



# Damag Agri

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*"I am not very particular with how you manage your time in doing your job, just give me a good output and we'll get along well."* - DA-RFO 1 new Regional Executive Director Narciso A. Edillo

## DA seats new Regional Executive Director

Ushering a change in administration after the May 2016 national election, the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO 1) embraces new leadership as well following the retirement of then Regional Executive Director Valentino C. Perdido who left public office on March 16, 2017.

Appointed by DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol in April of this year, Director Narciso Abella Edillo assumed post as the new Regional Executive Director of the DA-RFO 1 on April 6, 2017.

A native of Solana, Cagayan Dir. Edillo was born on January 30, 1960. He is married to Luz Gutierrez – Edillo and were blessed with four children. He is a graduate of BS Agriculture Major in Agronomy at the Isabela State University and also finished his Master of Arts in Education.

A proud Lutheran, he has passionately served in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Department of World Service for ten (10) years. His international experience with the LWF include as Country Director, Program Officer, Program Coordinator and as Project Coordinator. He also served as Rice expert of the LWF/World Service Humanitarian International Organization based in Geneva, Switzerland with assignments in El Salvador, Central America and countries in Africa like Mozambique, Angola and Swaziland.

With a strong desire to likewise serve his people in Solana, Cagayan after fulfilling his ministry in the international service for the Lutheran World Federation, he ran for public office during the Legislative and Local

(next page)



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*Narciso A. Edillo as he is sworn into office by DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol.*

election in year 2001 and won as Municipal Councillor.

After his political stint for three years in Solana, Cagayan he was again sought to serve in the Lutheran Church as Program Manager for Relief International in Afghanistan and as Field Coordinator Head of Office for Childfund International also in Afghanistan.

Having the heart for public service, the call to once again serve his constituents was very hard to resist, thus, he again ran for the local election in 2007 in which like in the past, has won the trust and confidence of the Solanas, hence he faithfully served as Municipal Councillor from 2007 to 2013.

After his public service which taught him so many things especially in developing strategies to provide the most basic need of the people which is food, and being an agriculture graduate himself, he decided to put to good use his trainings and worked with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) as a Researcher for a

DA Project based in Solana, Cagayan with outreach project at Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Batac, Ilocos Norte. After which, he also worked with the UNICEF as Project Manager of emergency and rehabilitation project in Regions 6,7 and 8 and was a consultant for some local NGOs and the Governor's office in Cagayan.

Slowly treading the path that is destined for him to follow as advocate for agricultural development, he was appointed as Municipal Agriculturist by the Local Government Unit of Solana, Cagayan on December 1, 2016 up to the time when he was then chosen to take greater responsibility as the new Regional Executive Director of DA-RFO I.

From a region that has stood the test of constant change in leadership but proved to be resilient and remains to be a top performing region in the field of agriculture, RED Edillo is challenged to continue the good works of his predecessors. Unperturbed, he takes on his new journey with great

## DA-RFO I Chief lobbies support of Cong. Ortega on agri-development projects

**D**A-RFO I Regional Executive Director Narciso Edillo paid a visit to La Union's 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman Pablo Ortega on May 25, 2017 to present the DA's programs/projects/interventions intended for his constituents in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of La Union. Accompanied by the DA-RFO I's Field Operations Division, Dr. Annie Bares, RPCO I's I-SUPPORT Component Head of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), Ms. Sharon Viloria and the Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer of La Union, Ms. Josephine Cabanban, Director Edillo lobbied for Congressman Ortega's support especially in pushing for the funding approval of various agri-development programs and projects in the province.

Among the major projects proposed for funding support in CY 2018 under PRDP is the 15-km. farm to market road to benefit the residents of Brgys. Puguil and Maliclico in Santol and Sudipen, La Union amounting to Php200M. The project, according to Ms. Viloria was already validated by the PRDP's I-BUILD Component and the Provincial Government of La Union is currently working on the needed documents in compliance to PRDP's requirement →

confidence knowing he is backed by the Great Almighty who always led him to his victories, and this time a double assurance of triumph with the presence of dedicated, strong and committed workforce of DA-RFO 1.###



for said project.

Director Edillo also informed the Congressman about the seven units of farm tractor with complete accessories that are ready for distribution to farmer-beneficiaries to hasten their farming operations and consequently enhance food production in the province.

With regard to the DA's plans to address the issues and concerns besetting the tobacco industry, especially in convincing farmers to shift to other alternative crops other than tobacco that could equally provide good source of income and livelihood, RED Edillo informed that the DA is set to conduct a research project to identify potential alternate crops.

For proper evaluation on the lined-up projects/interventions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> district of La Union this CY 2018, RED Edillo handed-over a copy of the lists of these projects to the Congressman.



DA-RFO I's Regional Director Narciso A. Edillo, Operations Chief Dr. Annie Bares, APCO for La Union Josephine Cabanban and PRDP Assistant Focal Person Sharon Viloria take a pose after a fruitful meet with La Union's seasoned political leaders headed by Cong. Pablo Ortega (center).

