

DAMAG-AGRI



4th Quarter 2017 Issue

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE 1



• INFORMATION CARAVAN •
"Agrikultura para sa Pagbabago"

**"1,400 FARMERS GET PROJECT
UPDATES IN AGRICULTURE
THRU DA'S INFORMATION
CARAVAN"**





Agri-based enterprise owners learn business and marketing skills from DA-AMAD

Intensifying their business foresight and entrepreneurial abilities to invest in agribusiness project while providing them the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes in putting their own agri-related businesses, cooperative members engaged in small and medium enterprises in Ilocos Region converged at the National Irrigation Administration Conference Hall for a consultative dialogue with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD).

Facilitated by the Agribusiness Promotion Section (APS) of AMAD, the activity provided an avenue for the group to interact and share insights as to how they can be able to start and grow their own agribusiness enterprises.

As a follow-up activity from the previously conducted consultative dialogue held in Mangaldan, Pangasinan, AMAD also conducted assessment on the implementation of the planned activities prepared in the previous meeting as spelled out in their business model plans.

In her discussion on the entrepreneurial concepts, Ms. Rhoda Galban, Chief of the Agribusiness Investment Section gave insights on the importance of these concepts and elaborated

more on the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur that inspired the owners and managers to pursue their business interests.

Ms. Corazon Valdez, another staff of AMAD also provided inputs on how these business-oriented individuals can analyze their own business potentials through the discussion of their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities as well as threats (SWOT) in pursuing their businesses.

Giving more inspiration to the participants, the AMAD group arranged a visit to the successful business enterprises in Binalonan, Pangasinan like the Mabuhay Chichacorn in Brgy. Moreno and Sugarcane Vinegar project in Brgy. Sta. Maria.

The group also visited the Food Terminal of Urdaneta City where they were able to scout network and possible market linkages for their agri-based products.###



14 goat raisers learn goat slaughtering, handling and processing from APDC

Providing an avenue to enhance their entrepreneurial capabilities as goat raisers and at the same time improve the economic productivity of goat raising in the region, 12 goat raisers and 2 livestock inspectors from the local government units of Pangasinan and La Union learned the proper way of goat slaughtering and meat handling and processing from the experts of the Animal Product Development Center of the Bureau of Animal Industry in Marulas, Valenzuela City through a training initiated by the Agribusiness Industry Support Section of the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD).

Held on the last week of September, 2017, the training is among the AMAD's holistic approach to transform traditional goat raisers into modern agri-business enterprise owners and managers by engaging themselves in profitable activities other than selling their goats live in the market.

In her message during the Opening Program of the training, Ms. Edilyn Goldara, Chief of the Agribusiness Industry Section of AMAD recognized the importance of the training activity considering the high demand and market-acceptability of chevon products in the region. "Goat raising is considered as a promising venture in the region. I am very sure that if we could learn and apply the knowledge and skills that we will learn in the training especially on the value-adding activities to improve our goat raising enterprises, then there is no doubt that we could be successful in our goat raising adventure," Ms. Goldara said.



As part of the training process, the participants have undergone various methods and process that provided them practical knowledge and skills on goat slaughtering, knife sharpening, proper cutting techniques and meat processing. Each of the participants brought with them a live goat which they slaughtered applying the basic theories, learning and practices that the APDC experts have shared with them during the training.

Aside from the practical demonstration on the skills in goat slaughtering and meat processing, the participants have also learned the hygiene and sanitation practices in meat plant, handling and caring of food animals before they are slaughtered giving the necessary guide for their goat business enterprises.

The four-day training seminar is the first of the two series of trainings intended for goat raisers in the region. The first batch of the training was participated in by the goat raisers from Pangasinan and La Union while the second batch was participated in by goat raisers from Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte ###





"There is a future ahead for the Organic Agriculture program, so let us continue doing our share for the development of the Program." - USEC Puyat

“Brighter future is ahead for Organic Agriculture” - Puyat

This is in a nutshell how National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) Chairman and Undersecretary for Marketing Service Bernadette Romulo-Puyat conveyed the support of organic agriculture program to organic farming advocates in a message delivered by Mr. Jeffrey Garido of the Bureau of Agriculture & Fisheries Standards during the recently conducted Regional Organic Agriculture Congress in Ilocos Region held at Sison Auditorium, Lingayen, Pangasinan on September 19-22, 2017.

