

First Quarter  
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# DAMAG Agri

The official quarterly publication of the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I

## DA CONDUCTS 1st ILOCOS REGION GARLIC SUMMIT

**"BIGAS PARA SA MASA"**

**"DA employees are  
born to serve,  
so make use of them."**

## DA JOINS THE 20TH PEOPLE'S LIGHTS PARADE OF CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION





## Governor MARCOS graces DA-RFO I's farm machinery distribution; thankful for the projects awarded to her constituents



*“Maraming salamat Director. Ipaabot po ninyo ang aming pasasalamat sa ating Mahal na Pangulong Duterte at Secretary Manny Piñol sa pagtugon sa mga pangangailangan ng aming mga minamahal na magsasaka dito sa Ilocos.”*

Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos stressed her gratefulness to the Department of Agriculture as she spoke in behalf of the hundreds of farmer-recipient who received from the DA Php22 million worth of farm machineries and equipment during the DA-RFO I's Turn-over Ceremonies on January 16, 2018 held at the DA-Ilocos Norte Research & Experiment Center, Batac City, Ilocos Norte.

Marcos underscored the relevance of providing the farmers such kind of projects to improve their productivity as well as their income amidst the challenges that the sector is facing such as climate change resulting to problems in the soil and irrigation, minimal landholding capacity as well as aging farmers with an average age of 54-56.

*“Sana ang mga ganitong proyekto ay tuloy-tuloy hanggang sa mga susunod na taon upang mas lalo pang mapaangat ang kabuhayan ng ating mga magsasaka,”* Marcos added.

Meanwhile, RED Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director in his message expressed his full support and 100 percent

commitment to realize farmers' requests especially on their farm machinery needs to sustain the high productivity of farmers in the region. He also reminded the recipients of their obligations in taking good care of the farm machineries and equipment provided to maximize the useful life span of those that were distributed.

*"Ang mga ito po ay libreng ibinibigay sa inyo ng ating pamahalaan. Bagamat ito ay libre, umaasa kami na ito po ay inyong mamahalin na gaya ng pagmamahal na ibinibigay ninyo sa inyong mga asawa,"* Dir. Alviar stated which elicited grins from the recipients.

In the distribution activity for the second district alone, DA has given-away a total of P22 million worth of farm machineries and equipment benefitting the officers and members of 16 farmers associations and organizations from the 12 municipalities of Ilocos Norte.

Joining the Governor and RED Alviar during the distribution activity are the Local Chief Executives of Paoay in the person of Mayor Jessie Galano; Currimaos Mayor Gladys Go-Pwe, Batac City Mayor Albert Chua, and Banna Mayor Carlito Abadilla II.

The farm machinery distribution in the second district of Ilocos Norte is the first distribution activity of DA in 2018.###







**W**ith a total project cost of 13.1 million pesos, the Mango Packaging Center for the Cabugao Mango Farmers Multi-purpose Association (CMFMA) of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur has finally been turned-over on January 18, 2017. The packaging center is the civil works component of the enterprise subproject which is the Production and Marketing of Fresh Carabao Mango proposed by the CMFMA under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP).

The packaging center will benefit the 45 mango farmer-members of the association in particular and the entire mango industry of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur in general as it will help reduce post harvest losses in mango production due to lack of proper storage and sorting facility. It has a capacity to store 28,405 kilos of mangoes or approximately 1,235 crates at 23kg/crate.

The packaging center's total project cost is Php4,828,230.69 while the enterprise component project cost is Php6,224,732.00. The proponent group (PG) shared 20% to the enterprise total project cost which amounts to Php2.041M.

The Province of Ilocos Sur is also set to implement the largest infrastructure subproject of Region 1 funded under PRDP which is the Construction of Pug-os-Nagcullooban FMR in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur amounting to Php206 million. It will support the mango production areas in the said municipality.

Cabugao Municipal Mayor Josh Edward Cobangbang, with former Mayor Edgardo Cobangbang, SP Member Atty. Ronnie Rapanat who represented Gov. Ryan Luis Singson and DA-RFO 1 Regional Technical Director Erlinda Manipon spearheaded the turn over ceremony. Also present were other Provincial and Municipal LGU staff and PRDP staff from RPCO 1 headed by I-REAP Component head Ma. Christine de Leon and I-Support Component head Sharon Vilorio.###

## Blessing & Turn-over Of PRDP-RPCO 1's 1st completed I-REAP (regular) sub-project located in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur.