The good Congressman welcomed the idea for Director Edillo to meet all the Congressman of the 12 Districts for them to be updated on the agri-related programs and projects intended for their constituents. Thus, on May 29,

2017, a meeting was scheduled with all the Congressional District Representatives in the region to brief them with the DA's programs and projects set for implementation this coming CY 2018.##

## DA-RFO I officials join 39th Stakeholders Meeting in Batac City



DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Narciso Edillo joins the major stakeholders of Ilocos Norte to discuss pressing issues and concerns besetting the agri-fishery sector in the Ilocos Region.

Keeping true to its commitment of bringing positive change in the agriculture sector of this premier region, Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I Regional Executive Director Narciso Edillo, in tandem with the newly designated Farmer-Director, Mr. Vincent Adorna, joined the Provincial Agriculturist (PA) of Ilocos Norte in the conduct of the 39th Stakeholders' Meeting held at the Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center, Batac City Ilocos Norte on May 3, 2017.

The Stakeholders' meeting is a regular monthly meeting in the province initiated and presided

(to page 3)

# DA-RFO I bags Outstanding RPMES Agency Monitor Award



For the nth time, DA-RFO I once again brought home the bacon as it was adjudged as the Outstanding Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Agency Monitor Awardee by the RDC during the Awarding Ceremonies held at the Vigan Ilocos Sur Convention Center on May 9, 2017.

RPMES is a scheme in monitoring and evaluating projects at the national, regional, provincial/city and municipal levels with the extensive and active participation of various government agencies, local government units and non-government organizations at all levels. It primarily aims to facilitate project implementation, problem solving, monitoring and evaluation to the regional, provincial and municipal levels. Its establishment generates information on the overall status of project implementation and to easily detect problems that impede implementation so that remedial actions can be readily undertaken at the level nearest the project sites, and at the earliest time possible.

Farmer-RED Vincent Adorna who attended the awarding ceremonies turned over the Plaque of Recognition received by the office to DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director (RED) Narciso Edillo during the Monday Flag



Raising Ceremonies held at the DA-Roofdeck, San Fernando City, La Union.

A competition crafted by the RDC I, the system encourage the active involvement and participation of the government agencies and LGUs that are implementing development programs and projects to be monitored and evaluated.

The contest has three categories. Category A involves the monitoring and evaluation of 1-10 programs/projects while category B recognizes the monitoring of 11-30 programs and projects. The Category C where DA is adjudged as the winner recognizes the 31 and above programs and projects being monitored.

With the consistent and timely submission of reports by the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Division to the RDC through the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), DA-RFO I is already a three-time Hall of Fame Awardee of said competition.####

## DA-RFO 1 Officials join 39th.... *(from previous page)*

by PA Ms. Norma Lagmay, which aims to update the status of implementation of the DA's programs and projects in the Ilocos Region and to address pressing issues and concerns in the sector. In attendance were the Municipal / City Agriculturists with their respective report officers; attached agencies of the DA such as PhilRice, ATI, BPI,

BFAR, NIA, PCIC, including the MMSU, CDA, PSA; NGOs like PAFC, SWISA/IA, among others.

In his message during the meeting, RED Edillo introduced Mr. Vincent Adorna, the newly designated Farmer-Director who will act as Director for the month of May, in accordance with the Memorandum Order signed by Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol. He enjoined the group to give their full support to Mr. Adorna and likewise *(to page 6)*





## DA distributes Php19.4M worth of farm machineries to Pangasinan farmers' group

The Department of Agriculture-RFO I under the Rice Banner Program turned over around Php19.4million worth of farm machineries and equipment to various farmers group and associations of Pangasinan in a ceremonial distribution at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC), Tebag, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on June 15, 2016.

Forty-three farmers' groups, associations and cooperatives were among the recipients of this farm mechanization project that aims to increase the rice production in Ilocos Region through an intensified use of modern farming facilities which will redound to an increase in farmers' yield as well as income.

Funded under the 2017 Regular Budget of the Rice Banner Program, this year's giving out of farm machineries is different from the previous distribution since all farm machineries distributed under the administration of Secretary Emmanuel Piñol were given as grant to the beneficiaries.

Seven units of combined harvester and 36 units hand tractors were distributed to the 43 farmers group/associations and cooperatives.

In a simple Program during the distribution activity, Dr. Gilbert Rabara, Chief of the DA-PREC underscored the

importance of taking good care of these farm machineries. "Regalo po ito ng ating gobyerno, kaya't huwag nating sayangin," Dr. Rabara said.

Ms. Analiza Ramos, Regional Rice Focal Person seconded this advice of Dr. Rabara and reiterated the DA's concern on those other farmers association who are complaining on the unfair identification of recipients of these farm interventions. Ms. Ramos explained that it is not only the DA who have identified the recipients since this is a concerted effort of the DA together with the Rice Action Team of the Province.

As the concurrent Regional Seed Coordinator of DA, Ms. Ramos also reminded the farmer-beneficiaries to get in touch with the Municipal Agricultures Office for them to be included in the pre-masterlist who could avail of the seeds ready for distribution this wet cropping season.

