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DAMAG Gantri

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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

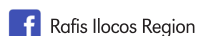


THE COVER

This quarter's cover is the winning entry for the 2018 National Rice Awareness Month photo contest. It was submitted by Ms. Dessa U. Estrada. As noted in her caption, children in the Philippines are also involved in rice farming even at a very young age. It is a culture that hones the mindset of the young generation to take pride in farming rather than treat it as a grueling profession.

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DA-RFO I eyes ISO 9001:2015 Certification

After the successful launching of the Corporate Plan early this year, a first in the entire DA-RFOs in the country, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) sets its eye on being ISO 9001:2015 Certified.

Having passed the Stage 2 Audit for Quality Management System (QMS) on Nov. 28-30, 2018 conducted by the Certification International Philippine, Inc., (CIPI) with minimal minor non-conformities to comply with, the DA-RFO I employees led by Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr. expressed confidence that it could soon get its ISO 9001:2015 Certification.

Based on the Stage 2 Audit made by Mr. Michael Jordel Matundan and Ms. Aravilla Bukas of CIPI, a total of 12 minor non-conformities were noted in their audit but could be well managed by the QMS members to comply within the set deadline.

To address the minor non-conformities, top management, together with the division heads and members of the Quality Management System set a five-day workshop to discuss and refine the required documents.

DA-RFO I was given a maximum of one month or 30-days grace period upon receipt of the report from the auditors to comply with the minor non-conformities.

This effort of the DA-RFO I to be ISO 9001:2015 certified will improve the delivery of goods and services to clients in the agriculture sector as it will meet International standards.

The ISO Certification is a proof that goods and services provided by an organization like the DA-RFO I is of high



Staff from the Regulatory Division present documentary evidences to Mr. Michael Matundan during the Stage 2 audit, November 28, 2018.

quality, efficient and effective towards customer satisfaction and conforms to regulatory requirements.

Should the DA-RFO I be issued with the ISO 9001:2015 Certification, it would be the second DA-Regional Field Office in the country to be ISO certified, along with the DA-RFO II in the Cagayan Valley Region.

Feedlab on IMS certification

In pursuit of DA RFOI's Regional Feed Chemical Analysis Laboratory for an ISO Integrated Management System (ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System and ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System) certification, the staff alongside Bureau of Fire Protection >>>



Firemen from the BFP- Sta.Barbara Station demonstrate proper emergency responses during fire accidents to the Integrated Laboratory Division-Regional Feed Chemical Analysis Laboratory staff at the partially established ILD building at Sta.Barbara - PREC, Pangasinan.



ILD-RFCAL staff held numerous tries until fast and accurate emergency response to chemical spill was accomplished.

- Sta. Barbara Fire Station, held a fire drill at the Integrated and Laboratories Division (ILD) building in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on November 23.

This is one of the identified minor non-conformities of the laboratory during their stage two ISO audit in November 8-9 . The laboratory has to comply with RA No. 9514 also known as the "Fire Code of the Philippines" and should have staff trained on handling chemical spills.

As such, the Regional Feed Laboratory chemists, laboratory aides, and technicians also went through a chemical spill drill in its sub-laboratories

in the regional office in San Fernando, La Union and in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on November 21 and 22.

DA-RFO I's Feed Laboratory aspires for an ISO certification to ensure higher quality services to its clients in the region specifically in feed analysis. It is the first laboratory in the whole DA regional office applying for ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System.

Mr. King Bergonia, Chief of the Feed Laboratory, noted that during the certification process, they were able to realize possible threats of the laboratory to its staff especially on fire accidents

and chemical spills hence the creation of an Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team.

The Feed Laboratory EPR team will be headed by Mr. Erwin Aquino, Agriculturist II of the Regional Soils Laboratory (RSL) with members namely Ms. Estrellita T. Matro, Laboratory Technician of RFCAL, Dr. Steciusneil P. Agustin, Veterinarian II of the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL), Mr. Quezon Javier, Agriculturist II of RSL, and Dr. Charish Erica Maala, Veterinarian II of RADDL.



Mr. Ariel Agresor presenting their CPAR project during the DA-BAR National Research Symposium at the PICC, Pasay City on November 8, 2018.

CPAR project bags gold at nat'l symposium

Keeping true to its battle cry “All for one, always number one,” the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I’s research entry in the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) 30th National Research Symposium - Development Category in 2018 bagged the Gold Award this year.

The winning entry titled “CPAR on the Integrated Rice-Based Farming System: An Approach Towards Community Driven Agricultural Development in Ilocos Norte” was presented by Mr. Mark Ariel Agresor, main author. Co-authors of the project include Ms. Melinda G. Calumpit, Ms. Evelyn de los Reyes, Ms. Justina Sacro, Ms. Joi Labii,

and Mr. Eliemar Ragadi.

The project is a four-year effort of the team in collaboration with national agencies, local government units, and farmer-cooperators of Ilocos Norte.

With the goal of empowering communities in the region, the research established technology demonstration sites in partnership with the farmers which targeted the enhancement of their production management systems and increased production efficiency.

Among the 176 papers submitted, 31 research papers scored 85% and above. The 31 finalists competed during the symposium proper for the AFMA Best R&D paper under the following

categories: Basic Research, Applied Research TG/ IG/ TA/ TV Agriculture, Applied Research TG/ IG/ TA/ TV Fisheries, Socio-economics, and Development Research.

