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All for one, Always number one!

VISION

A prime-mover towards a modernized and competitive agriculture sector

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

Dedication -	Serving with a heart
Resiliency -	Overcoming challenges
Integrity -	Valuing public trust
Vigilance -	Responding to clients' needs
Excellence -	Raising the bar



THE COVER

This quarter, the farmers in the Ilocos Region lost worth billions of their crops due to the onslaught of typhoons Henry, Inday, Josie and Ompong. These calamities left the agriculture sector of the region in a bad state. However, farmers still find hope for recovery through the rehab assistance and interventions provided by the department.

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DA SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS WORLD FOOD DAY REG'L POSTER MAKING CONTEST

3

In line with the celebration of the 2018 World Food Day, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) through the Regional Agriculture & Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) conducted the Regional On-the-Spot Poster Making Contest on August 31 at the DA-RFO I, 3rd Floor Conference Room, San Fernando City, La Union.

Joined by 16 Grade IV-VI pupils from the 14 Division of Elementary Schools in the region, the winning poster was created by a Grade VI pupil from Burgos Memorial School East Vigan City in the person of Cami Kyndra U. Tiburcio.

Tiburcio's entry was unanimously chosen by the Board of Judges as she fully interpreted this year's World Food Day celebration theme, "Our actions are our future. A #ZeroHunger World by 2030 is possible."

The winning entry of Tiburcio is the official entry of Ilocos Region in the national judging at the DA-Central Office on October 3, 2018.

As the first place winner, Tiburcio

brought home P3,000 as cash prize and Certificate of Recognition.

Adjudged as the second place winner is Jan Roldio Brabante from Urdaneta I Central School in Uradenta City, Pangasinan while the third place winner is Dom Kerby Balignasay from the Catalino Acosta Memorial Elementary School in Batac City, Ilocos Norte. As second and third place winners, Brabante and Balignasay received P2,000 and P1,500 as their cash prizes.

To recognize the active participation of the non-winners, DA also gave P1,000 each as their consolation prize.

The Regional On-the-Spot Poster Making contest is an annual undertaking of the Department of Agriculture to imbibe among the younger generations the importance of hunger eradication as well as poverty alleviation in the countryside. This is also an avenue for

the youth to share how well they could contribute of increasing awareness on their role of combating hunger in their own little way.

Present in this activity is DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr. who expressed his support to this undertaking along with Dr. Danilo Concepcion who represented Dep-Ed Region 1's Regional Director, Malcolm Garma./



Colors of #ZeroHunger. The entry of Ms. Cami Kyndra U. Tiburcio was selected as one of the top 5 best posters in the national level.

The Creatives. Pupils from the 14 participating schools in the region proudly showcase their original illustrations anchored on this year's World Food Day Celebration theme: "Our actions are our future. A #ZeroHunger World by 2030 is possible."





Dumanon Kayo! The booth showcases the champion commodities of the Ilocos region in the agriculture sector. Among the materials used to decorate the booth were corn, garlic, rice and mung bean.

DA ILOCOS JOINS 14TH NTF, RANKS 3RD FOR BEST BOOTH

With the creative skills of the research staff, DA Ilocos region nailed 3rd place in booth competition during the 14th National Technology Forum (NTF) and Product Exhibition. The DA RFO I booth was decorated using maize and garlic which are among the trademark commodity of the region. The booth was highlighted by the new corporate logo of the department which was composed of mung bean, corn, and rice grain.

Agriculture and Fisheries Technology Forum is an annual activity spearheaded by Bureau of Agricultural Research in celebration of their anniversary giving opportunity for regions to showcase and promote their priority commodities and products. Among the commodities showcased were soybean, mung bean, garlic, coffee, cacao, onion, mushroom and nipa palm.

The activity also aims to promote rice, corn, adlay (job's tears), meat-based products from goat, sheep, native pigs and fisheries. Through the National Technology Commercialization (NTC) program, BAR aims to expand their production and showcasing

of product development and marketing.

The four-day event was held at Mega Trade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. It was participated by DA's regional field offices, attached agencies and bureaus such as BFAR, BPI, PhilFIDA, SUCs, partner cooperatives, private sectors, and international organizations.

Dr. Nicomedes Eleazar, DA-BAR Director, stated in his message that it is a challenge for them how research and development efforts can create impact and be felt at the grassroots level and bring it closer to people who needed it most, thus leading to this year's NTF theme "Agripreneurship: Mainstreaming Agriculture and Fisheries R&D by Delivering Technology Breakthroughs to Farmers and Fisherfolk," a marriage of two concepts, Agriculture and Entrepreneurship.

"We believe that given the right opportunities, proper training, capability building activities and innovativeness, farmers and fishers have realistic chances to succeed as entrepreneurs," he added.

NTC as one of the major programs of the bureau, is an innovation of developing high value products from research and development that farmers and fishers can use not only to increase their production but more importantly to provide boundless opportunities to earn more and be market competitive.

On the other hand, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, Senator Cynthia Villar, gave emphasis on the importance of research in improving and uplifting the lives of Filipinos in their practical application.

Furthermore, two knowledge publications were also launched during the first day of the event. The Training manual on Financial Viability and Profitability Analysis on New Technologies and Enterprises, a consolidated completed support projects by BAR and The Way Forward: Modernization and Industrialization of the Philippine Agriculture by Dr. William Dar, first director of DA-BAR. The Regional Research, Development and Extension Network for Agriculture and Fisheries (RRDEN) was also launched.

Other highlights of the event were the product demonstration and seminar series featuring 27 topics from the results of BAR funded projects that served as venue of technology awareness for people.//



3RD EDSECOM MEETING HELD TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC CONCERNS IN ILOCOS

Giving updates on the major issues and concerns relative to the current economic situation of Ilocos Region, members of the Economic Development Sectoral Committee (EDSC) met for the 3rd Quarter EDSC Meeting at the DA-RFO I Conference Room, San Fernando City, La Union on September 6, 2018.

Presided over by DA-Regional Field Office I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., the meeting served as an avenue to discuss various plans and programs to address the economic conditions of Ilocos Region.

One of the major agenda of the meeting is the proposed project of Suyo Mayor Samuel Sabugan, Jr. for the establishment of Suyo Economic Zone in Suyo, Ilocos Sur.

According to Mayor Sabugan, investors from Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Australia have backed-out to finance the project due to the complexity of government's documentary requirements. He then requested some members of the EDSECOM like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to help the municipality

facilitate the documentary requirements needed in the project.

DAR and DENR representatives said that their offices are following the standard operating procedures in availing their services, so requirements must be submitted on time.