In the same event, Regional Agriculture & Fishery Council Chairman, Mr. Vincent Adorna explained in details some of the salient features of the Memorandum of Agreement between and among the DA and the Farmers Associations officials. According to Mr. Adorna, DA has the right to recover the project once these machineries are found not being fully utilized by the association members or not properly used. "Fair access and use

by all the members shall be allowed to fully utilize the machines," Mr. Adorna said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nestor Batalla, Provincial Rice Program Coordinator of Pangasinan on behalf of Pangasinan Governor Amado Espino III expressed in his message his gratitude to the Department of Agriculture officials for the continuous provision of interventions to the farmers of Pangasinan. Based on DA's record, Pangasinan has the largest allocation of farm machineries this year in among all the 18 Regions in the country.#







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# AMAD helps Ilokano farmers sell their produce



Helping farmers market their produce, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) accompanied the Ilokano farmers in selling their produce at the Agri-Aqua Network International Harvest Festival cum Bazaar held at the Memorial Circle in Quezon City. The Ilocos Region's booth was a favorite stop by the bazaar goers where they bought most of the Iloco champion commodities such as garlic, onions, watermelon, mango, and other high value commercial crops. The Harvest Festival cum Bazaar kicks-off today, May 19, 2017 and will conclude on May 21, 2017. Organized by the DA-Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Service, the harvest festival is part of the DA's celebration of the Farmers' & Fisherfolks' Month this May.

## K2-12 teachers learn...(from page 6)

Ms. Aileen Millare, Chief of the Regional Soils Laboratory discussed the Soil and Soil Sampling Procedure while Ms. Marivic Begonia, Chief of the Regional Crop Protection Center discussed about the Biocon agents.

Likewise, Mr. Jake Bantioey a staff of the High Value Crops Development Program demonstrated the proper seed sowing using seedling trays and mulch installation.

In support to the implementation of the School Children Field School Program, DA under the HVCDP provided vegetable seeds and garden tools needed by the 5-pilot laboratory schools.

A collaborative project of the ATI-RTC I., DepEd Pangasinan II Division and the Provincial Government of Pangasinan, the activity also serves as an avenue to encourage young minds to appreciate agriculture as a career and entrepreneurial endeavor.###



## K-12 teachers learn crop production techniques from DA ex-

**I**n preparation for the upcoming opening of classes this year and in consonance with the Department of Education's K-12 program, teachers from Pangasinan learned from the experts of the Department of Agriculture some agricultural crop production and protection techniques through the Training of Trainers on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Nutrition on Sustainable Vegetable Production conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute.

Held on May 22-June 2, 2017, the training aims to empower the teachers to become an effective teacher-facilitators in the conduct of Phase 2 School Children Field School in the 5 pilot laboratory schools of Pangasinan. It also serves as the training



ground of the teachers to establish their Participatory Action Research where technical experts, the teachers and the pupils/students will learn and adopt management techniques, methods and strategies on vegetable production.

Ms. Debbie Davalos and Mr. Aries Magat, two of DA-RFO I's experts on



vegetable production shared their technical skills and knowledge on growing vegetables through their discussions on the topics such as varietal selection, crop establishment, cultural management practices, fertilizer and nutrient management, and post harvest management, among others.

*(turn to page 5)*

### DA-RFO 1 Officials join 39th...

*(from page 3)*

vowed to sustain his support in all agri-related endeavors of the Local Government Units.

Understanding the benefits of conducting a regular stakeholders' meeting, RED Edillo informed his plans especially on the coffee production project that DA is eyeing to implement this year.

According to RED Edillo, DA will be procuring around 415,000 coffee seedlings for distribution to willing recipients in suitable locations.

Since part of the agenda of the meeting is on farm machineries and inventory, he encouraged everyone to report suspicious, anomalous organizations as beneficiaries of these projects to create transparency, trust

and confidence in the service.

Meanwhile, Farmer-Director Mr. Vincent Adorna, emphasized in his message the need to pass a resolution in support to the policy on No-Rice importation during harvest season. He also suggested for the conduct of a general assembly to inform the result of monitoring of DA implemented projects. He underscored the importance of distributing post harvest facilities before the planting season and urged the MAOs or his/her representative to be present during the distribution of equipment to encourage partnership and harmony among the recipients and the LGUs. He also emphasized the need for a technical briefing on the operation and maintenance of the equipment or facilities as well as the discussion on the operating guidelines of the

machineries.

Engr. Cornelio Balbesino, Municipal Agriculturist of Dingras, Ilocos Norte asked for the timely giving of their incentives and sought support on the conduct of teambuilding activities for the LEMCAP or League of Municipal/City Agriculturists of the Philippines.

In response, Dr. Annie Bares, Chief of the Operations Division of DA, informed that the incentive of the agricultural extension workers have already been downloaded at the DA Research Station Office in Batac, Ilocos Norte but still waiting for the complete submission of requirements from the recipients. She reminded the Municipal/City Agriculturists to maintain a P500 balance in their accounts to avoid problem on reconciliation later.###



## DA-RFO I, BAFS train RGhT members on GAHP standards and certification

Joining efforts to increase the number of Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) certified farms in Ilocos Region and to increase the adoption of GAHP standards at the farm level, the Department of Agriculture-RFO I through its Regulatory Division in tandem with the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) conducted a 3-day training workshop for the identified members of the Regional Good Animal Husbandry Practices Team (RGhT) in Ilocos Region.

Conducted at the DA-RFO I's Regional Organic Agriculture Center in Sual, Pangasinan on May 23-25, 2017, the training activity aims to capacitate the members of the RGhT on the elements of the GAHP Program, update them on their roles and responsibilities as members and keep them posted on the requirements and procedures of the Pre-Assessment and Monitoring System towards the issuance of GAHP Certification.

