

Brief Biographical Sketch of Dr. William D. Dar



William D Dar, Ph.D. is a man on a mission and a champion of the poor. Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) near Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, India, since January 2000. He has had a long and distinguished career as an educationist, agricultural scientist, administrator, and humanitarian in his native Philippines and abroad in Asia Pacific region and sub-Saharan Africa. Dr Dar held the distinction of being the first Filipino and Asian to be Director General of ICRISAT and Chair of the Alliance Executive of the Alliance of Future Harvest Centres in 2005, a collegial body that facilitates collective action among the 15 CGIAR Centres. Dr Dar has also been a member of the UN Millennium Task Force on Hunger. Prior to joining ICRISAT, he served as Presidential Adviser for Rural Development, and Secretary of Agriculture in the Philippines (equivalent to Minister of Agriculture), the first ever alumnus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) to become one. Before this, he was Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) and Vice President for R & D and Professor of Benguet State University (BSU), Philippines.

Dr. Dar has received a number of awards and honours, including the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines, Outstanding Young Scientist of the Year, Crop Science Society of the Philippines' Achievement Award for Research Management and Outstanding Science Administrator given by the Philippines Department of Science and Technology. He was also awarded as Distinguished Alumnus of UPLB and Most Outstanding Alumnus of BSU and the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College. In November 2002, PCARRD honoured him with its highest and most prestigious award, the Symbol of Excellence in R&D Management. In 2003 he was awarded both an honorary doctorate by the Mariano Marcos State University in the Philippines and in Vietnam the "For the Sake of Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam Award".

Dr. Dar led ICRISAT into renaissance, excellence and relevance with the motto of "Science with Human Face". Dr. Dar's passion is to help alleviate the conditions of the poor people living in the semi-arid tropics of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.