Considering the economic benefits that the Suyo town may get when the SEZ will materialize, Mayor Sabugan expressed his hope that the project will be pushed through upon knowing that the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) had already approved the Pre-Qualifying clearance for the proposed project on August 1, 2018.

Helping the mayor on his next step, Atty. Rene Joey S. Mipa, Zone Administrator of the Baguio City Economic Zone (BCEZ) presented the subsequent activities that the Suyo Mayor will have to do especially on the Pre-Registration Terms and Condition.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jeremiah Miranda, Senior Economic Development Specialist of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) in Region I presented the CY 2018 2nd Quarter RPMES Project

Monitoring Report under the Economic Development Component where four (4) projects were completed and fifty-one (51) projects are still ongoing that translates to 23.90% physical accomplishment.

Ms. Zenaida Garcia, Statistician of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) gave updates on Palay Production in Ilocos Region where a decrease of 2,223 metric tons was recorded from the same period in January to June of 492,331MT production in CY 2017 against the 490,108MT this CY 2018.

Atty. Phillip Raymund S. Rivera, Attorney III of the Cooperative Development Authority in Dagupan Extension Office clarified the issues and concerns received by their office from various parties alleging some LGUs of imposing higher assessment fees on real property and other local taxes being paid by the cooperatives and refuse to issue Permit unless settled.

According to Atty. Rivera, there are some LGUs that are charging fees for issuing permits exceeding the limit or fixed fees and there are different fees being charged from cooperatives aside from the basic permit fee such as Barangay Clearance Fee, BFP Clearance Fee, etc.

"The coop will only pay a maximum of Php1,500. Cooperatives members and non-members transacting business with LGUs are required to obtain a Mayor's Permit and pay the commensurate cost of regulation, inspection and surveillance of the operation of their business not exceeding P1,000.00 and pay the basic tax of P500.00 as a payment for community tax certificate," Atty. Rivera said.

In response to Atty. Rivera's raised concern, NEDA-Region I Director Nestor Rillon stressed that there are LGUs who opted to require higher fees for cooperatives especially if that cooperative is enterprising and earning more. However, Atty. Rivera emphasized that it should not be the case since there are laws, rules and regulations that all must have to abide.//

Dr. Lorenzo M. Caranguian, RTD
Erlinda F. Manipon,
RED Lucrecio R. Alviar,
Jr., DA-Cagayan RED
Narciso A. Edillo, and
DA-CAR RED Cameron
P. Odsey alongside
the awardees under
the Outstanding
Agricultural Extension
Workers category.



DA NORTH LUZON CLUSTER RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING LGUS, EXTENSION WORKERS ON RICE INDUSTRY

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 alongside DA-Cagayan and DA-CAR on August 30, 2018 jointly recognized the efforts and outstanding contributions of partner LGUs and extension workers in the rice industry during the rice achievers

awarding ceremony in Baguio City.

The provinces of Kalinga, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, and Isabela were recognized as Outstanding Provinces under Category A and the province of La Union as an Outstanding province under Category B.

Category A were provinces utilizing more than 50,000 hectares for rice production and Category B were for provinces utilizing less than 50,000 hectares.

The municipalities of San Mateo, Isabela and Manaoag, Pangasinan were awarded Outstanding Municipalities while Tabuk City was awarded Outstanding City.



Key officials and awardees under the Outstanding Agricultural Extensions Workers category.

These local government units were awarded with funds for rice-related projects during the 2017 National Rice Achievers Award at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City on May 31, 2018.

For Outstanding Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs) and Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs), 16 (AEWS) and one (LFT) from the Cordillera Administrative

Region; 44 (AEWs) and four (LFTs) from Region I; and 80 (AEWs) and 20 (LFTs) from Region II were awarded with plaques of recognition and incentives.

Leading the awarding ceremonies were Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for Operations Dr. Lorenzo M. Caranguian, DA RFO 1 Regional Executive Director (RED) Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr., DA RFO CAR RED Cameron P. Odsey, and DA RFO II RED

Narciso A. Edillo.

Based on the report of PSA for 2017, five provinces in the North Luzon Cluster - Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Pangasinan, Cagayan, and Tarlac are among the top ten rice-producing provinces in the country. These provinces contributed 5.18 million metric tons (or 31%) from the total 19.28 metric tons in the rice production of the country last year. //



Key officials and the awardees under the Outstanding Agricultural Extensions Workers category.



Dr. Lorenzo M. Caranguian, RTD Erlinda F. Manipon, RED Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., DA-Cagayan RED Narciso A. Edillo, and DA-CAR RED Cameron P. Odsey alongside the awardees under the Outstanding Local Farmer technicians.

Mr. Luis D. Bausa, resource person on the investment opportunities of agri-tourism in the Ilocos Region, is joined by responsive farmer participants from the region.



P4MP- ILOCOS REG'L CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS AGRI-TOURISM; TALKS ON FARMERS' OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

DA RFO 1 in collaboration with the ATI Regional Training Center 1 and Ilocos Region Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs) highlights agri-tourism and issues on farmers' occupational hazards during the Pambansang Mannalon, Mag-uuma, Magbabaul, Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP) Ilocos Chapter 3rd regional congress on August 23-24.

The activity was led by DA Region 1 Regional Technical Director for Research & Regulations Dir. Orlando J. Lorenzana, ATI RTC 1 Center Chief Dir. Rogelio C. Evangelista, P4MP Ilocos Chapter President Mr. Oftociano M. Manalo Jr., and La Union PLGU representative Mr. Justino F. Casuga. Also providing support to the said activity were Bauang, La Union Sangguniang Bayan Member Alexander Romeo D. Obong, and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development Coordinator for Region 1 & CAR Ms. Ruby Ann Matutino.

Ilocos Farmers on Agri-Tourism

Through a seminar lecture by Mr. Luis

D. Bausa, training manager of Duran Farm Agribusiness and Training Center Association (a well-known farm site in San Ildefonso, Bulacan owned by Daisy Duran), over 130 farmer participants were introduced to the business and investment opportunities of agri-tourism.

Bausa encouraged the farmers to develop their farms into agri-tourism and learning sites other than relying mainly on their harvest crop.

With the rising popularity of agri-tourism sites in the country, Bausa recommended that farmers should develop a region-wide agri-tourism plan.

"We should encourage the establishment of a region-wide farm tourism where visitors can explore different farming activities, sceneries, learnings and unique selling points in each province to generate additional income for the farmers and job opportunities in their community," shared Bausa in his discussions.