Participated in by around 25 individuals from the DA-RFO I, Office of the Provincial Veterinarians and the office of the Municipal/City Agriculturists in the major poultry and animal-producing municipalities of Pangasinan, the training provides the participants an in-depth knowledge on the Philippine National Standards on GAHP and Certification Scheme, animal welfare, biosecurity measures, waste management and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regulations on Livestock Production.



The Good Animal Husbandry Practices or GAHP is a program of the Department of Agriculture that aims to strengthen food safety regulations not only for the benefit of the public consumers but for the gain and advantage of both the farmer-producers and animals as stipulated in the Food Safety Act of 2013 and Administrative Order NO. 10 s. 2008.

In her discussion on the elements of GAHP Program in the country, Ms. Rhitzel Palima, representative of the BAFS stressed the need to strengthen the information dissemination of the GAHP Program to convince more operators and owners of animal farms to comply with the set standards on animal husbandry management and production leading to the increase in number of farms to be certified with GAHP.

According to Ms. Palima, with the approval of standards in 2008, it was only in 2011 that a first farm had been issued with GAHP certification and that mostly compliant farms are those operating on a commercial scale. While

majority of the animal farm owners are operating on a backyard level, Ms. Palima said that the more that these farms have to adhere to the standards of rearing animals for food use.

Bridging this gap, Ms. Palima underscored the need to compose a RGhT that would serve as a recommendatory body that will provide technical assistance, thus, enabling farmers to adjust and comply with applicable standards.

In Region I, the RGhT was led by Mr. Florentino Adame of the Regulatory Division, including some of his staff at the Regulatory Division; the Livestock Banner Program, the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division and the Regional Agriculture & Fisheries Information Section.

As a member of the RGhT, they are expected to have a uniform understanding on the provisions of standards so that doable strategies will be made to assure the farm animal owners and operators to adhere on the animal husbandry standards and later on acquire the GAHP certification (*page 18*)



## DA hosts 2nd Quarter Regular EDSeCom Meeting

Harmonizing the developmental programs and projects of the sector line agencies, private and the local government units towards developing a comprehensive and unified Regional Development Plan of Ilocos Region, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) led by its Regional Executive Director, Narciso Edillo hosted the 2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Sector Committee (EDSeCom) of the Regional Development Council (RDC).

Held on June 1, 2017 at the DA-RFO I Conference Room, the meeting was attended by various members from the Regional Line Agencies, State Colleges and Universities, Private Sector Representatives and the Provincial Local Government Units and were able to thoroughly discuss the following agenda:

- Results Matrices of the Economic Development Sector Component of the RDP 2017-2022;
- Economic Development Component of the Social Development Goals (SDG)

Roadmap in Region I;

- Economic Development Component of the 2017 Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System Monitoring Plan and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Accomplishment Report;
- DOLE Department Order 174,s.2017 “Rules Implementing Articles 106 to 109 of the Labor Code, as amended “especially on the contracting and subcontracting arrangements”;
- Updates of the Philippine Rural Development Project and the Regional Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development in Region I;
- Cacao Industry Development Project in Region I;
- Rehabilitation of Aquaculture Irrigation Systems; and the
- Updates of El Niño and La Niña.

EDSeCom, is a group of 35-member entities from both the public and private sectors that is tasked to review and endorse to the RDC the programs/projects of its member-entities for funding support from the national government. In Region I, the Committee is chaired by the Department of Agriculture (DA) represented by the Regional Executive Director Narciso Edillo upon the unanimous decision of the member-entities.

EDSeCom was created after the Committees on Agribusiness, Trade, Industry and Tourism have merged last year to further strengthen the linkages and networking among the member-entities. The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) of DA-RFO I serves as the EDSeCom Secretariat.###







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# SEN. CYNTHIA VILLAR GRACES 2017 NCI-SRD SUMMIT HOSTED BY REGION I



Gathering around 500 participants, the Ilocos Region successfully hosted the 2017 National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) Summit held at Vigan Convention Center, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur on June 20, 2017.

The NCI-SRD is a multi-sectoral and integrated planning approach adopted by four rural agencies, the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) towards more efficient use of resources.

A national event of the NCI-SRD that is conducted once every two years, the 2017 NCI Summit aims to provide an overview of the NCI-SRD to the new administration and present success stories of convergence sites at different stages of implementation.

Gracing the event as Guest of Honor and Speaker during the opening program is no less than the Senate Committee Chair on Agriculture, Senator Cynthia A. Villar who happens to also now hold chairmanship of the other three rural development agencies, DAR, DENR and DILG.

Other honored guests during the summit include DAR Secretary Rafael V. Mariano, DA Undersecretaries (USEC) Ranibai D. Dilangalen and Evelyn G. Laviña, DAR USEC Rosalina Bistoyong, DENR USEC Atty. Jonas R. Leones, DILG USEC Austere A. Panadero, DOT USEC Silvino Q. Tejada, NCI-SRD National Focal person Dir. Angel C. Enriquez, Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Luis V. Singson, 1<sup>st</sup> District Congressman Deogracias Victor B. Savellano, Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlo Medina and DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Narciso A. Edillo, among others.