Expressing her continued support in the implementation of priority interventions through the provision of additional funds for the certification process for organic farms, USEC Puyat also vowed to strengthen the production support services, provision of post harvest facilities and equipment, irrigation and other interventions provided by the DA to develop further the organic agriculture in the country.

In addition to these plans and programs, the NOAB will continue to pour investments on Research and Development component of the National Organic Agriculture Program as a vital strategy to improve the technologies on organic farming. "Extension services shall be intensified through the conduct of technology demonstrations, capability trainings, establishment of technology centers to improve the extension strategies of the program," USEC Puyat said as quoted by Mr. Garido.

Meanwhile, in his report on the highlights of accomplishment of the Regional Organic Agriculture Program, Dr. Marvin Quilates, Regional Organic Agriculture Program Focal Person of DA-RFO I highlighted the major interventions of the Program as to the conversion of the 5% total regional agricultural land to organic farming and the assistance it provides for third party organic certified farms in the region.

According to Dr. Quilates, the region was able to convert 19% of its total regional agricultural areas and noted the efficiency of the program since it had surpassed its target as to how the organic areas were converted assuming that P50,000 was used to develop every hectare of the farm.

Of the four provinces, Pangasinan remains to take the lead in converting lands to organic agriculture production as it devoted around 1,174 hectares to organic farming and have produced the first ever third party certified organic farm in the region which is the TERAOKA farm in Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

Giving emphasis on the production support services that the Organic Agriculture Program has provided to further enhance the implementation of Organic Agriculture Program in the region, Dr. Quilates underscored the program's interventions such as the donation of 20 units vermicomposting facilities and equipment, 35 units shredding machines, 32 units production related machines for organic farming in the form of organic fertilizers, worms, molasses and other soil ameliorants; and 35 units post harvests machineries and equipment.###



DA-RFO I honors top aggie-performers in a Gawad Saka rites



The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 1 successfully conducted the 2017 Gawad Saka Awarding Ceremonies with Assistant Secretary Waldo Carpio of the Department of Agriculture who represented Undersecretary for Administration & Finance, Atty. Francisco Villano, Jr. as the Guest of Honor and Speaker at the Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives, Caoayan, Ilocos Sur on September 29, 2017.

The Gawad Saka is an annual undertaking of the Department of Agriculture to recognize the valuable contributions of farmers and fisherfolk including institutional groups who have displayed exemplary dedication and hard work which immensely contributed to agricultural development.

The Regional winners consisting of nine individuals, three institutional groups and one special award under the Gender and Development Categories were awarded with plaque of recognitions and cash amounting to P30,000.00.

Leading this year's awardees is the province of Ilocos

Norte with 10 regional winners out of the 13 regional awardees. This was followed by the province of La Union with two regional awardees and Ilocos Sur with one awardee.

In his welcome remarks during the program, Director Erlinda F. Manipon, RTD for Operations informed the participants that out of the 10 regional entries to the Gawad Saka National level, seven entries were included in the top three national finalists and were evaluated by the National Gawad Saka panel of evaluators on the second and third weeks of September.

As a result of the national evaluation, Mr. Jaysen Bumanglag was adjudged as the National Outstanding Young Farmer from Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte. As a National winner, Mr. Bumanglag received his cash prize amounting to P250,000 and a trophy from the DA during the awarding ceremonies at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City last November, 2017.

Other key officials who graced the regional awarding ceremonies include Ilocos Sur Vice Governor Jeremias Singson, Vintar Mayor Larissa Foronda, and Paoay Mayor Jessie Galano.###



DA distributes Php18.23M worth of farm machinery projects

A total of P18.23 million worth of farm machineries and equipment was distributed by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I to various farmers associations and cooperative members from the second district of La Union in a mass awarding ceremonies held at the Agoo Covered Court, Agoo La Union on September 28, 2017.

