A man wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a blue long-sleeved shirt is crouching in a field. He is looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred field with green plants and a grey plastic mulch on the ground.

The Official Publication of the Department of Agriculture - RFO1

DAMAG *agri*

Volume 19, Issue 2 | April - June 2020

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



THE COVER

This quarter's cover features Mr. Ferdinand Navarro, the 2019 National Gawad Saka Winner as Most Outstanding High Value Crops Farmer. He was recognized during the celebration of the Fisherfolk and Farmers' Month Celebration in June at DA-RFO 1.

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Damag Agri is the official publication of the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I. It is published and circulated quarterly through the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section.

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AMIA VILLAGE IN ILOCOS NORTE WEATHERS COVID-19 ECQ CHALLENGE ON FOOD

When COVID-19 was declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the government subsequently declared Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in the entire Luzon area, a village up north remained calm and unfazed by the possible threat of food inadequacy as access to public market became a struggle.

Unlike in other areas, residents of Brgy. Madupayas in Badoc, Ilocos Norte have not been too anxious of the COVID-19 threat to their food supply owing to the successful implementation of the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture (AMIA) project in their village. Farmers and villagers alike have vast supply of various vegetables, including poultry and livestock as a result of their AMIA livelihood project which have sustained them amidst the strict implementation of the ECQ in the Province of Ilocos Norte.

The village is one among four AMIA project sites

in Region I which was established in October 2019. The first AMIA site in the region was in San Emilio, Ilocos Sur established in December 2016 and funded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR). Upon seeing the undeniable impact of the AMIA project to the community and the locals, DA-RFO I through the leadership of Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., expanded the project covering several localities in the region which include the municipalities of Luna in La Union and Sison in Pangasinan. Other target sites for 2020 include San Gabriel, La Union;

DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE IN THE PROVINCE, THE PEOPLE NEED NOT GO TO THE MARKET TO BUY THEIR FOODS RATHER, THEY WENT TO THE “TALIPAPA” TO SELL THE “EXTRA” FROM THEIR PRODUCE GAINED FROM THE AMIA PROJECT AND HELPED NEARBY VILLAGES BE ABLE TO ACCESS FOOD EASILY DURING THE CRISIS.

Anda, Pangasinan; and Lidlida, Ilocos Sur.

According to Dr. Mary Jane Alcedo, AMIA focal person in Region I, Brgy. Madupayas, in Badoc, Ilocos Norte was selected as AMIA site considering its vulnerability to drought and is located in a far flung area where public transportation is difficult.

“Based on the Climate Risk Vulnerability Map of Ilocos Norte, the Municipality of Badoc is considered a high risk or vulnerable area to climate change,” she informed.

AMIA aims to mainstream climate change mitigation strategies in agriculture and help address issues on the adverse effects of climate change in the agriculture sector at identified high risk or vulnerable areas.

At present, there are 32 farmer-beneficiaries who are members of the AMIA association in Badoc, Ilocos Norte. Interventions provided to the village include free range chicken production, goat and native pig production, and soybean production. The farmers have also undergone trainings in organic production of crops & livestock, and learned other climate-resilient agricultural technologies. They were also provided with shredder for their vermi-composting project. Their vermi compost is now being used in

their Plant Plant Plant project as they were also able to establish their community vegetable garden.

Other than benefitting from AMIA’s efficacy in building climate-resilient communities, the project has likewise helped bring closer together the community as they chose to establish one common area for their free-range chicken project where each villager follows a schedule in feeding their poultry. The shared responsibility in ensuring the sustainability of the project in their area is what also built a stronger community relation especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

“During the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine in the province, the people need not go to the market to buy their foods rather, they went to the “talipapa” to sell the “extra” from their produce gained from the AMIA project and helped nearby villages be able to access food easily during the crisis,” said Ms Leonora Escarda, Municipal Agriculturist of Badoc.

Indeed, like a two-edged sword, AMIA has prepared the Brgy. Madupayas villagers to weather the impacts of climate change at the same time enabled them to rise above ECQ challenge and the COVID-19 threat on their food security. #



FARM CONSOLIDATION APPROACH LEVELS UP AGGIE SECTOR IN ILOCOS

In line with Sec. William Dar's new thinking for agriculture on farm consolidation as spelled out in the eight paradigm shift to boost the agriculture sector under his watch, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region organized a Community Hybrid Rice Project (CHRP) in partnership with the Local Government Units of the four provinces in the region.

