The National Conference on Smart Farming 4.0 with the theme, “Transforming Philippine Agriculture through Smart R&D Innovations,” was held at the Batangas State University in Pablo Borbon Main I on September 26-27.

The university co-hosted the national conference with the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) through the Agricultural Resources Management Research Division and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

It aimed to serve as a venue for researchers, scientists, experts and development workers to come together and share their research and development outputs including developed technologies, programs, projects and information regarding the development and sustainability of the agricultural industry in the Philippines.

Through a series of presentations, the participants showcased digital farming technology prototypes that were designed to improve the agricultural industry of the country.

Autonomous tractors and unmanned aerial vehicles (AUVs) or drones were featured among other prototypes during the conference.

These prototypes were designed for farm mapping/surveying to systematically monitor and manage crop health.

The RoboTractor (an autonomous tractor) is one of the innovative agricultural prototypes demonstrated at the conference by student researchers from the University of Sto. Tomas within the grounds of BatStateU Pablo Borbon Main I.