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> IPB-JRO Scientific Conference</p> <p>Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños</p> |
| July 6-7, 2021      | <p><b>Poster Presenter</b></p> <p>Occurrence, Frequency, and Characterization of <i>Aspergillus</i> Species in Different Corn Varieties</p> <p>53<sup>rd</sup> PMCP Anniversary and Annual Conference</p>   |
| May 20, 2021        | <p><b>Technical Paper Presenter</b></p> <p>Characterization and Molecular Identity of Corn Smut Pathogen in the Philippines</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Plant Pathology Laboratory – IPB Virtual Scientific Session</p> <p>University of the Philippines Los Baños</p>  |

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| April 29-30, 2021      | <b>Poster Presenter</b><br>Overview of Corn Grits Pathology and Detection of New Potentially Mycotoxigenic Fungal Strains from the Philippines<br>7 <sup>th</sup> UP REPSS Scientific Conference and 11 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting<br>UP Society of Research, Extension, and Professional Staff, Inc.   |
| March 10, 2021         | <b>Poster Presenter</b><br>Identification of <i>Aspergillus tamarii</i> in corn seeds and milled products from the Philippines<br>2021 Annual Scientific Conference and 88 <sup>th</sup> General Membership Assembly<br>National Research Council of the Philippines, Bicutan, Taguig City  |
| January 13, 2021       | <b>Poster Presenter</b><br>Identification of <i>Aspergillus tamarii</i> in corn seeds and milled products from the Philippines<br>1 <sup>st</sup> IPB-JRO Scientific Conference<br>Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños  |
| November 26 – 27, 2020 | <b>Poster Presenter</b><br>Phenotypic Reaction and Gene Expression of Wheat-Durable Resistance Gene <i>Lr67</i> in Rice ( <i>Oryza sativa</i> L.) Against Fungal Pathogens<br>ASTHRDP Graduate Scholars Conference (Year 9)<br>Department of Science and Technology Science Education Institute and Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development Program-National Science Consortium |
| July 25, 2020          | <b>Technical Paper Presenter</b><br>Frequency, identity, and mycotoxigenic potential of fungi from corn seeds during grits processing<br>Plant Pathology Laboratory – IPB 1 <sup>st</sup> Virtual Scientific Session<br>University of the Philippines Los Baños   |
| October 18 – 20, 2019  | <b>Oral Presenter</b><br>Resistance Evaluation and Gene Expression of Wheat-Durable Resistance Gene <i>Lr67</i> in Rice ( <i>Oryza Sativa</i> L.) against Fungal Pathogens<br>ISSAAS International Congress and General Meeting 2019<br>Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia  |
| July 2 – 5, 2019       | <b>Poster Presenter</b><br>The Durable Resistance Gene <i>Lr67</i> from Wheat Confers Partial Resistance against Multiple Fungal Pathogens in Rice<br>51 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary and Annual Scientific Conference<br>Coron Westown Resort, Coron, Palawan   |

April 13, 2016

**Honor Graduate Eligibility** (Presidential Decree No. 907)  
Civil Service Commission  
Certificate of Eligibility No. 100108160453

**VI. MEMBERSHIP**

- Philippine Phytopathological Society (PPS), Inc.
- The Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc. (PSM)
- Philippine Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biologu (PSBMB)
- International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences (ISSAAS)

**VII. REFERENCES**

- **Mark Angelo O. Balendres, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
De La Salle University  
[mark.angelo.balendres@dlsu.edu.ph](mailto:mark.angelo.balendres@dlsu.edu.ph)
- **Mary Jeanie T. Yanoria, Ph.D.**  
Senior Associate Scientist  
Rice Breeding Platform  
International Rice Research Institute  
Los Baños, Laguna 4031  
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[m.yanoria@irri.org](mailto:m.yanoria@irri.org)
- **Christian Joseph R. Cumagun, Ph.D.**  
Institute of Weed Science, Entomology and Plant Pathology  
University of the Philippines Los Baños (formerly)  
(+63) 916 596 7596  
[christian\\_cumagun@yahoo.com](mailto:christian_cumagun@yahoo.com)
- **Lucia M. Borines, Ph.D.**  
(Retired) Head and Professor VI  
Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
Department of Pest Management  
Visayas State University (formerly)  
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte 6521  
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