The team of Agresor received a cash prize of P100,000 and a proposal-based research grant amounting to Php 2,000,000 which will be used for the wide-scale adoption and upscaling of the project.

The presentation proper and awarding ceremony of the symposium was held at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City on November 7-8, 2018.

NRAM 2018 towards 'Quality Rice. Quality Life.'

Rice must be produced, and it must be valued.

This emphasizes the significant role of farmers in producing quality rice to feed the people, and in return, the consumers must also take seriously their role in giving value to rice through responsible consumption to achieve quality life.

Taking part in celebrating the National Rice Awareness Month with the theme "Quality rice, Quality life.", employees of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) took part in a "10K Fun Run for RICEponsibility" held in San Fernando City, La Union on November 9, 2018 as a kick-off activity for the National Rice Awareness Month 2018 (NRAM 2018).

This year's NRAM celebration theme focuses on how farmers and consumers can work together to produce quality rice and achieve quality life. It points out the impact of every person's action in achieving rice security in the country and that every Filipino has a role to

play.

"Farmers are our partners. We need to capacitate them with the right technologies," said DA-RFO1 OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations Erlinda F. Manipon adding that there are a lot of cost-effective technologies at the same time production enhancing technologies from PhilRice, Bureau of Agricultural Research, and all other research institutions in the country that can help farmers increase their rice production.

"On the other hand, we as rice consumers must also take our role seriously in not wasting rice. Sana isa-puso natin ang ating Panatang Makapalay at kumuha lamang ng kanin na kaya nating ubusin sa ating mga pinggan tuwing kakain," RTD Manipon stressed.

Since 2013 when the National Year of Rice was initially launched, DA in partnership with PhilRice, consistently

came up with various strategies to carry out the Be RICEponsible Campaign to lessen rice wastage and promote consumption of healthier rice consequently helping farmers increase their income as well.

According to a 2013 research study on Filipinos' rice consumption, an average of 14 grams or 3 tablespoons of cooked rice daily is wasted which can be equated to 42% of the total rice import for that year and could have fed around 4.6 million Filipinos.

Hence, with the National Rice Awareness Campaign, the advocacy hopes to instill in the minds of the consuming public that wasting rice no matter how small it is, can hinder the achievement of our goal for rice security.

Other than the 10K fun run, a photo contest highlighting this year's NRAM theme took part in the various activities set by DA-RFO I to intensify its Rice Awareness campaign in the region.

Photo contest entries

1ST PLACE, ENTRY BY MS. DESSA ESTRADA

As rice is a staple food for Filipinos, farming families involve their children from a very young age in rice production. Growing quality rice is a farming family's legacy.



2ND PLACE, ENTRY BY MS. DAIZY DACUMOS

Building the youth's future one rice grain at a time.





3RD PLACE, ENTRY BY MR. ALVIN GALIZA

Sa bawat pagtahip ng butil nang palay, may buhay na maiaangat.



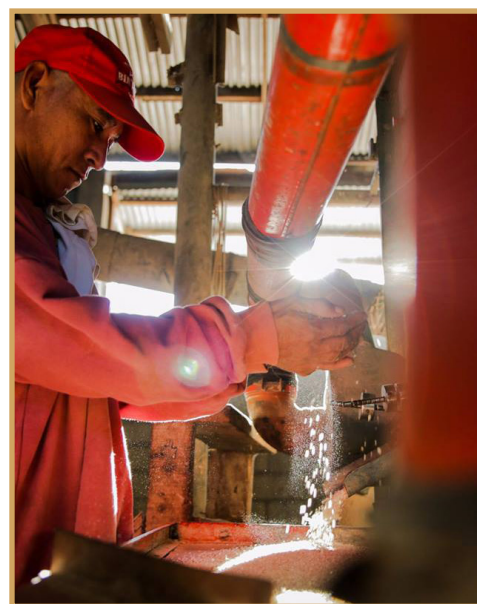
ENTRY BY MS. NARCY VENDILLO

A farmer's life is lived simply. It is smiling for every grain of quality rice.



ENTRY BY MR. MARK URBI

The quality of our rice is the product of farmers' passion and hard work. As such, farmers deserve nothing but quality lives



ENTRY BY MR. ALEX BELCIGA

Milling is an integral part of producing quality rice. It removes the husk and the bran layers, exposing the edible white rice kernel.

ENTRY BY MR. ERWIN FRIGILLANA

Good quality seeds plus proper management equals golden harvest.



ENTRY BY MS. JANET RAMOS

The quality of the rice that we eat is in the hands of our farmers. But whose hands hold the quality of lives of the farmers? Let us all ponder on this as we celebrate the National Rice Awareness Month.



ENTRY BY MR. LHESTER GARCIA

Pagsasaka ay pinagtutuonan ng pansin at oras, masigurado lang na de-kalidad ang bigas at may maihaing kanin sa mga darating pang bukas. Kaya huwag itong sayangin ng walang-habas. Dahil bawat butil ng bigas, tagaktak ng pawis ng mga magsasaka ang katumbas.



ENTRY BY MR. NORWEN CERVERA

In a technologically advanced world, farmers must be willing to learn on how to use modern equipment such as transplanter to increase their yield thus, cope up with the increasing demand due to increasing population.



ENTRY BY MR. DOMINIC PILIPIÑA

Kung may tiyaga, may biyaya..



