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FERNANDO FLORES SANCHEZ: ACCOMPLISHED ENTOMOLOGIST

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Fernando Flores Sanchez was born on 30 May 1936 in Pateros, Rizal where he completed his primary education. He received his secondary education in Rizal High School, Pasig, Rizal. Thereafter, he enrolled at the then U.P. College of Agriculture in 1954 and received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1958. In 1958-1959, he served the Department of Entomology as research assistant under Dr. Getulio Viado. Eager to pursue his graduate degree, he later moved on to the University of Hawaii under a research assistantship and Rockefeller travel grant where he obtained his Master of Science in entomology in 1962 and subsequently his Doctor of Philosophy in entomology in 1965, with specialization in insecticide toxicology. Having completed his Ph.D. requirements a year earlier, he returned to the Philippines and joined the Department of Entomology as Assistant Professor. His inclination toward administrative work was immediately tested when he became chairman of the department in 1967-1971, during which he provided leadership in advancing the science of entomology through the institution's tri-function of instruction, research, and extension. In no time at all, he rose from the ranks and attained the rank of Professor by 1977.

Sanchez found himself in the midst of a new wave of pioneering and challenging opportunities in the College of Agriculture in the 1970's, when young scientists with vision were needed to explore new directions in the field of pest management. His training as a toxicologist and his managerial skills became useful when he assumed the directorship of the Rodent Research Center from 1971 to 1976. He provided leadership and guidance in developing technologies for reducing vertebrate pest damage to agricultural crops in the Philippines and other countries in Southeast Asia. Specifically, he headed a team of American researchers from the Denver Wildlife Center and Filipino researchers that developed the rodent control technology "sustained baiting." This technology led to the practical management of rats in rice, corn, and coconut. Thereafter, the success of the Rodent Control Center and the experience gained in managing it gave birth to an expanded and more ambitious dream of establishing a crop protection center with a national scope, which prompted the Philippine government to support the creation and establishment of a National Crop Protection Center (NCPC) through the Presidential Decree 938 in May 1976. Having been the originator of such a center, Sanchez became its first director from its inception from 1976 until 1989, during which it was fully realized through the generous infrastructure support by the government, as well as, manpower training and equipment support by the U.S. Agency for International Development. NCPC now stands as a historical landmark in crop protection, a living legacy of his painstaking, patient, and tireless efforts in making his vision a reality. The center now

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provides leadership in generating and developing crop protection systems needed in agriculture and aptly addresses the demands of the present in modernizing crop protection and farming concepts and practices essential for preparing Filipino farmers in facing the challenges of national food security and global competitiveness.

At the height of his professional career, he served as Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of the Philippines Los Baños in 1991-1993.

As researcher, Sanchez actively engaged in the developing of control strategies for insects and rodents in rice, corn, tomato, cucurbits, sweet potato, mungbean, soybean, coconut, cacao, and mango. As a result, he published 26 scientific papers solely or with other researchers in refereed journals, as well as 49 more occasional articles and scholarly publications. He also authored and co-authored nine book chapters mostly dealing with rodent control. He also participated in the design and implementation of training programs in vertebrate pest management and general crop protection. He headed a technical committee that prepared "The Philippines Recommends for Rodent Control" which came out as PCARRD Technical Bulletin 57.

As professor, Sanchez taught courses in Crop Protection Entomology (including Vertebrate Pest Management) and Pesticide Toxicoloty. He was the first to pioneer the teaching of introductory crop protection courses in Filipino, which was unique, considering the difficulties commonly encountered in teaching a science course involving numerous terminologies with no Filipino equivalents. He also served as adviser to many B.Sc., M.Sc, Ph.D. students.

In recognition of his expertise and accomplishments, he received numerous awards during his 37 years of service as a professor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños. Notable among these are Pest management Award from the Pest Control Council of the Philippines (1980), Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UPLB College of Agriculture Alumni Association (1981), the Rizal Pro-Patria Award for Outstanding Achievement in Crop Protection (1981), the Uichanco Memorial Award as Outstanding Entomologist from the Philippine Association of Entomologists (1982), the Achievement Award for Research Management from the Crop Science Society of the Philippines (1984), a Congress Medal during the 11th International Congress of Plant Protection (1987), and the Leopoldo B. Uichanco Professorial Chair in Pest Management (1978-1987). Two insect species have also been named in his honor, namely, *Telsimia sanchezi* Palacio (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) and *Paurocephala sanchezi* Navasero & Calilung (Hemiptera: Psylloidea: Aphalaridae). As a consequence, he served as technical adviser or consultant to many national and international agencies for many years. He served as chair of the Pesticide Technical Advisory Committee of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority for more than 10 years, during which he influenced government policies on pesticide use in the country.

Sanchez recognized the importance of and benefited from his membership in professional and scientific societies, among which are: Philippine Association of Entomologists where he served as president in 1970-71, Entomological Society of America, Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma, Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture, New York Academy of Sciences, and International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences.

In retrospect, Sanchez has earned his rightful place in the history of Philippine entomology, as a pillar of the pioneering years of crop protection during the new era of entomology in the 1970's, foremost of which was as an institution builder which

he pursued in his unique style: as a quiet, humble man with a vision who pursued his dream to its triumphant conclusion, truly a career fully lived, with genuine dedication to government service. To most of the individuals who know him, worked for him and with him, Fernando Flores Sanchez is always a name carved, not on a lifeless stony monument, but in their hearts.