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DAMAGagri

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DA-RFO I reaps Outstanding Project Monitor award

story on page 3



All for one, Always number one!

VISION

A prime-mover towards a modernized and competitive agriculture sector

MISSION

We provide suitable, timely, and innovative interventions for a sustainable and vibrant agriculture in the Ilocos.

CORE VALUES

D edication -	Serving with a heart
R esiliency -	Overcoming challenges
I ntegrity -	Valuing public trust
V igilance -	Responding to clients' needs
E xcellence -	Raising the bar



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THE COVER

This quarter's cover presents RED Alviar receiving the plaque of recognition for winning the search for Most Outstanding Project Monitor for CY 2018.



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DA-RFO I reaps Outstanding Project Monitor award

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I led by its Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr. took the center stage at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in San Fernando City, La Union to receive the plaque of recognition as the champion of the search for Most Outstanding Project Monitor for CY 2018.

Held on June 26, 2019, the award was conferred by the Regional Development Council (RDC) headed by the Chairman, Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlos Medina, and other top officials of RDC thru its Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Search for the Best Project Implementer.

The RPMES Awards is an annual undertaking of the RDC's Regional Project Monitoring Committee to recognize the achievements and contributions of deserving regional agencies, provincial local government units, government owned and controlled corporations,

and state universities and colleges who have exemplified outstanding implementation of programs and projects supportive of and consistent with the region's visions and thrust as contained in the Regional Development Plan for CY 2017-2022.

Based on the guidelines of the RDC-RPMC award for Most Outstanding Project Monitors, all government agencies are included in the selection process where they were categorized into three groups.

Category A are those entities with 1-10 projects enrolled, while category B are those entities with

11-30 projects.

Category C which the DA- RFO I belongs to have 31 or more projects enrolled. The DA have registered 94 projects including the programs and projects under the Philippine Rural Development Project.

In selecting the winners, part of the criteria for judging is on the submission of quality and timely reports to include the over-all project performance.

Starting from the Annual Project Monitoring Plan, first quarter report, first semester or second quarter report, third quarter report, year-end report (as fourth quarter report) as well as the projects results and objectives, the DA-RFO I has passed and completed all these reports through the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division led by Ms. Doris Joy Garcia.//



RED Alviar alongside PMED Chief Doris Garcia receives the plaque of recognition awarded by the key officials of the Regional Development Council led by its Chairman, Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlos Medina.

The three-day agri-aqua trade fair as a component of the Agribusiness Support for Promotion and Investment in Regional Exposition (ASPIRE) of the Department of Agriculture-RFO I through the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) ended successfully as it generated a total on the spot sales of Php1,348,658.00 and booked sales of Php1,019,182.50.

The AMAD Group reported this during the last day of the activity in its closing program as it recognized the exhibitors who excelled in their sales performances via the awarding ceremonies.

Leading the awardees for having the highest recorded on the spot sales is the Dapuyen's Vigan Delicacies with Php203,000 generated sales while the Nutridense Food Manufacturing Corp., recorded the highest booked sales of Php799,000.00.

The AMAD group also recognized the best booth which placed the Bella's Puto at first place while the Lombo'y farm and the PEDAI or the Pangasinan Entrepreneurs Development Association, Inc. were named as the second and third placers, respectively. The Chatita's Food Products with her powdered bagoong and alamang won the Best Innovative Product award.

As winners in the best booth category, first place was awarded P8,000.00, while the second and third placers received from DA P5,000.00 and P3,000.00, respectively. All other winners have received P4,000.00 each.

Participated by 46 exhibitors from the four provinces in the



ASPIRE's agri-fair generates

region, the trade fair provides an avenue for the farmer-producers as well as emerging small agri-based enterprises to have better marketing linkages and opportunities through the establishment of good trading relationship between buyers or business owners to that of raw material producers and farmers.

A collaborative project of the DA, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Chamber Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the trade-fair through the

conduct of ASPIRE is an annual activity that also provides a one-stop shop for farmers and processors to showcase their products that would eventually help traders including importers to find for products as well as raw materials needed in their business enterprises.

Held at the Robinson's Place in Calasiao, Pangasinan on June 28-30, 2019, the activity was attended by around 200 individuals who are engaged in agribusiness enterprises including among others the



aqua trade million in sales

agricultural extension workers from the local government units and the exhibitors from the four provinces.

During the opening program, Ms. Wilhelmina Castañeda, Chief of AMAD in the region, recognized the importance of conducting the activity in the growth and development of the agri-fishery sectors especially on increasing farmers' income as it provides better trading opportunities by exposing their products to the customers as well as those who are into

agribusiness endeavor.

Ms. Nieva Loyd C. Rafada, DTI's OIC-Chief of the Industry Division, emphasized in her message in behalf of DTI's Regional Executive Director Grace Falgui-Baluyan, to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the farmers to become better agripreneurs as she noted the DTI's support and commitment in doing capacity building, investment, promotion and market development for farmers and other agri-aqua stakeholders.

On the part of the PCCI, Regional Governor Alexander Ang in his message also committed to continue supporting the activities of the ASPIRE project as he encouraged the participants to produce more for better profit and income.

Apart from the agri-aqua trade fair and exhibit, the ASPIRE also provides opportunity for interested individuals to engage in agribusiness enterprises through the conduct of seminar and technical sessions that provides them updates on marketing trends necessary in the management and operations of their own agribusiness activities.//



The municipality of Manaoag led by Mayor Mikael Kim Amador, MA Arnold Raul Geronimo, and their Agricultural Technicians proudly receives their prize worth One Million Pesos alongside DA-RFO 1 staff.

Manaoag town shines in 2018 RAA

The municipality of Manaoag, Pangasinan led by Mayor Kim Amador took the center stage at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City for being one of the top performing municipalities in the 2018 National Rice Achievers Award (RAA).

Joined by DA-RFO I's Regional Technical Director for Operations, Erlinda F. Manipon, Municipal Agriculturist, Engr. Raul Arnold Geronimo and DA-RFO I's Rice Report Officer, Ms. Loida Pacursa, the awarding ceremonies was graced by no less than Senate Committee Chair on Agriculture, Hon. Cynthia Villar who served as the guest of honor and speaker.

Now on its 6th time to be given

such award since the beginning of the RAA in 2013, the municipality of Manaoag is a consistent awardee and was granted with prizes in the form of agri-related project.

This time, Manaoag Mayor Kim Mikael Amador together with Manaoag MA Geronimo received a ceremonial check worth One Million Pesos as part the project grant for the municipality that can be used to finance agri-related projects for the benefit of the farming sector in Manaoag.

Aside from the ceremonial check, the awardees also brought home a plaque of recognition that was handed by Villar and other top DA officials led by Undersecretary Ariel Cayanan representing DA Secretary

Emmanuel F. Piñol during the program.

Along with Manaoag town, the Association of United Farmers and Irrigators of Duplas, Inc., the Sarusar Farmer Irrigators Association, Inc. and the Bued Irrigators Association, Inc. from Pangasinan were also recognized as the Outstanding Small Water Irrigation Systems Association (SWISA) and the Irrigators Association (IAs) categories of which under this category are the national irrigation system and the communal irrigation system categories, respectively.

Meanwhile, the provinces of Pangasinan and La Union were also given special citations during the awarding ceremonies for their

CPAR project in IN wins best R&D paper award

Beaming with pride and honor, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I's researchers led by Mr. Ariel Agresor, Ms. Melinda Calumpit and Ms. Evelyn delos Reyes received from DOST-PCAARRD their awards for topping the National Symposium on Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (NSAARD) on their paper entitled: "CPAR on Integrated Rice-based farming system: An approach towards Community-driven Agricultural Development in Ilocos Norte."