## DA-RFO I takes a big LEAP to the FUTURE

Envisioning the future, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I conducted a one day Stakeholders' Consultation-Workshop for the Preparation of Five-Year Strategic Plan for CY 2018-2022 last January 30, 2018 at Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union.

To ensure successful planning, the DA-RFO I was joined by representatives from its attached agencies and bureaus, NGOs, State Universities and Colleges, Local Government Units, and private sectors including RAFC, PAFCs, farmer representatives and Agri-based Industry Associations.

Resource person Dr. Evelyn Aro-Esquejo, former ATI Deputy Director presented the overview of the activity and discussed the need for developing a corporate plan of DA for 2018-2022.

The corporate planning was conducted to define the long/medium/short-term directions of DA-RFO I. It aims to mitigate and manage problem areas and ensure smoother implementation of projects, programs and activities. Through said planning, DA will be able to evaluate results based on target or intended outcome, assess discrepancies and to focus limited resources on priority activities with the use of technological advancements.

The Corporate Plan should be in sync with the general objective of the Department which is food security and increased incomes of farmers and fisherfolks, thus the need to come up with more suitable

## DA-RFO1 RAFIS conducts Technical Writing and Oral Presentation Workshop and Seminar



The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 thru the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) spearheaded the conduct of Technical Writing and Oral Presentation Seminar and Workshop for DA-RFO1 employees on February 5-9, 2018.

The training which aims to create an “Effective communication for efficient government service,” was participated by thirty (30) selected DA-RFO1 employees to enhance their capabilities in written and oral communication. Part of the participants’ routinary tasks in the office is to draft communication letters, memoranda as well as



creating power point presentations for reporting. The five day training workshop provided lectures, group and individual activities that guided them in enhancing their grammar and be able to write simple but effective letters and reports.

“Good writing is simple writing.” This is how resource speaker Ms. Josefina Quintana defined technical writing. She emphasized that in technical writing you don’t have to use complex words because you write to express and not to impress.

The Oral Presentation workshop took over after the technical writing workshop where the participants did a group presentation incorporating lessons imparted by the speaker on etiquette for speakers, effective use of visual aids, good posture, modulation of voice, among others.

At the end of the workshop the participants shared what they realized, learned and felt after participating in the said workshop expressing hopes of having better work outputs in the future.###





## First District Congressman Rudy Fariñas leads turn-over of DA projects in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte

**H**ouse Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas led the distribution and turn-over of P20 million worth of farm machineries and equipment at Brgy. Buyon, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte on February 11, 2018.

Eighty-one (81) farmer-associations received from DA a total of 191 units of various farm machineries and equipment comprise of irrigation pumps, combine harvesters, 4-wheel drive tractors, rice threshers, rice seeders, knapsack sprayers and other harvesting and threshing facilities and equipment.

Funded under the three major Banner Programs of DA - the Rice, Corn and High Value Commercial Crops Development Programs - the distribution aims to provide appropriate farm machineries that will be used by the farmers to increase their profitability and income.

Joining Congressman Fariñas in the distribution of said agri-machineries are DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., Sangguniang Panglungsod Member Ria Fariñas, former Piddig Mayor Eduardo Guillen and Ilocos Norte Research & Experiment Center Chief, Ms. Wilma Ibea.###





In support to the advocacy of the Department of Agriculture on food availability and affordability for every Filipinos and to connect rice farmers directly to consumers, the “Bigas para sa Masa” Program is now available at DA-RFO 1's One Stop-Shop Agribusiness Center (OSAC) located at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1, Aguilla Road, Sevilla, San Fernando City, La Union.

The DA will help farmer groups to sell rice at a more affordable price compared to commercial rice being sold in the market where price ranges from P50 to P60. The “Bigas para sa Masa” will maintain a selling price of P38 per kilo and P950 per sack @ 25kg per bag. For more info, please staff of AMAD (Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division) at Tel. no. (072-242-1045/10-46) .###



## The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I launches “BIGAS PARA SA MASA”





## “DA employees are born to serve, so make use of them.” - Mario Ortega



Mr. Mario Ortega, representing La Union’s First District Congressman Pablo Ortega stressed this out in his message as he encouraged the farmer-beneficiaries to get in touch with the DA and the Local Government Units for whatever agri-related interventions that they would want to have during the Turn-over and distribution of farm machineries and equipment at the Ilocos Integrated Agriculture Research Center, Sapilang, Bacnotan, La Union on February 28, 2018.