Sixty (60) units of various farm machineries and equipment were turned-over to 60 farmers associations led by the 'Best RFO Director of the Philippines', Dir. Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., and Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations, Dir. Orlando Lorenzana. Of the 60 units distributed, 11 units are 4 wheel drive tractors, 2 units combined harvester, 16 units hand tractors, 1 unit rice thresher, 1 unit hammer mill and 29 units pump and engine sets.

In his message during the turn-over ceremony, Director Alviar underscored the importance of taking good care of the machineries and equipment distributed by the government, although these are given as grant to the recipients. He called on the recipients' commitment to provide shed and storage facility for these equipment to last.

Prior to the distribution of the machineries to the recipients, Director Alviar also took the opportunity to hear other concerns, needs and issues from the farmer associations through a brief dialogue with them. He gave

assurance that DA will make an effort to address these concerns based on available funds and capability of the Department to provide solutions to the concerns shared by the associations.

From the dialogue, DA through Director Alviar, committed a total of P12.09 million worth of projects in the form of irrigation support, farm machineries and post harvest facilities like tractors, flatbed dryers, reaper and mini threshers. All these projects requested were approved by Director Alviar in principle but subject for validation to the requesting parties by the concerned department's Banner Programs and the Engineering Division.

The turn-over ceremonies was also graced by La Union's 2nd District Representative Sandra Eriguel and former 2nd District Representative Eufranio Eriguel.###



116 FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS BENEFITTED IN THE FARM MECHANIZATION PROJECTS



116 Farmers' Organizations benefitted in the Farm Mechanization Projects worth P43.5 million distributed by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO 1) on October 5-6, 2017 at the Pangasinan Research & Experiment Center (PREC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

DA distributed a total of 36 units Four Wheel Drive Tractor; 4 Units Hand Tractor; 1 unit Hammer Mill; and 75 units Pump and Engine set. Farmer-recipients were

from Districts 1,2,3 and 5 of the Province of Pangasinan.

Joining DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. during the turn-over ceremonies on October 5, 2017 were Alaminos City Mayor Arthur Celeste who represented 1st District Congressman Jesus Celeste, together with 2nd District Congressman Leopoldo Bataoil, and Assistant Provincial Agriculturist Nestor Batalla while on October 6, 2017 distribution, 3rd District Congresswoman Rose Marie 'Baby' J. Arenas joined Dir. Alviar, together with RAFC Chair Vincent Adorna, among others.###

DA conducts last leg of farm machinery distribution in Pangasinan

Following the distribution of farm machineries and equipment in the first and second districts of Ilocos Norte, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I led by Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr. conducted the last leg of ceremonial mass distribution of farm machineries and equipment for the 4th and 6th districts of Pangasinan.

Held on October 17, 2017 at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, the ceremonial distribution has benefitted the 150 farmers organization officers and members with the distribution of 102 units of various farm machineries and equipment worth P35.2 million.

Graced by no less than Pangasinan Governor Amado "Pogi" Espino III and 4th & 6th Districts Representatives



Christopher de Venecia and Marlyn Agabas, the distribution and awarding ceremonies provided an avenue to realize the dreams and aspirations of the farmer organization-beneficiaries to own modern farm production machineries, tools and equipment that would help them in their farming activities thereby raising their productivity and income.

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DA conducts last leg....from page 7

Adding to the festive mood and colors to the event and veering away from the usual conduct of previous ceremonial distribution activity, DA through Director Alviar conducted a singing contest that was participated in by the representatives of the various farmers organization recipients.

Mr. Federico Cabanting of Asingan, Pangasinan emerged as the first place winner earning for his association a one-unit 4-wheel drive tractor worth P900,000.00 in addition to the machinery that they have received during the ceremonial distribution.

The second and third placers were Mr. Rogelio Quinto and Mr. Rudy Abalos from San Fabian and Rosales, Pangasinan where they will also receive from DA one unit hand tractor and 1 unit rice thresher, respectively as their prizes.

DA also gave 1 unit pump and engine sets for each of the 10 non-winning contestants as consolation prize amounting to a total of P700,000.00.###



DA-RFO I distributes farm machineries to qualified beneficiaries in Ilocos Sur

In the name of public service, and proving that commitment to work does not end on weekends, DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. and staff facilitated the distribution of around P30 million worth of farm machineries and equipment to farmer association-recipients of District 2 of the Province of Ilocos Sur. Held at the Candon City Hall on October 21, 2017, said farm machineries were funded under the Farm Mechanization Program of the Department of Agriculture which aims to increase the productivity and income of farmers and help contribute to the attainment of DA's goal for Food sufficiency and security.

