


PRDP inFOCUS

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Staff members from the Philippine Rural Development Project RPCO 1 monitors the completed 15.40 kilometers farm-to-market road that connects Pug-os, Cabugao and Nagcullooban, Sinait in the province of Ilocos Sur. This FMR is estimated to cost Php206M and will largely assist mango farmers in the area.



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Php170M proposed enterprise subprojects for Ilocos Region gets RPAB approval

In a unanimous agreement, the Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) of the Regional Project Coordination Office I (RPCO I), approved three IREAP subprojects proposed under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) in Ilocos Region with a total project cost of about P170 million pesos supporting the onion, tomato and mungbean commodities.

Presented during the 26th RPAB meeting conducted by the RPCO I in Bauang, La Union, the proposed Mungbean Production,

Consolidation & Marketing of the Angio-Taculit Multi-purpose Cooperative of San Fabian, Pangasinan worth P13,611,925; the Multi-purpose Storage Facility & Marketing Enterprise of San Joaquin Multi-purpose Cooperative of Sarrat, Ilocos Norte worth P44,616,870; and the Establishment of Onion Cold Storage (Consolidation & Marketing) worth P111,847,988 of the Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives (NSCC) of Caoayan, Ilocos Sur has passed the scrutiny of the RPAB members and were all endorsed for funding under DA-PRDP Additional

Financing 2 (AF2).

The RPAB members recognized the importance of the proposed IREAP subprojects in creating not only livelihood opportunities for farmers but in securing sufficient supply of the three important commodities in Ilocos Region.

Region I currently ranks no. 1 in the production of tomato and mungbean and 2nd in onion production. But with issues on lack of proper storage facilities as well as marketing support, farmers continue





to struggle in achieving higher income and productivity.

With the funding support that may be provided thru the PRDP to the proposed enterprise development subprojects, problems on high spoilage, shortage of supply, low marketing, and coping with volume requirement of institutional buyers thru consolidation shall be addressed.

Each of the proponent group presented the Feasibility Study, Program of Work and Detailed Civil

Works of their proposed enterprises at which the RPAB members made minor comments/suggestions to improve further the project and ensure its successful implementation which is expected to benefit the entire agri sector in Ilocos.

To also apprise the RPAB members on the current status of PRDP implementation in the region, Mr. Roosevelt Peralta, head of the Monitoring & Evaluation Unit of PRDP-RPCO I and OIC-Chief of the Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Division presented the overview and

status of approved and implemented PRDP subprojects in Ilocos Region.

The RPAB meeting was successfully presided by RPCO-I PRDP Deputy Project Director Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, together with the RPAB members namely Engr. Vilmaflor Gascon of DPWH, Mr. Pedro D. Gonzales of DILG, Ms. Emeraldyn B. Cantoria of DAR, Mr. Benjamin Campaño, the RAFC Chair, and Engr. Cezar Manuel A. Cabansag of DENR.



Sec Dar leads groundbreaking ceremony for Php101M worth bridge

One of the most highly anticipated infrastructure subprojects under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) in the Province of Ilocos Sur is the Construction of Cabaroan-Silag-Pacang (CASIPA) Bridge with Approaches. The bridge will connect six (6) barangays to the provincial road and provide better access to transportation, city services, and government interventions.

Aside from improved transportation and good business, the CASIPA bridge will literally pave

the way for improved access to social services (i.e. access to schools and hospitals/health centers); reduced travel time, transport losses, hauling cost; and increased production for various agricultural commodities.

Secretary Dar highlighted the positive impact of the construction of bridge to the farmers and the entirety of the agriculture community during the ceremony.

At present, a pipe culvert serves as the bridge for barangays Cabaroan, Silag, Pacang, Langaoan, Ampuagan,

and Lesseb. The existing bridge is easily submerged in floodwaters during rainy season forcing some residents of Silag and Pacang to use balsa, an improvised boat made with wood scraps, for transportation.