ENTRY BY MS. NECY BARCEL

To produce Quality Rice we also take care of what we planted so that it can produce high production for a better Quality Life." A woman weeding of her rice paddies."



ENTRY BY MR. AEROL JAKE CANDAROMA

A whole-hearted "Nanay" harvesting rice for a quality life.



ENTRY BY MS. REINAMAE BANQUIRIG

Clean rice to achieve quality rice

DA Ilocos lauds outstanding farmers in Gawad Saka awarding ceremony

“Stop labeling farmers as the filthy, lazy, poor stupid farmers.”

- Caranguian

This is the statement of Dr. Lorenzo M. Caranguian, Senior Special Technical Assistant of the National Corn Banner Program, in his inspirational message during the Regional 2018 Gawad Saka Awarding Ceremony on October 12, 2018.

Dr. Caranguian represented the Assistant Secretary for Field Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Engineer Ariel Cayan, as the Guest of Honor and Speaker reminding the awardees of their responsibilities of helping the DA in its mission of producing available, accessible and affordable food for every family's table.

“It is your responsibility to produce more, teach other farmers of your ways, and learn to realize that farming is an enterprise, a business that provides you a good income,” Caranguian said.

Finding hope that the 2.5 million farmers in the country would feed around 106 million Filipinos, Caranguian gladly informed the group about the additional P20 billion budget that was given to the DA over and above the P45 billion earmarked fund of the Department.

He saw brighter prospects in the agriculture sector as he urged the Local Government Units' support to implement the agriculture and fishery programs and projects with the formulation of the local food security

plan that form part of the 5-year National Food Security Plan of the DA.

Sending his congratulations to the regional awardees, he encouraged them to multiply themselves by inspiring others with their exemplary performance to carry out DA's ultimate vision on food security and sufficiency in the country.

Meanwhile, Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director, in his message during the awarding ceremonies, commended the eight entries of the Ilocos Region in the National Gawad Saka Search out of the 13 regional entries forwarded at the national level.

He likewise encouraged the Local Government Units to sustain their support in the Gawad Saka Search especially in the province of Pangasinan so that all entries from the 24 categories of the search shall be completed to increase the chance of the Region to produce National Gawad Saka winners.

Recognizing their exemplary performance and valuable contribution in agricultural development, the following individuals and groups were given plaque of recognition plus a cash award of P50,000 and 75,000, respectively:

1. Mr. Romeo P. Ganiron – Outstanding Rice Farmer
2. Mr. Edmar F. Piano – Outstanding

Corn Farmer

3. Mr. Gilbert Pasion – Outstanding Large Animal Raiser

4. Mr. John Lei Ganiron – Outstanding Young Farmer

5. Mr. Domingo F. La Torre – Outstanding Fisherfolk (Fish Capture Category)

6. Ms. Edita Dacuycuy – Outstanding Agri-Entrepreneur

7. Mr. Ray Raphael T. Dacones – Outstanding OA Farmer

8. Magumbayan MPC – Outstanding Small Farmer Organization

9. MAFC San Nicolas – Outstanding Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Council (MAFC)

10. Balidbid RIC – Outstanding Rural Improvement Club (RIC)

11. Mr. & Mrs. Dominador Ignacio & Family – Outstanding Farm Family

12. Bacnotan MFARMC – Outstanding FARMC

13. Rosario Young Farmer 4-H Club – Outstanding Young Farmer Organization

Special Awardees:

14. Ms. Carmelita Agluba – Outstanding Rural Women

15. Ms. Liza E. Domingo – Outstanding AEW

16. Ms. Rosalia Pastor – Outstanding Gawad Saka Advocate

The ceremony was held at the Oasis Country Resort, San Fernando City, La Union.



Gawad Saka Awardees poses for posterity alongside DA-RFO 1 Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr.; Technical Director for Operations Erlinda F. Manipon; Technical Director for Research and Regulatory Orlando J. Lorenzana; RAFC-Region 1 Chairman Vincent Adorna; and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Lorenzo M. Caranguan during the awarding ceremony at the Oasis Country Resort, San Fernando City, La union on October 12, 2018.

In his message as Guest of Honor during the 5th District Science and Technology Caravan in Laoac, Pangasinan, Secretary Piñol urged farmers to be trustworthy beneficiaries of the DA's interventions specifically on the Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) program of the ACPC.



NFA to implement reforms on rice marketing

"By last week of October, the Department of Agriculture through the National Food Authority (NFA) will be implementing a suggested retail price for three classifications of rice. The Regular Milled Rice which will be sold at P38.00, Well-milled rice which will be sold at around P40.00-41.00, and the Whole Grain head rice which will be considered as Class A rice and will be sold at P42-44.00."

Sec. Emmanuel F. Piñol announced this in a press conference held at Laoac Municipal Hall in Laoac, Pangasinan.

Speaking to media, together with invited Local Chief Executives from Pangasinan, Sec. Piñol further mentioned that rice retailers must only label their rice with these four classifications. Other than the regular, well milled and whole grain, the fourth rice classification will be the Special Rice (fancy) but no SRP has been set for this as cost will be determined by its variety.

"Ang special rice ay wala talagang

suggested retail price because its special, if you want organic rice or pinawa rice from Cordillera then it depends on the seller if how much will be its selling price," explained Sec. Piñol.

"The RC 160 variety will be considered as Special rice because market price for it is really high for it has really good quality and very in demand in the market. Suggested price will be around P45.00 for this," Piñol added.

