



Mercedita Agcaoili Sombilla

Currently the Assistant Secretary of the Regional Development Office and concurrent Director of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff of the National Economic and Development Authority or NEDA, the agency mandated to formulate and monitor national and regional development plans and policies. Her current stint as Assistant Secretary of the Regional Development Office of NEDA enables her to have greater involvement in providing advice on regional and local planning and policy formulation.

Prior to rejoining government, Ms Sombilla was full time researcher and held international post in various international institutions including the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in Washington DC, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) based in the Philippines and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), a regional research center based also in the Philippines. Her research studies covered both macro issues related to agricultural production, trade and price trends and their impact on food security, poverty, and rural incomes as well as micro issues affecting the dynamic development of rural economies, mostly in Asian countries.

Ms Sombilla has a Bachelors degree in Mathematics and a Masters Degree in Economics, both in the university of the Philippines at the Diliman Campus, and a doctoral degree on Agricultural Economics in the University of Minnesota.