In an awarding ceremonies held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City on June 19, 2019, Agresor, Calumpit and delos Reyes received a trophy and a certificate of commendation as First Place winner under the Development Category.

Along with the plaque and the certificate of recognition, the awardees also received checks



The researchers receives the plaque of recognition for winning first place under the Best Development Category. (Photo credits to Ariel Agresor)

worth Php150,000.00 as prize for their outstanding development project while the agency and the consortium have received checks worth P10,000.00 each as prizes.

Agresor presented the paper on April 29, 2019 at the DPITC, PCAARRD, Los Baños, Laguna

along with the other top three papers from Regions 2 and 5 under the development category. The announcement of winners came later and the awarding was conducted only on June 19, 2019 in time for the DOST-PCAARRD's 8th Year Anniversary celebration.//

Technical Paper Presentations that qualified under category A and category B, respectively.

To recognize the outstanding support and contributions of the agricultural extension workers in making their respective LGUs as outstanding municipal, IAs, and SWISA, a separate awarding

ceremonies was scheduled by the Regional Rice Achievers Awarding committee on July.

The Rice Achievers Awarding (RAA) ceremonies is initiated by the Department of Agriculture through the National Rice Banner Program in tandem with the Agricultural Training Institute and the Bureau

of Soils and Water Management. The RAA is being given to deserving LGUs at the provincial and municipal levels, irrigators associations and small water irrigation systems to recognize their outstanding contributions on the DA's quests for food security and sufficiency in the country.//

3rd reg'l organic agri congress launched

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I, through the Organic Agriculture Program, successfully conducted the 3rd Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) at the Metro Plaza in Dagupan City, Pangasinan on June 21, 2019.

The congress aimed at providing wider marketing opportunities for organically grown agri-fishery products while promoting the best practices and technologies in organic farming and at the same time providing an avenue to discuss policy updates and breakthroughs in the organic agriculture farming sector. It was participated by around 250 agri-stakeholders composed of organic farming practitioners, staff from the local government units and the academe as well

as the National Organic Agriculture Board.

Graced by no less than the National Organic Agriculture Director, Christopher Morales and DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., the congress features various activities that promote the development, production and marketing of organically-grown crops and products for a sustainable agri-fishery sector as imbibed in the theme: "Produktong Organiko para sa Kalikasan at Kalusugan."

Highlight of the activity is the three-day Natural and Organic trade fair facilitated by the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division of DA-RFO I and participated by

Mr. Dario Doctolero of BFAR Region 1 demonstrates to the public how the aquaponics fishtank works as an efficient means for organic backyard farming and aquaculture.



around 13 exhibitors from the four provinces in Region I.

Featured in the exhibit are the best organic products in the region which include the ballatinao rice of the Alaminos Organic Farmers, the vegetables of Organic Farmers in Urdaneta City, the various delicacies and products

made out of dragon fruit by REFMAD of Burgos, Ilocos Norte, and the organically grown garlic products from San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte. The agri-aqua trade fair also featured the slow food booth showcasing different cooked native delicacies and food marketed in the region which

is offered as free food taste during the event.

Another highlight of the 3rd ROAC is the awarding of the Outstanding Organic Agriculture practitioners recognized for their contribution to the goals, targets and objectives of the Organic Agriculture Program in the region.

Ms. Remedios Inovejas was awarded as the Outstanding Provincial Organic Agriculture Focal Person from the province of Ilocos Sur and Ms. Cecilia I. Sambrano from San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte was awarded as the Municipal Outstanding Organic Agriculture Focal Person. Inovejas brought home check worth P25,000 while Sambrano received a check worth P20,000.00.

For the Outstanding Agricultural Extension Worker and the Outstanding Small Farmer Individual Categories, Ms. Maricel Serrano and Mr. Danilo Ramos from Vintar, Ilocos Norte and San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte respectively have brought home Php15,000 and P50,000, respectively.

Meanwhile, to provide the attendees with major updates and technologies in the organic agriculture program, several speakers were invited to talk on new policy updates in the National Organic Agriculture Program vis-a-vis some production technologies and marketing trends for organic agriculture products.//



National Organic Agriculture Director Christopher Morales leads the opening of the exhibit alongside DA-RFO1 RED Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. and other key officials.



Information is power. In a society where the internet primarily serves as the medium for information sharing among the general public, responding to the information needs of farmers in some areas in the region still lies on the traditional way of information dissemination - distribution of hardcopies, most especially to the group of farmers who was not able to adapt to our present time's fast evolving technology. Photo taken in Brgy. Pasil, Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

More than 300 farmers join reg'l info caravan

More than 300 participants from the provinces of Pangasinan and La Union consist of farmers, fisherfolk, Municipal/City Agriculturists, Provincial Agriculturists, Veterinarians, and representatives from DA attached agencies joined the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I's (DA-RFO I) first batch of the 2019 Regional Information Caravan.

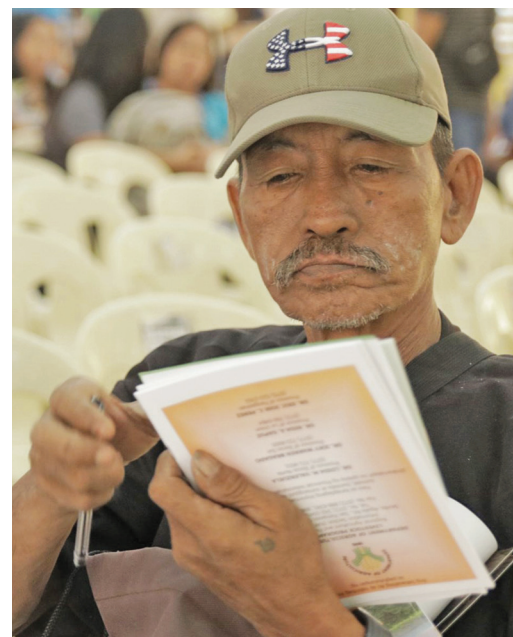
It was spearheaded by the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) of the DA-RFO I led by Ms. Vida V.

Cacal, RAFIS Chief on May 23, 2019 at the Pangasinan Development and Training Center, Lingayen, Pangasinan bearing the theme, "Magsasaka't Mangingisdang Pilipino saludo ang buong bansa sa sipag, tibay at lakas ninyo."

In the overview of the activity, the RAFIS Chief explained that the activity was pursued in response to the directive of DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol to intensify information dissemination on the programs, projects and services of DA to farmers.

"This activity is meant to intensify our information campaign on various agri-related programs and projects that Sec. Piñol would want our farmers to benefit from because as he said, the greater the awareness about these interventions, the greater the impact of DA programs or projects to the communities," she explained.

Meanwhile, representing Pangasinan Governor Amado I. Espino III was Provincial Administrator Atty. Nimrod S. Camba who expressed gratitude



to DA for the conduct of the activity benefitting the farmers and fisherfolk in the province.

He also emphasized in his message the importance of the farmers not only in the Province but in the whole country.

“Farmers really have very important roles in our country development. In fact there were also other agencies that came to visit Pangasinan recently like the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the Secretary of TESDA who held a regional meeting here, and today the Regional Office of the DA. We are very thankful that agencies initiate to visit us to inform us of their projects and services that will help strengthen our agriculture sector. We truly appreciate the full support given to our agriculture sector in the province through DA,” Camba said.

