

The Official Publication of the Department of Agriculture

DARagri

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**DA needs local partnerships
to succeed**

- Sec. Dar



All for one, Always number one!

VISION

A prime-mover towards a modernized and industrialized agriculture and fisheries sector.

MISSION

To provide suitable, timely, and innovative interventions for a sustainable agriculture in the Ilocos Region.

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 features Secretary William Dar during his visit in the region. In one of his talks, he highlighted the vital role of local government units and other agencies in helping DA achieve its goals. DA needs to strengthen these partnerships in order to succeed.




DAMAG AGRI

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DA Usec Laviña eyes Pangasinan as new farm tourism site

Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit Evelyn Laviña paid a visit to three potential agri-tourism sites in Pangasinan upon the invitation of Pangasinan's 4th District Representative Christopher de Venecia.

A two-day activity with an end goal of identifying possible interventions that the High Value Crops Program could provide to further promote high value crops farming and enterprise in Ilocos Region and to lead the distribution and awarding of high value crops interventions to farmers, Usec Laviña

also took the opportunity to discuss with the farmers' associations and farm owners possible partnership with the DA.

In her meeting with the calamansi farmers' group in Brgy. Lekep-Butao, San Fabian, Pangasinan, Usec Laviña together with Congressman de Venecia toured the 6.5 hectares calamansi farm and advised the farmer leaders in the area to form into association for a more cohesive interventions from the DA.

Seeing the farm as a potential agri-tourism farm, Usec Laviña also recommended to look into value adding

activities that the farmers could pursue to enhance their calamansi production into a more productive enterprise like production of calamansi scented soap, mix of calamansi with other fruit juices, calamansi hair gel, among others.

Another promising agri-tourism site visited by Usec Laviña is the Fortune Dragon Fruit Farm of Mr. Teddy Nuez in Brgy. San Juan, San Jacinto, Pangasinan. A 12-hectare farm filled with various high value crops, with dragon fruit as the main crop, the farm is ideal for agri-tourism site with its production of high-end marketable crops such as mulberry,

fig tree, cherry, passion fruit, guave and vanilla, among others.

The farm was established in 2014 in collaboration with the 'Dragon Fruit Lady' in Ilocos Region, Ms. Edita Dacuycuy.

Concluding her first day visit in the region, Usec Laviña led the technical briefing and turn-over ceremony of DA's interventions for Urban Agriculture Project and interacted with the Baritao Sampaguita Farmers group for the further enhancement of sampaguita farming in Baritao, Manaoag, Pangasinan.

As the DA's initial intervention, Usec Laviña, upon the request of Engr. Arnold

Raul Geronimo, Municipal Agriculturist of Manaoag, committed to allocate funds for the conduct of research study to identify quality sampaguita planting materials that would be suitable for production in the area with the help of the Bureau of Agricultural Research in partnership with agricultural state universities like the Pangasinan State University.

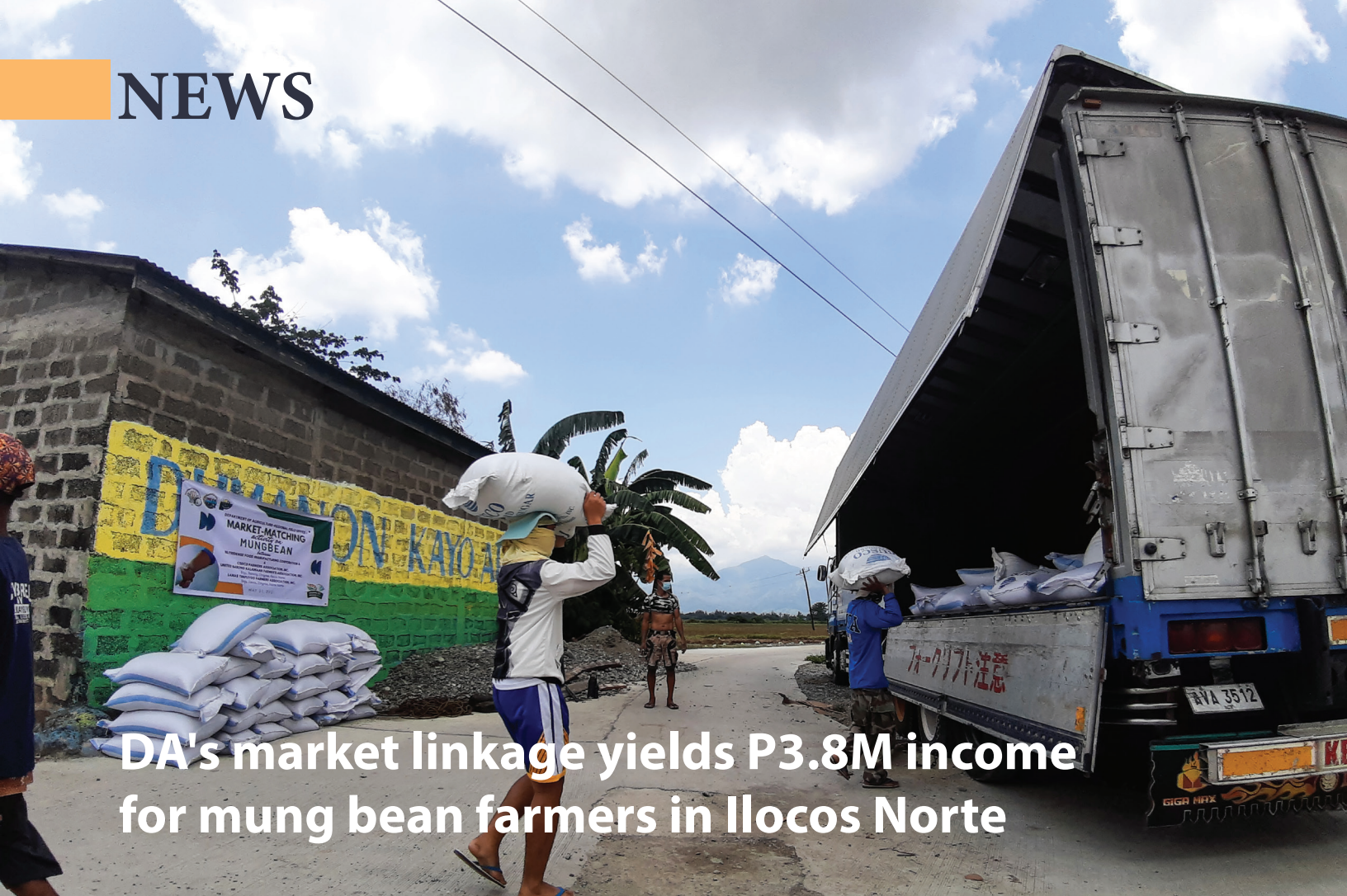
MAO Geronimo also made a request for the inclusion of sampaguita as one of the commodities to be insured by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC). Usec Laviña in response said she will try to collaborate with the insurance agency and look into possible funding

support for the provision of capital to farmers who would engage into value-adding activity for sampaguita.

Taking into account all these interventions from DA, Congressman de Venecia challenged the sampaguita farmers to create, innovate and try to come up with more sampaguita by-products.