In Region 1, there are only seven farm sites accredited by the Department of Tourism - the Lomboy Farms in La Union and Agtalon Incorporated, Roheim Incorporated, Teraoka Farms, Medarlos Healing and Organic Garden, Rosemary Organic Garden, and Our Farm Republic in Pangasinan.

Of farmers' health and safety

One of the highlights of the regional congress was the sessions on the operations and basic maintenance of farm machineries.

As part of DA's mechanization program, farmers for the past years were awarded farm machineries for an easier, faster, and efficient production of their champion commodities in the region - such as rice, corn, cassava.

For this year, DA RFO 1 has a total of 897 unit of farm machineries and equipment for distribution to farmers' groups and associations. Based on records for the third quarter this year, the agency has

accomplished 59.60% of its target units for distribution.

However, the safety of farmers in operating these machineries should also be taken into serious considerations.

Mr. Rhoween R. Parica of the Philippine Center for Post-harvest Development and Mechanization shared in his lecture that farmers are vulnerable to illnesses, injuries, and accidents given that they are exposed to sharp objects, pesticides and difficult weather & working conditions. However, farmers at times, do not strictly follow the operating manuals of machineries and its required protective gears during field activities.

"Farmers should properly use their machineries," Parica said adding that protective gears should also be included by the government in the provision of assistance to farmers.

P4MP is an organized group of Farmers Associations (FAs) and sectoral/commodities organization such as Irrigators Association, Small Coconut FAs,



The induction of the newly elected officers of P4MP Region 1 for CY 2018-2020 on August 23 with Mr. Justino F. Casuga, Executive Assistant-PLGU La Union, presiding the ceremony.

Fruit and Vegetables Grower Associations, Livestock and Poultry Raisers Association, Fisherfolk Association, Fish Pond

Operators, Farmers Cooperative, Sugarcane FAs, Rural Based Organizations and Rural Improvement Clubs. //

THINK FARMING AS A BUSINESS — LORENZANA

To capacitate women and make them more productive in the field of agriculture, the Gender and Development Program of DA-RFO I has conducted a seminar on Community Seed Bank and Seed Production for women engaged in rice production in the upland areas of La Union and Ilocos Sur on August 16 and August 24, 2018.

Since climate change has been inevitably affecting the agriculture sector in the region resulting to big losses, DA-RFO I has come up for ways that could at least lessen its effects in farming. Among the strategies that could help farmers to adapt to climate change is the establishment of community seed bank and seed production.

With the existence of seed bank in the community, seeds security is ensured and farmers access to seeds is improved

particularly those who have been affected by climate change. It will also serve as repositories of local genetic diversity that is often adapted to prevailing conditions in specific areas, including biotic and abiotic stresses.

While certified seed production on the other hand enables farmers to produce their own quality seeds, quality seeds plays a major role in the increase of food production.

RTD Orlando Lorenzana encouraged the participants to think of farming as business saying "despite of your area, whether you have big land area or small, it should be a business."

He anticipated that by this means, not only the farmers will become progressive but there would be an inclusive growth wherein

farmers' associations, local government units and in time, the country will progress.

Although Lorenzana mentioned that Ilocos region is 180% rice sufficient, rice production has been greatly affected by the previous typhoons and also, human population is rapidly growing, so as to meet the needs of people, it is necessary to produce more seeds.

Moreover, Mr. Joey Ramos, a seed grower from Rosario, La Union, told the participants not to get discouraged because in business, the possibility of having losses is inescapable so seed growers must continue to persevere.

Through community seed bank and seed production, agri-based micro-enterprise in rural communities will be enhanced and the standard of living of the marginal farmers will be raised. //



NCI,RCI-SRD CONDUCT CADP PLANNING WORKSHOP

Complementing and mainstreaming efforts to develop the Ilocos Sur-Abra River Basin in Caoayan and Cabugao River Watershed covering the municipalities of Cabugao and Sinait, all in the province of Ilocos Sur through the crafting of Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP), members of the Regional Convergence Initiative (RCI) together with the National Convergence Initiative-Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) Secretariat conducted a planning workshop at Hotel Salcedo, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur.

A four-day activity that started on September 4, the CADP Workshop is an off-shoot of the iDAIT or the Institutionalization of District-wide Agro-Industrialization, Innovation and Tourism - a pet project of Ilocos Sur First District Congressman Deogracias Victor Savellano to address the province's goal on poverty reduction and inclusive growth in the countryside.

Participated by the Municipal Planning & Development Officers of the municipalities of Caoayan and Sinait, together with representatives from the provincial and regional offices of the four lead-convergence agencies - Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DA-DAR-DENR-DILG), the 4-day planning workshop

served as an avenue for the project proponents to map-out the services and interventions that they would want to provide based on the needs of the convergence areas.

In the Opening Program, Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, Chief of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I in behalf of Regional Executive Director, Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., noted the importance of crafting the CADP involving the provincial, municipal Local Government Units in collaboration with the other agencies aside from the (DA-DAR-DENR-DILG) in order to identify more interventions for the identified convergence areas.

"We will not limit ourselves in involving only the four agencies (referring to the DA-DAR-DENR and DILG), but we could expand where we could involve the services from the DPWH, DOH and other line agencies," Ms. Garcia said.

Based on record of the RCI, Ilocos Region has two convergence areas being implemented with Piddig, Ilocos Norte as the mother of all the convergences and the Natividad-San Nicolas Convergence now expanding to San Manuel, San Quintin and Umingan in the province of Pangasinan.

Meanwhile, in crafting the CADPs of the municipalities of Sinait and Caoayan, members

of the RCI and the Provincial Convergence Initiative have identified their services in support to the two identified convergence areas.

Prior to the crafting of the CADPs, the NCI-SRD Secretariat through Ms. Pearl Caroline Valeros and Ms. Jemimah Bela Torrefiel discussed in details the Rationale and Overview of the activity, the CADP Manual of Operations involving the four phases of implementation such as the Preparatory Phase, Planning Phase, Implementation and Institutionalization and Sustainability Phase.

Under the Preparatory Phase, the participants of the workshop were required to prepare the Convergence Area Profile (CAP) and conducted the CAP analysis to determine the current physical situation, and existing socio-economic conditions of the proposed convergence areas.

To provide salient inputs on the CADPs of the two identified convergence sites, members of the PCI, RCI and the NCI gave their comments, suggestions for further improvement of the crafted 5-year CADPs for the municipality of Sinait and Caoayan.

In the absence of representatives from Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, the RCI is planning to set another meeting with the convergence stakeholders in relation to the crafting of the municipality's CADP//

GAD AIMS TO INTEGRATE WOMEN IN COFFEE PRODUCTION

IT'S COFFEE TIME! Coffee experts lead women participants in a coffee cupping session for two different coffee varieties, Arabica and Robusta, grown in different provinces in the country.



