

Professional Science Master's Scholar

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PSM Degree

Master of Business and Science in Global Agriculture

US University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Date of Completion

December 2015

GPA

3.96

Master of Business and Science in Global Agriculture

The program aims to increase student learning in a professionally relevant scientific field while understanding business and management concepts necessary in decision-making and problem solving. This combination prepares students with the necessary business acumen, entrepreneurial skills, and know-how to translate scientific and technological ideas into profitable products and services.

As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

As a PSM student, the highlight of my study was taking business courses with industry professionals (as mentors and lecturers). They provided a new twist to the science I know. Working with people with various scientific background also helped me improved my communication, leadership and interpersonal skills. It also expanded my horizon both as an instructor and a researcher.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

The whole experience has been life-changing for me. This scholarship opened a lot of opportunities for growth and self-improvement. I now have a deeper understanding of the world, having mingled with different types of people from different countries and walks of life. I am more confident now, equipped with essential knowledge and skills valued by both academe and industry. I have changed from being a mere scientist to a man with entrepreneurial goals. Soon, I will not only be a college instructor alone, but also an entrepreneur with a business venture of my own.

How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

As someone from the academia, I know that I will be able to use my US degree to benefit my students. Supplementing the science courses with business and entrepreneurship will add value to their course works. Instilling in them an entrepreneurial mind to supplement their knowledge in science will help them become highly equipped professionals who will participate in nation building. I will also be using my newfound inclination in entrepreneurship and background on intellectual property to develop and initiate researches which will be valuable to the community. In the university, we are also involved in extension activities to deliver the knowledge and developed technologies to the grassroots level. Training the farmers to be entrepreneurs will also help in uplifting their status of living.

As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

In the next 10 years, I can see the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem moving forward. The network of capable and talented young scientists is increasing, ready to build a stronger research culture for innovation. Universities are also more open to harnessing expertise in intellectual property to effectively commercialize research products. A rising number of young technopreneurs is also an indication of the growing interest in business and entrepreneurship. The efforts of USAID through the STRIDE program is one good example of how we can start to develop the said ecosystem in the years to come. We need to explore more the benefits of public-private partnership. University and industry must collaborate on mutual interests and with utmost trust to realize fully our economic goals. The government, on the other hand, must continue to implement appropriate policies to fast-track research priorities and together with proper budget allocation, we can develop an enabling environment for the science, technology and innovation ecosystem to thrive.

Arlan is currently an Assistant Professor at UPLB involved in research projects on quality systems improvement of selected underutilized fruits through value chain analysis and management, and postharvest quality and safety assessment of onion grown under integrated pest management against the devastating armyworm pest.

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