He committed the Office of the First Legislative District of La Union to fully support any programs and projects that would further enhance the productivity and income of the farmers.

He likewise expressed his gratitude to the DA for realizing the aspirations of the farmers of acquiring better farm machineries and equipment through the farm mechanization program in order to further sustain the stable food production status of the province.



Mr. Adamor Dayag, representative of La Union Governor Emmanuel “Pacoy” Ortega in his message likewise expressed his appreciation to the DA’s Farm Mechanization Program as he believes that the program could improve the life of farmers especially in easing their burdens on farming operations.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONDUCTS 1st ILOCOS REGION GARLIC SUMMIT



**G**arlic farmers/producers from garlic producing municipalities in Region 1 are convened on March 14, 2018 at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena, Laoag City for the conduct of the 1st Ilocos Region Garlic Summit.

The activity is spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture High Value Crops and Rural Credit in cooperation with DA-RFO I thru the High Value Crops Banner Program.

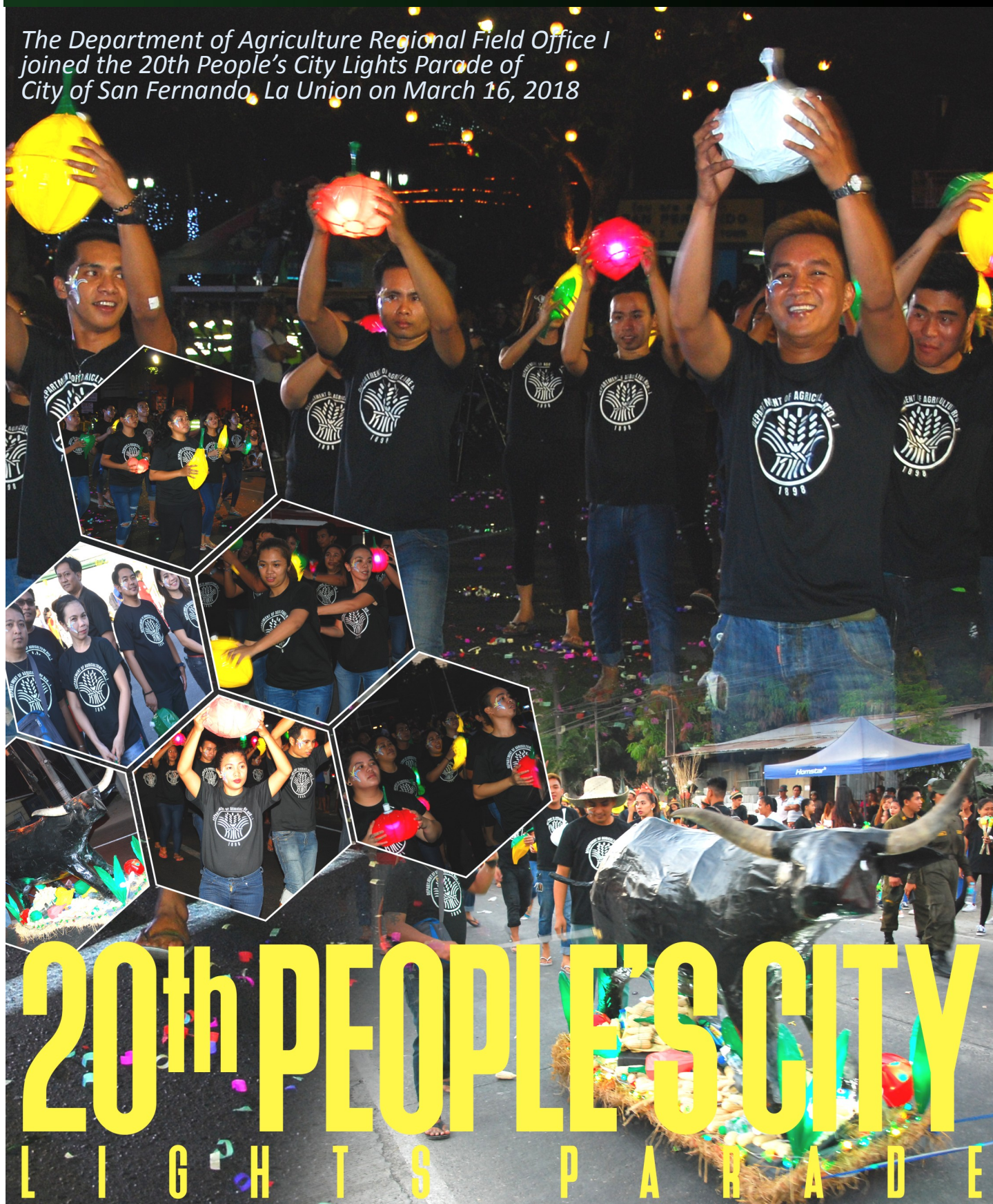
Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit Ms. Evelyn G. Laviña, in behalf of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, expressed hopes that through the summit, the DA will be able to gather from the garlic producers and consumers themselves issues and concerns that will form part in the crafting of the 5-Year roadmap for Philippine Garlic Industry Development.

