

Biography - Professor Norman Q. Arancon

Dr. Arancon obtained M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Environmental Science from The Ohio State University as a Fulbright Scholar and a Graduate Research Associate from 1997-2001. He was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Studies from the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, after an award from the Rotary International Foundation in 1993. He holds a bachelor's degree in Agriculture with a major in Crop Science from Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines, as a Xavier Science Foundation scholar.

He worked for Xavier University as Lecturer-Instructor from 1989 to 1997. From 1994-1997, he was appointed Research and Documentation Coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture Center of the College of Agriculture, Xavier University, and later assumed Officer-in-Charge of the Center in 1997. His research at OSU included substitution of vermicomposts into commercial plant-growth media to horticultural crops in the greenhouse. Together with Dr. Clive Edwards and his students at the Soil Ecology Laboratory, they pioneered research on vermicompost applications in the field using other commercially-important vegetables, such as tomatoes and peppers; ornamentals such as marigolds and petunias; and small fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, and grapes, and investigated the effects of vermicomposts on chemical and biochemical changes in soils. He leads a USDA/NRI grant entitled "Effects and Modes of Action of Vermicomposts on Field Horticultural Crops."

Dr. Arancon became a Research Associate Professor at The Ohio State University in 2007. He took a position as Assistant Professor at The University of Hawaii (Hilo) in Summer 2008 but continues to collaborate closely with Dr. Edwards and the Soil Ecology Laboratory. He is currently designing and building the Vermiculture Center program of the Pacific Islands.