On her second day visit in Pangasinan, Usec Laviña led the distribution of DA's interventions to 16 farmers associations in support to the Urban Agriculture Program as a component of the Bayanihan II Program of DA – To recover as One.





DA's market linkage yields P3.8M income for mung bean farmers in Ilocos Norte

Three farmers associations in Dingras, Ilocos Norte successfully marketed their 61 tons of mung bean harvest worth P3.8 million to Nutridense Food Manufacturing Corporation through DA's market-matching activity.

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO I) assisted the CSDCS Farmers Association, Lanas Timpuyog Farmer Association and the United Barong Kalawaan Farmers Association as the Nutridense company came to pick-up the mung bean harvest of the associations at Dingras, Ilocos Norte on March 21, 2021 in which

cash payment was also made by the company on same day.

The production of mung bean by the farmer-partners of DA is part of the Research and Development project on Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR) on Mung bean Production led by the DA-RFO I Research group with tie up from the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) particularly in facilitating the marketing of the mung bean on a three-year period covered by a Memorandum of Agreement with Nutridense and the farmers' association involved in the project.

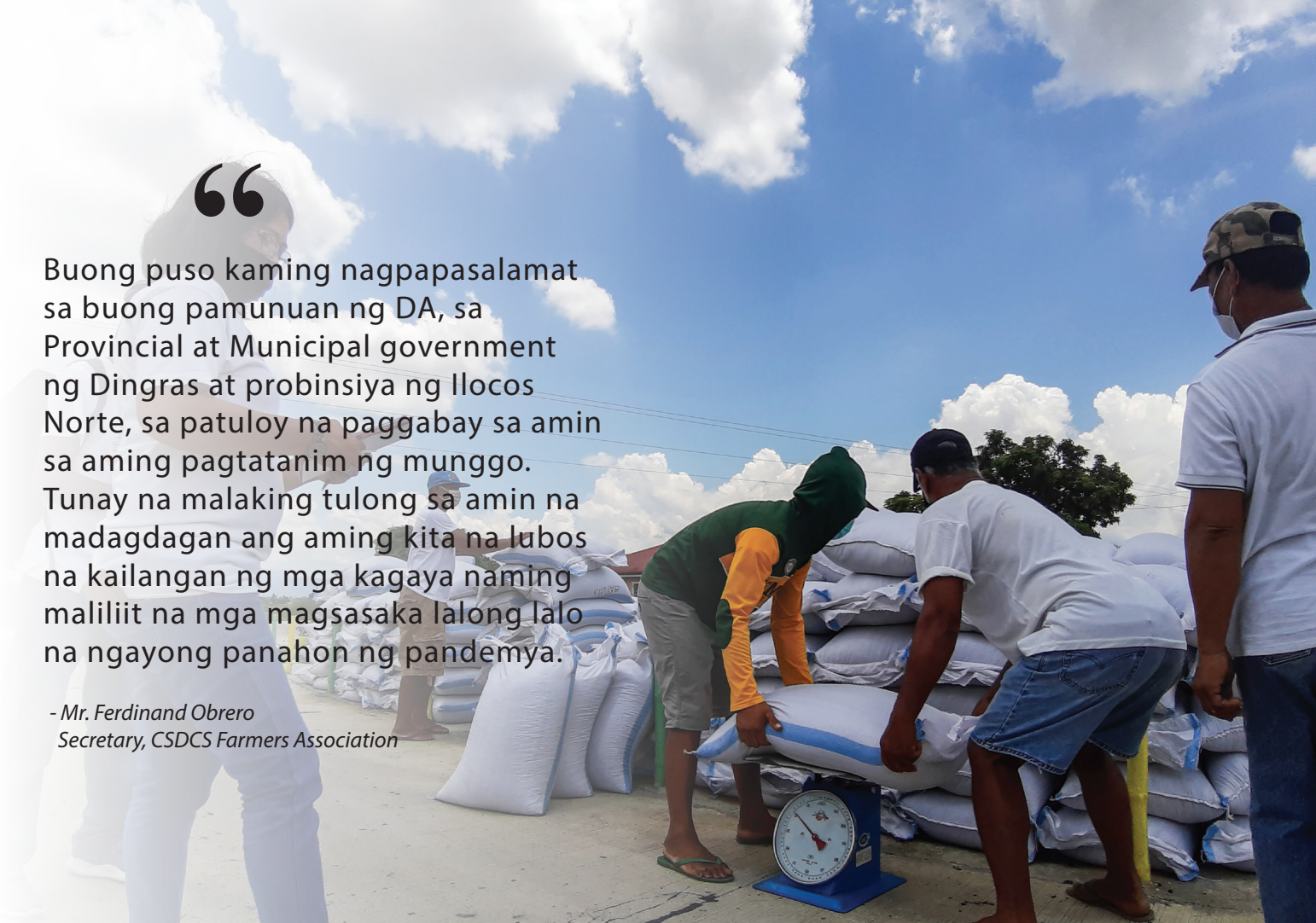
Under the said project, DA-RFO I provided the certified mung bean seeds and other production support, technical assistance as well as marketing assistance involving around 100 mung bean farmers of Brgy. Barong and Brgy. Lanas in Dingras, Ilocos Norte. Part of the training aims to enable farmers to produce their own certified planting materials to sustain the production of quality and high yielding mungbean varieties in the area.

Mr. Mark Ariel Agresor, Project Leader, noted the importance of providing direct market access for the farmers' produce to encourage

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Buong puso kaming nagpapasalamat sa buong pamunuan ng DA, sa Provincial at Municipal government ng Dingras at probinsiya ng Ilocos Norte, sa patuloy na paggabay sa amin sa aming pagtatanim ng munggo. Tunay na malaking tulong sa amin na madagdagan ang aming kita na lubos na kailangan ng mga kagaya naming maliliit na mga magsasaka lalong lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemya.

- Mr. Ferdinand Obrero
Secretary, CSDCS Farmers Association



more farmers to adopt the DA's production technologies on mung bean for increased yield and income.

Mr. Ferdinand Obrero, Secretary of the CSDCS Farmers Association expressed gratitude to the DA, the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte and the Municipal Government of Dingras for the opportunity given to their association to increase their income especially in the assurance of market for their mung bean which has been a major concern of the farmers even in the previous years.

Providing them a direct marketing intervention through the Nutridense at a price higher than the usual

market price offered by walk-in traders in their locality, Mr. Obrero and his fellow farmers are able to sell their harvest at P61.00/kilo of the “kintab” (classification) mung bean and P64 a kilo of their “labo” mung bean, which is about P9.00 higher than the P53.00 per kilo offered by walk-in traders.

“Buong puso kaming nagpapasalamat sa buong pamunuan ng DA, sa Provincial at Municipal government ng Dingras at probinsiya ng Ilocos Norte, sa patuloy na paggabay sa amin sa aming pagtatanim ng munggo. Tunay na malaking tulong sa amin

na madagdagan ang aming kita na lubos na kailangan ng mga kagaya naming maliliit na mga magsasaka lalong lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemya,” Mr. Obrero said.