Meanwhile, the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council (RAFC) Chairman, Mr. Vincent A. Adorna also delivered his message as the Farmer – Director for the Month of May and likewise represented DA-

RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. during the program.

“This Information Caravan is just one among many strategies that the current administration and our DA Secretary Manny Piñol are pursuing to help strengthen the agriculture sector. Through proper information channels like these info caravan, our agri stakeholders would be able to know whom to approach for support and needed interventions and how they can avail of these interventions,” Adorna explained.

There were different topics discussed during the caravan from invited resource speakers from DA and other attached agencies and partner institutions of DA.

The availing of projects under DA – RFO1’s Banner Programs and was presented by Ms. Josephine Cabanban, Assistant Chief of the Field Operations Division (FOD) of DA – RFO1. She discussed the eligibility requirements in the provision of agricultural production, postharvest and processing machineries and

equipment support. She also shared the different plans, programs and interventions of the four (4) banner programs of DA.

Dir. Rogelio Evangelista – Center Director of Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center 1 (ATI – RTC1) informed the participants about the trainings that the ATI offers to Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs), Farmers and the Local Government Units (LGUs) under the different programs of their institution. Some of which are on improved access to Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services and other training programs that aims to strengthen competitiveness of the Agriculture and Fishery Sector.

Representatives from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) and Landbank – Ms. Flori Mae Lucas and Mr. Jaime S. Cruz, respectively informed the participants the different agricultural credit programs offered to farmers, its respective loan

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interest per annum and/or per month, requirements and who is eligible to avail the program.

These agricultural credit programs under ACPC were Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA), Survival and Recovery Assistance Program (SURE), Working Capital Loan Easy Access (CLEA), and Agriculture & Fisheries Machinery and Equipment Loan (AFME).

Under the Land Bank of the Philippines Agricultural Loans were, Sikat Saka Program, ACEF Program, and Commodity-Specific Lending Programs with its specified programs such as Integrated

Support for the Development of Aquaculture (ISDA Program), Seaweed Financing Program, and Masustansyang Inumin sa Likas na Kalusugan Program (MILK Program).

The National Food Authority's Provincial Manager of Pangasinan, Ms. Chona de Guzman – Maramba underscored the role of the agency in the implementation of the RA11203 or also known as the Rice Tarrification Law. She said that the NFA shall continue to perform its role in ensuring food security thru maintenance of buffer stocks sourced out from local farmers as provided in the Act.

According to de Guzman, there is additional program of the NFA in partnership with DA-RFOs which is the Palay Procurement where farmers or farmer associations can directly sell their palay to NFA and a corresponding incentives in the form of farm machineries and

equipment will be given depending on the number of cavans (per 50kg) they will deliver to NFA.

On the other hand, Ms. Wilhelmina P. Castañeda, Chief of the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) introduced the different programs implemented by AMAD meant to provide marketing support to food producers. She also encouraged the farmers to visit the One Stop Agribusiness Center located at the ground floor of the DA – RFO1 and informed how they can be assisted in marketing their produce through the Center.

Other presenters during the activity were Dr. Allen Mae M. Doctolero – Agriculturist II of the Regulatory Division who shared useful information on Good Agricultural Practices through a brief AVP, and Mr. Jose Tolentino – Senior Science Research Specialist of the Regional Crop Protection (RCPC) who discussed the occurring Pests and Diseases in the region. He also provided added information on how to prevent these pests that usually affects farms in the region.

With irrigation as one of the most needed interventions by farmers, Engr. Gaudencio de Vera from the National Irrigation Administration discussed the irrigation support program for farmers.

All presenters answered queries from the participants after each presentation.

The information caravan has been conducted also as a way to celebrate farmers and fisherfolk month in Region I.//

PROMOTING RICE-CORN BLEND VIA SEMINAR CUM COOK FEST

In its effort to promote wider acceptance and support of the rice-corn blend as potential alternative for rice as staple in the country and to develop new product made out of the rice-corn blend, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) conducted a one-day seminar on rice corn blend cum cook fest on June 26, 2019.

story continued on P.14.



1st Place. Rice-Corn Blend Seafood Roll with Mango-Tomato Salsa



2nd Place. Rice-Corn Roll with creamy peanut sauce



3rd Place. Pan Fried Salmon Fillet with Alique Sauce, Safron Lime Infused Rice Corn Pilaf with Microgreens



4th Place. Glutinous Corn Pudding

Main dish category



1st Place. Zesty Corn Pudding with Ginger Cream



2nd Place. Roasted Corn Cheese Cake with Caramel Sauce



3rd Place. Corn Blend Mango Parfait



4th Place. Rice-Corn Blend Porridge Courmet

Dessert category



The participating chefs from the different culinary schools in the region present to the judges their competing dishes under the main dish and dessert categories.



story from P.13

Held at the DA-RFO I's 5th Floor Conference Hall, the activity was organized by the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division through the Agribusiness Industry Support Section and was participated by around 200 agri-stakeholders including among others the Technology and Livelihood Education as well as the Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (EPP) teachers from the Department of Education, representatives from the National Nutrition Council, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and DA-RFO I employees.

In her welcome remarks during the opening program, Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon, the OIC-RTD for Operations underscored the need to support this strategy of DA in promoting alternative foods on rice such as this rice-corn blend to address the insufficient production of rice in the country.

OIC-RTD for Research, Regulatory, Administrative, and Finance, Gloria Parong in her message in behalf of Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr. noted the importance of conducting events such as this with the participation of the "concerned" entities in order to promote the benefits of the rice-corn blend project while developing stronger linkages and partnership with the various sector by way of information dissemination about the project.

She encouraged the participants to try and see the goodness of the project especially on the health and nutritional benefits that it could give to the consuming public more so with the occurrence of various illnesses that the general public has been suffering as a result of the high carbohydrate intake caused by the increase in rice

consumption.

In his discussion about the rice-corn blend concept, Mr. Felicito Rodriguez, a former Assistant Professor of the University of the Philippines and now consultant of the Institute of Plant Breeding emphasized the high nutritive value of flint corn making it more beneficial for the consuming public. With the high fiber content and low glycemic index as compared to the common rice, the flint corn has seen as the answer to malnutrition problem as well as the food insufficiency in the country.

Ms. Rhoda Galban, Region I's Corn and Cassava Focal Person in her briefing about the programs and projects under the Corn Banner Program laid down the strategies that the Corn Program has been implementing to support the production of flint corn in the region to sustain the DA's campaign for rice corn blend concept.

With the total Region I's target of 76 hectares out of the needed 200,000 hectares national target, Ms. Galban noted that the strategies being undertaken by the Corn Program include the establishment of Model farm, mechanization support by providing post harvest and processing equipment including drying and storage facilities to associations that are planting flint corn while linking them with the National Food Authority for marketing support.

Meanwhile, as part of the advocacy for rice-corn blend, the one-day seminar also highlighted the conduct of Cookfest featuring the rice-corn blend as the major ingredients.

Participated in by eight professional and amateur chefs from the four Culinary Schools in the region, the cookfest participants were able to display their ingenuity and creativity in turning the

ordinary combination of rice and corn into something restaurant-quality foods.

The Rice-Corn Blend Seafood Roll with Mango-Tomato Salsa of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) North La Union Campus of La Union stood out from the rest of the dishes prepared as it placed first under the Main dish category while the Zesty Corn Pudding with Ginger Cream of the SKD Academy-Rosales Campus got the nod of the Board of Judges as it placed first under the Dessert Category. As first place winners, they were awarded with a cash prize of P10,000 each.