The CASIPA Bridge, which has a total project cost of Php101,766,095.00, is targeted to begin construction on June 01, 2022. The bridge to be constructed will measure 120.9 linear meters, have 5.6 carriage width, and 358.81 meters approaches having 6.1 carriage width.

Three LGUs in Ilocos Region receive NOL 2 for infra projects

In an awarding ceremony held on July 21, 2022 by the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) North Luzon Cluster, the Municipalities of Bauang, La Union; Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur; and Bayambang, Pangasinan received the No Objection Letter 2 (NOL2) for their approved I-BUILD Subprojects under PRDP.

The Municipality of Bauang, La Union received its NOL 2 for the project "Rehabilitation and Road Opening of Cabalayangan-Sta. Monica Farm to Market Road" amounting to P98,142,383.71 under the second Additiinal Financing (AF2) of the DA-PRDP.

Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur likewise received its NOL 2 for the "Construction of Cabaroan-Silang-Pacang CASIPA Bridge with Approaches" with a total contract project of P101,766,095.00 and Bayambang, Pangasinan for its I-BUILD subproject "Improvement of San Gabriel II Farm to Market Road with Bridge" amounting to P107,932,093.15.

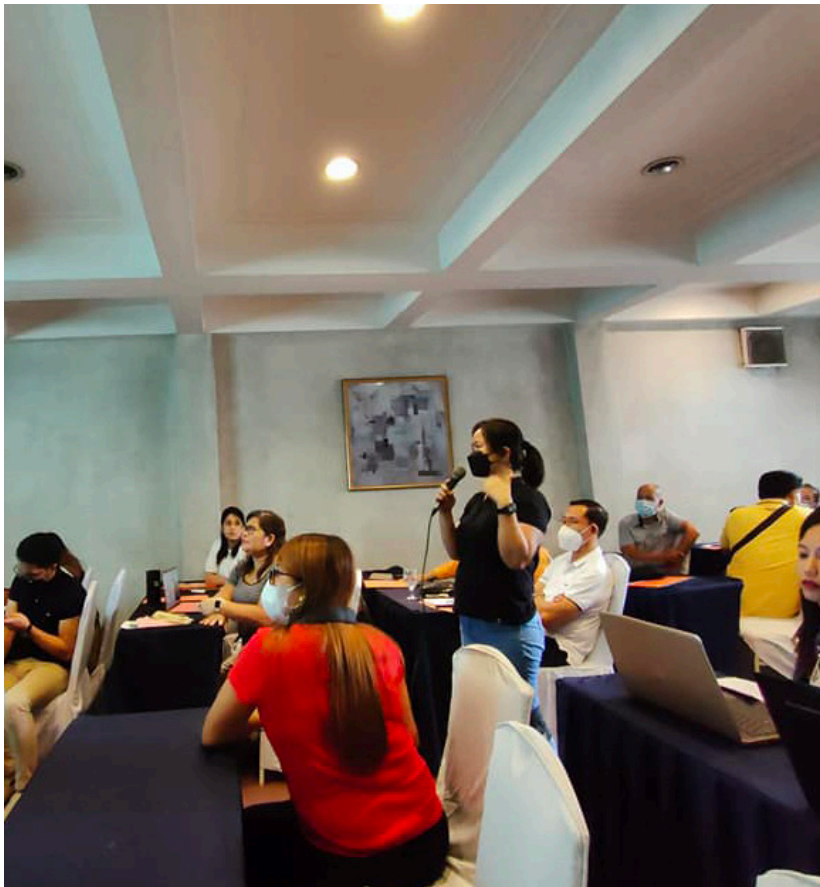
Receiving the awards for said LGUs were Mayor Eulogio Clarence Martin De Guzman of Bauang, La Union, Mayor Brigido Camarillo, Jr. of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur and Engr. Eddie Melicorio, Municipal Engineer of Bayambang, Pangasinan.

The awarding of NOL 2 to approved PRDP I-BUILD Subprojects signals the proponent LGUs to proceed with the awarding of contract to the winning bidder/contractor of the project.