In a baseline study, it was found out that women have more brain cells dedicated to smelling and tasting, hence to capture the interest of women in their participation to coffee production, the GAD Program of DA-RFO I in cooperation with the Philippine Coffee Board, Inc. (PCBI), organized a seminar titled “Integrating Women in Coffee Production and Processing” at Hotelinda Suites, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur on September 3-4, 2018.

Women are highly visible in fieldwork, harvesting, sorting, drying, and processing – the labor-intensive work required to produce coffee. However, despite of their key role in coffee production, women were given less access to resources, trainings and other capability building that would improve their yield and quality of their

crops, thus this activity also aims to empower women on their unique roles in the coffee industry. With its increasing demand, it provides high opportunity for coffee growers and stakeholders to improve their way of living.

According to some, coffee is more than a beverage, it is one of the most popular liquid in the world. Hence, providing more information about coffee, Ms. Chit Juan, President of the PCBI, introduced quality coffee to the participants.

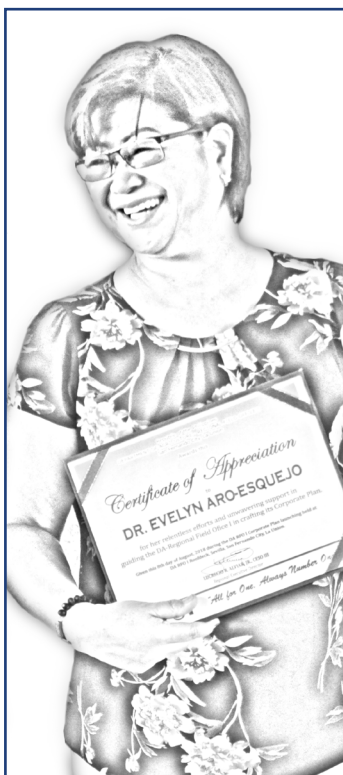
“Coffee is not just a coffee, it comes with different grades,” said Juan.

Her colleague Ms. Ros Juan also

introduced the potential markets for farmers and stakeholders because buyers do not see coffee as a commodity rather a specialty item.

As the main highlight of the activity, Ms. Jen Rimando and Ms. Bea Belardo, both coffee experts led the technical session on coffee processing and cupping. During the cupping session, the participants were given the chance to taste three varieties of coffee from various coffee growing areas in the Philippines to check its quality.

Aside from the discussions on coffee, the two-day event ended with a tour by the participants at the San Juan Research Center and BJMP Ilocos Sur to obtain information about farming and animal husbandry that they could also use and apply.//



DA-ILOCOS REGION SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES CORPORATE PLAN

Proving once more as the Department of Agriculture top performing region and sustaining its vision as prime-mover in the development of the agriculture sector, the DA- Ilocos Region launched on August 8 its Corporate Plan.

DA-RFO I is the first DA regional field office in the country to craft its own corporate plan.

With the theme, "A Big Leap to the Future: DA Ilocos Region in the next five years," the creation of the Corporate Plan is a reflection of the DA-RFO 1's whole system aspiration of what to achieve in the next five years and how to do it in tandem with its partners in agricultural development, all for the benefit of the entire agriculture sector.

Joined by some of the Regional Line Agencies, Regional Management Council, Local Government Unit partners in agriculture programs implementation, SUCs, Civil Society Organization & private sector representatives, together with the

DA-RFO I Family, the launching of the Corporate Plan is a prelude to the goal of the DA Ilocos to become ISO 9001:2015 certified.

In his message during the launching program, Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., who happens to celebrate his first year anniversary with the DA-RFO I as Regional Executive Director, stressed his grateful appreciation to the men and women of DA Ilocos for giving their full support in his leadership which led the agency to become the top performing region among the 16 DA regional offices in the country.

He likewise enjoined everyone present in the launching to help execute the plan, "Because no matter how good the plan is, if it will not be properly executed, it is useless," RED Alviar said.

Regional Technical Directors Erlinda Manipon and Orlando Lorenzana shared the same thoughts of how the Corporate Plan will serve



IN FIVE YEAR TIME. RED Alviar leads the launching of DA-RFO 1's corporate plan alongside National Economic Development Authority Region 1 Director Nestor G. Rillon, RTD for Operations Erlinda F. Manipon, RTD for Research and Regulations Orlando J. Lorenzana, and Corporate Plan Consultant Dr. Evelyn Aro-Esquejo.

as an integral guide for DA-RFO 1 to be more effective, efficient and relevant service-provider to the agri-stakeholders in the region.

Impressed with this initiative of the DA-RFO I, PhilRice Batac-Branch Manager, Reynaldo Castro; National Economic Development Authority Regional Director Nestor Rillon; Ilocos Norte Provincial Agriculturist Norma Lagmay; Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College representative, Mr. Armando Diga; Integrated Laboratories Division Chief, Ms. Consuelo Belarmino; and Regional Agriculture & Fishery Council Chairman Mr. Vincent Adorna expressed their congratulations to the DA-RFO I through their impressions made during the event. They lauded the leadership of RED Alviar for giving inspiration and a unified direction to all the key players of the agri-sector in the region.

Meanwhile, as part of the launching program, DA awarded Mr. El Tubon and Mr. Richard Regacho, staff of the Regional Agriculture Engineering Division and the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division respectively, as winners of the DA-Corporate Hymn and Logo Contest.

Mr. Tubon and Mr. Regacho received a certificate of recognition and a cash prize of P50,000.00 and P10,000.00, respectively.

As winners, Mr. Tubon's composition is now adopted as the DA Ilocos Hymn to be sang during the flag raising ceremonies while the Corporate logo designed by Mr. Regacho is used in all the DA-RFO I's information and communication materials to provide a unique identity for the DA-Ilocos Region. //

..the creation of the Corporate Plan is a reflection of the DA-RFO I's whole system aspiration of what to achieve in the next five years and how to do it in tandem with its partners in agricultural development, all for the benefit of the entire agriculture sector...





ON WINNING THE WAR: RAFC REGION 1 HOLDS SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In a split second, more than 3.2B worth of rice farms and agri-infrastructure in the region were damaged during the onslaught of Typhoon Ompong on September 15, with Ilocos Norte having the most damaged area and an estimated 2.14B loss based on initial reports.

Weather agencies noted for the past years that typhoons are getting more frequent and ferocious in the country causing vast damages to the agricultural sector. This year alone, the region has experienced flooding situations in July caused by the continuous downpour of rain induced by Southwest monsoon gravely affecting farmers and fisherfolk in the Province of Pangasinan hitting a 307M loss.