Sen. Villar acknowledged the need





for collaboration among agencies to impact rural development change in the countryside. "The goal of the NCI-SRD is for the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable countryside development through farming and fishing which is aligned with my own goal and advocacy.", Villar said. "I am confident that the collaboration of the four government departments will create a positive impact in the lives of many Filipinos in the countryside.", she added.

Villar talked about the various senate legislations she had worked on that would help secure better income for farmers and fisherfolk. She mentioned the Farm Tourism Development Law or RA 10816 that benefits farmers and farming communities. Farm Tourism is the development of farms into tourism sites where a farm school can also be established. Here, farmers can derive income thru farming, from the tourists that

visits the farm and from the operation of a farm school where other farmers and agriculturally inclined individuals can learn new technologies in farming, mechanization and agribusiness sense.

She said that the Farm Tourism Development Law is a concrete example of an effective collaboration of two government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and Department of Tourism. An important provision in the RA 10816 according to Villar is for the DA and DOT to encourage the establishment of one farm tourism site in every province of the country.

Villar also mentioned how she is working with TESDA for an allocation of Php500M per year to pay for the scholarship of farmers and farmers' children. In particular, TESDA shall pay P12,000 per student for about 45,000

students who will enroll at farm schools. "It is very important that farmers will learn how to be profitable in agriculture and they can learn that from our farm schools.", she explained. She assured that she will work on the legislation of said funding so that TESDA will still be able to implement it even if she will no longer be in the senate.

She also mentioned a legislation providing free irrigation to farmers and that has already been passed to make it permanent starting this year 2017 and onwards. With an allocated budget of Php8 billion, farmers are eased with the burden of added production cost thru irrigation fees collected from them.

Other legislations she is giving focus on which she mentioned are the provision of free agricultural insurance to farmers; review on the legislation (to page 18)





## 6 Veggie Growers Association receive multi-purpose cultivator from DA

**F**ocused on its goal to achieve higher income and farm productivity level of farmers in the region through modern farm machines and equipment, the High Value Crops Development Program of the Department of Agriculture -RFO I recently conducted its turn-over and distribution activity for six (6) units multi-purpose cultivator with complete accessories to six Vegetable Growers Association beneficiaries in the Province of Pangasinan.

Amounting to P182,155.00 per unit, this multi-purpose cultivator is the DA's answer to the farm machinery

needs of vegetable growers especially in their land preparation activities to achieve better yield and at the same time reduce their cost of production.

The multi-function cultivator is a small farm tractor that is easy to operate, economical and requires low maintenance. It is a multi-function in the sense that it could be used to plow, to harrow and level the beds during land preparation.

For the recipients to learn the proper operation and maintenance of the project, Technical staff from the

Harbest Company, the distributor of said equipment demonstrated its proper operation and handling especially on changing the blades.

Ms. Nenita Valerio, President of the Curareng Farmers Association – one of the recipients of the multi-purpose cultivator expressed her gratitude to the Department of Agriculture because of the big help of the machinery to her 43 members who are planting lowland vegetables in Brgy. Curareng, Alcala, Pangasinan.

Prior to the turn-over of the equipment, the recipient farmers association as represented by Ms. Valerio entered



## DA empowers Project Implementers, Data Collectors on PRISM



*The participants and facilitators of the Regional Retooling for Project Implementers and Data Collectors on PRISM pose for a souvenir photo after the weeklong activity held at Hotel Ariana,*

**E**mpowering the Regional Project Implementers and Data Collectors on the management and utilization of Philippine Rice Information System (PRISM), the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through its Research and Development Division conducted a Regional Retooling on PRISM held at the Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union on May 22-26, 2017.

Aimed at equipping the participants on the management and utilization of

PRISM for monitoring rice growth and assessing damage to rice crops in the Region, the training program was participated in by around 31 data collectors in Region I.

Online and mobile system on data management were thoroughly discussed while updated protocols and forms for monitoring and crop health assessment were elaborated to prepare the participants on their next move for the upcoming CY 2017 wet

cropping season. Actual testing and exercises were done to familiarize them on the analytics portal interface and functionalities, necessary for data management and monitoring.

Likewise, field data gathered and submitted during the previous season were reviewed to identify lapses/gaps that should be avoided.

Six (6) Resource Persons from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) facilitated the activity together with the Regional PRISM Focal Persons Ms. Editha Estacio and Ms. Marivic Begonia.

To sustain their acquired knowledge on the retooling activity, pre-season visits to the PRISM monitoring fields will start tentatively on June 8, June 19, and June 29 (2) in Bantay, Bangar, San Manuel and Batac, respectively. Satellite images acquisition dates that should coincide with the monitoring visits are the following dates: June 5, 17, 29, July 11, 23, August 4, 16 and 28, 2017.####

into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Agriculture to remind the group of their duties and responsibilities as a recipient of the project.

As a recipient of the project, Ms. Valerio and her members must be responsible and accountable in the maintenance and security of the equipment, utilize it in accordance with the intended use and not in any way sell or mortgage the

machine. As stipulated in the MOA, the recipient must allow fair access and use by all the farmer-members and should submit every end of harvest season the utilization, operation, activity and income generated report related to the project to the Department of Agriculture through the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist.

Aside from the multi-purpose cultiva-

tor, DA also turned-over a total of 30 pieces crates for every six farmer association-recipients amounting to Php12,000.00 per group.