According to Usec. Laviña, there is a current demand of about 126,000 metric tons for garlic in the market but due to the very high cost of production which is P45.00/kg, garlic farmers could hardly keep up in producing more.

Laviña also informed that DA has allocated P50 million for the establishment of model farms for Garlic. DA hopes to engage 100 farmers nationwide for this test to further develop better production management, pest & diseases control, improve the quality and yield of garlic through these



*The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I  
joined the 20th People's City Lights Parade of  
City of San Fernando, La Union on March 16, 2018*







**F**inding ways to strategize the implementation of programs, projects and activities of the Corn Banner Program this 2018 and the succeeding year, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I spearheaded the CY 2017 Assessment and CY 2018 Planning Workshop at the Venus Park View Hotel, Baguio City on March 20-22, 2018.

An activity aimed to update and familiarize the

targeted activities this year in support to corn production in the region because of the value it provides to the corn industry as a whole.

With region 1 as one of the major corn-producing regions in the country, and having produced the best quality corn grain among the 15 regions, Ms. Cabanban encouraged the AEWs to aggressively campaign the DA's programs and projects intended for the corn

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## DA leads workshop for Corn AEWs; program updates bared

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Municipal/City Agriculturist, Corn Coordinators and Report Officers of the Local Government Units (LGUs) on the latest programs and projects under the Corn Banner Program, the three-day workshop was the first of the two batches of workshop conducted by the DA, participated in by the LGUs of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. The second batch for LGUs of La Union and Pangasinan is scheduled on April 17-19, 2018 at the same venue.

In her message during the Opening Program, Ms. Josephine Cabanban, the Regional Corn Coordinator underscored the importance of implementing the

growers especially on the conduct of corn model farms highlighting the planting of flint corn.

Flint corn is also known as the white corn that can be used as raw material in making corn cereal and corn starch. This variety of corn is distinguished by its hard outer shell and kernel and identified as one of the best alternative for rice.

The DA in tandem with the Local Government Units intend to plant 50 hectares of flint corn in the region in coordination with the farmer association members who are willing to become a cooperator of the project



## ***“DA leads workshop for Corn AEWs”... From page 12***

and a recipient of the various farm machineries and equipment distributed by the DA recently. DA will provide the seeds as planting materials including some inputs such as fertilizer, soil ameliorants and pest control.

To date, DA has validated the Caoayan-Santa area in the province of Ilocos Sur as the site of the model farm having been evaluated to be suitable for flint corn production.

Meanwhile, to complete the updating of programs and projects under the Corn Banner Program, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) represented by Ms. Mercy Pascua discussed the guidelines of availing insurance programs for the corn farmers and livestock raisers.

Mr. Hilario Esperanza, Weather Specialist from the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) - Northern Luzon talked about the Climate Prediction and Forecasting for the 3rd Quarter of 2018 to 2019 giving salient information as to when is the best time to

plant and what crops suited for the predicted weather situation.

The assessment and planning workshop is a quarterly activity of the DA-RFO I Corn Banner Program attended by the AEWs in the region to discuss matters, issues and concerns relative to the Corn Banner Program implementation. This activity also serves as an avenue to determine other program interventions leading to a better corn production in the region.###



## ***“DA employees are born to serve”... From page 9***

With the battle cry of the province as “Spread the Love,” Mr. Dayag said that the distribution of the farm machineries to the farmers, in tandem with the DA and the LGUs, is one way of how the Provincial Government of La Union is spreading the love to its constituents.