Marketing is a constant challenge of most farmers in their farming activities because production of crops would be useless without viable markets to turn their produce into income. The market matching activity of DA through AMAD proves to be a crucial role of the department to put into reality DA's vision for a prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.

More than 1,000 Ilocano farmers to benefit on Bayanihan 2 program



A total of 1,140 Ilocano farmers is estimated to benefit from the productivity and income enhancement projects of the Department of Agriculture stimulus package under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Bayanihan 2.

Other beneficiaries of the program include 11 local government units (LGUs), three state universities and colleges (SUCs), and one privately-owned agricultural cooperative.

Bayanihan 2 was enacted in September 2020 to support DA's food security agendas amid the pandemic. Of the P24B fund allocation, more than P444M was allotted to the DA Ilocos Region to which 21 projects were launched.

To enhance farmers' productivity in the region, Rice Resiliency Project (RRP) for dry season was established, including interventions for urban agriculture, fall army worm management, garlic

expansion, and the development of banana, mango, and bamboo industries.

Farm inputs, machineries, and equipment were distributed and trainings were held.

Laboratories for crop pest and disease management were proposed for construction and upgrading including technology transfer facilities.

Funds were transferred to DA's partner SUCs and LGUs for the installment of chicken-goat nucleus and multiplier farms including cattle feedlot fattening project.

Anticipated projects to augment farmers' income on the other hand, are the construction of a Provincial Trading Center in Ilocos Sur and the multi-crops seed storage and monolithic dome type cold storage in Pangasinan.

Funds to procure reefer vans were provided to qualified farmer beneficiaries.

Additional interventions effected are the profiling of farmers in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), deployment of 16 interns under the Mentoring and Attracting Youth in Agribusiness (MAYA) program, establishment of regional integrity network group ring for the Agriculture Dialogue and Information Network group (ADING), clustering of 47 farm areas under the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) program, and the provision of trading capital to farmer groups under the Enhanced KADIWA 2.

Currently, two processing centers - for Chichacorn and Bagnet with a swine breeding facility, are being constructed as enterprise development support to farmers.

Secretary Dar during his visit to the region last May led the inauguration in some of the aforementioned projects.

Tissue culture tech eyed to boost Region 1 garlic industry

Along with the blessing and inauguration of the Crops Research & Development Center held on Friday, May 28, 2021, Sec. William D. Dar also spearheaded the turn-over of garlic tissue culture and virus indexing laboratories to the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1.

Implemented through the University of the Philippines Los Banos Foundation, Inc. (UPLBFI) and with funding support from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Pangasinan Research Center was selected as a laboratory site for garlic tissue culture.

Garlic production in the whole country is continuously declining due to lack of quality planting materials, inadequate cultural management practices, poor postharvest handling and storage practices, occurrence of various pests and diseases, and the demand for garlic in the domestic and foreign market is continuously growing. But with the virus-free planting materials that will be produced through tissue culturing, garlic production in the region is expected to increase by 40-45%.

With a total operation cost of P5.84 million, the facility is already utilized by the DA and tissue culture laboratory personnel to test garlic varieties used by farmers in the region like Ilocos Pink, Batanes White, Romblon, and more on Ilocos white thereby producing a total of 2,000 virus-free culture bottles with 4-5 plantlets per bottles. 5,700 culture



bottles were also found out to be infected with Alexivirus, one of the five viruses infecting garlic in the country.

Considered as high-value crop, garlic is also known as 'white gold' in the region. Regardless of the problems met by farmers, Ilocos region sustains its rank as the number 1 top producer of garlic in the country with a total production of 4,8225 MT with an area of 1,986 hectares (PSA, 2019), contributing 66% to the national production.

On the other hand, the virus indexing laboratory project which costs P3.99 million was implemented through the Philippine Agriculture Research and Resources Foundation, Inc. (PARRFI). The fully-equipped laboratory utilizes RT-PCR technology for the detection of viruses. It is also capable of analyzing the presence or absence of various viruses affecting garlic and will also serve as the primary virus indexing laboratory in the region.

DA to revive operation of Pangasinan RPC

In an effort to revive the operation of the Pangasinan Rice Processing Complex (RPC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, Department of Agriculture Secretary William “Manong Willie” Dar visited the facility and entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Pangasinan Governor Amado I. Espino III for the resumption of the complex’s operations.

A project that was established in CY 2010 thru the Korean International Cooperating Agency (KOICA) which provided P162.25M fund as grant, the RPC carried on its establishment and operation in partnership with the Department of Agriculture-National Rice Banner and the Provincial Government of Pangasinan with shared counterpart of P46.11 million (P20 million operating capital and P26.11 million other operating expenses) and P8 million, respectively.

One of the four RPCs established in the country situated in the top rice producing provinces, to include the provinces of Bohol, Davao and Iloilo, the Pangasinan RPC’s establishment aims to improve the efficiency of rice production and processing system in the region by the reduction of postharvest losses and improving the quality of rice for the Ilocano consumers.

A one-stop service center for milling, drying and storing for rice, the project is situated in an area of 1,700 sq.m. with a milling capacity of 25 tons/hr. or an equivalent of 50 cavans per hour. The drying capacity of the facility is at least



Image credits to the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division

200 bags of wet rice using the five drying units or 1,000 bags per eight hour shift.

Officially launched and turned-over on Sept. 5, 2011 to the Provincial Government of Pangasinan, and initially managed by the then National Agribusiness Corporation (NABCOR), which the latter turned-over the management and operation to a Farmer Organization, the RPC has ceased operation due to some major issues and concerns.

Setting in motion the possible revival of the RPC’s operation, Secretary Dar’s visit in the project shall open doors of opportunities for rice farmers to have wider marketing access on their rice produce while at the same time, giving

public consumers premium quality rice.

Other than his visit to the Pangasinan RPC, Sec. Dar also led the blessing, inauguration and turn-over of the Garlic Tissue Culture Laboratory, Crops Research & Development Center at the DA-RFO I’s Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center, in Tebag, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, the Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP) in Brgy. Mabini, Balungao, Pangasinan, and the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Poultry and Goat Multiplier Farm in Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College, Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur, and other project site visits.



DA needs local partnerships to succeed - Sec.Dar

29 May 2021– At the last day of the two-day visit in the Ilocos Region, Secretary William D. Dar in his talk, Saturday, at the turn over ceremony for various agricultural inputs and machineries in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur said that the Department of Agriculture needs partnerships at the local level in order to succeed.

“The agriculture sector will not thrive with just DA alone. In order to succeed, you have to work with various partners,” said Secretary Dar.

Sec. Dar therefore highlighted his plans to strengthen the goat, coconut, and egg production in the Ilocos region, including the revitalization of the sea urchin industry as well as the tilapia

and bangus hatchery in partnership with the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic College, Philippine Coconut Industry, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur, and other stakeholders.

With the ongoing implementation of the DA project- Innovative Family Enterprise Development (IFED) on chicken production, monitoring reports showed that beneficiaries are already harvesting eggs for their own household consumption and retailing in the market.