These occurrences are classified as impacts of climate change.

Being concerned on the effects of climate change in the region, the Ilocos Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) convened a regional summit on September 13-14 in Baguio City with over 120 farmer participants from the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Norte anchoring its theme on the innovations in winning the war on climate change.

With farmers vulnerable to the effects of climate change, they experience huge impacts of climate change in the region - crops infested with the increasing population and occurrence of pests, lands turning futile, frequent flooding damaging their farms, among others causing lesser production and income for their families.

As the anticipated guest of honor and speaker, Regina 'Gina' Paz L. Lopez, Chairperson for the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, withdrew her attendance at the last minute due to the typhoon Ompong, however, she relayed her message to the farmers through a pre-recorded video stressing that farmers must never feel small.

"Kung mafefeel niyo na maliit kayo, 'di ang pangarap niyo magiging maliit? At ang gagawin niyo magiging maliit? Huwag niyong isipin na maliit kayo. Kaya niyo kahit ano," encouraged Lopez.

DA Region 1 Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. meanwhile, suggested that a climate-smart pattern of farming must be created to provide farmers a guide to avoid typhoons.

"We are at war, but don't take it literally. There must be a game plan, strategies

that will give us more chances of winning," he added.

Led by RAFC Region 1 Chairman Vincent A. Adorna, RAFC CAR Chairman Balbina Ernesto, and DA RFO 1 RED Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr., the activity was jam-packed with sessions from experts of various government agencies.

Among the speakers of the summit were Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal, Department of Science and Technology Region 1; Ms. Jorybell A. Masallo, Senior Weather Specialist, of DOST- Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA); Ms. Ma. Fe E. Villamora, Senior Weather Specialist, DOST-PAGASA; Ms. Perla G. Baltazar, Senior Technical Staff, Department of Agriculture Systems-Wide Climate Change Office (DASWCCO); OIC- Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services For William C. Savella, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 1; and Dr. Mary Jane B. Alcedo, Senior Science Specialist, DA-RFO 1.

RAFC is mandated to help DA in mobilizing and evaluating the contributions of other agencies to agriculture and fishery modernization. //

Farmer participants in a group picture with Ms. Jorybell A. Masallo, DOST-PAGASA Senior Weather Specialist; Ms. Ma. Fe E. Villamora, DOST-PAGASA Senior Weather Specialist; Ms. Perla G. Baltazar, Senior Technical Staff, Department of Agriculture Systems-Wide Climate Change Office; OIC- Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services For William C. Savella, DENR Region 1; Region RAFC Chairman Vincent A. Adorna; and Dr. Mary Jane B. Alcedo, Senior Science Specialist, DA-RFO 1.





DA TRAINS NEWLY HIRED LGU PERSONNEL ON RCM

Finding ways to better promote and increase awareness of farmers on the adoption of Rice Crop Manager (RCM) as a tool to increase rice production, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Rice Banner Program convened the selected newly hired personnel of the Local Government Units in the region tasked to provide support in implementing DA's program on rice for a three-day training workshop on RCM Advisory Service.

RCM or Rice Crop Manager is a tool that provides farmers a personalized crop and nutrient management recommendations for rice field through a one-page print-out and text messages that was developed by the International Rice Research Institute in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Research and the Agricultural Training Institute.

Held at the Fiesta Garden Resort in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, the training-workshop aims to capacitate the LGU-implementers the needed skills and knowledge on the operation of the RCM Advisory Service leading towards the adoption of the recommended fertilizer and nutrient requirements to manage rice crops

by the farmers thereby enhancing the production and productivity of rice in the region as well as increasing farmers' income through the reduction of usage in farming inputs.

In her message during the first day of the activity, Ms. Leah Coloma, Regional RCM Focal Person of DA-RFO I encouraged the active support of the participants in the series of training workshops leading towards the accomplishment of the regional RCM recommendation targets this CY 2018.

Based on the accomplishment report shared by Ms. Coloma, Region I has already accomplished around 46% of the 102,000 CY 2018 total recommendation targets or 47,044 RCM recommendations generated and distributed to the farmers for adoption into their farms.

To encourage further the active involvement of the participants, the DA - RFO 1 through the RCM Project, (aside from giving technical support services via this kind of training), is giving away free load and tablets or pocket wifi to the LGU-implementers necessary to carry-out the activities involved in the RCM project. Office supplies (coupon bonds and printer

inks, etc.) were also provided to facilitate the distribution of the generated RCM recommendations while snacks for the farmers during the data collection activity is also being provided by the DA.

Meanwhile, to further enhance the participants' skills on the process and methods involved in the RCM project, the participants conducted the farmer and farm lot registration prior to the actual area measurement. Measuring the actual area provides a precise fertilizer recommendation to farmers.

Likewise, the facilitator of the activity immersed the participants in the field and gathered some farmers to conduct an actual interview prior to generating the actual fertilizer and nutrient recommendations for each of the farmers interviewed.

Having involved the newly hired personnel in this project, Ms. Coloma expressed high hope that RCM recommendations will now be generated easily and at the most appropriate time for the benefit of the rice farmers in the region.//

Alviar: Let's make farming 'fun' in Region 1

Department of Agriculture RFO 1 (DA-RFO1) Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. hopes farming will be 'fun' to the 44 farmer association recipients of the 240 units of farm machineries and equipment worth 41.9M that was distributed on August 15 at Brgy. Barit, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

"With these machineries and equipment, we hope that you (farmers) are inspired to farm as it will also consequently increase your production, you will earn more and with that, let's make it 'fun' in Region 1 when it comes to farming," Alviar underscored.

Assuring that all distributed machineries and equipment underwent thorough inspection before handing it to the recipients, Alviar noted that DA's mechanization program is a way to inspire farmers to produce more food for the region and hopefully, for the entire country.

He added that service centers of all the units are available in the region and that farmers are encouraged to report to DA RFO1 if there are damages.

"These are trusted equipment," agreed 1st District Ilocos Norte (IN) Representative Rodolfo C. Fariñas in his message commending DA-RFO1 for not procuring low quality machineries. He gave assurance to the farmers of his full support to whatever efforts the DA undertakes in pursuit of providing better income and higher productivity of the farming sector in Ilocos Norte.

Meanwhile, Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center (INREC) Chief Wilma Ibea said that farmers are expected to always keep their machineries in good condition.

"You should not take these (machineries) for granted. We hope that with our dedication in helping you, same dedication will also be given to the turned-over machineries," Ibea noted.