Aimed at establishing a 100-hectare contiguous area to be planted with hybrid rice seeds, the CHRP is the Ilocos region's flagship project that will provide organized farmers better access to DA's programs

and projects while promoting inclusive partnership between big and small farm holders.

Involving four Federated Farmers Associations in the region, the CHRP is likewise established to provide employment and increase the incomes of small holder farm families while encouraging them to engage in agribusiness enterprise such that farmers' group may be able to optimize their incomes.

Clustered into four federated farmers' group who are identified as collaborators of the project, among the identified farmers' organizations are the Nangcalupaan Irrigators Association in Urdaneta



City and Asingan, Pangasinan, the Sta. Maria, Sta. Fe, San Jose in Agoo of La Union, the BurParLuna Irrigators Association in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur and the Bacarra Zanjera Irrigators' Association of Buyon, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte.


As the DA's partner of the project, members of these farmers group shall be provided with the necessary inputs such as free hybrid seeds (farmer's preference) and urea fertilizers to cover the 100-hectare contiguous target area for the project.

In Sta. Maria, Sta. Fe, and San Jose in Agoo La Union, the IFED project or the Innovative Family Enterprise Development on goat and vegetable productions was added to the farm cluster activities to provide additional livelihood projects for the farmer members while waiting for the harvest season of their hybrid rice crops.

Aside from the inception of the IFED project, the farmers' associations of Sta. Maria, Sta. Fe and San Jose shall be conducting a farm demonstration on the various farm machineries and equipment that involves crop production from planting to harvesting.

Mr. Rodolfo Estrada, Jr., ESETS Focal Person in the region, said that the farm clustering in the region will expect to increase the average yield of rice farming in the region with the 1-ton incremental yield target per cluster that the project will provide.

With the DA's full implementation of the clustering project next year, DA in Region I is now preparing viable farmers associations in the region by organizing more farmers association into federation to be able to maximize the full potential of farm clustering as a major strategy to leverage the agriculture sector. #

A woman wearing a large, round, woven straw hat and a dark blue jacket over a pink shirt is holding a large, dense bundle of harvested rice stalks. She is standing in a field of tall, golden-brown rice plants under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

PAGPUPUGAY SA MAGSASAKA AT MANGINGISDA NATIN, TUNGO SA SAPAT NA PAGKAIN

DA-RFO I CELEBRATES FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK'S MONTH

Celebrating May as the Farmers and Fisherfolk's month, employees of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) led by Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. joined today the nationwide celebration together with the 16 DA Regional Field Offices in a livestream activity mirroring the event being held at the DA Main Office.

Under the “new normal” condition where wearing of mask and social distancing was strictly observed, the celebration was held at the DA-RFO I 5th Floor Conference Room in San Fernando City, La Union with the theme: “Pagpupugay sa mga Magsasaka at Mangingisda natin, tungo sa Sapat na Pagkain.”

In a simple celebration ceremony, the event highlighted the recognition of Mr. Ferdinand Navarro, 2019 National Gawad Saka Winner as Most Outstanding High Value Crops Farmer who inspired the participants with his success as a farmer. Ferdinand admitted that joining and winning in the Gawad Saka search opened many opportunities for him like becoming a constant partner of DA in disseminating agricultural technologies and innovative high value crops farming practices which are showcased through his farm.

Recognizing all his efforts in furthering

the growth and development of high value crops farming in the region, DA-RFO I through Director Alviar honored Navarro with a Certificate of Recognition plus one power sprayer, vegetable seeds and as pledged by DA-RFO I Operations Chief Dr. Annie Bares and approved by Alviar, a multi-cultivator and hand tractor to follow.

Meanwhile, in his message during the event, RED Lucrecio Alviar, Jr. encouraged everyone's support in the food production goal of the government especially during this time of pandemic. He stressed the importance of partnership with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the private sector in refocusing programs and projects that will further intensify food production in the region.

Sharing this mission is the Known-You Seed Company which donated to DA-RFO I four large boxes of various vegetable seeds during the event for distribution to



individuals in support to the urban agriculture campaign of DA.

Part of the program was also the turn-over of seeds and fertilizer to the province of La Union through Provincial Agriculturist Col. Ramon F. Laudencia and Ms. Myrna Picazzo, Assistant Provincial Agriculturist. The seeds and fertilizer are among the free interventions of DA to farmers under the Rice Resiliency Project and a component of the Plant Plant Plant Program of DA otherwise known as the Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) laban sa COVID-19 program.