The distribution of the multi-purpose cultivator and the crates in Pangasinan is the first among series of distribution to the provinces of La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte by the High Value Crops Development Program. #####



*La Union Governor Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega(left photo), Pangasinan Vice-Governor Jose Calimlim, Jr. (right photo) and some staff of the Provincial Agriculturists in both provinces receive the Plaque of Recognition and their checks worth Php4M as winners of the Annual Rice Achievers Awards of the DA.*

## Pangasinan, La Union - Top performing provinces in rice production

Consistent to its name as the country's premiere Region, the Ilocos Region has continuously soared high after topping once more the number of provincial awardees during the recently concluded Annual Awarding rites of the 2016 National Rice Achievers held at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila on May 24, 2017.

The provinces of Pangasinan and La Union, two of the best performing provinces when it comes to the implementation of rice programs and projects in the region were among the top seven provinces awarded in the awarding ceremonies out of the top 12 shortlisted provinces who were evaluated by the National Evaluation Team. The province of Ilocos Norte is likewise included in the top 12 lists that was validated and evaluated during the Field Evaluation made by the National Search Committee last March but due to the adverse effect of typhoon Lawin in the production during the evaluation period covered, the province which consistently makes it to the top failed this time.

As winners of said competition, the Provinces of Pangasinan and La Union,

were awarded with P4.0M each in the form of projects to support the implementation of the rice programs in their areas. Said amount were received by each of the provinces representatives through the Vice-Governor of Pangasinan, Hon. Jose Calimlim, Jr., and La Union Governor, Francisco Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega III. The officials also received the plaque of recognition that symbolizes the LGUs full participation in the DA's goal of food sufficiency and food security in the country.

Aside from the top two provinces from Region I, the LGU of Solsona represented by its Mayor Alexander Calucag was recognized as among the top 17 performing municipalities when it comes to rice production. The municipality of Solsona, through Mayor Calucag received a ceremonial check worth P1.0M in the form of project to support the implementation of rice program in Solsona.

To recognize also the painstaking support and commitment of the agricultural extension workers who are directly involved in the implementation of programs and projects under the Rice Program and have outstanding performance in the implementation of

the food staple sufficiency program of DA, 20 AEWs from Pangasinan, and 10 AEWs in La Union will be recognized in an awarding ceremonies to be held on June 9, 2017 at the Oasis Country Resort, San Fernando City, La Union.

The provinces of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, despite its failure to be part of the top-seven performing provinces have also produced 3 and 11 AEWs respectively, who will be given cash incentives in the amount of P20,000.00 each.

Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs) from the municipalities of Calasiao, Sta. Barbara in Pangasinan and the municipality of Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte will also be among the awardees as Outstanding LFTs on June 9 who will also receive cash incentives in the amount of P20,000.00 each.

The National Rice Achievers Award is an annual activity of the Department of Agriculture under the Rice Program to recognize outstanding performance of the Local Government Units, agricultural government workers as well as farmer leaders' contribution in the attainment of the DA's food security and self-sufficiency program. ###





## DA-RFO I honors top performing LGUs, AEWs and LFTs in rice production

Recognizing the significant contributions and remarkable performances of the Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units, Agricultural Extension Workers and the Local Farmer Technicians in the attainment of rice self-sufficiency and food security program in the country, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region successfully conducted today the Regional Rice Achievers Awards at the Oasis Country Resort and Hotel in San Fernando City, La Union.

Forty-four (44) Agricultural Extension Workers from the four

provinces and four Local Farmer Technicians (LFT) received their plaque of recognition from DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Narciso Edillo together with Special Technical Advisory Group (STAG) Director Grace J. Cenas who represented DA's Undersecretary for Field Operations, Honorable Ariel T. Cayanán as the Guest of Honor and Speaker in the said awarding ceremonies.

Aside from the Plaque of Recognition, each awardees also received cash incentive amounting to P20,000.00.

Leading this year's awardees is the province of Pangasinan with 20 AEW-awardees followed by the province of La Union with 10 AEW-awardees. The provinces of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur have 11 and 3 AEW-awardees, respectively.

Meanwhile, out of the four LFT-awardees, three LFTs came from the province of Pangasinan and one came from the province of Ilocos Norte.

The successful conduct of the 2016 Regional Rice Achievers Award was organized by the DA-RFO I's Rice Banner Program.#

## 2nd Ilocos P4MP and Coordinators Regional Congress with Training on Agribusiness



The Institutional Development Support (IDS) Section of the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office 1 successfully conducted the 2nd Ilocos P4MP and Coordinators Regional Congress with Training on Agribusiness on June 21-23, 2017 at Vigan City Ilocos Sur. Showing full support to every endeavor that aims to empower farmers not only in the Province of Ilocos Sur but in the entire Ilocos Region, Governor Ryan Luis V. Singson, together with Vice-Governor Jeremias Singson and other key officials of the Province joined the DA in expressing their warm welcome to the participants and vowed to remain committed in making agricultural development a priority agenda of the PLGU-Ilocos Sur.#



# PRDP awards tractors to Pangasinan Farmers



*Governor Amado "Pogi" I. Espino III poses with the farmer organization-members who received farm implements during an awarding held at Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.*



**F**our Farm Mechanization Service Facilities, under the Small Livelihood Project (SLP) of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) – Investments on Rural Enterprises for Agri-fishery Productivity (I-REAP), are awarded to farmer organizations of San Fabian, Pangasinan.