Meanwhile, Mr. Romeo de Mayo, the Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer of La Union in his closing remarks during the program reminded the farmer-association member beneficiaries to take good care of the farm machineries given to them in order to

maximize their full potential. He also encouraged the participants to take advantage of the DA’s regulations on giving projects as grant or zero percent equity by the farmers so that they could avail of more farm machineries and equipment that they could use in their farming operations.

The turn-over and distribution activity was attended by the 12 association beneficiary-members from the seven towns of the first district of La Union. DA has distributed a total of 26 units of various farm machineries and equipment valued at about Php3.5 M.###

## DA conducts basic training on Drone Operation



Finding the benefits of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (AUV) system also known as drone technology in farming operations, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Information Management Section of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division sponsored a Basic Training Course on Drone Operation for the selected staff of the Field Operations Division.

Held at the DA-Pangasinan Research & Experiment Center in Sual, Pangasinan on February 22-23, 2018, this two-day training course aims to equip the DA personnel with the basic technical-know-how in operating the drone equipment, thus ensuring an efficient and well-managed drone operation which they may apply in their field monitoring and assessment activities.

Mr. Mark Sagara, the Training Director of Shenzhen

Joyton Innovation Technology, Co. Ltd., a leading private company in drone technology, who served as the resource person in the training explained in his discussion the importance of the drone technology and how it is applicable to the farming sector.

According to Mr. Sagara, the drone equipment is very essential in monitoring and evaluating the DA's programs, projects, activities and interventions as it captures real-time status of these projects while it could also facilitate farming operations especially in fertilizer and pesticide application.

To equip the participants with technical-know-how on the operation and management of the drone system, each of the participants get a hands-on demo so as to familiarize themselves with the proper handling and operation of the equipment.



## Pangasinan Corn farmers get grain silo from DA



Prior to the final turn-over of the corn grain silo to the project recipients, the staff of the DA-RFO I's Corn Banner Program in collaboration with the Regional Agriculture & Fisheries Engineering Division together with the supplier of the project conducted a testing activity on the operation and management of the machinery so as to ensure the efficacy of the project.

Mr. Merlino Balanay, Chairman of the farmer organization recipient, on behalf of his 35 members expressed his gratitude to the DA for the realization of their dreams of having project of this kind.

*"Napakalaking tulong po nito sa amin dahil hindi na mabubulok ang aming mga mais at maipagpaliban na namin ang pagbebenta nito kung mura ang presyo ng mais sa merkado,"* Mr. Balanay said.

The corn grain silo project is part of the DA's Corn program on Farm Machineries and Equipment Modernization that aims to provide temporary storage of corn grains especially during peak season of harvest. The project will likewise help to minimize post harvest losses.

With the maximum storage capacity of 40-50 tons of corn grains for a period of 9 months, farmers' corn produced are ensured of quality corn kernels with the use of the silo.

**T**he Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Corn Banner Program has now officially turned-over the P2.0 million worth of grain silo project to the Salunggating Ubbog Namagbagan Calungao Farmers Association of Sta. Maria, Pangasinan on February 21, 2019.





## DA Corn program gives advice to corn farmers with corn pest-related problems

**K**eeping posted with the status of the techno-demo sites established in the major corn-producing municipalities in the region, staff of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I under the Corn Banner Program conducted regular monitoring and surveillance activity in the six established techno-demo sites located in San Quintin, Sto Tomas, Alcala, Sta. Barbara, San Carlos, and Malasiqui, Pangasinan.

As a result of the monitoring activity, the monitoring team found out that three out of the 6 techno-demo sites established in the province of Pangasinan were affected with corn smut.

Corn smut is a common disease of corn caused by the fungus *Ustilago maydis*, which usually develops on the tassels, leaves, ears and shoots of corn. This disease rarely kills corn plants, but usually causes the production of smaller ears.

Although this disease infected the techno-demo sites, the monitoring team led by Ms. Rhoda Galban, DA-RFO I's Focal Person of the Corn Program noted that the population of the fungus is negligible.

As an immediate action to the observation, Ms. Galban informed the Regional Crop Protection Center led by Ms. Marivic Gambala for the immediate response of the Pest Monitoring & Surveillance Team.