“The plan is that, pilot barangays for this project will be expanded and we’ll make Sta. Maria an egg basket of Ilocos Sur,” he added.

As for goat production, DA

has partnered with ISPSC for the establishment of multiplier farm. Once fully operational, farmers interested on goat raising are expected to benefit on this project.

Efforts to revitalize the coconut industry in the region has also started in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority and ISPSC.

“Coconut production is usually seen near the seashore when we can actually plant in the highland areas. During this rainy season, we can already distribute planting materials and plant more coconuts,” he shared.

Dar has also mentioned of the ongoing clinical trials for the African Swine Fever vaccine.

“This April, we already had an agreement with the US Department of Agriculture with a private sector manufacturing vaccine. We are testing two vaccines in ten commercial farms,” he said.

Clinical trials will be observed in the next 80 days.

“If results are found effective, we will see to it that we will move and give hundred percent support. We will vaccinate all the hogs both in the backyard and commercial farms,” he added.

As of January, PSA has reported that the total swine inventory was at 9.72 million. Another one million is expected to augment the hog population with the ongoing repopulation efforts of DA.

Sec. Dar after his visit in the province of Pangasinan, was in Ilocos Sur for a site visit in the ongoing DA projects in the municipalities of Sta. Maria, San Juan, and Caoayan.

DA-funded SWIPs to irrigate 695 has. agri farm in Balungao

Pangasinan – Ten Small Water Impounding Projects (SWIPs) that are set to benefit 618 farmers from the municipality of Balungao, Pangasinan were inaugurated during Agriculture Sec. William Dar's visit, May 28.

A total of P162.6 million worth of SWIP were handed to farmers cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in eight barangays of Balungao namely Angayan Sur (69 hectares), Esmeralda (136.5 and 42 ha.), Kita-Kita (65 ha.),

Mabini (24 and 88.3 ha.), Masa Florenda (50 ha.), Pugaro (120 ha.), San Andres (65.5 ha.) and San Aurelio (35 ha.).

Engr. Dennis Tactac of the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) of DA-RFO I said that the said barangays are rainfed areas, hence the establishment of the SWIPs warrants the availability of water even on dry seasons.

Three of the SWIPs were rehabilitated and funded under the National Rice Program in 2016 and 2018, and Regular

Agency and Calamity Funds in 2019.

Meanwhile, the newly-constructed SWIPs are funded under the Rice Program in 2018 while the other projects were established since 2015.

With the continuous water supply to irrigate the farms, the projects will enable the farmers to prepare for the second and even third cropping, and ensures the increase in their production and income.

Image credits to the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division



Adorna assumes Farmer-Director role for farmers, fisherfolk's month



In a symbolic kick-off activity for the month-long celebration of Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month, DA-RFO I OIC-Regional Executive Director Nestor D. Domenden turned over the symbolic Key of Commitment to Mr. Vincent Adorna as he assumes his role as Farmer Director for the entire month of May.

The ceremony was virtually witnessed by farmers from different associations in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, and Pangasinan along with some AFC members from La Union and other DA Ilocos key officials who were present at the venue.

As Regional Agriculture and Fishery Council (RAFC) Chairman since 1998, Mr. Adorna once again assumes the role as farmer-director of the Department but his responsibilities is limited only to non-policy determining activities that will not affect government accounting rules & regulations as well as Civil Service rules.

RED Domenden meanwhile

highlighted the contributions of farmers and fishers who in their own sincere efforts had helped in the agency's successful operation of its activities.

"To the great men and women of the fields, our farmers and fisherfolk heroes in whose hands lay the assurance that no Filipino shall ever go hungry, this celebration is especially made in your honor," Domenden said as he greeted the participants and thanked them for their great contributions especially during the pandemic.

He specifically mentioned the generosity of the group in supporting the KADIWA community pantries staged by the DA regional office and its satellite stations.

"55 groups of farmers and nine individuals willfully donated about 7.5 tons of agricultural products as support to the Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita community pantry amounting to 400,000 and benefitting 2,000 families," he said.

"We know that this gesture is not enough to express our support and deepest gratitude for all your sacrifices to attain the agency's goal and objectives especially during these trying times. These almost two years have been challenging because of the pandemic and the African Swine Fever virus. As our partners in agricultural development, it is during times such as this that we count so much on your support. We know that your commitment to work as frontline heroes will certainly push us to hurdle whatever challenges that come our way and we can certainly overcome," RED Domenden noted.

Meanwhile, a Certificate of Recognition was awarded to each of the farmers and fisherfolk associations who actively participated in making food available and accessible amid the pandemic thru the KADIWA ni Ani at Kita program of DA.



Pangasinan farmers get P219M worth agri support

Over Php219 million worth of agricultural interventions were successfully turned-over by Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar to Pangasinan farmers in his visit in the province Pangasinan.

Sharing the big chunk of these interventions is the Php176 million worth of irrigation and postharvest facilities which include small water impounding project (SWIP), diversion dams, warehouse and multi-purpose drying pavement awarded to fourteen (14) farmers' associations in Balungao, Pangasinan.

Along with the distribution of agricultural projects to farmers, Sec. Dar also led the blessing, inauguration

and turn-over of the Crops Research and Development Center and the Garlic Tissue Culture Laboratory for the DA's



Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (DA-PREC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan that aims to improve the capacity of DA in Ilocos to provide farmers better production technologies thru research and hopes to produce virus-free garlic planting materials that would help further boost the garlic industry in the region.

In his message during the MOA signing for the resumption of the RPC's operation, Sec. Dar vowed to help the province enable the facility's operation as he have seen how Governor Espino showed enthusiasm and persistence to make the RPC facility operational.

As such, Governor Espino, in his message affirmed Pangasinan's allocation of P500 million for the purchase of palay produced by farmers and shall establish

one rice facility in Mabini and San Quintin for both Western and Eastern parts of Pangasinan to sustain operation of the RPC. According to the Governor, a team was already organized to discuss the procurement process leading to the full operation of the RPC.

With the P282 million investment of DA and the government of Korea and the Provincial Government of Pangasinan, the RPC is expected to benefit more than 200,000 rice farmers in the province. Sec. Dar lauded the province of Pangasinan which he considers as one of the highly performing provinces entire the Philippines when it comes to agricultural production, and with the able and competent leadership of Gov. Espino, he is confident that the facility will be fully maximized to provide

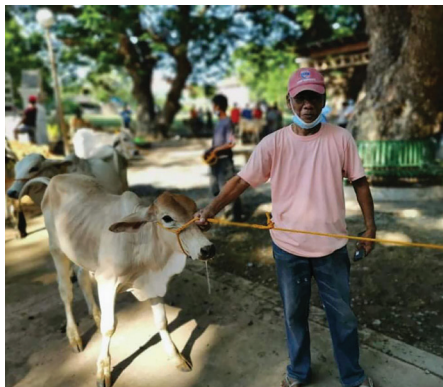
benefit to rice farmers.

With last year's 90% production of rice in the country, it requires for another 10% that shall be sourced-out from rice exporting countries to make the country sufficient on its requirement, Sec. Dar is broadening the market access on rice, with India, the top rice importing country in the world as among the best option to source-out this deficit.