Giving updates on the KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Operations in the Region and the Status of the Rice Resiliency Project, Ms. Wilhelmina Castañeda and Ms. Analiza Ramos, Chief of AMAD and the Rice Focal Person in the region respectively presented the status of both projects in the region.

Another highlight of the Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month celebration is the launching of the #HardinMoPasikatMo challenge which encourages interested individuals from Ilocos Region to create a 2-3 minute video blog of their established vegetable garden during the pandemic where free seeds are sourced out from DA.

Another part of the scheduled activity is the simultaneous ceremonial planting activities that were held at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC) in Sta. Barbara and Sual, Pangasinan and at the Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center (INREC) in Batac City and Dingras, Ilocos Norte.#





ILOCOS IFED PROJECT INCREASES ON BUDGET, ADDS CATTLE, DUCK PRODUCTION WITH FARM MECHANIZATION

Seeing the high potential of Innovative Family Enterprise Development (IFED) program as a vital strategy to increase food production in this challenging time due to Covid-19 pandemic, Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. has increased the fund allocation for its IFED program making its P34.5 million fund to Php106.438 million with the inclusion of P94.984 million worth of project for livestock and poultry productions.

In a series of consultations initiated by Dir. Alviar with the Livestock Banner Program and the Research and Development (R&D) Division, additional P31.5 million IFED fund on cattle and P2 million for duck production were allocated. The total fund allocated for goat has also increased from its previous P10.06 million

allocation to P37.92 million budget and the chicken from P2 million to P7.61 million.

Based on the project proposal of the R&D Division and the Livestock Banner Program, a total of 23,469 heads of various livestock and poultry animals shall be purchased for distribution to the farmer-cooperators in the



four provinces of the region.

A total of 741 heads of cattle will be purchased by the DA for distribution to the selected farmer-cooperators in Ilocos Norte (249 heads), Ilocos Sur (224 heads), La Union (138 heads) and Pangasinan (130 heads).

On goat, a total of 2,528 heads will be purchased with Ilocos Sur having the highest number of allocated stocks followed by Pangasinan with 675 heads and Ilocos Norte and La Union with 378 and 375 heads, respectively.

For the chicken and duck stocks, DA will likewise purchase a total of 15,700 heads for distribution to the farmer-beneficiaries with chicken having purchase a total of 15,200 and ducks 5,000 heads. On chicken, the province of Pangasinan will get 3,950 stocks; 8,100 for Ilocos Sur, 1,950 and 1,200 heads for the provinces of Ilocos Norte and La Union, respectively.

To improve duck meat and duck egg production in the region, a total of 800 stocks will be given each for La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte while 2,600

stocks for the province of Pangasinan.

Of the total 23,469 heads of livestock and poultry stocks to be purchased by the DA valued at P79.420 million, the province of Ilocos Sur shares the biggest chunk of the budget with P27.18 million followed by the province of Ilocos Norte with P17.01 million, and the provinces of Pangasinan and La Union with P16.86 million and P12.37 million, respectively.

Meanwhile to make the IFED project a total package of technology, RED Alviar also made a consultation with local manufacturer of agri machineries and equipment for possible target sites in the region for mechanization which can become a component of the IFED.

"We can help provide feeds for the IFED livestock and poultry projects using such practical machines like mechanized silage maker, tractor-mounted multi-purpose chopper and other machines used in crops and livestock production which will certainly help in the sustainability of our project," Alviar said. #

DA'S KADIWA ON WHEELS, DTI'S ROLLING STORE BRINGS JOY TO CABA RURAL FOLKS

Brgy. San Jose in Caba, La Union is an interior barangay which is seven kilometers away from the town proper. Basically an agricultural area with around 100 existing households, going to and from the town proper is almost impossible especially with the continuing implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



With some restrictions on securing quarantine pass from the barangay council and the high risk that it could give to those who would want to go to the town proper and not to mention the suspension of public transportation, made it even more difficult for every household to access basic necessities from the market.

Thanks to the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office

I headed by Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. through the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) and the Department of Trade and Industry as they helped bring closer the market to consumers in the area through the KADIWA on wheels and the Rolling Store programs.

The KADIWA or Katuwang sa Diwa at Gawa ni Ani at Kita on wheels and the Rolling Store are among the DA and DTI's efforts to provide the public an accessible, available, fresh and affordable agri-fishery commodities including the basic necessities of every family during the imposed ECQ.

A one-day activity held at the covered court of Brgy. San Jose, in coordination with the Local Government Unit of Caba, these programs of the KADIWA on Wheels and Rolling Store also provided opportunity for small farmers/traders and organizations to sell their produce.