Distributed were a total of seventy one (71) units farm machineries and equipment consist of four-wheel drive tractor, hand tractor, combine harvester, rice thresher, &

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DA distributes farm machineries...from page 8

pump and engine set and two multiplier farm project under the livestock banner program of DA.

Ilocos Sur 2nd District Congressman and House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson assisted Director Alviar in the ceremonial distribution of said machineries. Both key officials encouraged the farmers that although said project awarded to them were given as a full grant, they still need to provide a counterpart by way of ensuring that said farm machineries will be properly taken care of and must benefit the entire association to the fullest.###

14th NOAC event takes center stage at the Atrium, Limketkai Center in Cagayan de Oro City

The 14th National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) event takes center stage at the Atrium, Limketkai Center in Cagayan de Oro City starting October 24 to 25, 2017. With this year's theme: Organic Agriculture: A S.M.A.R.T. Culture (Science-based, Market-oriented, Adaptive, Responsive, Transformative), the NOAC organizers hope to bring in, thru the event, updates and useful knowledge on organic food production as well as business opportunities among farmer-producers, processors and other stakeholders in the organic agriculture industry.

Gracing the Opening Ceremonies was no less than Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel "Manny" F. Piñol, together with Usec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) Alternate Chair; and Engr. Christopher V. Morales, National Program Coordinator of the National Organic Agriculture Program.

With around 1,600 participants consisting of farmers and LGU delegates including representatives from the DA-Regional Field Offices of the different regions, the 14th NOAC hopes to further strengthen and push higher the efforts of the Organic Agriculture Program in the attainment of an over-all agricultural growth and development, in terms of sustainability, competitiveness and food security.

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14th NOAC event takes place..from page 9

In his message during the opening program, Sec. Piñol mentioned DA's focus programs for farmers particularly in the provision of support on Technology, Financing and Marketing. He also encouraged the NOAB to come up with strategies on how the Organic Agriculture Program could provide incentives to farmers who embraces organic farming. He pledged his full commitment to "not stop moving around the country" so he could personally look into the needs of the farflung rural farming communities in the different regions. With emphasis, he ended his speech with a meaningful message saying "The Filipino farmers need HELP and they need it NOW!""###



DA-ACPC turns-over checks worth P20M for production loan assistance



The Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council's (ACPC's) Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) Program has turned-over check worth Php20M to the Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives (NSCC) as credit conduit of farmers engaged in onion and garlic growing in the Ilocos Region

The PLEA program is a special credit program designed by the DA to provide fast, convenient and affordable credit window for farmers and fisherfolk. A nationwide program that is collateral-free, with 6% annual interest rate, the program provides to eligible farmers a maximum of P50,000 as production capital.

In a turn-over ceremony held on October 20, 2017 at



the NSCC Facility in Caoayan, Ilocos Sur, First Legislative District Representative Deogracias Victor Savellano, ACPCP Representative Christina Lopez representing ACPC Executive Director Jocelyn Alma Badiola, Atty. Joycelle Panlilio who represented DA Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit Evelyn Laviña and DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director, Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr were present and graced the occasion showing their full support and commitment to the implementation of the program.

In his welcome remarks during the ceremonial turn-over ceremonies, Dr. Divina Quemi, Chief Executive Officer of NSCC expressed gratitude to the Department of Agriculture for being a constant partner of the organization in implementing developmental programs

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DA DELIVERS FARM MACHINERIES TO FARMERS GROUP



The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I headed by OIC-Regional Technical Director Erlinda Manipon and in coordination with the First Legislative District of Ilocos Sur led by Congressman Deogracias Victor Savellano, delivered various farm machineries and equipment right at the doorstep of the farmer-association beneficiaries.

Started on October 21, 2017 in the municipalities of Cabugao, Sinait, San Juan and Magsingal all in the first district of Ilocos Sur, the five-day series of deliveries made were attended by the farmer-associations' officers and members as well as the barangay officials in the area.