Piñol also announced that by mid of 2019, all rice sold in the market will be vacuum sealed for food safety purposes. It will also be labelled of its correct volume (kg), name of producers and rice miller for traceability. He said this will protect consumers from being cheated of the actual weight of rice goods they purchase.

Pleased that NFA is now under the Department of Agriculture umbrella, Piñol said this will allow DA to have a hand on the procurement plan.

"Let the private sector import and let NFA focus on the procurement of local

rice to protect our farmers," he said.

As a way to encourage rice farmers to sell their produce to NFA, additional incentives will be given to them.

"If a farmer member will deliver his rice harvest to the NFA, the farmer will be given additional incentives worth P3.70 per kilogram. Kasi we agreed that the base price for clean and dry rice is P17.00. So, all in all P20.70 will be the price," Sec. Piñol said.

"Moreover, if a rice association will deliver directly to the NFA a determined volume, we will be giving them additional incentives as well. We will give them farm machinery or even Solar Power Irrigation System depends on the production volume they will deliver," he added.

Secretary Piñol was personally invited by Laoac Mayor Silverio D. Alarcio, Jr. as guest of honor and speaker during the conduct of the 5th District Science and Technology Caravan on October 10, 2018 hosted by the Municipality of Laoac, Pangasinan.

DA-RFO I tops NNC's Search for Best Office Garden 2018

Joining the National Nutrition Council's (NNC's) Search for Best Office Garden as part of the lined-up activities for 2018's celebration of Nutrition Month, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) took the first place bringing home Php 20,000.00 cash award and a plaque of recognition.

The award was received by Ms. Rosemarie Villanueva of the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division who spearheaded the establishment of the food garden in the office alongside staff of the General Services Section.

The search was launched in July 2018 to encourage families, communities, and government employees to engage in food gardening towards improved food and nutrition especially among Filipino children. It is also an initiative to promote household food security.

The office food garden was established in a 20-square meter area at the office with various vegetables planted in recycled pots.

DA-RFO I is among the eight participating agencies in the search alongside National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and five other government agencies in the region. As part of the criteria, the agencies observed the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices and had proper documentation on the establishment of the office garden



Above. DA-RFO I's office garden at the 2nd floor terrace before the judging proper.

Right. Ms. Rose P. Villanueva alongside Ms. Jinnefer Pulmano and Ms. Chara Reina Buccat of PMED accompanies the judges namely Mr. Jimboy Leganio of ITRMC, La Union Asst. Prov'l Agriculturist Ms. Myrna Picazo, NNC's Ms. Christie Ferino and Ms. Bea Caluza, and LU Prov'l Nutrition Action Officer Ms. Remelina Maglaya.



from planting until the harvesting operation.

This year's theme of the Nutrition month celebration is "Ugaliing Magtanim, Sapat na Nutrisyon Aanihin," which focuses on NNC's campaign to improve the health

condition of Filipinos by consuming safe and nutritious food through backyard gardening.

The awarding ceremony was held on December 18 at Max's Restaurant, San Fernando City, La Union.

Livestock banner warns on

ASF

Though Region 1 is still negative on African Swine Fever (ASF), the Livestock Banner Program is on guard to prevent the possible widespread of the disease.

The Provincial/City Veterinarians and Quarantine Officers were called for an emergency meeting on December 3 alongside experts from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and National Meat Inspection Services (NMIS).

In his report, Dr. Christopher James Tomas of BAI shared that ASF is a very infectious hemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs of all ages and is characterized by high fever, loss of appetite, bleeding in the skin and internal organs, and death that follows between 2-10 days on average.

The first case of African Swine Fever (ASF) was in China that was reported on August 3, 2018 in the northeastern province of Liaoning.

“ASF does not pose threat to human health. But for animals affected by this, there is no treatment for it, no vaccine and it is highly contagious,” Tomas added.

The DA, in coordination with BAI has set five possible ways to prevent ASF in

the region.

1. Ban Pork Imports. The DA issued a Memorandum Order No. 23 Series of 2018 which sets Temporary Ban on the Importation of Domestic and Wild Pigs and their Products Including Pork Meat and Semen Originating from Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and China.

2. Avoid Swill Feeding. Swine raisers are advised to avoid the use of domestic food waste as swill feed for pigs.

3. DA has issued Memorandum Order No. 22 Series of 2018 prohibiting the use of Catering Food Wastes/Left-overs from International and Domestic Airports and Seaports as Swine Swill Feed throughout the Country.

4. Education. All concerned agencies should have massive information dissemination, in collaboration with the swine industry stakeholders as per ASF Technical Advisory that was released on August 31, 2018.

5. Submit Samples. A test must

immediately be conducted if there is an unusual sickness and mortalities observed by swine raisers on their livestock.

Meanwhile, Dr. Benjamin Ike Paguyu - Veterinarian III, discussed the livestock quarantine protocols particularly on quarantinable items like, feedstuff and raw materials, by-products in livestock and poultry production, dog food, live animals, processed and semi-processed meat, veterinary drugs and biologics, raw meat, among others.

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 has a Regional Quick Response Team (RQRT) for disease events and emergency headed by Dr. Florentino A. Adame – Chief, Regulatory Division. The team is assigned to lead the conduct of animal disease investigation and control activities in the region. They shall coordinate with local government units and other concerned agencies in the conduct of animal disease investigations and submit report.