Ms. Betty Ramos, 37 from Pugo, La Union, a consolidator of highland vegetables in the area expressed her gratitude for the existence of this kind of project from DA as more farmers were able to sell their produce at the same time providing her the opportunity to help the consuming public in this time of crisis

by making available fresh, safe and affordable highland vegetables at their doorstep.

"Masaya sa feeling na makatulong sa iba. Di bale ng walang kita kasi hindi lang naman yong income ang habol natin dito. Yong makita natin na may ambag tayo sa panahong ganito, mas nakakagaan iyon sa pakiramdam," Ramos shared.

Mrs. Divina Dulatre, 46, and Mrs. Rowena Tambot, 38, both residents of Brgy. San Jose equally expressed their gratitude to the DA and DTI for bringing these projects in their barangay.

"Nagpapasalamat kami sa mga ganitong programa dahil talagang malaking tulong po ito sa amin. Buti na lang may ganitong programa dahil hindi na kami mahihirapang lumabas para mamalengke ng kailangan namin," Tambot said.

Other than DA and DTI, the Philippine Carabao Center, which offered its dairy products also joined the KADIWA on wheels along with invited sellers of dried fish and fishery products.

Aside from Brgy. San Jose, the Brgy. Council of San Carlos also in Caba joined the simultaneous KADIWA on wheels and Rolling store activity. #





WORKING AS ONE: KADIWA ON WHEELS TIES UP WITH DTI'S ROLLING STORE

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO 1) thru its Agribusiness and Marketing assistance Division (AMAD), in partnership with the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), jointly implement the Kadiwa on Wheels and Rolling Store program to provide the public access to food and other basic supplies closer to their homes given the difficulty of traveling to public markets and main grocery stores in the region after the imposed extended enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic.

This collaborative effort is a first to

both agencies with the municipality of Balaoan as its pilot area.

The Kadiwa on Wheels and the Rolling store were brought to barangays Sinapangan Sur, Sinapangan Norte, Tallipugo, Calliat, Baracbac Oeste, and Baracbac Este. Buyers in said barangays were provided only one hour each to buy their goods at a limited number so that everyone who came will be able to bring home goods that they need.

"We're very grateful to DA and DTI for bringing these goods to our doorstep through this Kadiwa on Wheels and Rolling store. It's truly a big help because

not all of us can go to the market and grocery stores in town for our needs due to the ECQ," shared Leticia Barbon, 58, a resident of Brgy. Tallipugo, Balaoan, La Union.

Commodities sold were lowland and highland vegetables, fish, pork, chicken, processed food products, and other essential necessities which were all sold based on the suggested retail price.

The Kadiwa on wheels and the rolling store was set up at the Farmers Civic Center of Barangay Sinapangan Sur, Balaoan, La Union on Thursday, April 23, 2020. #



DA-RFO I, NIA EXECS DEAL FOR TIMELY RELEASE OF IRRIGATION WATER

Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I headed by Dir. Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. met with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) officials led by NIA Manager Angelito Miguel to firm up their commitments of providing timely irrigation for rice areas to be planted this coming wet cropping season.

Held at the DA-RFO I Conference Room on April 17, 2020, the meeting provided updates on the number of hectares to be irrigated through the 28 national irrigation systems and the 329 communal irrigations systems in the region.

With the 311,045 hectares targeted area planted for rice this wet cropping season in the region, NIA could only irrigate 47,899 hectares from its assisted irrigation systems while 48,397 from the communal irrigation systems regionwide. Nonetheless, “once the major rehabilitation for the irrigation systems be completed in the 6th district of Pangasinan in Natividad and Asingan, a

10,000-hectare additional area will soon be irrigated,” Miguel said.

Considering the timely irrigation services by NIA, DA-RFO I through the Rice Banner Program has already scheduled the delivery of 58,182 bags of rice seeds for distribution to the municipalities with irrigated areas.

As early as the first week of May, DA shall be distributing seeds as suppliers are expected to deliver the seeds at designated drop off points or warehouses of the DA by April 27-30 and May 2-5, 2020.

Aside from the irrigation concern, the meeting also provided an avenue to discuss

accreditation of the NIA’s contractors and employees through the issuance of Inter-Agency Task Force ID to continue the rehabilitation operations and activities being made to irrigation canals and other critical projects by the agency region wide.