The Rice-Corn Roll with creamy peanut sauce of the Apicius Culinary Arts & Hotel Management, Inc. of Ilocos Norte placed second in main dish category which entitled them to bring home P7,000 and the DMMMSU's Roasted Corn Cheese Cake with Caramel Sauce placed also second under the dessert category giving them the opportunity to also bring home P7,000.00 cash award.

Awarded as third place winners are the SKD's Pan Fried Salmon Fillet with Alique Sauce, Safron Lime Infused Rice Corn Pilaf with Microgreens and the Apicius' Corn Blend Mango Parfait, respectively with P5,000.00 each as their cash award.

The Lorma Colleges bagged the consolation prize of P3,000 for both main dish and dessert categories and were able to bring home P6,000.00 cash prize.

The rice-corn blend cook fest and seminar is part of DA's strategy to promote other alternative crops in place of rice as staple food. A project launched under the Corn Banner Program last December 2017, this project was being eyed as major contributor in the attainment of rice self-sufficiency in the country.//

DA pushes for new marketing prospects for the Halal Food Industry in Ilocos Region

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I with its aim to continuously promote the Halal Food Industry Development Program and provide an avenue for stakeholders to grasp new marketing prospects conducted an orientation on Halal Food Industry Development Program for stakeholders in Region 1.

Conducted in two batches, Dr. Oscar Parawan and Dr. Carla Rae Ganado of the Halal Program Management Office served as the resource speakers for the province of Pangasinan while for the province of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, Ms. Nahiya Ariraya, also from HPMO, presented the DA's Halal Food Industry Development Program (HFIDP) which aims to develop a globally competitive and sustainable Philippine agri – fishery sector by increasing production and market access of Halal agri – fishery products.

Halal food

industry became a regular program of DA last April 2018. With its increasing awareness about health and economic advantages, the government has seen great potentials for economic development since it's not only limited among Muslims but also among non-Muslims, hence targeting access for the global market.

As of records, the Muslim population in the country is about 11%. With their increasing population worldwide and the increasing demand of Halal products even for non-Muslim markets which will serve as drivers of the rising industry, the potential of developing Halal as premium brand can lead to international trade and investment

Apart from Halal industry's market potentials, it was underscored that Halal is a way of life and a lifestyle that aims to promote healthy living, organic, food safety, clean and sanitized facilities and equipment, animal welfare, fair trade and

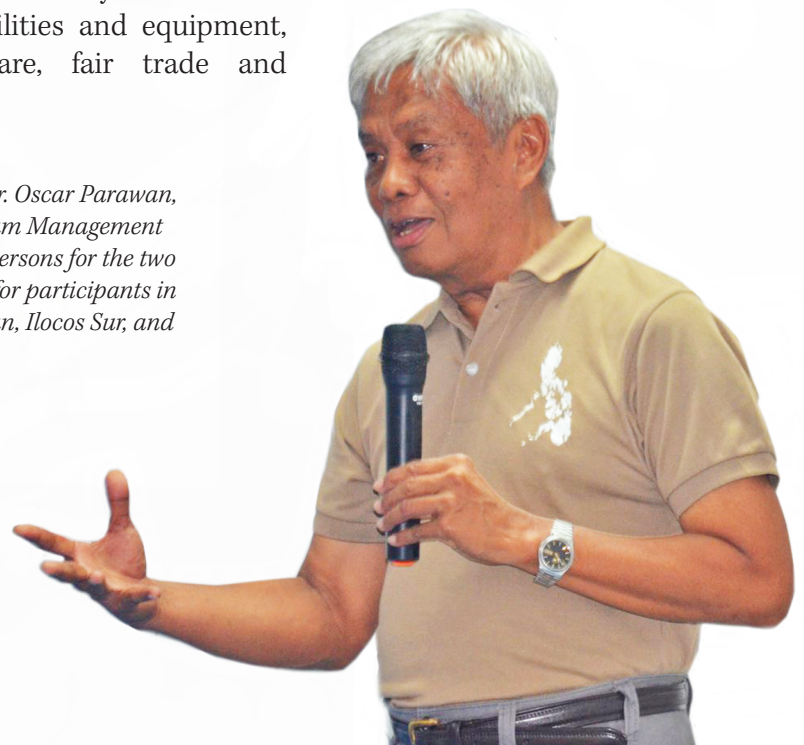
promotion of justice, and among others. Halal is a term for anything that is lawful or permissible under the Shari'ah (Islamic law).

Moreover, the presence of Halal logo on any product signifies assurance that the product is safe, the manner of slaughtering is clean, the transportation used is clean, the kitchen is sanitary, and the food is safe to eat.

Among the topics discussed were the basic concept and basic principles and fundamentals of Halal, Halal abattoir slaughtering and the Philippine National Halal certification scheme which was also discussed during the previous promotion of the HFIDP.

After orientations and catching the interest of some participants, possible Halal farms will then be identified, training, as well as capacity building, will also be added. //

Ms. Nahiya Ariraya and Dr. Oscar Parawan, both from the Halal Program Management Office served as resource persons for the two batches of the orientation for participants in the provinces of Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Norte.



Farmers, entrepreneurs train on soybean processing

Locally known as “utaw”, soybean is now the world’s most important leguminous crop and is now an emerging commodity in the Ilocos region. Hence, DA – RFO 1 through the Research Division is continuously making a way to focus on promoting the production, processing, and utilization of soybean.

With the implementation of the project led by Ms. Melinda Calumpit entitled Enhancing Organic Soybean Production and Processing for Improved Local Supply and Utilization in Region 1 in 2011, the number of farmer adoptors has consistently increased that led to the improved overall production of locally-produced organic soybean that has been proven to be economical and has better quality. It likewise improved the livelihood of the farmers in the region.

Aside from its benefits to the soil because of the presence of bacteria living in the root nodules which is in charge of converting nutrients from the atmosphere and in the soil into available form for plant use, soybean is also a good source of protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, fiber, and other trace substances which is good for the household.

Thus, to capacitate and develop further the interest of farmers in engaging to soybean production

and processing, the R&D division conducted a one-day training on the Production Technology and Actual Demonstration of Processing and Utilization of Organic Soybean.

Held at Barangay Bolo, Labrador, Pangasinan on May 15, 2019, the training was attended by members of the federated farmers’ organization – People’s Rural Organization for Sustainable Economic and Environmental Development (PROSEED), and farmers and investors from Ilocos region.

The training includes lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities on the processing of soya into various products. These soya-based foods include soyamilk, tofu, lumpiang shanghai, patties, taho, chips, soy macaroons, fishball, and coffee. Mr. Elmer Enicola, a researcher from Institute of Plant Breeding-University of the Philippines Los Baños (IPB - UPLB) and program leader of soybean R&D and Ms. Jennilyn Castañeto, national coordinator of soybean R&D of Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) served as resource persons during the training.



Participants of the training get to experience the how-to's of producing soya milk, tofu, lumpiang shanghai, patties, taho, chips, soy macaroons, fishball, and coffee.

Through this activity, the business interest of the participants was developed and two from among the participants have decided to venture on soybean.

Mr. Rhenzy Ungria owns a canteen-based business at Paco, Manila. With the mandatory order of the school management to prohibit soda, he decided to sell soya-based drinks as a replacement. On the other hand, his brother, Mr. Jojo Ungria, owns a noodle restaurant in San Fabian, Pangasinan and prefers to use tokwa as a garnish to his noodles.

The Ungria brothers ordered 250 kgs. soybean and both of them will soon be planting soybean for their own raw materials.