Participants of the Food Safety Caravan together with Mr. Pedro Dumaraos from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regulations and Mr. Florentino Adame, DA-RFO 1 Regulatory Division Chief.

DA holds 2018 Food Safety Caravan

Encouraging the active participation of the public in the implementation of the Rules and Regulations of the Food Safety Act of 2013, the Department of Agriculture through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regulations conducted a series of nationwide Food Safety Caravan 2018. One of the selected venues is in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur.

With the theme “Sapat na Kaalaman sa Ligtas na Pagkain: Kalusugan at Kaligtasan ay Tiyakin, Bawat Araw Gawing Adhikain,” the Food Safety Caravan was participated by farmers and fishers, food business retailers and operators, food processors, market vendors and the local agriculture and veterinary, health and sanitation officials of the City of Vigan.

In his discussion on the salient features of Food Safety Act of 2013, DA's Focal Person on Food Safety, Dr. Pedro Dumaraos stressed the role of everyone to realize the goals and objectives of RA 10611.

RA 10611 or the Food Safety Act of 2013 is an Act to strengthen the Food Safety Regulatory System in the country to protect consumer health and facilitate market access of local foods and food products.

According to Dumaraos, there is a need to revisit the manual about the Food Safety

Act due to the pressing food-related issues and concerns happening not only in the local scene but worldwide.

Citing the latest news about food poisoning both at the local and international scene, he urged the active participation of the attendees in the caravan to be proactive in doing their roles of keeping and ensuring food to be safe and fit for human consumption.

“Food safety is everybody's concern. It should be part of our everyday life,” he added.

While encouraging everyone to do his/her part, Dumaraos also noted the role of the DA in not only focusing on its mandate on food security but to also look for the safety of food produced and processed for human consumption.

In tandem with the Department of Health, Dumaraos said that DA should strengthen its Regulatory function in

coordination with the Local Government Units and the members of the Food Safety Regulation Coordinating Board to ensure the success of implementation of the rules and regulations of the Food Safety Act.

As one of the DA's approaches to regulate the food production in the country, he also identified among others some policies addressing food safety concerns such as the provision of certifications to the food producers like the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).

Meanwhile, to inform the attendees about the initiatives of Vigan City in terms of Food Safety, Mr. Rodolfo C. Peralta and Dr. Rayeth Robeniol, the City Agriculturist and staff of the Veterinary Office shared the city's programs and projects in support to the Food Safety Act of 2013.

AMAD conducts regional trade fair;

DA's marketing assistance to farmers bared



Mr. Roberto Espanto, Municipal Agriculturist of Rosales, Pangasinan and RTD for Operations Erlinda F. Manipon officially open the Regional Agriculture Trade Fair at SM Rosales, Pangasinan.

Providing an avenue for the producers and processors of agri-fishery based products a marketing outlet of their produce directly to the consumers, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) through the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), conducted a three-day Regional Agriculture Trade Fair at SM Rosales, Rosales, Pangasinan.

The activity started on October 19, 2018 and ended on October 21, 2018. It is in collaboration with the Local Government Units of Pangasinan and the 24 exhibitors who have displayed their agri-fishery based products.

In her message during the Opening Program, Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon, DA-RFO I's Regional Technical Director for Operations bared some of the interventions that the department has been doing to help the producers in promoting and marketing their products.

Among these interventions she mentioned include the conduct of the agri-trade fair, the assistance in securing

the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certifications, as well as linking them with the financial institutions that could help in providing capital or financial assistance in the production as well as processing of agricultural products.

"With the pressing concern on our health and wellness, let us continue to produce more, but we need to incorporate the GAP," Manipon said.

More than anything, she advised the exhibitors to look for the selling price where profit is just enough. "Tumubo ng tamang-tama lang," she added.

Mr. Ramy Sison, the Provincial Agribusiness Coordinator of Pangasinan in behalf of Ms. Dalisay Moya, the Provincial Agriculturist noted in his message the leveling-up of the initiatives and innovations of the DA-AMAD in promoting the agricultural products in the region.

"Kung dati sa probi-probinsiya lang ang venue ng mga trade-fair, ngayon,

nag-level up na dahil sa mga mall na tayo nagka- conduct ng trade-fair. Dahil dito lumalawak ang market ng ating mga products," Sison said.

Ms. Lorna Tabali, Chief of the Market Development Section of AMAD stressed in her overview of the activity the importance of attending activities such as this trade fair as it provides not only a market for the products but the privilege of exposing one's self on the technical know-how in putting up agri-based business ventures from the conduct of entrepreneurial forum. Resource persons were invited to discuss topics on values orientation for business entrepreneurs, credit-window for agripreneurs, investment concept on cacao production, and sharing of experiences of successful entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, based on AMAD's report, the regional trade fair has generated a total cash sale of Php560,000 while the book sales or pre-orders for delivery from the buyers have reached to P1.4M.



The NSIC Rc478, NSIC Rc476 and NSIC Rc358 varieties were most preferred by the farmers based on what they have observed from among the standing crop of the 11 seed varieties.

DA Ilocos conducts Rice Field Day on NextGen rice varieties

Introducing the next generation of rice varieties which could be planted and best suited under the rain fed/drought ecosystem in Ilocos Region, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Ilocos Norte Research & Experiment Center (INREC) at Brgy. Tabug, Batac City, Ilocos Norte conducted a Rice Field Day at Brgy. Labnig, San Juan, Ilocos Sur.