The farmer organizations which brought home a brand new four-wheel tractor, cage roller, rotary tiller, and trailer include: Anonang Baraoas Irrigators Association, Palapad Farmers Irrigators Association, Makabagong Magsasaka Irrigators Association, and SamakaMag-

bayanihan Farmers Irrigators Association.

The farmer organizations proposed under the SLP of the PRDP to recuperate from their losses when Typhoon Lando hit Luzon in October 2015. The Regional Project Advisory Board approved their SLP proposals on December 15, 2016 and the respective No Objection Letter 2 (NOL 2) was issued on April 4, 2017.

Pangasinan Governor Amado "Pogi" I. Espino III led the awarding ceremony at the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on May 4, 2017.

Gov. Espino emphasized the importance of sustaining and maintaining the machinery among the farmer organizations to maximize its benefit to the members and committed to continue bringing help to the farmers. He also committed

to increase funds allocated for agriculture by the provincial government.

The awarding of the farm implements was conducted alongside with the awarding of Shallow Tube Well Irrigation Projects of the Provincial Government.

Aside from rehabilitation, the farm implements are expected to increase the income of farmers in Pangasinan through providing affordable implements for land preparation.

With the tractor provided by the Project, the cost of land preparation per hectare is decreased by P2,250. This can be translated into 8 percent increase in farmer's income for every hectare.

The PRDP shall conduct a Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits in November 2017 to gauge the socio-economic impact of the tractors. ###



# WB visits Ilocos Region PRDP Subprojects



The World Bank Team, led by Task Team Leader Frauke Jungbluth, visited three Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) subprojects in Ilocos Region during the last leg of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Bank Implementation Support Mission held from May23-25, 2017.

The three subprojects which were visited include: the P115-million

Rehabilitation of the Balecbec-Basca Farm to Market Road and Balecbec Bridge in Naguilian and Aringay, La Union; the P67-million Rehabilitation of Nalasin-Sungadan-Langiden Farm to Market Road in Paoay, Ilocos Norte; and, the P13.1-million Production and Marketing of Fresh Carabao Mangoes Enterprise by the Cabugao Mango

Farmers Multi-Purpose Association in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. These subprojects are all in support to the mango commodity of Ilocos Region.

The WB team gave positive evaluations of the above-mentioned subprojects (e.g. the construction of a permanent classroom type field office to be donated as classroom *(next page)*)



after the Project), save from minor comments (i.e. guaranteeing the non-usage of inorganic chemicals in the production of mangoes and assuring the climate-resiliency of the infrastructures).

During the Mission kick-off, Ms. Jungbluth encouraged PRDP implementers to highlight not only the impacts listed in subproject proposals, but also the impacts which arises as implementation progresses. *"When you go out and see the completed subprojects and you talk to beneficiaries and you notice additional things that they tell you that sound like a benefit of the PRDP subproject, [to] record those and next time try to include them in your analysis. ... Like for example, for the roads, we keep recording on the reduction in hauling cost...reduction in the price per sack of transport, which is correct, but I'm sure there is also something to be said about the production of the*

*commodity being transported...Your overall impact is actually bigger than your reporting."*Jungbluth said.

The World Bank Team also sat in a focus group discussion with the Ilocos Sur Provincial Project Management and Implementation Unit (PPMIU) who hosted the mission and asked about ways to improve and expedite project approval and implementation under PRDP. The PPMIU identified the voluminous requirements and changing subproject forms as bottlenecks. The World Bank, however, explained that quality cannot be compromised for the simplification of the Project's processes.

The Team also encouraged the Local Government Units and farmers they visited to propose more enterprise subprojects under the PRDP to support priority commodities. The Project's enterprise component has remaining funds available for interested proponents.

At present, the Ilocos Region has a P1.3 billion total portfolio of infrastructure subprojects and P233-million of enterprise subprojects. These subprojects are expected to benefit around 67,788 people in the region.

In February 2015, the Ilocos Region first hosted the World Bank Pre-Implementation Support Mission wherein the Team visited the then proposed Rehabilitation of the Balecbe-Basca Farm to Market Road and Balecbe Bridge in Naguilian and Aringay, La Union and the Production and Marketing of Fresh Carabao Mangoes Enterprise in Bauang, La Union.

The WB will return in July 2017 for the PRDP Midterm Assessment, of which the results will be crucial to the approval of the Project's additional \$450 million funding. ###



Cabugao Mango Farmers and Multi-Purpose Association President Faith Sabio presents the Production and Marketing of Fresh Carabao Mangoes Enterprise business plan before the World Bank Team during the conduct of the 4th World Bank Implementation Support Mission in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur.



## LGU adopts PRDP tool...*(from page 20)*

heads and representatives of other national government agencies. Engr. Biag said that meeting attendees had been curious how geotagging works.

Engr. Biag further said that the incidence of improper waste management in Currimao has significantly decreased through the use of geotagging in monitoring waste management. Since the pictures can pinpoint where improper waste management takes place, the Municipality's environmental office easily takes action to coordinate with the community. The Municipal Council will task the barangay which has an incidence of improper waste management to clean their community.