In addition, as a way of promoting the commodity and inspiring farmers to become more engrossed in soybean production and processing, other than the provision of planting materials, the DA-RFO I will provide seed inoculant, organic fertilizer, biological control agents, foliar fertilizers or concoctions, and technical assistance.//



ACEF needs more borrowers

In the 1st Quarter Assessment of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) Lending Program Implementation for Luzon Cluster 1 composed of Northern and Central Luzon regions held at Kabaleyan Cove Resort in San Carlos City, Pangasinan and hosted by Region I, reports by the Land Bank lending centers from Regions I, II, III, and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) showed that only 13% loan releases has been made since 2018 from the cluster's P311.97 million allocation under ACEF Fund.

A total of P1.2 billion loan fund is targeted to be released all over the country through ACEF to finance projects and activities that will help enhance the competitiveness of the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The fund will be used as Credit Facility and/or as Grant.

The fund as Credit Facility is managed by the Land Bank of the Philippines while as a Grant is being administered by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to fund Research and Development activities of qualified State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the country and to provide scholarship grants for qualified beneficiaries taking up agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary medicine to promote agricultural development in

the country.

Based on the report made by Mr. Edgardo S. Luzano, Assistant Vice President of the LBP-Program Management Division I, as of date, there has no loan released yet in Region I but a total of P10.7M is in-process and expected to be released in the coming second quarter pending the complete submission of all requirements by the borrowers.

Meanwhile for the over-all ACEF Fund, a total of 258 borrowers have accounts in-process amounting to P790,888,207.00 while a total of 105 accounts with releases have been reported through LBP lending centers. From these releases, ninety-

nine (99) accounts are of individual farmers and fisherfolk, five (5) by cooperative/farmer association and one (1) under micro and small enterprises with a total loan amount release of P63,263,721.00.

Majority of the Land Bank lending centers in Luzon Cluster 1 has not attained their targets for 2018 as there were still few who have applied for the ACEF loan. In some cases, there are also borrowers who were denied of the loan because they could not provide the required collateral or counterpart especially for agri-machinery acquisition loans which requires 10% counterpart of the total cost of the equipment/machinery. The lending centers said that the new ACEF requires a thorough orientation from regional down to municipal level since it is a new loan program. There is also no clear application process flow being

disseminated to guide would-be borrowers on how to avail the ACEF Loan.

With this, Atty. Joycel Panlilio, Chief of Staff of USec. Evelyn G. Laviña, Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit, advised the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs) to further intensify information campaign regarding ACEF. She noted that the establishment of Municipal, Provincial and Regional Loan Facilitation Team (M/P/RLoFT) would be of great help in assisting interested borrowers for ACEF.

ACEF was created through Republic Act No. 8178 where fund is derived from the proceeds of the in-quota Minimum Access Volume (MAV) Importations, from Loan Repayments, including interest, as well as from Sugar Conversion Fees. Eligible borrowers include individual

farmers and fisherfolk; cooperatives and associations; and micro and small enterprises.

For individual farmer and fisherfolk, loanable amount is up to 1 Million pesos; while for cooperatives and association and for registered MSEs, they can avail up to P5 million pesos.

For interested ACEF borrowers, the DA-RFOs have existing Malasakit Help Desk Centers where they can inquire regarding ACEF loan and other information on DA programs and projects for farmers. At DA-RFO I in particular, queries regarding credit can be made through the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) and/or at the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) through Ms. Christine De Leon and Ms. Rose Villanueva, respectively.//



DA-Regional Field Offices (I, II, III, and CAR) together with the Land Bank representatives from the same region discusses on the updates of the ACEF loan releases since 2018 and strategies to increase the number of farmers, fisher folk, and micro & small enterprises who can benefit from the loan program under ACEF.

RCI1 members, LGU San Nicolas consult brgy. officials, farmers on CADP

With the continuous efforts of the Regional Convergence Initiative - Sustainable Rural Development (RCI-SRD) 1 member agencies to deliver development services to its convergence areas in the region, barangay officials and farmer groups were consulted on the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) of the municipality of San Nicolas, Pangasinan for 2018 to 2022 on April 12.

The CADP of the municipality is a comprehensive plan jointly crafted by RCI member agencies (DA - as lead covenant, DAR, DENR, and DILG), the Local Government Unit of San Nicolas, Pangasinan and other stakeholders to address the management of the watershed and ecosystem of the communities in the convergence area.

Through CADP, the proposed convergence area once completed will be called 'Nagpintas San Nicolas Convergence Initiative Area' covering all the 33 barangays of the

municipality with a special focus on 12 barangays near the Caraballo mountain – Carabugaoan, Sta. Maria East, Sta. Maria West, Malico, Fianza, Salingcob, Dalumpinas, San Isidro, Bensican, Salpad, San Felipe East, and San Felipe West. This zone is declared as a critical watershed area.

The implementation therefore of the CADP will strengthen the social sector of San Nicolas specifically on education, health, housing and shelter, social welfare, peace & order, and sports & recreation, as shared by Dr. Reynaldo Dotimas, Municipal Agriculturist.

It also targets to boost the economic activities in the area through agriculture, commerce & trade, industry, tourism, transportation, power supply, water utilities, and information & communication technology.

Proposed interventions, therefore, to realize social and economic development in the community

are composed of construction of farm-to-market roads, irrigation facilities, bridges, canal lining, protection dikes, agricultural tramline, post-harvest facilities, composting facilities, greenhouse facilities, learning sites, multiplier farms, health & wellness facilities, provision of farm mechanization facilities, solar-powered potable water spring development, school development, and provision of garbage truck & ambulance for all in the convergence area.

Other interventions also include environment & protection of ecosystem management activities, socio-economic programs, and livelihood trainings.

In 2017, the CADP for 2018 to 2022 of San Nicolas was approved along with the municipality of Natividad for the province of Pangasinan and is now expanded to San Manuel, San Quintin, and Umingan.//

Barangay Chairmen and farmer groups join the key officials of the municipality of San Nicolas and DA-RFO 1 PMED staff for a photo opportunity after the consultation for the proposed CADP project.





Suyo town receives P7.8M worth of tramline system

Suyo Mayor Samuel Subagan tests on the newly installed tramline system in Brgy. Cabugao, Suyo, Ilocos Sur along with the members of the Cabugao Pambansang Mannalon, Mag-uuma, Magbabaul, at Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP) Chapter, Inc.

Providing the Suyo farmers with safe, fast and cheaper means of transporting their agricultural products, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I led by OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations, Erlinda Manipon turned-over to the municipal government of Suyo the P7.8 million worth of agri-tramline system on April 5 at Brgy. Cabugao, Suyo, Ilocos Sur.

Funded under the High Value Crops Development Program, the project has a total length of 2.4 kilometers that would benefit 40 farmers of Sitio Balansay, Bimmayang and Sao of Barangay Cabugao.

Expected to serve farmers having planted at least 10 hectares of rice areas during rainy season, 8.5 hectares of banana and other fruit trees as well as 5 hectares of

root crops such as ginger, kamote and gabi, the establishment of the tramline agri-system is expected to decrease by 50% the hauling cost of farmers from the existing P50/sack hauling fee.

Accepting the symbolic key of responsibility is Suyo Mayor Samuel Subagan who manifested his sincerest gratitude to the DA-RFO I management for giving another tramline in the municipality that could definitely help in improving the lives of Suyo farmers.

Mr. Ernesto Daoa, Vice President of the Cabugao Pambansang Mannalon, Mag-uuma, Magbabaul, at Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP) Chapter, Inc. in behalf of Mr. Dionisio Layaoan, the President of the group who were the proponents of the project and the would-be operators of the tramline system, expressed his thanks to the DA-RFO I for

giving the tramline project which will surely ease farmers' burden in transporting their produce.