Also present during the ceremony are IN 1st District Board Member Ria Fariñas, Vintar Mayor Larissa C. Foronda, and Laoag City Mayor Chevylle V. Fariñas.

Machineries and equipment distributed were four wheel drive tractors, hand tractors,

transplanters, combine harvesters, mini threshers, pumps & engine set for STW, hammer mill, recirculating driers, corn shellers, knapsack sprayers, power sprayers, shallow tube wells, shredders, and vacuum sealer.

These are funded under the Rice Banner Program, Corn Banner Program, High Value Crops & Development Program, and Organic Agriculture Program of DA.//

DA gives out 120 units of farm machineries to LU farmers

where FAs from the 1st district received their farm machineries on the 1st day and FAs from the 2nd district of the province received their farm machineries on the second day.

"Agibunong iti DA iti libre nga makinarya ngem iti panagawat iti daytoy ket adda lakam na nga responsibilidad (DA distributes these farm machineries for free but having them comes with responsibility)," said Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations – Dir. Orlando J. Lorenzana as he stressed that the farm mechanization project's ultimate goal is to increase the productivity of farmers.

Mr. Adamor Dagang, Information and Tourism Officer, who represented La Union Governor Emmanuel "Pacoy" Ortega on the first day and Ms. Myrna Picazo, Asst. Provincial Agriculturist of La Union, on the second day, both expressed the visions of the governor for the province of La Union that is focused on the agri sector.

According to them, the governor wants that La Union will be the heart of Agri-Tourism of

the region by 2022. The province will continue to pursue developmental efforts to increase the income of farmers through interventions from the DA Regional Office, in partnership with the Provincial and Municipal Agriculture Offices. Part of which is also to sustain efficient farming system considering that La Union was a National Awardee in the recent Rice Achievers Award for having 102% sufficiency in rice.

Meanwhile, Dr. Annie Bares, Chief of the Field Operations Division, in her closing remarks during the program reminded the farmer association members to safeguard the agricultural machinery provided to them and avoid causing conflicts among members because of the improper use/management of these machineries.

There were 50 farmer associations from 14 municipalities in La Union who benefited from the 28.7M worth of farm machineries and equipment distributed by DA.//

The two-day distribution activity was held at the Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ILIARC) in Sapilang, Bacnotan, La Union





FAs of Pangasinan receive Php136.7M worth of farm machineries, equipment from DA

Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. to the farmers before the formal distribution of the farm machineries and equipment on July 30-31.

"If you do not take good care of it, by next year there may no longer be farm machineries for distribution, if there is - utang na, depende sa pag-uusapan ng mga nasa taas (congress)," he added.

Meanwhile, Ms. Jessica Guico, representing 3rd District Congresswoman "Baby" Arenas appreciated the event and expressed assurance of support from Cong. Baby Arenas on all DA programs and projects to improve the farming sector.

A total of 186 farmer organizations and associations from the six districts of Pangasinan

benefited from the Php136,715,788 worth of farm machineries and equipment comprising of combine harvester, 4-wheel drive tractor, mobile recirculating dryer, hand tractor, transplanter, pump and engine set, multi-cultivator, knapsack sprayer, power sprayer, and corn sheller from the fund of the Field Operations Division specifically from its three banner programs – Rice, Corn, and High Value Crops Development Program of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1.

The distribution was held at DA – Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC), Tebag, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan for two consecutive days. Recipients on the first day were farmer groups from Districts 1, 2, and 6, while recipients from districts 3,4 & 5 on the second day.//

Laborious farming not anymore: IN District II farmers acquire farm equipment, machineries

33 Farmer Associations (FAs) from the eight municipalities of Ilocos Norte(IN), District II are expected to lessen their laborious work in farming after receiving 124 units of various farm machineries and equipment worth 39.2M under the Rice Banner, Corn Banner, Livestock Banner, Organic Agriculture, and High Value Crops Development Program of the Department of Agriculture Region 1.

These were turned-over on August 2 at INREC, Batac City, Ilocos Norte.

Present during the activity were IN Governor Imee R. Marcos, local chief executives and representatives alongside RTD for Research and Regulations Orlando J. Lorenzana and INREC Center Chief Wilma Ibea.

As noted by IN Provincial Agriculturist Norma Lagmay, the distribution of machineries under the DA mechanization

program is a means for the agency to aid in the country's issue on the decreasing number of and aging farmers.

"They (our children) are not interested to sow the land and harvest anymore. Our children nowadays are less involved in farming and fishing. We have to do something about the future of our farmers." Lagmay added.

Based on the study conducted last year by STI Education Services Incorporated, it revealed that the average age for Filipino farmers is 57.

RTD Lorenzana on the other hand stressed that through the mechanization program, farmers should be able to increase their agricultural production however, it is a must that they should also be able to maintain and safeguard their equipment.

Among the machineries distributed were hand tractors, recirculating dryers, combine harvester, pumps & engine, 4WD tractors, cassava digger, corn shellers, multi cultivator, knapsack sprayer, power sprayer, silage processing machine set, and vacuum sealer. //



ENTREPRENEURS' RIGHTS FOR FAIR TRADE BARED IN SEMINAR



Participants pose in DA-RFO1's number 1 sign alongside the resource persons, Ms. Marjury Lorenzo and Mr. Danzen Imus of DTI Pangasinan after a whole day of forum, brainstorming, and knowledge sharing on entrepreneurs' rights.

Customers are always right...not anymore because trading players too have the rights for fair trade. This is being emphasized in the Orientation Seminar on Fair Trade Laws conducted by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) in tandem with the Department of Trade and Industry-Pangasinan.

Held at the Pangasinan Research & Experiment Center (PREC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on August 28, the one-day orientation seminar was participated in by around 30 individuals engaged in agribusiness enterprises.

Ms. Edilyn Goldara, Chief of the Agribusiness Industry Section of AMAD in her message during the Opening Program underscored the importance of the orientation-seminar activity to the participants in their agribusiness ventures. This is to provide them opportunity to

be well-informed about fair trade, while giving them safety nets, veering them away from committing violations in their trading process.

As embodied in Republic Act 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines, the fair trade law is being emphasized as it promotes consumer protection and fair competition among firms. Producers, small and medium enterprises and other stakeholders in the trading process have the rights and responsibilities as mandated by the existing fair trade laws.

Ms. Marjury Lorenzo, Head of the DTI-Pangasinan shared insights on how agribusiness enterprise must be handled to boost the economy. With the national government spending in the farming sector, Ms. Lorenzo noted that farmers engaged in agribusiness enterprises should take full advantage from these investments to realize the



main objective of increasing profitability in the agriculture sector.