Meanwhile, with the P8.4 billion unused excess tariffs of rice, Sec. Dar announced that it shall be given back to farmers tilling 2 hectares and below a total of P5,000 each in the form of social amelioration. Almost 1.5 million rice farmers are expected to receive such assistance once the guidelines are finalized



DA-RFO I gives P5M cattle fattening project to Sto. Domingo farmers



Bringing hope and joy to 100 backyard cattle raisers in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region, in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur distributed Php 5 million worth of Feedlot Cattle Fattening Project under the DA's Bayanihan II – “To Recover As One” to the Arangkada Sto. Domingo Federated Farmers Association.

Held at the Municipal Grounds in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, the project aims to provide livelihood opportunity to selected livestock raisers who met the basic requirements of the National Livestock Program upon validation by the technical team of the Regional Livestock Banner Program.

The implementation of the project also aims to increase local beef production not only in Ilocos Sur but in the country as it provides available and affordable

beef and beef products to consumers.

As part of the project protocol, the DA-RFO I transferred the funds to the LGU-Sto. Domingo to manage and administer the procurement activities of the project as well as the disbursement of the funds provided.

Following the clustering and consolidation model that will ensure a systematic management of the beneficiaries, farmer-recipients can market their cattle after at least 180 days or six months of raising the animal.

As a component of the project, the DA shall provide P50,000 worth of package module for every 100 members of the farmer association-recipients comprising of one head heifer, veterinary drugs and biologics, concentrate feeds as well as technical training to further capacitate them on cattle management and production.

According to Ms. Abigail Bayaua, DA-

RFO I's Livestock Project Coordinator in Ilocos Sur, the project is basically a grant project for the farmer-recipients. “However, for the project to become sustainable, farmer-recipients has to pay back in kind to his farmer's group three years after availing of the project to provide opportunity for other farmer-members to avail the same,” Ms. Bayaua said.

The distribution activity was led by Sto. Domingo Mayor Bryan Dexter Tadena together with the DA-RFO I's Ilocos Sur Research and Experiment Center Chief, Ms. Josephine Bueno, Ilocos Sur Agricultural Project Coordinating Officer, Mr. Jomar Dayap, Arangkada Sto. Domingo Federated Farmers Association, Mr. Ponciano Tabuac and Ilocos Sur's Provincial Veterinarian, Dr. Celso Gao-ay.



ASF-affected farmers get subsidy worth P41.6M; repopulation program set

More than Php41.6M was distributed to 3,105 farmers in the Ilocos Region whose swine livelihood was affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus.

This is in payment to the 21,840 culled swine on February to September 2020 as part of the Department of Agriculture's control strategy of the disease.

In February, DA has launched the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) as another program to combat ASF.

Components of INSPIRE include calibrated repopulation and intensified production, establishment of breeder multiplier farms, provision of insurance premium, biosecurity and surveillance program, and intensification and modernization of production in the semi-commercial and commercial farms.

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 has allotted Php 60,000,000

for its repopulation initiatives.

Beneficiaries under this component must be located one kilometer away from the site of infection, duly identified by the LGU to be an ASF-affected farmer, RSBSA registered and member of a farmers' association, and among the poor and disadvantaged raisers.

The identified areas will undergo environmental swabbing in the 7th, 21st and 40th day. If no outbreaks will be detected in the area after 40 days, the beneficiary will be given three 60-day old piglets including feeds, veterinary drugs, and biologics good for three to four months.

To intensify swine production, INSPIRE also offers expansion of production in both ASF-affected and ASF-free zones through clustering model for small hold farmers who are willing to be organized.

Under this model, clustered raisers in infected areas must strictly follow quarantine measures while those with zero cases must observe biosecurity protocols.

Credit programs will also be made available in partnership with the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, Land Bank of the Philippines, and Development Bank of the Philippines.

As of date, 53 municipalities in the region remains infected of ASF and 25 municipalities are close to these zones. These locations are in the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, and Ilocos Sur.

DA-RFO I recognizes LGU partners, LFTs in Rice Achiever's Award



In conjunction with the celebration of Farmers and Fisherfolk's month this May, the Department of Agriculture - Ilocos Region conducted the Annual Rice Achiever's Awarding for the 32 agricultural extension workers in the four provinces of Region I.

On separate dates and venues, the initial awarding activity was held on April 14, 2021 at the Northview Hotel in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, followed by the awarding on May 5, 2021 at the Hotel Linda, Vigan City in the province of Ilocos Sur, and May 7, 2021 at Ariana Hotel and Restaurants for the provinces of La Union and Pangasinan. The awarding ceremonies aimed at recognizing the contributions and performance of the extension workers

in attaining significant rice production accomplishments for their respective provinces.

In her message during the awarding ceremonies held for La Union, Director Erlinda F. Manipon once more underscored the essential role of the Provincial and Municipal Local Government agricultural extension workers in helping realize DA's mission towards food security in the country.

Leading the awardees are the Provincial Agriculturists with the six (6) agri-extension workers for the province of Pangasinan, 11 in La Union, one (1) in Ilocos Sur and six (6) agri-extension workers in the province of Ilocos Norte.

Included in the honorees are the four outstanding Local Farmer Technicians

from Sta. Barbara and Binalonan, Pangasinan in the persons of Mr. Elizer Salibo and Mr. Elmo Baniqued as well as Ms. Elnora Gonzales and Mr. Henry Saliganan from Currimaog, Ilocos Norte and Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, respectively.

The Rice Achiever's Award is an annual activity of the DA as a way to recognize the efforts of outstanding rice producers in the country by providing incentives for provinces/municipalities and cities, irrigators associations, small water irrigation systems associations, agricultural extension workers and local farmer technicians and likewise encourage further commitment and participation to attain the government's food sufficiency thrust.

F2C2 trains five pilot clusters for leadership, organizational management



As the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 continues the implementation of the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation Program (F2C2), the five pilot cluster farmers and fishers' associations in the Ilocos Region were trained on leadership and organizational management.

Clustered associations for the training were Pangasinan Farmers Agriculture Cooperative in Umingan, Pangasinan; Santiago Island Hog Raisers Agriculture Cooperative in Bolinao, Pangasinan; Sta. Fe-San Jose Multipurpose Cooperative in Agoon, La Union; Arangkada Sto. Domingo Federated Farmers Association in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur; and Timpuyog ti Adams

Adams, Ilocos Norte.

A total of 245 farmers were mentored during the series of training which started on March 17 and was completed on April 30.

This is also in preparation for the crafting of each cluster associations' development plan which will later on serve as a guide in implementing their programs/projects/activities for a span of five years.

F2C2 is a component to the New thinking for Agriculture and the new strategic thrusts under the 12 paradigms of DA signed by Secretary William Dar on 05 August 2020.





DA-RFO I sets up KADIWA community pantries

Getting inspiration from the community pantries being established in almost all parts of the country, the Department of Agriculture- Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) simultaneously put up its own KADIWA community pantries at the regional office and at its six (6) satellite stations on April 26, 2021.