To avoid further contamination with the healthy corn plants, the monitoring and surveillance team advises the Agricultural Technologist in-charge of the Techno-demo sites and the farmer-cooperator to uproot the infected corn plant.







## SPIS project irrigates dry land, enhances crop production

**S**olar energy is among the cheapest source of energy. With its high potential to become converted as water source to irrigate dry lands, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region through the Operations Division invested on solar pump irrigation systems (SPIS) for distribution to qualified farmers association.

Aimed at enhancing crop production by generating additional areas for rice, corn and high value commercial crops, the SPIS project is a collaborative undertaking of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, the Field Operations Division and the Regional Agriculture & Fisheries Engineering Division.

As a result of the site validation, inspection and assessment made by the DA-RFO I's Technical Working Group, a total of 11 farmers organization were qualified beneficiaries of the project.

As qualified beneficiaries, they were given one unit of solar panels, a pump, electronic control to operate the pump, storage tank and conveyance structure. DA gave all these components for free to the project beneficiaries.

To qualify as beneficiary of the project, area coverage or site of the project must be under the rainfed area, with a minimum area of 10 hectare for rice and a minimum of 3 ha for non-rice (corn, vegetable and other high value crops) as service area and must have sustainable water source.

Likewise, as a mandatory requirement, no issue on the right of way shall be observed by the proponents. A Deed of Sale, Deed of Donation or Usufruct Agreement not less than 25 years for location or reservoir/storage tanks and solar array shall be provided to the DA prior to the approval of the proposed site.

Aside from Farmers Organizations, other qualified beneficiaries include the National and Regional Research Centers of DA, Agricultural Demonstration areas of Local Government Units and Research Centers of State Colleges & Universities.

For further inquiries about the implementing guidelines of the SPIS project, interested proponents may get in touch with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Engineering Division at Tel. No. (072) 242-1045/46 loc. 16 or the Field Operations Division at Tel No. (072) 242-1045/46 loc. 05.

## DA-Livestock Program delivers interventions in support to rabies program

As part of the month-long celebration of Rabies Awareness Month this March, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Livestock Banner Program delivers some interventions to the Local Government Units of the four provinces in Ilocos region.

In a consecutive delivery and distribution of the biologics, vaccines and IEC campaign materials such as rabies poster, tarpaulins and other info collaterals sourced out from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) for the intended beneficiaries, a total of 125 municipalities were benefitted.

The delivery and distribution of the interventions in support to the Rabies Program is part of the campaign strategies of the DA in tandem with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government as well as the Department of Education to strengthen awareness on the prevention, control and management of rabies.

This year's theme of the Rabies Month celebration is "Barangay Kaagapay, Laban sa Rabies Tagumpay."

The celebration of March as Rabies Awareness Month is consistent with the Republic Act 9482 which was signed into law on May 25, 2007.







Thirty (30) corn farmers from Brgy. Magsaysay, Tubao La Union get updates on corn production technologies through the conduct of the Local Farmer Technician Field School Program. The LFT-FLS Program is a project of the DA in tandem with the LFTs who serve as the right hand of the AEWs in disseminating agri-development programs and projects. Aside from these project updates, LFTs also act as extension workers who share farming techniques and practices that his/her co-farmers would want to know to increase production and profit.



Joining hands in addressing the perennial problem on high incidence of positive cases of rabies infestation in Ilocos Region, the Department of Agriculture-RFO I led by the OIC-RTD for Operations, Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon (in blue dress at the center) and the Field Operations Division, Dr. Annie Bares (sitting beside Ms. Manipon) consulted with the provincial/municipal Livestock Inspectors in a Planning Workshop held on May 2, 2018 at the Agricultural Training Institute in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.



### ***DA-RFO I takes a big LEAP...*** From page 5

strategies of implementing DA's projects and programs that are effective.

The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) plays a very crucial role as they serve as liaison with the involved entities while the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) services will be tapped to take major role in the dissemination of information among the stakeholders to ensure co-ownership and active partnership in the implementation of the DA programs and projects in the next five years.###

### ***GARLIC SUMMIT...*** From page 10

model farms. Test harvest will also be made at areas where garlic is not produced.

Engaging the support of all stakeholders in the garlic industry, "DA aims to achieve an all year production of garlic," Laviña said.

Based on the 2016 PSA Data, Ilocos Region is the top producer of garlic in the country contributing 60% share to the national production.###

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