For this purpose, DA-RFO I through the Management Information System Section provided the NIA the standard lay out of the IATF ID for the reproduction of the same to ensure an unhampered travel of their employees in going to and from the rehabilitation project sites. #

DA-RFO 1 IMPLEMENTS RRP: THOUSANDS OF FARMERS RECEIVE FREE SEEDS, FERTILIZERS

In the initial delivery of farm inputs in the various municipalities of Region 1, thousands of Ilocos farmers have received their free bags of rice seeds and fertilizers under the Department of Agriculture's Rice Resiliency Project (RRP) – just in time for the wet season planting.

Following the marching orders of the Department of Agriculture-RFO 1 Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., the Rice Resiliency Project Taskforce comprising staff from the Rice Banner Program, in partnership with the Local Government Units, spearheaded the region-wide seed and fertilizer distribution.

As of June 5, 2020 data, a total of 69, 102 farmers were awarded with hybrid

and certified rice seeds which shall cover 53, 623 hectares (has.) of rice area in the region out of the targeted 125, 000 has.

Maximizing the budget allocated for this intervention, however, the targeted 125,000 has. was increased to 155,000 has.

Meanwhile, a total of 21, 629 farmers out of the targeted 99, 578 beneficiaries have also acquired their inbred rice seeds





DA-RFO1 DEPLOYS RRP INFORMATION SYSTEM

Transparency in the distribution of seeds and fertilizers.

This was the objective of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1) in deploying the Rice Resiliency Project(RRP) Information System which was recommended for adoption of other regional offices in the country for easier monitoring and profiling of recipients of the RRP.

from page 17



while a total of 13, 546 beneficiaries under fertilizer distribution have received their bags of urea good for 27, 091 has. of rice area out of the targeted 58, 182 hectares.

Still part of DA assistance to farmers in light of the COVID-19

pandemic, a total of 68, 735 out of the 107, 122 beneficiaries under the Rice Farmer Financial Assistance (RFFA) program have received their aid of Php 5,000.00 cash each whereas 74,455 out of the 149, 449 beneficiaries under the Financial Subsidy for Rice Farmers (FSRF) had already claimed their subsidy of the same amount.



Taking guidance from DA-RFO 1 Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., the information system is a mobile application jointly developed by IT experts from DA-RFO 1's Information Management Section headed by Mr. James Flores, and Mr. Leo Mark Baldoz with Mr. Deo Rivera, head of the General Services Section.

Aside from providing transparency in DA-RFO1's services, the system provides easier data capture, access, and centralized database on the list of farmer beneficiaries who have received interventions under the RRP.

The application was already shared to DA-RFO 1 personnel assigned at the research

stations and staff members of the Local Government Units, just in time for the ongoing implementation of RRP.

Initial areas where the system was deployed were in the municipalities of Binalonan, Manaoag, and Mapandan in the province of Pangasinan and in Banna, Ilocos Norte.

The gathered data through the information system can also be used as a baseline data in future interventions to farmers from DA.

RRP is one of the interventions under the DA's Plant Plant Plant Program or the Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) Laban sa COVID-19 which focuses on the distribution of seeds and fertilizers for rice farmers.#

As of date, continuous distribution of seeds and fertilizers are on-going to complete the delivery of the interventions to all the targeted number of qualified farmer beneficiaries in the region.

RRP is a project under DA's Plant Plant Plant Program or also known as the Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS)

Laban sa Covid-19 which is focused on increasing the rice adequacy level of the country from 86% to about 90-93% along with RFFA and FSRF, which are both financial assistance programs to support farmers in the country amid the COVID-19 pandemic.#





COVID-19 AFFECTED ILOCOS FARMERS, FISHERFOLK TO BENEFIT ON ACPC'S LOAN PROGRAM

Some 2,500 households of small farmers and fisherfolk in the Ilocos Region whose incomes were affected during the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) on March 16 to April 30 due to the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to benefit from the Agriculture Credit and Policy Council's (ACPC) Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery loan program which has kicked off on June 1, in San Gabriel, La Union with an initial release of Php 2, 650, 000 covering 106 beneficiaries.

As one of DA's attached agencies, ACPC was tasked to allocate a fund amounting to Php 4billion for this project as part of DA's Plant Plant Plant Program or the Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) Laban sa COVID-19.

Marginalized farmers and fisherfolk are allowed to borrow a capital amounting to Php 25,000 per household, payable up to ten years with zero interest and no collateral.

Qualified beneficiaries were identified by the Local Government Units through their respective agriculture offices and

validated by the DA-Regional Office before endorsing to ACPC.

DA-ACPC has partnered with non-government financial institutions based in Region 1 for a transparent administering and implementation of the credit program.

