



Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. is a Professor of Horticulture at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). He is also an arborist, a landscape horticulturist and planner, and the current Chancellor of UPLB.

For almost 30 years, Dr. Sanchez has been shaping the minds of UPLB students. He is a senior faculty member at the College of Agriculture and Food Science, as well as an affiliate faculty of the School of Environmental Science and Management. Dr. Sanchez earned his bachelor's degree in Agriculture in 1987 and his master's degree in Environmental Science in 1994 in UPLB. He also holds the distinction of being the first Filipino to obtain a PhD in Landscape Architecture, on full scholarship, at the Tokyo University of Agriculture in 1998.

Dr. Sanchez is recognized as one of the Philippines' pioneers in the landscape horticulture profession. He has built a strong landscape design and site development portfolio within and outside UPLB. Some of his notable work include the creation of the UP Mindanao Campus Master Plan, the landscape rehabilitation and development of various buildings within the UP System including the Philippine General Hospital in UP Manila, the stage design for President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III's 2010 Presidential Inauguration, and the design of the Dr. Jose Rizal Centennial Marker at Hibiya Park, Tokyo, Japan. Due to his unparalleled contribution to the landscape arts, the University awarded Dr. Sanchez the *Outstanding Creative Artist Award* in 2008 and 2009. He also received the Provincial Government of Laguna' *Gawad Pinakaminingning na Alagad ng Sining ng Laguna: Allied Arts* in 2008 and the Philippine Federation of Professional Associations, Inc.'s *Excellence Award* in 2009.

Prior to being UPLB's chief academic and executive officer, Dr. Sanchez was UPLB's Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development from 2011 to 2014. Yet his involvement in the University's planning and development affairs dates back as far as 2005 when he was appointed as Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development. His professional experience as a licensed agriculturist, a certified arborist, and a landscape horticulturist and planner has served UPLB well.

As Chancellor of UPLB, Dr. Sanchez is determined to transform UPLB into a globally competitive graduate and research university contributing to national development. From

2014 to 2020, Dr. Sanchez has secured Php 4.32 billion to fund UPLB's various research endeavors. These include the development of the Philippine Genome Center for Agriculture's building and institutional development program, the development of three new virtual interdisciplinary centers: the Interdisciplinary Studies Center for Water, the Interdisciplinary Life Cycle Assessment Laboratory, and the Interdisciplinary Studies Center on Biosensors for One Health; and the establishment of a subnational COVID-19 testing center, the UPLB COVID-19 Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, among many others. Dr. Sanchez also secured funding for the research projects *Fast Tracking COVID-19 Testing In The Philippines: Local Production of Enzymes for Testing, Development of LAMP-Based Test Kit; Improved Sensitivity and Accuracy of SARSCov-2 Detection Through Absolute Quantification Using Droplet Digital PCR*, and *Development of Prototypes and Protocols for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Disinfection for Reuse and Disposal*, scientific endeavors that directly respond to our country's ongoing fight against COVID-19.

Also, from 2014 to 2020, Dr. Sanchez has secured Php 4.8 billion to lead the development of 164 infrastructure projects and activities designed to enhance UPLB's instruction, research, and public service activities. These include upgrading UPLB's internet bandwidth from 150 MB/sec to up to 2.3 GB/sec, UPLB's membership to the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), the construction of many new academic and research buildings as well as the improvement UPLB's road network, securing the Detailed Architectural and Engineering Design and Estimate (DAEDE) for UPLB's current and future infrastructure developments, and the renovation of hundreds of small classrooms and comfort rooms in the UPLB campus.

Apart from supervising numerous endeavors for the UPLB campus' development and leading major University events, Dr. Sanchez is also actively involved in the research and technology promotion of edible landscaping and flowering trees. He is also a regular paper and poster presenter among premier academic fora, such as those organized by the International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences and the International Federation of Landscape Architects.

Currently, Dr. Sanchez is mobilizing efforts to enhance UPLB's capacity to the challenges and opportunities brought about by the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution through UPLB 4.0. UPLB 4.0 is a vision to develop and harness smart, efficient, climate-responsive, sustainable, and accessible solutions concerning three major research and development areas: food, water, and energy—components that also directly respond to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

UPLB 4.0 is a step forward towards actively diversifying and developing UPLB's competence and capacity in doing research in various fields of science, encouraging further interdisciplinary collaboration and participation among UPLB's various academic and research units. It is also an endeavor that aims to better engage the public and concerned stakeholders towards understanding technologies, contextualizing problems and solutions, as well as developing informed policies.