"Napakalaking tulong ang tramline na ito sa aming mga magsasaka na nasa liblib na lugar dahil hindi na kami mahihirapan sa paghahakot ng aming mga produkto papuntang bayan at lalo na, hindi na rin kami mahihirapan sa pagkuha ng mga pangangailangan namin pagbalik dito sa aming lugar," Daoa said.

The tramline system project according to Manipon in her message during the turn-over ceremonies is one of the five high impact projects of DA under the logistics and transport support.

According to Manipon, the project is usually being put up only in Benguet, Mt. Province and some of the interior municipalities of Region 2, and since Ilocos has also many interior municipalities, this



OIC-RTD for Operations Erlinda F. Manipon alongside Dr. Annie Q. Bares, Field Operations Division Chief, and Mayor Subagan turns-over the key of responsibility to Mr. Daaa, Vice-President of Cabugao P4MP.

would bring comfort to farmers in these areas.

“We hope that this project will really benefit you all, as you could already sell your products in the market more easily,” Manipon said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Annie Q. Bares, Chief of the Field Operations Division stressed in her message the reduction of 50% in the existing cost of hauling the products before reaching the market as well as the reduction by 40% of harvest losses through the use of the tramline system.

She, however emphasized to the operators of the project to handle the tramline system with care and should this someday have some defect, the maintenance and repair

shall be shouldered by either the Municipal Government of Suyo or the Cabugao and Balangsay P4MP Chapter, Inc.

Reminding on the do’s and don’ts in the operation and maintenance of the tramline system, Mr. Abel Mangasep, DA-RFO I’s Focal Person for Tramline Project cautioned the group that the project must only be used in transporting agricultural products.

“Bawal ang tao. But for emergency purposes, we can use the tramline,” Mangasep said.

Another guideline in using the tramline system as per instruction of Mangasep is on the observance of the capacity of the tramline.

“The tramline has a capacity of 350

kilos. Please do not over load and do not over use,” he explained.

Another important reminder shared by Mangasep is on the condition of the operator of the system. According to him, the driver or the operator of the tramline must be in good condition and not “drunk” to avoid accidents.

For monitoring purposes, Engr. Febie Zaparita, HVCDP staff also reminded the group of Cabugao and Balangsay P4MP Chapter, Inc. to maintain a logbook which would contain the users of the tramline system including the amount paid by the users and to ensure that the project will be used for its proper purpose.//

DA-RFO1's Rice Program partners with PLGUs to set reg'l rice roadmap

Responding to the DA-National Rice Program's call on the formulation of the Philippine Rice Industry Roadmap 2040, imbued by the approval in Feb. 14, 2019 of the Rice Tarrification Law, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region met its counterpart at the Provincial Local Government Units through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in the four provinces for another round of consultation to finalize the Provincial Rice Roadmap.

A meeting held on April 23 at the DA-RFO I, 3rd Floor Conference Room was facilitated and organized by the Rice Banner Program in the region and was participated in by the DA-RFO I's Operating Unit heads, attached agencies like the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Food Authority (NFA), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), the Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI) and other stakeholders that include SWISA and Irrigators Association Federation President and Seed Grower Federation Chairman.

In her overview of the activity, Ms. Analiza Ramos, Regional Rice Focal Person of DA-RFO I underscored the importance of the activity as it provides salient inputs in the crafting of the Regional Rice

Industry Roadmap that would form part in the development of the Philippine Rice Industry Roadmap for 2040.

Stressing out the need for the LGUs both at the provincial and municipal levels to identify their objectives and needed interventions as contained in their Municipal Food Security Plan and Agri-Fishery Modernization Plan (AFMP), Ms. Ramos requested the Provincial Rice Banner Coordinators of the four provinces to present their consolidated operational plans that are in line with the Philippine Rice Industry Roadmap.

Mr. Danilo Villamil, Planning Officer of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in Pangasinan presented the province's roadmap which requires for stronger linkages with the Municipal Local Government Units so as to come up with a unified and cohesive plan for the province.

With the proposed provision and purchased of farm machineries and equipment and with the continuous buying of palay for buffer stockings by the NFA, the Pangasinan province mentioned extending help for rice farmers in the province to reduce production cost through the provision of inorganic fertilizers.

Dr. Luz Tabora, the Provincial Rice Program Coordinator of Ilocos

Norte, likewise presented the province's consolidated roadmap and received commendation and support from the panel members led by PhilRice Director-Batac Branch, Dr. Reynaldo Castro for giving a comprehensive and detailed plan.

Aiming for a higher yield and production through increase in the utilization of hybrid and quality seeds, Ilocos Norte province intends to increase by 5% hybrid rice seeds and 2% inbred rice seeds utilization per year.

In the province of Ilocos Sur and La Union, Mr. Marcelino Alibin, the Provincial Agriculturist and Ms. Myrna Gacutan, the Provincial Rice Report Officer respectively, presented their consolidated action plans for the province highlighting the plans/programs and projects towards increasing the average yield in rice and the reduction of production cost as well as post-harvest losses thereby improving the competitiveness and farmers income in the two provinces.

Having presented the four provinces' roadmaps, Ramos is optimistic that these planned programs and projects for the benefit of the rice farmers, once implemented will surely redound to better lives of the farming sector, most particularly in the rice industry.//

DA – AMAD conducts training for RPC recipients

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA – RFO1) particularly the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) conducted two sets of training on rice grading and standardization for the recipients of Rice Processing Centers (RPCs) in Region 1.

It was participated by 63 members from 13 associations for the first batch of the training from the province of La Union and

Pangasinan on May 30-31, 2019 at Hotel Fernandino, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. The second batch was attended by 40 members from the nine associations of the province of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte on June 6-7, 2019 at River Mount, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte.

The activity aims to enhance the capability of the RPC recipients in proper rice grading and classification for them to properly market their produce, increase awareness on

food quality and safety and to transform rice producers to become agri-entrepreneurs.

During the activity, Ms. Edilyn Goldara, Senior Agriculturist/Chief, Agribusiness and Industry Support Section under AMAD, noted the importance of the training where she said that rice grading is essential in determining the rice quality and its subsequent price in the market to ensure that the rice produced for the market meets the quality



requirements of consumer.

“For the Rice Processing Centers to be sustainable and competitive, you (recipients) should be trained on proper classification and grading of rice to enhance your knowledge by inculcating your relevance of this product strategy,” Goldara said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Charise Saguitan – representative from the Regional Agriculture and Engineering Division (RAED) gave updates on the existing RPCs in the region. Based on her report, there are now a total of 21 RPC1 (19 completed and 2 are under construction) and three (3) RPC2 (completed) in the region.

Ms. Shoreen M. Manglinong – Provincial Standards Quality

Assurance Officer from the National Food Authority (NFA) Eastern Pangasinan and Mr. Ferdinand Macusi – Senior Grain Operations Officer, NFA – Ilocos Norte, both resource speakers of the two (2) different groups of the training discussed the basic principles and system of grain drying.

According to them grain drying is an important postharvest operation that deals with the process of removing excess moisture from the grain for safe storage and processing.

They also shared the common practices of the NFA to achieve the Rice Grain Standardization and Quality Assurance for maximum over-all economy in terms of cost,

human effort, and conservation of essential materials as opposed to more readily and available materials.