Also according to Engr. Biag, the Municipality plans to create a map of all government projects in Currimao using the geotagging technology. With this, duplication of government subprojects in the Municipality can be avoided.

PRDP's tools, like geotagging, aim to permeate mainstream government projects for transparency and accountability. In fact, the geotagging application used by the Municipality of Currimao in monitoring waste management in the barangays is that of the Department of Agriculture.

Geotagging is indeed an innovative tool in project monitoring and promoting transparency and in government projects. At present, its usage, worth, and potential is slowly being recognized beyond PRDP.###

Part of the 2017 NCI-SRD Summit is also the conduct of the NCI-SRD 2017 Midyear Assessment and Operational Planning from June 21-23 at One Vittoria Hotel in Bantay, Ilocos Sur to assess the gains of the convergence initiative from the previous years of implementation and likewise craft new plans and strategies that could further assure a successful implementation and support to the NCI-SRD goals and objectives.###

## DA-RFO I, BAFPS train...*(from page 7)*

While the RGHT members may work as the screening committee prior to the formal inspection and audit of the Regional GAHP Inspectors and the National GAHP Inspectors in the application for certification, they will also act as interpreter of the provisions of standards so that farmers would fully understand and be encouraged to comply with the standards.

Any farm animal owners/operators who are interested to apply for certification are required to submit the duly accomplished application form together with the accompanying documents such as farm/organizational profile, brief historical development of the farm, production flow chart, farm operations manual and the vicinity map, municipal/city licenses

and or permit including zoning clearance, Certificate of Registration, Environmental Compliance Certificate or Certificate of Non-Coverage, Animal Welfare Registration, Feeds/Feed Establishment Registration, Handler's License, and Transport Vehicle Registration. All these documents must be submitted to the Bureau of Animal Industry who are In-Charge of the issuance of the GAHP Certificate which is valid for 2 years except on the initial issuance which is only valid for 1 year.

In as much as the application for GAHP Certification is voluntary in nature, Ms. Palima said that the application is free as of date. ###

## Senator Cynthia Villar graces...*(from page 10)*

of the

Agricultural Mechanization (to page 19) a (AFMech) law that is supposed to be implemented by the PhilMech; and the review on the implementation of the Agri-Agra law. "I will continue to pursue legislations that will compliment the actions and programs of the government departments and the local government units.", she assured.

Meanwhile, other activity highlights during the summit include the Signing of the NCI-SRD Joint Resolutions such as: Designation of Master in Public Management Major in Rural Development graduates as members of the National and Regional Technical Working Groups of the NCI-SRD; Adoption of One convergence area per region. Also, the NCI-SRD National Steering Committee and the DOT Secretary signed the NCI-SRD – DOT Memorandum of Agreement. Updates of the NCI-SRD and the key successes of the local convergence strategy were also presented during the opening day of the summit.

To recognize the successful

convergence initiatives implemented, the NCI-SRD also launched the Search for Best Convergence Site of 2018. To showcase the success stories of the convergence sites per region, a total of 17 tarpaulin exhibits by the RCI-TWG were featured at the exhibit area of the program venue which also include showing of an AVP of shared testimonies of stakeholders and programs underscoring the ridge to reef approach.

Taking the opportunity that the summit was hosted by Region I, the Province of Ilocos Sur likewise conducted the Ceremonial Launching of its proposed convergence area which is the IDAIT or the Institutionalization of District-Wide Agro Industrialization, Innovation, and Tourism. Championed by Congressman Deogracias Victor B. Savellano, the IDAIT Convergence site aims to realize an integrated area development model that shall position the province of Ilocos Sur among top economic performers in the Northern Luzon Quadrangle cluster. As an entry point, the IDAIT convergence shall initially focus on the development of the value chain of egg/poultry industry in Ilocos Sur.



## LGU adopts: PRDP Tool to monitor waste management of Barangays

The Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) has introduced geotagging technology as an innovation in promoting transparency and accountability in its funded subprojects. Geotagged pictures, which are code encrypted, enables real-time monitoring of enterprise and infrastructure subprojects. They contain information such as the exact location, time, and place where the pictures were taken.

In the Municipality of Currimao, geotagging is recently used, not only in monitoring the progress of PRDP subprojects but also, in monitoring waste management in the barangays.

In 2015, Engr. Erickson Biag who is the Municipal Agriculturist and the acting Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Officer attended a training on



*Monitoring Waste Management. The above image is an example of a geotagged photo monitoring waste management in the barangays of Currimao, Ilocos Norte.*

using the geotagging technology under the PRDP. In the same year, the Municipality of Currimao started the preparation of Currimao's infrastructure subproject, the Rehabilitation of Tapao-Tigue-Sta. Cruz, Poblacion 2-Langayan Farm to Market Road.

Upon usage of the application in the PRDP subproject, Engr. Biag saw its potential in monitoring other municipal-led projects. In 2016, he decided to use geotagging in monitoring waste management under the *Municipal Basura Patrol*

*Program*. This municipal-led environmental program complies with Republic Act 9003 or the act providing for an ecological waste management program. He said that through the geotagged pictures, barangay officials cannot deny the incidence of improper waste management in the community.

The results of the waste management monitoring through geotagging are presented in the Municipality's Multi-Council Meeting which is held once every quarter. The meeting is attended by school **(to page 19)**