In the turn-over ceremonies in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Mr. Modesto Ronque, Chairman of the Aragan, Cabugao Farmers Association, Inc. expressed in behalf of his association members their profound gratitude to the Department of Agriculture and the Office of the First Legislative District in the province of Ilocos Sur for realizing their dreams to have their own modern farming equipment.

"Nagkatotoo na po ang aming panaginip na mabigyan kami ng mga ganitong makinarya at tunay nga pong napakalaking tulong nito sa amin upang mapataas ang aming kita at mapaunlad ang aming kabuhayan na mga magsasaka," Mr. Ronque said.



OIC-RTD Erlinda Manipon in her message underscored the importance of taking good care the farm machineries and equipment that the DA has been giving to the farmers in as much as these were given to them for their own good. She said that although these were given for free, she encouraged the farmer-association members and officers to utilize the equipment and machineries properly and must benefit all members of the association.

"Sana hindi ito maging dahilan ng hindi pagkakaunawaan ng grupo, kundi magdudulot ang mga makinaryang ito ng kaghinhawaan hindi lamang para sa inyong pamilya kundi sa buong pamayanan," Ms. Manipon said.

Among the farm machineries distributed include ten units of four wheel drive tractors, 12 units of hand tractors, 14 units of pump and engine sets and one unit combine harvester. A total of P12.65M worth of farm machineries were handed over to the 26 farmers association/group beneficiaries in support to their pre-and post production activities.

These farm machineries all came from the allocations of the Rice Banner Program while the corn, high value crops and livestock farm machineries allocations will be distributed in the succeeding turn-over ceremonies for the first district of Ilocos Sur alone.###

DA-ILD conducts Training Course on Laboratory Quality Management based on ISO standards



Pursuant to the provisions of RA 1556 and RA 10611 otherwise known as “Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act” and “Food Safety Act of 2013” respectively, the Regional Feed Testing Laboratory (RFTL) as the technical support arm of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) in the execution of its regulatory functions, conducts a five-day Training Course on Laboratory Quality Management based on International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standards/Specifications at the DA-RFO I, San Fernando City, La Union on November 7-11, 2017.

The training activity aims to further enhance the knowledge and capabilities of the feed laboratory staff to conduct accurate testing results on feed products and ingredients. It further hopes to prepare the RFTL for ISO certification application thus ensuring customer satisfaction and the delivery of quality feed testing services to clients.###



“Nakakabilib ang mga LFTs ng Ilocos Region” - Corales

“Nakakabilib ang mga Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs) ng Ilocos Region. Sa lahat ng napuntahan kong mga rehiyon, kakaiba ang ginagawa niyo talaga.”

Ms. Aurora Corales, Project Leader of PhilRice’s Consortium of Unfavorable Rice Environment (CURE) Program stressed this on her message during the Regional LFT Congress & End Season Review held at the Pangasinan Training & Development Center in Lingayen, Pangasinan on November 20-22, 2017.

Emphasizing that the efficient implementation of the Local Farmer Technicians program in Ilocos Region which is very organized serves as a model in all of the 17 regions in the country. She also lauded the agricultural extension workers and project leaders who fully supported the implementation of the program in their localities.

Recognizing the greatest contribution of the LFTs in attaining the country’s self-sufficiency program by empowering more farmers to adopt site-specific production technologies through the conduct of

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Nakakabilib ang mga LFTs...from page 12

participatory technology demonstrations, Ms. Corales expressed her optimism about the Filipino farmers producing higher yield to as high as 6-7 tons per hectare.

"If we could provide the farmers a guide which they could adopt and try in their own fields, we are positive that we could attain the food self-sufficiency and food security that we are aiming for," Ms. Corales said.

Adding to the unique way of implementing the LFT program in Ilocos Region, the Rice Banner Program organized the Regional LFT Association chaired by Mr. Carlo Patricio Yanos of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. Its Officers took their Oath during the Congress which was administered by former ATI Director Asterio Saliot who represented ASEC Ariel Cayanán as the Guest Speaker in the event.

Meanwhile, in his briefing about the three-day activity, Mr. Romualdo Erwin Frigillana, Agriculturist I of DA-RFO I noted the importance of giving due recognition to the LFTs who have painstakingly and excellently performed their obligations as extension service providers in their own localities.