Attended by around 60 farmers and staff from the Provincial and Municipal Agriculture Offices in the province of Ilocos Sur, the Rice Field Day served as an avenue for the farmers to select which among the 11 rain fed rice varieties is suitable in the field that could give higher yield and could withstand the adverse weather conditions especially the onslaught of typhoons and floods.

From among the 11 seed rain fed-varieties (NSIC Rc428, NSIC Rc430, NSIC Rc434, NSIC Rc472, NSIC Rc474, NSIC Rc476, NSIC Rc478, NSIC Rc480,

NSIC Rc192 (check variety), NSIC Rc27 (check var) and farmer's variety or NSIC Rc358), the NSIC Rc478, NSIC Rc476 and NSIC Rc358 were most preferred by the farmers based on what they have observed from among the standing crop of these 11 seed varieties.

The NSIC Rc428 and NSIC Rc430 were the least favorite due to the appearance of the standing crop that were lodged and showed presence of severe white heads after the onslaught of Typhoon Ompong.

Result of the field day also revealed that NSIC Rc473 is the tallest among the 11 varieties with 109.8 cms. height and the NSIC Rc430, NSIC Rc474 and NSIC Rc476 having the most number of productive tillers.

In her message during the activity, Ms. Myrna Ligaya Enriquez, DA-RFO I's representative, underscored the relevance of the activity in providing opportunity for farmers to have better

seed varieties and improved genetics thereby enhancing the adoption rate of these varieties in the field.

"Five to ten years from now, we will commercialize these seed varieties to give you more options on what to plant for a specific condition or ecosystem," Ms. Enriquez said.

Meanwhile, to provide other options under the saline ecosystem, farmer-attendees also requested to conduct another set-up of next generation project for the next wet season of 2019 to be conducted at Brgy. Sabangan, San Juan, Ilocos Sur.

The development and adoption of Next Generation Varieties in the major ecosystem of Region I is a collaborative project of the DA National Rice Program, PhilRice, and IRRI in tandem with the DA-RFO I.

The project site in Labnig, San Juan, Ilocos Sur is managed by Ms. Reinamae Banquirig of INREC, Batac City, Ilocos.



Taking the opportunity to share to farmers best practices on agricultural investments, participants were encouraged to raise questions and their opinions especially on the marketability of their produce.

Cooperatives join AMAD investment forum

To generate investment concepts for Region 1's priority commodities to entice possible investors for funding support and adoption and to promote and advocate investment opportunities, nine (9) Non-government cooperative leaders and AEWs from the Province of La Union participated in the investment forum spearheaded by the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1.

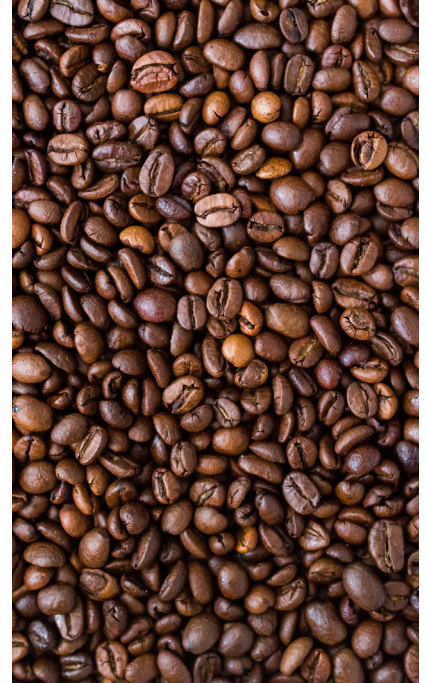
"Investing on such commodities (onion, coffee, tomato) is good. Malaki ang income, pero very high ang risk (pest, diseases and natural calamities). Is there any assistance from DA in case that risk will occur?" This was among the questions raised during the forum.

"Marami pong pwedeng itulong ang DA together with our partner agencies. In case those natural

calamities will occur, we have the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) na kung saan puwede tayong manguutang sa mababang interest. Ang Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) na kailangan lang po natin ipa-insure ang ating mga tanim. We have a lot of interventions from DA that will help our farmers and our partners in any agricultural aspect,"

answered Ms. Rhoda Galban, DA-RFO I Senior Agriculturist.

According to the Value Chain Analysis conducted by the Philippine Rural Development Project Luzon A Cluster Consultant Ms. Marian Boquirin which was presented by Ms. Rosel Espada, DA-RFO I AMAD staff, one of the constraints of onion farming in La Union, is that onion farmers are



hesitant to venture in off season onion production, even though the price and demand is high during off season.

Meanwhile, Ms. Rhoda Galban said that Ilocos Region has great potential for cacao farming. The vast agricultural land plus tropical climate condition makes the region perfect for the said commodity, and DA together with the other partner agencies are willing to support investors for the provision of quality seedling materials.

Meanwhile, Mr. Reynaldo F. Ancheta – Administrative Assistant II, discussed the investment opportunities in coffee production such as the establishment of nurseries to provide quality and disease-free planting materials to coffee growers with the organized cooperatives/associations and individual investors and the manufacturing of postharvest or processing machinery and equipment for small scale to commercial operation.

In relation to investing in

tomato production, Ms. Rosel Espada explained that one of the constraints of farmers is the oversupply and low income during the regular season because tomato price is lower as compared to the off-season price.