A project led by the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) in partnership with Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) in the region, the KADIWA community pantry serves as a platform to extend kindness to community residents especially those who are less fortunate and are greatly affected by the ongoing pandemic due to COVID-19.

Ms. Wilhelmina Castañeda, Chief of the AMAD disclosed that around 300 individuals have benefitted from

the activity in San Fernando City alone with the free provision of vegetables such as eggplant, tomatoes, ampalaya, squash, okra, sitao, upo, kamote tops, and saluyot as well as 2 kilos of rice and Ilocos vinegar, among others.

Meanwhile, DA-RFO I OIC Regional Executive Director Nestor D. Domenden spearheaded the opening of the KADIWA Community Pantry at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan where people also lined up to get their share of free vegetables and fruits.

Likewise, DA-RFO I's other research stations at PREC Sual, Pangasinan, Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ILIARC) in Sampilang, Bacnotan, La Union, Ilocos Sur Research Center (ISReC) in San Juan, Ilocos Sur, and the



Ilocos Norte Research & Experiment Centers (INREC) in Batac City and Dingras, Ilocos Norte, also gave away various vegetables including fruit tree seedlings, cassava roots, grocery items including mushroom fruiting bags, sitao beans, black and red rice, eggs, and mungbean seeds, among others that filled the community pantries benefitting residents who patiently and joyfully waited in line to receive their free share.

These KADIWA community pantries established by DA in Ilocos Region were made possible by benevolent donors to include among others individuals, private citizens, and FCAs who unselfishly shared their own produce and goods all for the joy of giving.



DA promotes Halal food product standards in a seminar

“We should be a Halal agent, not a Haram agent.”

Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) Nestor Domenden made this statement in his message to the participants on the two-day awareness seminar on product certification and Halal standards promotions and advocacy conducted by the Halal Food Industry Development Program (HFIDP) of the DA-RFO I.

Held at the Pangasinan Research and Extension Center (PREC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on May 27-28, 2021, the activity provides updates for the food manufacturers, processors and entrepreneurs in an effort of the DA to create awareness on Halal Product Certification and Standards, thus providing an access for a viable enterprise.

Halal which means permitted, acceptable, lawful, allowed, un-

prohibited and legal, is a Qur’anic term that can be used to describe foods for consumption in accordance with the Shari’ah or the law of Islam.

Mr. Faharodin “Gary” Salacop, Acting Chief of the Cultural Affairs Division National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), North Luzon area noted in his discussion on the Fundamentals of Halal that the high spending of consumers for Halal products was registered in the US market with around US\$1.2 trillion.

With the high market potential of Halal products in the world and which started to penetrate the Philippine market, Mr. Salacop, with the assistance of the DA’s HFIDP, is taking full advantage the promotion of Halal product certification and standards.

Dr. Janila Lao Ambo, also a Halal advocate and a practicing entrepreneur of Halal products shared valuable inputs

on food safety and good manufacturing practices including the certification process to encourage the participants to venture in Halal products production.

To grow in the Halal food industry business, Dr. Ambo advised the participants to learn the preferences of the Muslims who served as their main customers.

She also encouraged them (the participants) to have their products be certified by the certifying bodies. Sharing her experiences on how she was able to have her Halal chicken products be certified, she recommended the participants to connect to the nearest accreditation body in their areas, prepare a letter of intent, fill up application form, set the initial audit and correct their findings.

“Once the findings are corrected, final visit shall be scheduled for final audit,” Dr. Ambo said. The issuance of the Halal Certification follows after incorporating the suggestions from the audit team.

In securing for the Halal Certification, Dr. Ambo said that it costs around P10,000 and an additional cost for the audit activity and other expenses to be incurred while correcting some of the processes based on the recommendations of the audit team. She added that the Halal Certification can be renewed every year at a minimal cost.

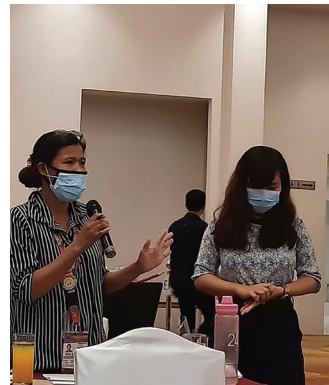
With the expanding Halal Food industry worldwide, Dr. Ambo is optimistic that the Philippines has a high potential for Halal food and industry products especially when food safety and standards are met.

DA-PRDP Ilocos launches GeoSMART App

The Investment in AFMP Planning at the Local and National Levels (IPLAN) Component and the Geomapping and Governance Unit of the DA-PRDP Ilocos Region launched the GeoSmart Application during the Training on Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) for PPMIUs cum Production of CRV Maps of PRDP Champion Commodities with Provinces of Pangasinan and Ilocos Norte at The Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan on May 20-21, 2021.

The GeoSmart App is developed by the GGU of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) in partnership with the I-PLAN Component to aid the planning of government interventions through a self-help application which factors in the socio-economic and climate risk vulnerability, and suitability of the project site.

In comparison to the Expanded Vulnerability and Suitability Assessment (eVSA), the GeoSmart Application has incorporated data from the Climate Resilient Adaptation Office (CRAO) to the available data from Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Department of Agriculture (DA) and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The additional CRVA parameters which include sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity are targeted to guide the planning of interventions to produce modern, sustainable, and climate-smart



projects.

The interface of the application is simple and easy to navigate. It has three (3) primary links namely Manage Data, Analyze Data, and Data Repository. Data parameters available in the application are human capital, landslide, climate sensitivity, natural capital, physical capital, poverty incidence, salt water intrusion, sea level rise, storm surge, tropical cyclone, anticipatory capital, drought, economic capital, erosion, flood, and agro edaphic suitability. Investors may adjust the weight percentage of parameters which they want to prioritize for a project.

The GeoSmart Application is free, accessible to everyone and can be downloaded at <https://www.pciplannersportal.tk/>. It was developed by Mr. Leomark Baldoz of the GGU national office and was first rolled out during the training. Participants who first accessed the GeoSmart application

are planning officers and agriculturists from select municipalities of Pangasinan, Provincial Government of Pangasinan, and Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte.

Mr. Deo G. Rivera, GGU Head of Ilocos Region, led the training in using the application with inputs from I-PLAN Component Head, Ms. Doris Joy Garcia. In the coming months, the GeoSmart application is expected to emerge as among the best practices of the PRDP to be adopted by investors, government and private sectors alike.

The training in using the GeoSmart application was supplemented with lectures on CRVA Approach and CRVA Investment Planning by Mr. Leo Kris Palao, Climate Action Coordinator for Philippines, Data Science for Climate Action Coordinator for Asia and Training on Conducting Virtual Trainings by Mr. Ali Barcelona of GGU Region 1 for full appreciation.

DA Ilocos teams up with Phoenix Gas station on Kadiwa project

Strengthening partnership with the private sector, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region through the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) forged partnership with the Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Inc. for the establishment of Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita at the Phoenix Gasoline Station, in tandem with the Local Government Unit of Mangaldan in Pangasinan.