Meanwhile, to encourage the participants to become compliant with the rules and regulations of the Consumer Act of the Philippines as well as other laws governing sustainable business enterprise, Mr. Danzen Imus, staff of the DTI-Pangasinan, explained in his lecture the salient features of RA 3883 otherwise known as the Business Name Law (as amended) and the RA 7581 also known as the Price Act Law.

According to Mr. Imus, the Business Name Law requires all single proprietor of business to register their business names at the Department of Trade and Industry using a firm name, business name or style. On the registration of corporations and partnership, Mr. Imus clarified that they should be registered under the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC). He also made emphasized that this Business Name registration far differ from the License to Operate where the latter can be accessed from the Local Government Unit at where the enterprise is located.

Giving emphasis on the Price Act Law, Mr. Imus stressed in his lecture the power of the Price Coordinating Council in protecting the consumers against undue price increases during emergency situations and how the government could address unstable prices of basic necessities and prime commodities.

Taking into consideration the policy of the state in ensuring the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at reasonable prices at all times without denying legitimate business a fair return on investment, DTI according to Mr. Imus is doing its best to weigh balance the interest of both parties.

Other topics on RA 7394 otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines in relation to consumer product and service warranties, deceptive sales acts and practices, labeling and fair packaging, and consumer complaints handling were also discussed by Mr. Imus.//

WOMEN, YOUTH COMPLETE INVESTMENT SEMINAR ON CASSAVA ENTERPRISE



Attentive to details, women and youth participants listen and observe on the step by step process of preparing a cassava delicacy.

Developing cassava as a fruitful business opportunity, selected women and youth from farmers' organizations in the region completed the investment seminar and entrepreneurial skill training on cassava processing for three days.

Through a hands-on training accompanied by participatory lectures, over 30 participants from each province in the region are expected to benefit.

The Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO 1), through the Corn banner program, held the final batch of the training at the DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (DA-PREC), Sual, Pangasinan on July 18-20 with La Union participants.

As one of the mostly grown root crop in the region, participants were taught on how to use cassava as main ingredient in preparing marketable delicacies.

The activity was a joint-effort with the Agri Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) personnel who, on the other hand, provided theoretical and practical knowledge on

establishing a business.

Other topics shared to participants were the importance of cooperativism, concept of entrepreneurship, business plan preparation, record keeping, good manufacturing practices, food safety, product labeling, packaging, and pricing.

Qualified participants per organization will be receiving a starter kit such as oven, mixing bowls, baking pan, and other baking utensils as soon as they comply to the required documents by the Corn banner program for validation.

Alongside 30 participants from La Union who recently completed the training, earlier trainings scheduled in June and first week of this month were completed by Pangasinan and Ilocos Sur participants at DA-PREC Sual and Ilocos Norte participants at DA-INREC Batac.

The training is in support to the mandate of the cassava program towards an enhanced cassava production, increased farmers' income, and employment opportunities in the rural areas. //

AGENCY REVIEW OF R&D PROJECTS HELD

Looking for researches that would tailor-fit the needs of the farmers and agriculture in Ilocos Region, the Research Division of DA-RFO I conducted an agency in-house review on their research and development projects at Pangasinan Regency Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan on August 8-10, 2018.

This is done annually to refine and evaluate the completed, on-going and new projects of the agency and to disseminate significant results to farmers. Furthermore, it aims to select the best papers for ILAARRDEC 2018 Commodity Review for fruits and vegetables.

A total of 27 papers were presented during the agency in-house review and out of this, 18 papers were categorized as research and 9 falls under development category. Most of the presentations were rice and rice-based related studies.

Among
the

papers presented, "PRISM: An operational system for Rice monitoring in support to decision making towards rice production in Region 1" by Mr. Melvin Agngarayngay bagged the first place in Research category while the "CPAR on rice-based (rice-mungbean) farming system in Balungao, Pangasinan" by Ms. Karen Arabiana ranked first place under the Development category.

RTD Orlando Lorenzana, Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations in his speech encouraged the young researchers saying, "Farmers are getting old, in fact, the average age of Filipino farmers is 56 years old, that's why we need to

conduct researches to help make their labor easier."

The panel of evaluators is composed of Ms. Roxanne Posadas, Soil Scientist and Agronomist(PSU-Lingayen), Dr. Glen Ilar, an expert of Agricultural and Rural Development(PhilRice), and Dr. Patricia Barcelo, Animal Nutritionist from DMMMSU-Bacnotan.//



DA WITH CORN AEWs ATTENDS CY 2018 REVIEW, PLANNING WORKSHOP



In photo are the AEWs, DA-RFO 1 Corn Banner staff and RTD for Research and Regulations Orlando J. Lorenzana at Kultura Splash Wave, Pugo, La Union for the Corn CY 2018 Review and Planning Workshop.

"By this last week of the third quarter and first week of the fourth quarter, we will begin to establish our 10-hectare farm model for flint corn at Caoayan, Ilocos Sur and 20 hectares for cassava at Binalonan, Pangasinan," Ms. Rhoda A. Galban, Senior Agriculturist/Focal Person of the DA-RFO 1 Corn Banner Program stressed during the CY 2018 3rd and 4th Quarter Review and Planning Workshop of the Corn Banner Program at Kultura Splash Wave, Pugo La Union.

"Unfortunately, the 10-hectare farm model for flint corn was reported totally damaged," she added.

During the previous CY 2017 and 2018 Planning Workshop conducted in March by the Corn Banner Program, Ms. Josephine Cabanban, Regional Corn Coordinator aggressively campaigned for the conduct of a 50-hectare corn model farm highlighting the planting of flint corn as part of the program and projects of the Department of Agriculture.

However, farmers are hesitant to have the 50-hectare production because flint corn is not that valuable in the market.

As a result, DA in tandem with the Corn AEWs decided to only have 10 hectares for the flint corn farm model.

In his message, Dir. Orlando J. Lorenzana, Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations said, "Adda tayo ditoy tapnun iretaso tayo no anya dagiti mabalin tayo manen nga aramiden (projects) under Corn Banner Program para iti daytoy sumaruno nga fourth quarter." (We are here to polish our plans for the fourth quarter).

Mr. Justin Trey Cubos, Representative of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council highlighted the two new Easy Access Loan categories: The Working Capital Loan to Finance working capital requirements of trading, marketing, processing of agri-fisheries products. This is a loan of up to 5 Million Pesos and with 6% interest per annum based on diminishing balance and amortized based on cash flow up to 5 years.