Ten Local Farmer Technicians out of the 114 individual LFTs in the region were selected as the Regional Outstanding LFTs who received from the Department of Agriculture plaque of recognition during the awarding ceremonies held on the third day of the event.

Winners are selected based on the criteria set by the Project Leaders from the Rice Banner Program which include among others the timely submission of reports, efficient performance in the implementation of FFS, advocacy and practices implemented to influence farmers in adopting technologies and conducts pest surveillance and monitoring in the field, among others.

Meanwhile, to inform the result of the conducted FFS-Participatory Techno-demo in both rainfed and irrigated areas, all LFT teams made their presentation and shared their strategies as to how were they able to come up with their site-specific recommendations including their best practices to increase their yield. To recognize this effort, PhilRice has provided cash awards and certificate of recognition for the best presenters in both rainfed and irrigated categories.

The LFT Team Banzal from Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan and the LFT Team San Juan in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte were tied-up as Best presenter under the rainfed category who received cash awards from PhilRice amounting to P3,500. The LFT Team Amallapay in Tubao La Union were adjudged as the 2nd Best Presenter and received P2,000 cash awards. The LFTs of Batac City and Banna in Ilocos Norte and the LFT Team in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur were named as the third Best Presenter who also received from PhilRice one sack of rice for each LFT team.

Under the Irrigated category, the Balingueo LFT Team in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan was named as the best presenter and received 4,000 cash awards while the LFT Team Guibel in San Jacinto, Pangasinan and LFT Team in Agoon, La Union were the second and third Best Presenters, respectively. Both the 2nd and 3rd best presenters have received from PhilRice cash awards amounting to P3,000 and P2,000, respectively.###





Celebrating Rice Awareness Month via the Ready Set Rice 5k Fun Walk of DA-RFO 1 thru the Ilocos Norte Research & Experiment Center (INREC) in tandem with PhilRice-Batac. *Save rice, Eat healthy, and Try brown rice!*

LEARNING BY SEEING..CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT CUM EXPOSURE TRIP



DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. takes the Management Committee of DA-RFO I to Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) for a Capability Enhancement cum Exposure trip to showcase DA-RFO 2's best practices in terms of infrastructure development and management of DA's research stations. DA-RFO 2 is known to have modern research facilities that boasts several researches on crops and livestock and is a very effective learning site for farmers, and other agri-stakeholders. Station managers, division and section chiefs and Banner Program Coordinators who joined the exposure trip are expected to capture the best management system, methods and practices from Cagayan Valley and apply it on their respective works in the region. In like manner, the ManCom is also able to share their strategies and best practices as well to DA-RFO 2 staff during said visit.###

1,400 farmers get project updates in agriculture thru DA's Information Caravan



and programs under the current DA administration through the featured lectures.

Ms. Leah Coloma, Agriculturist II of the Department of Agriculture (DA) explained the Rice Crop Manager and its benefits to farmers like how to increase their income and yield, and hopes to reach more farmers with extension services.

The Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) was discussed by Mr. Justine Trey Cubos, Information Officer II of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) wherein he emphasized that the interest rate is at 6% per annum or 0.5% per month for approved loan to cover the financial needs of marginal and small farmers and fisherfolk thru fast, convenient and affordable credit assistance thru PLEA.

Ms. Rhoda Galban, Senior Agriculturist of DA-RFO I discussed about Agricultural Marketing assistance for farmers while, Ms. Josephine Valdez, Science Research Analyst/Regional Field Coordinator of PhilMech talked about Mechanization where she presented a short video on how the different agricultural machine works.

Amado I. Espino III, Governor of the Province of Pangasinan, was the guest speaker and he emphasized in his message to the participants the very important role of farmers in ensuring a strong economy for the country. He thanked the DA for the various support being given to farmers especially in Pangasinan and pledged his commitment to partner with DA in all its endeavors.

Rice Awareness Month was also celebrated during the event where each participants were given 2kg pack of brown rice along with various IEC materials given for free by DA.###

To be updated on the various programs and projects, of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the DA thru the Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division (AFID) in coordination with the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) hosted the 1st in a series of Information Caravan on November 29, 2017 at Sison Auditorium, Lingayen, Pangasinan with the theme, "Agrikultura para sa Pagbabago."