Selected institutions were Cooperative Bank of La Union (La Union), Ilocos Consolidated Cooperative Bank (Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur), and Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives (Pangasinan).#



Pagyamanak la unay ti DA ta dakkel a banag daytoy libre a naited kadakami gapuanan ta nagnginan dagiti magatgatang aglalo kadagitoy inputs a kas iti bin-i, abono ken dadduma pay a kasapulan mi iti panagtalon.

Mabalín a maka-menos nak ti 50% ti gastos ko ti panagtalon babaen kadagitoy nga impaay ti DA isu nga ad-adu iti maganansiak ita.

- MR. DAVID DALUGDONG

Federated President, Narvacan Farmers' Association, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur



NARVACAN RICE FARMERS RECEIVE FREE RICE SEEDS, FERTILIZERS FROM DA

Ready for the planting season, farmers of Narvacan in the province of Ilocos Sur has finally received their share of seeds and fertilizers from the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I during its scheduled distribution on June 25, 2020.

Hundreds of farmers from the four barangays in Narvacan out of the 5,754 farmers registered from the Registry of Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) received their allocation of free seeds and urea fertilizers from DA in Ilocos as part of the ongoing distribution of the interventions under its Rice Resiliency Program.

Held at the Municipal Covered Court in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, the distribution activity was facilitated by the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist in collaboration with the Rice Banner Program in the region.

Mr. David Dalugdong, a farmer from Bantay-Abut, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur and the Federated President of the Narvacan Farmers Association is among the thousands of recipients of the project who expressed his gratitude to the officialdom of DA with all the various assistance given to him and to his fellow rice farmers.

"Pagyamanak la unay ti DA ta dakkell a banag daytoy libre a naited kadakami gapuanan ta nagnginan dagiti magatgatang aglalo kadagitoy inputs a kas iti bin-i, abono ken dadduma pay a kasapulan mi iti panagtalon, (I really thanked DA for all these interventions given for free especially that almost everything is so expensive now like seeds and fertilizers and all other inputs in farming)," Dalugdong expressed with much gratefulness to DA.

According to Mr. Dalugdong, he would be able to save at least 50% from his farming expenses with the interventions on free seeds and fertilizers he received from DA.

Dalugdong also expressed how hopeless life would have been for him and his fellow farmers had they not receive any assistance from the government. But with all the given interventions under the RRP, the future somehow looks brighter now for them.

Giving much appreciation on the implementation of the RSBSA project which required national enrolment for all farmers, Mr. Dalugdong emphasized how interventions can now be availed equally by both big and small farm holders.

"Nasayaat unay daytoy nga RSBSA ta addan pagibasaran ti taga-DA no siasino dagiti us-usto a mannalon nga agkasapulan ti tulong kas maibasar ti kalawa ti taltalunen na," Dalugdong added. (This (RSBSA) is very good because it will serve as basis for DA to accurately identify which farmers truly need help and assistance according to his farm area.)

DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. has given priority to the immediate distribution of all interventions under RRP by providing needed logistics to make sure that farmers will be able to use these interventions in time for the planting season.

With the non-stop distribution activities being done by the DA-RFO I Rice Banner program staff, a total of 127,347 bags of hybrid seeds good for 29,457 has. and 2,087 bags of inbred seeds were already distributed in various municipalities in the region. #



3.9M WORTH OF CATTLE PROGRAM SEEN TO BENEFIT LU, IN FARMER BENEFICIARIES



Five farmer groups in the provinces of La Union and Ilocos Norte are expected to benefit from the Department of Agriculture's Modified Loan Breeder Program worth Php3.9M.

Under this program, identified beneficiaries were provided 60 heads of Island-born Purebred Heifer American Brahman, a breed well known for its remarkable climate adaptation and potential as a source of livelihood either for its meat or dairy produce.

On May 25, these cattle were received by the members of Timpuyog

ti Mannalon iti Nalvo Norte iti Luna La Union Incorporated, Duplas Bulalaan Livestock Raisers Association, and Rosario Municipal Indigenous Tribal Council Incorporated – all from the province of La Union.

Meanwhile, recipients identified in the province of Ilocos Norte were members of Bacarra Dayo Association





and Bacarra Zanjera Multipurpose Cooperative.

These animals are given to the recipients as loaned-out breeders and will be inseminated with Purebred Brahman semen sourced out from the Bureau of Animal Industry under the Unified Artificial Insemination Program.

Recipients will maintain the animals until the offspring are weaned and own it afterwards. The heifer will be collected for distribution to the next qualified beneficiaries.