Secondly, the Farm Machinery Loan, which is to Finance acquisition of machinery, equipment and/or facilities from production, harvesting to post

harvest. Loan amount is the acquisition cost of the machine/equipment and with 6% interest per annum based on diminishing balance. It is amortized based on cash flow up to 10 years.

Meanwhile, to give the latest weather update to help the farmers know when is the suitable time to plan for their farming activities, Mr. Gregorio De Vera – Weather Specialist II, Agro-River Flooding Forecasting discussed the current weather situation.

For the update of the corn and cassava for the first semester CY 2018, Mr. Melchor S. Bautista and Ms. Jackielyn Baldovi both Statistical Specialist II of the Philippine Statistics Authority reported that corn production in Region 1 increased from 5.95MT/HA to 5.97MT/HA so with cassava production from 17.79MT/HA to 18.19MT/HA.

The review and planning workshop was attended by Corn AEWs from La Union and Pangasinan on September 18-19, 2018 and September 20-21, 2018 for the participants from Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.//

DA-RFO 1 RED Alviar and Pangasinan Governor Amado I. Espino, III welcome DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol upon his arrival at the airport in Lingayen, Pangasinan after his aerial inspection on the damaged agricultural areas of the province due to typhoons Henry, Inday, and Josie.



DA PROVIDES PANGASINAN WITH OVER 81M WORTH OF REHAB ASSISTANCE

Bringing comfort and hope to the Pangasinense farmers who were greatly affected by the Tropical storm Josie as induced by the Southwest Monsoon, Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol awarded Php81.6 million worth of initial agricultural assistance to the Province of Pangasinan on July 26 at the Sison Auditorium, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Received by Pangasinan Governor Amado Espino III together with the Provincial Board Members and some Local Chief Executives of the province, the initial assistance is part of the DA's relief and recovery efforts to the typhoon affected farmers.

Along with the corn and rice seeds for distribution to the affected farmers, Sec. Piñol assured P50M loan fund that can be accessed by the Pangasinan farmers and fisherfolks via the Agricultural Credit Policy Council's (ACPC) Survival and

Recovery Loan (SURE) and Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) Programs.

According to the Secretary, farmers and fisherfolk can borrow an amount from Php5,000 to Php 25,000 without interest, collateral, and is payable within three years.

Assuring that loans can now be easily accessed by farmers through DA's credit programs, Sec. Piñol reminded the policies and guidelines in availing of the program. "Huwag nating pahirapan ang mga magsasaka na gustong umutang ng kanilang capital.. pambili ng binhi. Simplehan lang natin (ang proseso)," Piñol added.

Farmers and Fisherfolk who are interested to avail the program should be a member of a registered association. They will undergo a workshop orientation with ACPC and will be issued with IDs.

Meanwhile, prior to his visit in Lingayen, Secretary Piñol, through an aerial inspection, personally checked the 32,000 hectare damaged farm areas of Pangasinan.

"Nung papasok na kami ng Pangasinan doon ko nakita iyong talagang malaki ang damage. Hanggang ngayon may tubig pa," he said during his dialogue with the farmers.

Based on the latest damage report of the DA-RFO I's Regional Risk Reduction Management and Operation Center, Ilocos Region's loss in the agriculture sector has reached a total value of P661,018,559.00 in the province of Pangasinan alone.

RED Alviar on the other hand said that hybrid palay and corn seeds along with certified palay seeds will be made available in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan for distribution.//



Mr. Sahraman Disomimba, Project Development Officer of the Halal Program Management Office (HPMO) discussing the documentary requirements and processes in acquiring a Halal Certificate.

HALAL FOOD INDUSTRY PROGRAM TO BENEFIT AGRI-ENTREPRENEURS

Encouraging the agri-based industry stakeholders to embrace new marketing prospects for their products, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division conducted a two-day orientation-seminar on Halal Certification at Regency Hotel in Calasiao, Pangasinan.

Attended by 35 agribusiness entrepreneurs, producers and food manufacturers who are interested to penetrate the marketing prospects for Halal Industries, the orientation-seminar also provided an avenue to understand better the set standards, objectives, strategies and activities of the HFID Program, its features and components for better understanding and appreciation of the Program.

In his discussion about the DA-HFID Program, Mr. Sahraman Disomimba, Project Development Officer of the Halal Program Management Office (HPMO) gave emphasis on the benefits that can be derived in promoting Halal products, processes and services as it will not only enhance the capacities and global competitiveness of agricultural products but more on the health advantages that it could provide for both Muslim and non-Muslim stakeholders.

demand for Halal products both in local and international markets, Disomimba gave hope for the agribusiness entrepreneurs present during the orientation seminar on the potential market of their products especially for those who are engaged in goat production.

With Ilocos Region as the major goat producing region in the country, goat raisers deemed necessary to learn the basic requirements in securing Halal Certification.

However, prior to securing the Halal Certification, Disomimba said that there is a need to provide first the basic knowledge and information about Halal and the HFID Program.

According to him, Halal is a Qur'anic term which means permitted, lawful, legal, legitimate, allowed, acceptable, unprohibited or unforbidden for consumption or to be eaten in accordance with Shariah Law. He also described Haram, the opposite of Halal as any activity or food that is forbidden, prohibited, not permitted or unlawful according to Shariah Law due to bad or harmful effects to health, environment or society like eating meat from swine such as pork, ham, gammon, bacon including its by-products.

and improper ritual rites before they are being slaughtered can also be considered as Haram," Disomimba added.

To take advantage on the benefits of this possible marketing outlet for agri-based products, Disomimba recognized the importance of securing a Halal Certification accredited by the Halal Certifying Body.

To apply for Halal Certification, applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the staff of the HPMO and the Regional Halal Focal Person subject to some conditions and documentary requirements asked from the interested parties.

Likewise, to provide the participants with the knowledge and information about the requirements and certification standards and enabling regulations on Halal, Disomimba has also discussed the Philippine National Standards or the Code of Halal Slaughtering Practices for Poultry, for Ruminants and Fisheries Products by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS).

Meanwhile, as part of the promotion efforts for the sustainability of the Halal Industry Development Program, DA has already included the DA-HIFD as among the major Banner Program of the Department of Agriculture.//

Giving emphasis on the increasing

"The improper slaughtering of animals

OUR ACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE,
A #ZeroHunger World by 2030 is Possible

This year's theme in celebration of World Food Day is a practical example of the law of action-reaction in the context of food security.

As portrayed by Ms. Cami Kyndra Tiburcio in this art work, a man's responsible actions today will result to our desired society in the future - zero hunger.

As the so-called higher beings in this planet, are our actions today from someone who is really 'higher'?