Aimed at providing marketing outlet for farmers' produce and at the same time de-congest the town's market which is essential in complying with the minimum health standard protocol being implemented during this time of pandemic, the establishment of the Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita project will likewise provide the public with access to fresh, safe and affordable fruits and vegetables as public and private vehicles also access diesel and gasoline with the

Phoenix Gas Company.

In her message during the launching activity held on May 14, 2021 at the Phoenix Gas station in Mangaldan, Pangasinan, Ms. Wilhelmina Castañeda, Chief of AMAD, representing DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Nestor D. Domenden, expressed gratitude to the local government unit of Mangaldan headed by Mayor Mary Marilyn Lambino and Mr. John Philip Cabañero, Phoenix Petroleum Area Manager for accommodating the Kadiwa project in their vicinity.

Noting as well the valuable impact that the project provides to Mangaldan farmers and to the consumers as well in the said town, Ms. Castañeda explained that the project is part of the strategy of DA not only to make food available and accessible to the public amidst the pandemic but to link farmers and fisherfolk as well to available market

venues where they can sell their produce /products.

Mangaldan Vice Mayor Pedro Surdillo, Jr., in his message during the program found the KADIWA project as a timely and suitable project in this time of pandemic where meaningful partnerships with the private sector can produce more benefits to the people in times of crisis.

Other than the consumers, a total of 11 retailers and sellers to include the Talogtog Farmers and Fisherfolk Association, and the Cocoa Federico Tablea and Riverbank Agricultural Farm, cacao processors based in Mangaldan benefitted from the project.

The KADIWA Project partnership with the private sector particularly with gasoline stations is expected to be replicated in other areas in the region soon.



LFTs learn on RCM technology

Maximizing the potentials of the Local Farmer Technicians as a potent partner in the delivery of agricultural extension needs of farmers in the region, the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I through the Rice Banner Program conducted a two-day training on Rice Crop Manager (RCM) with emphasis on the Farm and Farm Lot Registration.

Held at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC) in Sual, Pangasinan on April 27-28, 2021, the training also involves representatives of the ten private seed companies who will take part in the establishment of the 100 hectares model farm areas in Pangasinan and in Ilocos Norte.

In her message during the Opening Program, Ms. Analiza Ramos, Rice Banner Program Focal Person in the

region noted the relevance of the training especially with the on-set of rice wet cropping season where Pangasinan is expected to establish 5 sites of the 100 hectares model farm and 3 sites in the province of Ilocos Norte.

Ms. Leah Coloma, RCM Focal Person in the region stressed the need to incorporate the RCM in all the Rice Banner Program's activities with a wider scope of the application covering not only the fertilizer recommendations.

With the seven applications of RCM, Coloma informed that the technology is now a helpful tool for rice pests monitoring and surveillance, farmer and farm-lot registration, farmer-identification, messenger and advisory services, including a real time reminder of when and how much to apply a fertilizer on a certain enrolled area in

particular.

To provide the participants with technical know-how in the operation and usage of the RCM technology, they underwent a hands-on demo using the Garmin hardware, together with the farmer-cooperators and with the guidance of the trainers, they measured the actual area of the proposed 100 hectares techno-demo site to be established at Brgy. Torre 2nd, Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

Meanwhile, with the wider scope of the RCM technology, Ramos and Coloma shared optimism that the RCM technology would raise the productivity and income of the farmers by the essential benefits it could provide. The same activity shall be undertaken in all other provinces scheduled on the first week of May.

1st task group on food resiliency virtual meeting held

Finding ways and means to mitigate the impacts and minimize threats brought by the ongoing pandemic while securing the region with sufficiency and accessibility of foods for the Ilocano farmers, members of the Task Group on Food Resiliency chaired by the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region convened for a virtual meeting today led by DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director, Nestor Domenden.

The first ever virtual meeting by the Regional Task Force Recovery Cluster initiated by the DA-RFO I's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division in partnership with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the meeting served as an avenue to brief the 13 member agencies out of the 16

identified agencies being mirrored by the agency-composition at the National Task Force of the agencies roles and obligations in the attainment of the Task Force's objectives of guaranteeing national food accessibility, availability and mobility including food price stability during this pandemic.

In his message during the virtual meeting, RED Domenden encouraged all member-agencies to be more proactive and resilient in the implementation of holistic and doable food resiliency plan to ensure a functional food system in the region.

He also supported the recommendations of other DA-attached agencies, especially those involved in the food services and delivery systems

like the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), etc. as they have a crucial role in the implementation of the Region's food resiliency programs and projects.

To encourage every member-agencies' commitment in the Task Group, all agency representatives presented their food resiliency plan and accomplishment which shall form part the consolidated plans and programs in the region which will be submitted to the National Task Force-Recovery Cluster.

Ensuring alignment of plans implementation and execution, member-agencies were asked to provide monthly progress report to NEDA as the Cluster Lead.



DA-RFO I holds review, strategic planning workshop

Firming up the LGUs commitments and providing them updates in the implementation of agricultural programs in Ilocos Region, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Corn Banner Program convened the municipal corn coordinators for a quarterly review and strategic planning workshop in the four provinces started on May 3, 2021 at the DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (DA-PREC), Poblacion, Sual Pangasinan.

Attended by the Municipal Corn Coordinators of Districts 1-3, followed by the Districts 4-6 held at the DA-PREC in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, the review



and planning workshop was facilitated by the Corn Banner Program led by its Focal Person, Ms. Loida Pacursa.

In his message delivered virtually during the first day of the activity,

DA-RFO I's OIC-Regional Executive Director Nestor Domenden conveyed his appreciation on the dynamic involvement of the LGU partners in the implementation of DA's programs,

Agri-fishery council leaders convened for peace, development consultation

"Food insecurity can affect peace in our country and the absence of peace hinders development. Hence, food is truly an integral part to maintain peace and achieve development."

This is how Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I OIC Regional Executive Director Nestor D. Domenden attributed the importance of food in attaining peace and development in the country.

Speaking before Agriculture and Fishery Council leaders via both virtual and on site during the conduct of the Regional Consultation on Peace and Development held at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center in

Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, Domenden acknowledged the very important role of the country's "heroes", the farmers and fisherfolk in ensuring not only the attainment of Food Security but security as well in their homes and communities and the country as a whole.

"We are all called upon to participate in this activity today because we need to hear from you, as leaders in your community, the issues and concerns in your respective sectors so that our government can respond timely and appropriately to your needs," he said.

The Regional Consultation on Peace and Development is a joint activity by the Department of Agriculture (DA),

Department of Interior and Local Government, National Task Force Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) which aims to elicit responses from agriculture and fishery council leaders to identify gaps and provide specific interventions to address issues and concern of the agriculture sector and avoid the influence of armed groups taking advantage on the plight of farmers and fisherfolk to insight insurgency.

Mr. Neil Mamaclay representing the NAPC provided the direction setting for the activity explaining to the participants that peace and development

projects and activities under the Corn Program especially during this time of pandemic.

Emphasizing on the need for a synchronized actions by the LGU extension workers with that of the DA following the guidelines of the Corn Banner Program, Director Domenden saw the need for timely reporting while making use of available communication platforms.