Before the distribution of animals, recipients had undergone Farmer Livestock School on Integrated Cattle Management as training on the basic to advance cattle raising.

Cattle shed, feed, labor, and other operating expenses were shouldered by the recipients.

This program aims to increase the number of recipients by 250% for five years. #



DA – RFO 1 RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES ON DA’S 122ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA – RFO1) paid tribute to its employees in a simple ceremony to commemorate the 122nd year Anniversary of the DA as it highlighted the sacrifices and hard work of the employees most especially in these trying times.

True to its anniversary theme, “Agrikultura ang Pag-asa sa Kabila ng Pandemiya,” Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr expressed his gratitude for the support given by the entire DA-RFO I workforce so that the delivery of basic services to the agriculture sector will still be carried out despite the imposed community quarantine in the region.

"I thank every single one of you for being a part of this battle. We are still at a very uncertain time and the end of the battle may yet be far ahead, but with all of our combined efforts, with the guidance of the Lord and the support of our indispensable partners in agricultural development, I believe we

can overcome," Alviar said.

To appreciate the efforts of all employees who took the risk to report to work despite the threat of COVID-19 as their outputs are essential to carry out needed interventions for farmers and fisherfolk in the region, DA-RFO I came up with an incentive of P5,000 for those with perfect attendance from March 16 - April 13, 2020.

On the other hand, all employees who were also part of the skeleton workforce in each division when the Enhanced Community Quarantine was in effect and rendered services for eight days and above from March 16 to April 30, 2020 also received one sack of rice (50kgs) each.

As a highlight of the

anniversary celebration, 16 employees received their loyalty award with P5,000 cash and certificate handed out by Dir. Alviar with Regional Technical Director for Operations Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon and Regional Technical Director for Research & Regulations Dr. Jovita M. Datuin.

The awardees were:

Aurelia C. Camacho – 45 years in service
Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr – 41 years in service
Christina M. Apan – 35 years in service
Rizalino P. Apan – 35 years in service
Doris Joy C. Garcia – 35 years in service
Imelda A. Saladino – 35 years in service
Eleanor L. Blanco – 35



years in service

Luisito P. Dela Cruz – 25
years in service

Ernesto M. Pimentel – 25
years in service

Gilbert D. Rabara – 25
years in service

Filomena A. Bugaoan – 15
years in service

Imelda R. Cornes – 15
years in service

Rodelio J. Signey – 15
years in service

Grace S. Villanueva – 15
years in service

Fernando D. Ramos – 15

years in service

Alberto G. Coloma – 15
years in service

The employees also participated in the Search for Best Tiktok video in relation to the DA anniversary. Winners received P5,000.00 for the first prize; P3,500.00 for the second prize; P2,500.00 for the third prize and a consolation prize of P1,000 for non-winners.

"Today, let us celebrate our victory. Let us celebrate God's graciousness and

mercy for keeping us all safe amidst the pandemic," Alviar concluded in his message showing much appreciation to all the DA-RFO I employees and encouraging them further to continue their services as their roles are essential in keeping DA's mandate of ensuring a food secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk. #



DA-RFO I DISTRIBUTES CATTLE TO ASF AFFECTED HOG RAISERS IN PANGASINAN

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO I) through the Regulatory Division distributed a total of 21 cattle yearlings, five heifers and one junior bull worth Php 879,175.00 to 21 hog raisers from Mapandan, Pangasinan as part of DA's indemnification to hog raisers affected by the African Swine Fever outbreak in the region.

The Province of Pangasinan is among the provinces hardly hit by the ASF virus with a total of 1,196 hog raisers who suffered great loss on their incomes with the strict implementation of the 1-7-10 protocol by DA in an effort to contain the spread of the virus.

According to Regulatory Division Chief, Dr. Florentino Adame, the program aims to support the affected backyard hog raisers and to encourage them to continue engaging in other livestock ventures to sustain the animal production in the region.

“The effect of ASF in the socio-economic conditions of farmers worsened when the COVID – 19 pandemic came about that is why there is a vital need for government intervention through the provision of cattle to ASF-affected farmers to supplement their livelihood,” Adame added. #





P29 MILLION ASF INDEMNIFICATION FUND RELEASED

Over P29 million indemnification fund was released by the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office I to compensate the losses incurred by around 885 ASF-affected hog raisers for the culling of 5,811 swine by DA due to the dreaded African Swine Fever affecting hogs in the Ilocos Region particularly in the provinces of Pangasinan and La Union on the later part of 2019.