“But then, interventions are available from the Department of Agriculture which is the provision of quality seeds through its seed distribution program under the High Value Development Program

(HVCDP),” she added.

The investment forum was held on October 4-5 at Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union followed by another forum on October 11-12, 2018 at Pangasinan Research Center (PREC), Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan for the cooperative leaders of the Province of Pangasinan and on October 18-19 for the participants from Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte at Hotel Linda Suite, Vigan City.

“ ”

We have a lot of interventions from DA that will help our farmers and our partners in any agricultural aspect.

CPC leads AFC on Pest Surveillance Training

To help the Local Government Units (LGUs) have an early detection of pests that requires immediate intervention and will lessen the possibility of pest infestation or outbreak which reduces yield losses, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 in collaboration with the Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC), Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council (RAFC), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and LGUs, conducted a two-day training for the Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Council (MAFC) Chairpersons of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, and La Union.

The training was held on October 11-12, 2018 at PhilRice, Batac Station, Ilocos Norte to strengthen the AFC Pest Surveillance, Validation and Management.

In her message, Ms. Nida Q. Abrogena - Supervising Science Research Specialist from PhilRice Batac I, stressed that Chairperson really play important roles in agriculture especially the conduct of pest surveillance, validation and management to help the organized team increase pest management

endeavors in the region.

To familiarize the participants with major crop pests in the region, Ms. Marivic G. Begonia – Chief, RCPC I discussed the major pests of rice in the Region like Bacterial Leaf Streak, Bacterial Ooze, Leaf Blast, Node Blast, Sheath Blight, among others and how to prevent it.

“Haan tayo kuma apo nga ibaga nga agas ti maysa nga pestisidyo, gapuem ta ti agas ket magatang iti drug store. Iti pestisidyo isu ti mangcontrol

dagiti peste ken disease carriers. No dagitoy nga peste ket makita tayon nga mangrugugin, mabalin tayo iti agusar ti copper based fungicide or any pesticide compatible to the disease,” Ms. Bergonia said.

The training is a collaborative undertaking of farmers, Municipal and Provincial LGUs, Department of Agriculture, Academe, attached agencies/bureaus and other partner organizations.



MAFCs alongside Ms. Marivic Begonia of RCPC, resource speaker, in a group photo after the training.

More than 100 Region 1 delegates join Nat'l Corn Congress

More than a hundred of delegates from Ilocos Region joined the 14th Philippine National Corn Congress held at D' Leonor Inland Resort at Brgy. Communal, Buhangin, Davao City on November 13 to Nov. 16, 2018.

A one-week activity jointly sponsored by the Philippine Maize Federation, DA's National Corn and Cassava Programs and Agricultural Training Institute, the 14th Corn Congress provided an avenue to discuss the corn and cassava industries' pressing concerns to further develop suitable and effective programs and projects that will ultimately benefit the corn and cassava stakeholders.

Focusing on the theme, "Linking Corn Farmers: Towards Inclusive Economic Growth and Competitiveness,"

the congress event was likewise an opportunity to recognize the outstanding performances of the provincial and municipal local government units including the agricultural extension workers in implementing programs and projects under the Corn Program.

From among the 177 total awardees nationwide, Region I bagged one Outstanding Province award, four Outstanding Cities and Municipalities award, 11 Outstanding Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and four Municipal Corn Coordinators awards.

The province of Pangasinan having been chosen for three consecutive years as Outstanding Province along with the municipality of Alcala in the same province were among the Hall of Famer

Awardee receiving cash prizes of P5 million and P2 million, respectively.

The non-Hall of Famer awardees like the municipalities of Sto. Tomas, Burgos and Vigan City received P1 million worth of projects while the Outstanding AEWs have received P50,000 and P20,000 for the Hall of Famer Awardees and Non-Hall of Famer awardees, respectively.

Aside from the National Corn Quality Award, the Congress also served as platform to recognize the Outstanding performances of the partner-LGUs in promoting corn and cassava development projects through the Cassava Cluster Management Excellence Awards and the Concurpia Awards

Cebu hosts Nat'l OA Congress

Organic Farming enthusiasts and advocates are gathered at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City from November 12-16, 2018 for the 15th National Organic Agriculture Congress.

This year's congress theme is Organic Agriculture: Advancing the Local Food Culture Movement in the Philippines. The congress aims to promote sustainable production of indigenous crops/livestock that can be grown organically as a way of preserving culture and traditions at the same time promoting locally produced food and contributing to food security in the countryside.

Farmer participants are encouraged to make safe and nutritious food available not only for the market but primarily ensuring food supply for their families

that is accessible in their own homes.

Highlighting the activity on the opening day is the awarding ceremony for the National Organic Agriculture Achievers Awards, the Regional Organic Agriculture Focal Person and the Recognition of 2017 Gawad Saka Organic Agriculture Awardee.

The National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) highlights of accomplishments was presented as well as updates of the 14th NOAC Plenary Resolution.

All DA Regional Field Offices were also provided with exhibit booths to display their various organic food products.

Presentations and lectures on Organic farming/agriculture were discussed thru the break out sessions on the second day

while farm tours at identified organic farms in Cebu is set on the last day for the participants.

The 15th NOAC is graced by DA Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanan representing DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol. He was joined by NOAP National Program Coordinator Engr. Christopher V. Morales and Cebu Governor Hon. Hilario Davide III. A pre-recorded video message was also shown to participants from invited Guest of Honor and Speaker Senator Cynthia Villar who was not able to personally attend the activity.