On the second day of the training, the participants for the first group went to visit the NFA Eastern Pangasinan located in Rosales, Pangasinan and the Rice Processing Complex of the Saint Paschal Baylon Multi-Purpose Cooperative in San Quintin, Pangasinan. The second group of participants visited the NFA Ilocos Norte and the RPC operated by the Sarusar Multi – Purpose Cooperative in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte where they witnessed how the rice mill is being operated and learn the proper pilling of stocks of palay.//



RPC recipients actively participate in the series of activities set for the training and site visits in NFA offices and operating RPCs in Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan.

Agripreneurs accomplish two modules of KAMMP training-seminar



Ms. Deborah Castillo, the resource person, asks the participants on their perspectives on starting business.

The 30 micro – small Agripreneurs from the provinces of Pangasinan and La Union accomplished two among ten modules during the Kapatid Agri-Mentor ME Program (KAMMP) training on May 21, 2019 at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (DA – RFO1 PREC), Sual, Pangasinan.

These two (2) modules were: Entrepreneurial Mindsetting and Values Formation and Marketing Management.

The KAMMP training is a tripartite activity among Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA – RFO1), Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center 1 (ATI – RTC1), and Philippine Center of Entrepreneurship Foundation, Inc. – Go Negosyo (PCE – Go Negosyo).

The training aims to capacitate new or emerging farmer entrepreneurs to become more confident with the right mindset and business know-how and that they will be able to sustain and scale up their farm-based enterprises.

During the training, the Center Director of ATI – RTC1, Dir. Rogelio Evangelista, underscored the importance of the training where he said that the training will help the small entrepreneurs learn how to better grow their business and to have a greater income.

“You need to introduce us your products so we could provide you support in looking for market where you could supply your products in Manila like in hotels and restaurants. However, you need first to understand how you can make your small business turn into bigger one, so that is why Go Negosyo is here to help guide your mindset into business,” Evangelista said.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as informed

by Ms. Deborah I. Beltran – Castillo, who served as the speaker during the training, 10% of the population belongs to the upper class, 20% belongs to the middle class and the remaining 70% is below the poverty line.

Castillo encouraged the participants that they should not let the percentage of those on the poverty line increase by pursuing business. She said that whatever happens in the business they establish they should never give up.

She also shared the three (3) M’s that the PCE – Go Negosyo Founder Mr. Joey Concepcion believed and these were mentorship, marketing, and money.

“Make your passion link into business, because that will make you happy,” Castillo emphasized.

The remaining eight modules for the completion of the KAMMP training were held on May 28-29, June 4-5, June 13-14, and on June 27-28, 2019, respectively.//



Mr. Rajesh Gagoomal and his staff presents to the Research and Division staff their organic products which may bring innovation to the crop production of farmers in Region 1.

Forging partnership in managing major crops' pests and diseases in Ilocos Region, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Research and Development (R&D) Division invited the Enviro Scope Synergy, Inc., a private company based in Pasay City, for a product demo of the latter's organic liquid and powder fertilizers on April 30.

Held at the DA-RFO I's 2nd Floor Conference Room, the product demo showcases four of the Enviro Scope Synergy's major organic products which include the Parker Neem Tonic, Hi-Crop, Ultra Action, and the Parker Neem Cake.

Introducing these organic fertilizers is the Company's Director, Mr. Rajesh Gagoomal together with his staff who provided salient features of the products.

The Parker Neem Tonic is an organic insecticide that can be applied to all kinds of crops. Made out of oil extracted from the neem tree, it is very safe to use as it is free with chemical ingredients.

The Hi-Crop, an organic liquid fertilizer for foliar application helps to improve the nutrition of the plant thereby enhancing the size and texture of the plant itself as well as the fruits it bears. With the improvement of the size and texture of the fruits, it enhances the quality and it will increase the harvesting interval, thus, resulting to higher yield.

Added product of the Enviro Scope is the Ultra Action, another organic liquid fertilizer that can be applied to soil to improve its structure and enhances the development of the roots of the plant.

Lastly, the Parker Neem Cake, an organic powdered fertilizer helps improve the soil pH or acidity of the soil while protecting the plant's

R&D division ties up with private group to manage pests, diseases

roots from nematodes, soil grubs and white ants. A product that was derived from neem kernels, it can be applied to all types of grain crops that can substitute 20% of the common fertilizer requirement.

To test the efficacy of these products, the Research Group will form a tie-up project with the Enviro Scope in establishing a technology demonstration project for the farmers to see and observe the performances of said products.

Ms. Cathy Pastor, R&D's Senior Science Research Specialist expressed her enthusiasm to put up the project at four CPAR sites in the municipalities of Asingan, Balungao, and Umingan, Pangasinan and in Caoayan, Ilocos Sur.

Mr. Ariel Agresor, Science Research Specialist of R&D likewise suggested to conduct a briefing and orientation with the farmers prior to putting up the test trials using these products.//

What is AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious hemorrhagic disease of pigs, warthogs, European wild boar and American wild pigs. All age groups are equally at risk.

Symptoms of the infection include appetite loss, redness of the skin, vomiting and diarrhea. Controlling and preventing the infection is highly prioritized as the transmission is quick, but the disease is hard to detect, and it may take days before the symptoms show.

How is ASF transmitted?

Transmission can occur via contaminated feed and fomites (non-living objects) such as shoes, clothes, vehicles, knives, equipment, etc., to the high environmental resistance of ASF virus. The virus can survive even in processed meat such as corned pork, bacon, and *malina*.

Routes of transmission can include:

- Direct contact with infected domestic or wild pigs
- Indirect contact, through ingestion of contaminated material (e.g. food waste, feed, or garbage)
- Contaminated fomites, or biological vectors (soft ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*) where present.

Is ASF harmful to the public?

The virus spreading among pigs is harmless to human health however, there is still no official vaccine to eradicate the virus.

What can be done to prevent ASF?

The virus has not yet entered the Philippines and security measures are tightened to prevent it from entering the country's boundaries. But aside from ensuring that infected animals and meat will

not enter our market, it is important to practice preventive measures such as ensuring proper hygiene for the animals, providing clean feed, constant monitoring for signs of infection and a tighter security against illegal importation of meat.

As of second quarter this year, countries positive on ASF are:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • China | • Poland |
| • Mongolia | • Latvia |
| • Vietnam | • Estonia |
| • South Africa | • Romania |
| • Georgia | • Czech Republic |
| • Armenia | • Belgium |
| • Russia | • Bulgaria |
| • Azerbaijan | • Hungary |
| • Ukraine | • Moldova |
| • Belarus | • Zambia |
| • Lithuania | • Cambodia |

What are the clinical signs of ASF?

- Acute forms of ASF are characterized by high fever, depression, anorexia and loss of appetite, hemorrhages in the skin (redness of skin on ears, abdomen and legs), abortion in pregnant sows, cyanosis, vomiting, diarrhea and death within 6-13 days (or up to 20 days). Mortality rates may be as high as 100%.
- Subacute and chronic forms are caused by moderately or low virulent viruses, which produce less intense clinical signs that can be expressed for much longer periods. Mortality rates are lower, but can still range from 30-70%. Chronic disease symptoms include loss of weight, intermittent fever, respiratory signs, chronic skin ulcers and arthritis.