Finding the clustering and consolidation programs as a vital strategy to address production and marketing problems of agricultural commodities, he stressed the relevant role of the LGU-partners in crafting doable and strategic plans to address these concerns.

Relative to the crafting of the strategic plans for each municipalities and cities,

Regional Technical Director, Erlinda Manipon in her discussion about the Provincial Led Agricultural and Fishery Extension Delivery System as spelled out in the second strategies of the OneDA Pillars that forms part of the Mandanas Ruling for a total devolution of agri-fishery extension programs in CY 2022, she reminded all LGU partners to look on their Local Development Investment Plans for agri-fishery with emphasis on the development of Human Resources and their capabilities as well as institutional capacities in the delivery of agri-fishery extension services.

With the state colleges and universities tasked to conduct a rapid appraisal starting this May, Director Manipon reminded the participants to get ready and upgrade their plans in anticipation

of the increase on LGU's Internal Revenue Allotment come CY 2022.

Meanwhile, Pacursa provided updates on the CY 2021 programs, projects, activities and interventions of the Corn Banner Program such as but not limited to Production Assistance, buffer stocking program, extension and education support, agricultural and fishery machineries and equipment, and irrigation support.

The quarterly review and planning workshop is a regular activity of the DA, in partnership with the LGUs to assess strategies on project implementation thereby maximizing support and interventions for the farmers and fisherfolk in the region.

always go together. He explained how the government recognizes that poverty is one of the root cause of insurgency, hence, it is important to be able to formulate essential responses to issues affecting inclusive growth in a particular sector.

Through sectoral deliberation, the activity aims to identify existing programs and service interventions that will help the government be able to formulate a sector specific organizing strategy within the framework of peace and development.

During the said activity, the participants identified thematic issues such as the need for a more effective soil rejuvenation program, provision of more useful and practical farm equipment and facilities, provision of seed varieties on corn, garlic, and other commodities

that should be suitable to the existing climatic condition of the region, timely delivery of interventions, funding support for more farm to market roads, provision of proper compensation for agricultural workers, more specific intervention/support for farm workers affected by the mechanization program, lessen requirements for easier access to credit, protect the depleting production areas due to land conversion and the representation of agri sector in the zoning board of adjustment and appeals, these among others. The participants also aired their concern and apprehensions on how the agri sector would still be prioritized with funding support from the Local Government Units should the Mandanas ruling be implemented.

All the concerns raised and discussed during the forum will form part in

properly identifying policy gaps to improve basic services for the sector and as basis in crafting policy reforms both in the legislative and executive branch.

The NAPC representative also informed that output of the said consultation will be presented to the office of President Rodrigo R. Duterte to formulate possible social reforms agenda that will be included in the upcoming State of the Nation Address (SONA) of the President.

This collaborative effort of the participating agencies hopes to give more practical, effective and efficient solutions to pressing issues of the various sectors that could have direct impact in achieving peace and development for the country.

NEWS

A technical briefing for the implementation of the Mango Industry Productivity Enhancement Project under the Bayanihan II fund was conducted recently by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 on the four provinces of the region.

Under the said project, P30-M fund was allocated to boost and enhance the mango productivity in Ilocos.

Per record of the Philippine Statistics Authority, around 178,540 metric tons of mangoes is produced by the region in 2019 from an area of 17,000 hectares. In terms of volume of production, region 1 ranks as the highest producer contributing to 24% to the national production.

Aside from the technical briefing,



machineries and equipments were also turned-over to mango growers such as drone sprayer, power sprayer, and ladder. Mango bagging materials, pesticides and fungicides were also provided to control pest and diseases of mangoes.

Trainings will also be given to upgrade the knowledge and skills of

mango growers.

Meanwhile, RTD for Operations, Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon, further encouraged farmers to partner with DA and support further development of the industry. "Together we can achieve more," she said.

Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan – Organic practitioners in the province of Pangasinan convene for a consultation meeting today at the DA-RFO1 Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center. Staff members of the Organic Agriculture Program, headed by Dr. Marvin Quilates, together with the provincial government of Pangasinan presented their planting and harvesting accomplishments for the first quarter of this year.

In the Ilocos Region, organic farm areas in-conversion are estimated to be at 1,198.74 hectares (has.) out of

its 270,664 has. agricultural land area.

This 2021, 19.95 has. are targeted for organic farm expansion in Pangasinan, 11.985 has. in La Union, 19.77 has. in Ilocos Sur, and 12.45 has. in Ilocos Norte.



The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) Regional Office 1 hosted an online orientation with regard to the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) situation in the country.

The CTG as identified by NICA is composed of the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army, and National Democratic Front.

The Department of Agriculture was tapped by NICA to strengthen its awareness of the strategies done by CTG as most of the agency's projects are implemented at the grassroots level where these identified groups are actively instigating their leftist movements.



To ensure that food supply is sufficient in every household, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos through the High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) turned over various interventions to farmers group in La Union on June 9, 2021.

Through the Urban Agriculture (UA) program of the Bayanihan II fund, four identified farmers' groups from the municipalities of San Juan, Bacnotan, San Gabriel, and Aringay received tools and equipment amounting to P500,000 for the establishment of a community garden.

The community garden that will be established is projected to benefit the people in the community through the accessibility of food in the garden. It is as well expected that the produce will be utilized for community feeding programs and that it will generate income.

The tools and equipment granted to farmer-beneficiaries are roll plastic mulch,

woven net, seedling trays, organic and inorganic fertilizer, set of garden tools, wheelbarrow, plastic drum, plastic crates, knapsack sprayer, pole digger, grass cutter, and multi-purpose cultivator.

Meanwhile, prior to the distribution of the tools and equipment, Ms. Maricar Bongais of the HVCDP, presented the projects funded under the Bayanihan II in support to the UA program implementing guidelines. She as well briefed the farmers on the basic vegetable production technology.

The high-value crops development program together with Mr. Leonel Limbauan from the office of the Undersecretary for HVCRC spearheaded the briefing and turnover ceremony held at DA RFO 1 and OPAG La Union.

The Movers Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Poblacion West, Natividad, Pangasinan, represented by its chairman, Mr. Dante Pagal, and its manager, Ms. Arne Bungar, received on June 21, 2021 a check worth P1 million. Said amount will be used for the procurement of delivery vehicle as part of the Department of Agriculture's Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita Financial Grant Assistance Program.

The Rayuray Farmers Agriculture Cooperative from Rayuray, Batac City also received the same amount as a seed fund to purchase farmers' produce in the province.



Image credits to DA-RFO1 Ilocos Norte Regional Experiment Center-Dingras



The Department of Agriculture-National Livestock Program in partnership with the Bureau of Animal Industry turned-over to the DA-RFO1 16 heads of goat and 24 heads of sheep, imported from Australia.

As one of the focus projects under the Bayanihan 2 program, these Australian Boers and Australian White Dorpers were acquired to establish multiplier farms and improve the genetics including the population of existing small ruminants in the region.

The Boer goats were housed at the DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (DA-PREC) in Sual, Pangasinan and the White Dorper sheep were brought to DA-Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center (DA-INREC) in Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

May pandemya man o wala, magsasaka't mangingisda, maasahan ng bansa.



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