The Ilocos Region in 2016 successfully hosted the 13th NOAC staged in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

RCI TWGs attend NCI-SRD Impact Assessment

This convergence project benefited 5,050 people who work together for the sustainability of the organic coffee production.

A total of 54 members of the Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Groups (RCI TWGs) from 16 regions in the Philippines participated in the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI – SRD) Impact Assessment of Convergence Areas Training – Workshop on October 23-26, 2018 held at Palacio de Laoag, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

The activity aims to increase the knowledge of the NCI – SRD Stakeholders in assessing impacts of the convergence areas, to contribute to the two – pronged goals of inclusive growth and poverty reduction and finalize the draft impact indicators for the convergence areas based on the case study of Piddig Organic Coffee Program in Ilocos Norte.

The NCI – SRD which is composed of four (4) lead agencies, the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) tasked to monitor a common framework for sustainable rural development.

Mr. Wilfredo M. de Perio, who served as the facilitator of the event, taught the participants the Logical Framework

which mainly used for designing, monitoring, and evaluating international development projects.

“The first thing we have to do is to have a baseline data. We have to determine two areas, with or without it. The treatment area which is the Piddig and the control area, an area that we will use to compare for that project, it must have the same characteristics, the population, among others,” de Perio highlighted during the first part of his lecture.

“However, if we don’t have those two areas, we will conduct a case study. This logical framework will be used to determine the contribution of the different agencies on the project,” he added.

Moreover, de Perio also taught the participants on how to use the LogFrame for a strategic planning with a Narrative Summary containing the goal, purpose, outputs and activities for the project, the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI) which is used to know if the project is successful or not, Means of Verification (MOV) a system used for the collection of OVI and the Important Assumption (AI) which has two categories; Economic and Attitude.

Piddig Organic Coffee Production visited

During the last day of the activity, the participants, together with the Local Government Unit staff of the Municipality of Piddig, Ilocos Norte, visited the Piddig Coffee Organic Production. It is the currently growing convergence project under NCI-SRD.

According to Mr. Ruben M. Ventura, Municipal Consultant of Piddig, Ilocos Norte, the coffee production has 840,000 number of coffee trees in a 560 ha. for the Highland Arabica Coffee located at Lammin, Piddig, Ilocos Norte and 904,000 number of Robusta, Liberica and Excelsa coffee trees in a 1,130 ha. for the Lowland coffee plantation.

This convergence project benefited 5,050 people who work together for the sustainability of the organic coffee production.

Among the four main agencies who were part of this convergence project, there were also other agencies who contributed support for the Piddig Organic Coffee Production.

“Noong nalaman nila that this Coffee

Production Project was a project implemented by the DILG, DENR, DAR and most especially sa DA na nagprovide ng pinakamalaking contribution dito sa project, nagsidatingan na yung mga ibang agency na gusto ding magprovide ng mga projects for the benefit of the people of Piddig and so it added to the progress of this project,” proudly stated by Mr. Ventura.

Some of the agencies who contributed for the project that was mentioned by Mr. Ventura were; the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) who provided to 700 4Ps beneficiaries with Php 5,000.00 capital assistance for their vermicast production project, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) also provided 1 million capital assistance to 100 marginalized farmers for their vermicast production livelihood project, and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) who contributed a coffee processing equipment.



Participants at the Piddig Coffee Organic Production site in Ilocos Norte.

RI among Nat'l winners on WFD 2018 poster competition

For two consecutive years, the Ilocos Region bagged the national award for Top 5 Best Posters in the World Food Day On-the-Spot Poster Making Contest jointly conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of Education (DepEd), in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in celebration of World Food Day.

From among the 17 regional entries, DA Central selected five winners at the national level. This year, winning entries were from Regions 1, VIII, IX, XII, and ARMM.

The awarding ceremony was among the highlights of activities in the celebration of 2018 World Food Day held by DA at the Liwasang Aurora at the Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City on October 16, 2018.

Region I winner Cami Kyndra U. Tiburcio is a Grade VI pupil at the Burgos Memorial School East, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur. For her winning poster, Ms. Tiburcio and all the other national winners received cash prize of P17,000 each plus a plaque and Certificate of Recognition.

Part of their award also include a special live guest appearance at the Net25 TV segment Taumbahay and a radio interview. The winners, together with their escorts/coaches, were also given free tour at an art museum.

The celebration of World Food Day 2018 was spearheaded by DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, together with other DA key officials, FAO representatives and Ms. World 2013 Megan Young who was chosen as ZeroHunger champion advocate.

Piñol expressed high hopes of achieving the ZeroHunger goal by 2030 which is this year's World Food Day theme if agriculture be given priority funding and attention by the government not only at the national level but must start from the Municipal level where Local Chief Executives are expected to provide full support to the agriculture sector.

A symbolic simultaneous lighting of candles by the DA employees and guests to mark their commitment and unity in pursuing DA's goal for ZeroHunger by 2030 concluded the activity.

Our Actions are our Future.

A **#ZeroHunger** world
by 2030 **is possible.**

Region I winner Ms. Cami Kyndra Tiburcio accompanied by her mother (1st from left) holds her winning poster as she receives the awards from Megan Young (2nd from left), DA Sec. Manny Piñol (2nd from right) with the FAO representatives.