The DA-AFID hopes to conduct Information Caravan in all regions of the country. More than 1,300 farmers, fisherfolk, Local Government Unit (LGU) representatives, private sectors and walk-ins from the different municipalities of Region 1 benefited in the event as they were informed of various plans





DA-AFID convenes Regional Information Officers (RIOs) and DA-RFO/LGU Farmcasters for a Conference cum Assessment & Planning Workshop

Serving as the mouthpiece of the Department of Agriculture in promoting its various programs and projects towards the attainment of Food Security & Sufficiency goals of the government, the RIOs and Farmcasters were fed with more info updates on DA's banner programs including latest interventions on Credit, Marketing and Mechanization during the conference and planning workshop.

The activity also served as a platform to further solidify the partnership of the DA-RFOs with the Local Government Units thru the designated farmcasters in the provinces to create greater awareness on the agricultural development programs available for farmers and fisherfolk and encourage the adoption of new technologies and strategies to improve farmers' productivity and income and ultimately help boost the agriculture sector of the country.###



DA-RFO I conducts 4th Quarter Regional Management Council (RMC) meeting in San Fabian, Pangasinan

To provide opportunity for DA-Region 1 to be updated on the plans and programs of each attached agency-member of the RMC especially focused in providing assistance to farmers & fisherfolk in the region, the Department of Agriculture-RFO I conducted the 4th Quarter RMC meeting in San Fabian Pangasinan.

In the said meeting, actions were also taken in response to the issues and concerns raised in the previous meeting. The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in particular, thru PCC Director Gloria dela Cruz, requested in the previous meeting support for the protection and preservation of female Carabaos from being indiscriminately slaughtered as this is now contributing in the continuous decline of population of said animal.

Data sourced from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed a significant decline in population of Carabao in Region 1. In the Province of Pangasinan alone, a 72.63% decrease in population was recorded for the past 10 years.

DA-RFO I prepared a resolution regulating the sale and slaughter of female carabaos in answer to PCC's cry for support. Said resolution is expected to be signed and approved by the RMC members during the meeting.

Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) OIC-Director Ronnie Domingo attended for the first time the RMC meeting upon the invitation of DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. He provided updates on the focused programs of BAI under Sec Piñol's priority agenda. One of which is a support program for best producing dairy animal at which Carabao/Buffalo is known as an important source of milk and meat.

RMC members present in the meeting were also given chance to briefly provide updates on their agency/bureau's current and future program implementations for the agri sector in Region 1.###



DA-ACPC turns-over checks... from page 10

and projects necessary to boost the productivity and income of the farmer-members.

Dir. Lucrecio Alviar Jr. in his message stressed the relevance of building partnership with the farmers organization like the NSCC to bring developmental changes in the agri-fishery sector. He acknowledged the vital role of the NSCC in helping farmers to become self-sustaining and vowed to sustain the needed support of the farmers especially on their financial needs through the credit facility that is being offered by the DA-ACPC.

Meanwhile, Ms. Christina Lopez, ACPC representative, reminded the would-be beneficiaries of the credit program

to bear in mind their obligation as borrowers of the loan program to maintain the good track record of the NSCC.

In her message during the awarding ceremonies, Atty. Joycelle Panlilio, representative of USEC Laviña informed that the DA-ACPC has approved the requested P100M production loan assistance to onion and garlic growers of Ilocos Region with the assistance of the First Legislative District Representative Deogracias Victor Savellano.

Aside from the turn-over of check worth P20M, DA also turned over to NSCC through a Certificate of Award their Rice Processing Center II which was funded under the Rice Banner Program of DA.###



Ending 2017 with a bang...DA distributes farm machineries & equipment

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I made its last hurrah for 2017 as it distributed 205 units of various farming equipment and machineries worth P23.9M to lucky farmer association-beneficiaries in the province of Pangasinan on December 27, 2017.

Group of farmers from the 1st, 2nd and 6th districts of Pangasinan received from DA around 109 units of various farm machineries and equipment worth P16 million while the 3rd, 4th and 5th districts received 96 units worth P7.7 million from DA.