Being done on first and second phases of distribution, the first round was held in the municipalities of Mapandan, Bayambang, Dagupan City, Binmaley, Pangasinan with a total of P7 million in response to the losses incurred by the 327 ASF-affected hog raisers for their 1,400 animals.

On the second phase of distribution of

the indemnification fund, DA has turned-over P22.235 million to 558 ASF-affected hog raisers from the 33 barangays of the 11 municipalities in the province of Pangasinan and in the province of La Union.

From among the 11 municipalities in the province of Pangasinan, the municipality of Mangaldan shared the biggest slice of the indemnification fund with around P8.87 million covering the losses of 222 ASF-affected hog raisers whose animals were culled due to the dreaded swine disease.

The ASF Task Force in the Region has requested around 51.035 million to indemnify the losses of the affected hog raisers in the region. #



THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

AGRICULTURE TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN COVID-19 RECOVERY EFFORTS

The country's agriculture sector is expected to play a major role in pursuing a socio-economic response framework to the Covid-19 pandemic recovery efforts.

"For us to rise stronger from this Covid-19 crisis, the government must encourage the development of an agriculture-driven economy," said Agriculture Secretary William Dar at the opening of the Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month celebration and launch of the Plant Plant program, May 26, 2020, at the DA Central Office, in Quezon City.

"We believe that economic growth in agriculture is more effective at reducing poverty and food insecurity than growth in other sectors. Investments in agriculture

can help revive food production and create jobs, following a crisis, and enable rural communities to recover," he said.

"After this Covid-19 pandemic, business unusual is the new normal. Instead, we have to focus on three guiding principles: survive, reboot, and grow," the DA chief added.

He said the agri-fishery sector plays a key role in mitigating the effects of the pandemic on food production, market access, and rural employment.

"To avoid serious disruption to rural economies, it is essential to ensure that agriculture, food chain, markets and trade should continue to function," he said.

AFTER THIS COVID-19 PANDEMIC, BUSINESS UNUSUAL IS THE NEW NORMAL. INSTEAD, WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES: SURVIVE, REBOOT, AND GROW

To roll out immediate interventions for food production and availability, food accessibility and affordability, and food price stabilization, the DA proposed a P66-billion stimulus package under the Plant Plant Plant program. The DA proposal is currently being deliberated upon in Congress as part of the proposed Philippine Economic Stimulus Act.

Secretary Dar said food production areas must be expanded to increase levels of productivity.

“We need to improve efficiencies in production, and enhance projects and activities to ensure affordability and availability of food supply,” he added, stressing that all Filipinos must be involved in government-led actions to prevent food scarcity.

“This is where our eight paradigms under the ‘new thinking for agriculture’ come into play, namely: modernization, industrialization, export promotion, farm consolidation, infrastructure development, higher budget and investments for agriculture, legislative support, and roadmap development,” he said.

“These paradigms will be our guiding light as we speed up the implementation of the Plant Plant Plant Program to boost local food production and


ensure food accessibility and affordability,” he said.

He added that the country’s agriculture and fishery sector must grow, by attracting more investments and resources, and by partnering strongly with the private sector and local government units — to increase food sufficiency levels, and at the same time modernize and industrialize the country’s agri-fishery sector.

Initially, the DA has partnered with private companies — like San Miguel Corporation, AgriNurture, Inc., Shell Philippines, and other agribusiness firms — to help the sector grow through big brother-small brother partnership, aimed at empowering small farmers and fishers and fostering mutual gains for both parties.

He said the DA should rally and steer all agri-fishery industry stakeholders to propel the sector to ‘grow’ and reach its optimum potential.

“With the help of the private sector and LGUs, we hope to improve our productivity and food supply chain through farm consolidation and clustering, provision of accessible financing, stronger linkages between production and marketing, and establishment of more postharvest and processing facilities,” Secretary Dar concluded.#

A close-up photograph of a black plastic seedling tray filled with dark brown soil. Numerous small green seedlings with two leaves each are growing out of the tray. The background is a blurred green field under a bright sky.

**NO PANDEMIC CAN BURY OUR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS. NO
LOCKDOWN CAN SLOW US DOWN. LET US TURN CHALLENGES
INTO OPPORTUNITIES TO SURVIVE AND MOVE FORWARD
TOWARDS A FOOD-SECURE AND RESILIENT PHILIPPINES WITH
PROSPEROUS FARMERS AND FISHERS.**

- Agriculture Secretary William Dar
BSWM 69th Anniversary | June 8, 2020