References:
Canadian Pork Council. African swine fever in other countries. <https://www.cpc-cpc.com/asf-in-other-countries>

Bureau of Animal Industry. ASF hand-out. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m1yCDbXjFKV9pM5nzymPN1OK0jvHVvFK/view>

OIE General Disease Information Sheets: African Swine Fever. <http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D13953.pdf>

DOST-PCHRD. What you need to know about the African Swine Fever. <http://pchrd.dost.gov.ph/index.php/news/6454-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-african-swine-fever>

OIE African Swine Fever. <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

Identifying marks:

The adult moth has dark purplish brown forewings with numerous spots and light-colored lines. The hind wings are whitish, narrowly banded along the outer margin. The wingspan is about 30 mm. Larvae are soil-dwelling or hide underground to avoid predation by birds. They become active at night and emerge from the ground. Larvae come in various colors, ranging from creamy white to green or dark purple, with or without stripes.

facts about ARMYWORM

About the pest:

Armyworms are abundant after a long dry spell thus early detection and monitoring of the pest is important to avoid outbreak.

Check areas with lush vegetation. The pest usually lays egg in these areas and hatches after two to three days.

The larval stage is the most destructive stage of

armyworm. They feed on rice, corn, sweet potato, tobacco, tomatoes, cabbage, among others. Newly hatched larvae usually feed together on the leaf surface. The older larvae are night feeders and are usually found in the soil around the base of the plants. Susceptible growth stages are from seedling to ripening.

Management

Cultural

- Plowing of all fallow land exposes dormant pupae to desiccation and beneficial organisms (predators). Bund shaving kills pupae.
- Young seedlings in seedbeds away from large areas of weeds are less prone to larval attack.
- Flooding of nursery beds and stubbles prevents larvae migration and reduces survival.
- Handpicking of egg masses and larvae reduces their population.
- Reducing application of nitrogenous fertilizer lessens their attack.
- Maintain cleanliness in the farm. The larvae favors on weeds as feed hence, these should be removed.

Biological

- Use biocontrol agents such as metarhizium anisopliae, nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV), earwig, neem-oil, and bacillus thuringiensis. Apply these

biocon agents at dusk for the insect is more active at night.

- Small wasps attack eggs.
- Big wasps and tachinid flies kill larvae
- Ants feed on eggs and larvae
- Spiders prey on adults, especially the hunting spiders.
- Other predators are ladybird beetles and insectivorous birds (Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis)
- Pheromone trapping Pheromone traps which are commercially available are very effective in knowing the activity of the adults.

Chemical control

- Sprays are more effective than granules. Spray late in the afternoon. Mix a little brown sugar to increase intake of insecticide by larvae. Mature larvae do not feed voraciously prior to pupation and tend to go inside the soil for pupation.
- Use chemicals that are FPA registered such as Cypermethrin, Carbaryl, BPMC, Deltamethrin, Lambda-cyhalothrin, among others.

DA-RFO I pays tribute to retirees

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) paid tribute to former Regional Executive Director Cipriano Santiago, former CODA Director, Dr. Jeanette Villareal, and Regional Technical Director for Research and Development Orlando J. Lorenzana who have rendered 45, 35, and 40 years of public service together with seven other honorees in a send-off party sponsored by the DA-RFO I's top management and employees.

In a fitting ceremonies held at the 5th floor DA-RFO I Conference Room on June 10, 2019, the send-off party dubbed as "Salamat-Mabuhay" recognizes the significant contributions of the nine retirees to include Ms. Rosalia Pastor, former Agricultural Center Chief II, Ms. Helen Salinas, Ms. Josephine Serna, Ms. Evelyn Fabello, and Mr. Florencio Maneja, a former Senior Agriculturists from the Soils Laboratory, Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center-Sual, Regulatory Division and Ilocos Norte Research & Experiment Center based in Dingras, Ilocos Norte, respectively.

Ms. Benilyn Gonzales, 41, former Head of the Human Resources Section and Ms. Lallaine Quinit, 42, who retired from her position as Agriculturist II, both opted to retire earlier from the government after having rendered 15 and 16 years of service, respectively.

In his message during the event, Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. noted how Director Santiago and Director Lorenzana have contributed much in his personal growth and career as a public servant especially in the performance of his task as top performing director in the country.

Likewise, he thanked Director Lorenzana for being on his side when he requested the latter to join him in Ilocos Region sometime in August, 2017 when he was appointed as executive director of DA-RFO I.

"How can I ever forget you? Noong kailangang-kailangan kita, nandiyan ka sa aking tabi for a very good reason," Alviar said.

For his message to the honorees in general, Alviar shared his thoughts of how grateful he is for the hard work, friendship and valuable services rendered by the honorees.

"Your time, effort and contributions sa inyong trabaho ay kayang tumbasan ng inyong retirement benefits, pero ang magagandang alaala, experience, friendship, happy moments working with you ay walang katumbas na halaga," he added.

For his acceptance speech, Director Santiago, who has been retired from the service last October, 2018 expressed his profound gratitude to the management and staff of DA-RFO I for giving him the opportunity to bid goodbye to his colleagues in the department whom he worked with for almost 4 years.

Giving emphasis on valuing work and being humble, Director Santiago also emphasized the goodness of telling your colleagues about the positive things that they are doing now instead of telling them when they would retire.

"Sabihin na ninyo ngayon ang mga magaganda nilang ginagawa ngayong naririnig pa nila para mas gaganahan pa nilang ipagpatuloy ang kanilang magagandang ginagawa," Santiago added.

For his retirement response, Director Lorenzana encouraged everyone to continue working hard and reminded all employees to be committed and be dedicated in their works and to wait for the right timing in everything.

"Kailangang maging masipag at matiyaga. Kahit na hindi mo naiisip na mapo-promote ka, kung talagang para sayo yan, ibibigay sayo. Huwag mong apurahin, baka mawala," Lorenzana said.

Meanwhile, giving tribute to all the retirees, each of the nine divisions of the Department prepared a simple presentation for the retirees in the form of songs, dance and audio visual presentations.//

Atty. Cipriano G. Santiago,
45 years in service



Ms. Rosalia G. Pastor
42 years in service



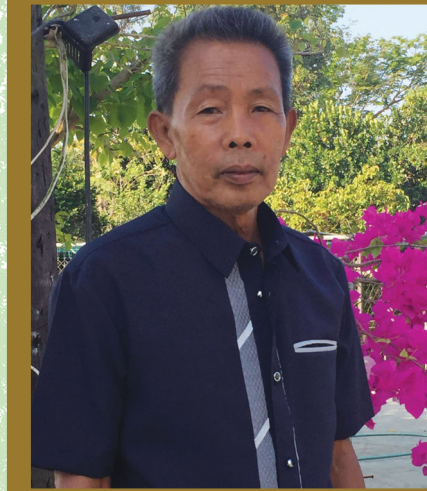
RTD Orlando J. Lorenzana,
40 years in service



Ms. Benilyn M. Gonzales,
15 years in service



Ms. Evelyn
C. Fabello,
41 years in
service



Mr. Florencio M. Maneja,
16 years in service

Ms. Jeanette M.
Villareal,
35 years in
service



Ms. Lallaine P. Quinit
16 years in service



Ms. Josephine P. Serna,
39 years in service



Ms. Helen
B. Salinas,
37 years
in service





GAWAD SAKA 2018 AWARDDEES

From L to R : Region I's nominees for Gawad Saka 2018 namely: Mr. Edgar Guerrero (Outstanding Rice Farmer), Mr. Geoffrey Pascual (Outstanding Corn Farmer), Bacarra Zanjera Irrigators MPC (Outstanding Small Farmer/Fisherfolk Organization Category), Mr. Ferdinand Navarro (Outstanding HVCC Farmer Category), Vigan City Agricultural and Fisheries Council (Outstanding CAFCC), Mr. & Ms. Ignacio and Family (Outstanding Farm Family), and Bacnotan Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (Outstanding MFARMC)