Ms. Jessica Guico, representative of 3rd District Congresswoman "Baby" Arenas and 2nd District Congressman Leopoldo Bataoil graced the event who committed their full support in all the programs and projects of DA that would further enhance the farming sector.

Leading the distribution are the officials of DA headed by Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., who encouraged the recipients to be more active in availing of the programs and projects especially in 2018 by submitting more project proposals to the DA-Pangasinan Research & Experiment Center.



"We are encouraging everyone to submit as early as now your letter of intents along with the requirements, so that we will have an ample time to validate your request," Dir. Alviar said.

Ms. Erlinda Manipon, RTD for Operations likewise encouraged the farmer association-officers and members to update the DA on their needs other than the units that they have received to determine the next priority areas to be provided with farming equipment. She said that DA is looking for the sufficiency in terms of the farm machineries and equipment distributed so that priority areas will be identified in the next distribution activity.

"Merong mga lugar kasi na sumusobra na ang kanilang mga nakuha, samantalang may mga lugar naman na kulang pa," Ms. Manipon added.

To remind the officers and members of the farmer association on the requirements and process in availing of the DA's farm mechanization project, Ms. Josephine Cabanban, the Regional Farm Machinery Focal Person discussed in detail the mechanics on how to avail DA projects.

Dr. Connie Diaz, Chief of the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC) and Dr. Annie Bares, Chief of the Operations Division reminded the participants about their duties and obligations as recipient of the projects in order to maximize or lengthen the productivity life of the farm machineries distributed.

The distribution in Pangasinan is a subsequent activity after the ceremonial turn-over of farm machineries conducted in the provinces of Ilocos Norte and La Union on December 20-21, 2017, respectively.###



DA-RFO I's entry wins Best Poster for 2017 World Food Day Celebration

Congratulations to Ms. Jennylyn M. Cariaga of Casanicolasan Elementary School, Rosales, Pangasinan for winning in the Nationwide On-the Spot Poster Making Contest for World Food Day 2017 celebration. Cariaga's winning poster at the Regional level contest held last September 26, 2017 at the DA-RFO 1 Conference Hall, San Fernando City, La Union was Ilocos Region's official entry in the national level contest. Her poster entry emerged as one of the Top 5 Best Posters selected during the national judging held on October 6, 2017 at the Department of Agriculture (DA) Central Office.

Ms. Cariaga and her coach/guardian joined the awarding ceremony at the Liwasang Aurora Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City on October 16, 2017.

DA-RFO I conducts training on the operation and maintenance of agri-machinery from page 20

Mr. Romeo de Mayo, the Agricultural Project Coordinating Officer of La Union underscored in his message the timeliness of the conduct of the training as it is in timing with the onset of the dry cropping season in the region. He emphasized the importance of the training as it provides an avenue for the operators to enhance their skills and knowledge in the operation and maintenance of the equipment thereby increasing not only the productivity of the farmers but more on their incomes.

Partnering with the DA in providing the necessary technical skills and maintenance ability of the farm machinery operators are technical experts from Kubota



Philippines and Lyndelle Agro-Industrial Inc., two of the major suppliers of the combine harvesters that were earlier distributed to the participants. Aside from thorough lectures on the operation and maintenance of the facility, the resource speakers also conducted on-site demonstration of the facility in one of the farmer association beneficiaries in Laoag City.###



DA-RFO I conducts training on the operation and maintenance of agri-machinery

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I under the Rice Banner Program conducted a two-day training on the Operation and Maintenance of Combine Harvester held at the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC), Batac City, Ilocos Norte on Dec. 7-8, 2017.



An activity aimed to capacitate the operators and managers of the farmer associations who are the beneficiaries of the combine harvesters that the DA-RFO I has distributed, this activity was participated in by 48 farmer-member and officers from Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union.

The first of the two batches scheduled for completion by the Rice Banner Program this year in respond to the farmer-associations request for guidance on the operation and maintenance of the farm facility provided to them, the next batch is scheduled on Dec. 19-20, 2017 at ATI-RTC, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan for farmer-association beneficiaries from the province of Pangasinan.

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