The awarding ceremony was spearheaded by North Luzon Cluster Project Director and DA-RFO III Regional Executive Director Crispulo Bautista, Jr. with Ms. Elma Mananes, PSO Deputy Project Director held at Savannah Resort Hotel in Angeles City, Pampanga as part of the highlights of the North Luzon Cluster 2nd Quarter Assessment.



Rollout of I-PLAN EOM held for Ilocos provinces



After the training, the participants who were from the Provincial Project Management and Implementation Units and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan will have a follow-up workshop in August 2022 for the updating of their provincial investment commodity plans using the new tools in the EOM.

RPCO 1 I-PLAN Component Head, Ms. Doris Joy Garcia shared that the PRDP aims to mainstream the tools in the EOM to become the primary instruments of planners and the future of planning in the government.



The I-Plan Component of the Regional Project Coordination Office 1 (RPCO1) conducted an orientation on the Enhanced I-PLAN Operations Manual and Capacity Development on Integrating Climate Risk and Resilience into the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP) at Hotel Supreme, Baguio City on July 20-22, 2022.

The I-PLAN enhanced operations manual (EOM) introduces new scientific planning tools in the prioritization of Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) funded subprojects and other projects of the government. Aside from socio-economic considerations, the EOM now considers climate risks and vulnerability key hazards like flood, drought, rising sea level, typhoon, landslide, drought, erosion, salt water intrusion, and storm surge.

During the rollout, the participants were introduced to the planners portal which can be accessed at www.daprdp_plannersportal.net where they can easily access data on the aforementioned hazard indices. Through the website, planners can generate maps to aid the planning of government-funded projects and choose the most suitable and less vulnerable sites.

The EOM mobilizes social and environmental safeguards early screening, employ multi-risk factors assessments, consider geologies and animal and plant hazards for modern and climate-smart projects.





SPIS awarded to San Nicolas Bawang and Nateng Farmers Association

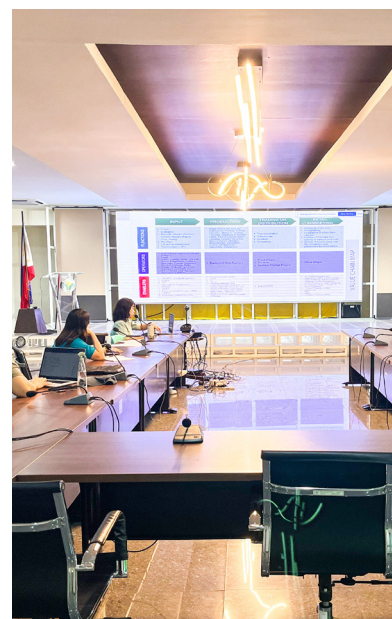
As part of the series of project monitoring by the Regional Operations and Maintenance Team (ROMAT) of the DA-RFO I utilizing the PRDP monitoring tools of Operations and Maintenance Audit System (OMAS) and the Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits (RAEB), the Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) awarded to the San Nicolas Bawang & Nateng Farmers Association of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte has been subjected to said monitoring as part of the mainstreaming of PRDP tools to DA projects implemented under the different banner programs.

The interviews conducted with the project beneficiaries has drawn significant responses and data showing the effectiveness of the project implemented in increasing the income and productivity of the farmer association members who were the direct beneficiaries of the said project.



First potable water system project implemented in Vintar, Ilocos Norte

The project, which is worth P3,989,426.01 was completed in 2019 benefitting 124 households in Brgy. San Jose, Vintar, Ilocos Norte providing safe potable water supply to the residents.



Let's “meat” half-way

In a virtual stakeholders' consultation meeting, the PRDP I-PLAN component presented the results of the primary, secondary data gathering, and consolidation activities for the formulation of the North Luzon Cluster Value Chain Analysis for Hogs in the context of Ilocos Region.

The active stakeholders include representatives from hog raiser associations or cooperatives and

experts from the private sector. The activity was also participated by Provincial Planning and Development Office staffs, Provincial Veterinarians, DA Livestock Banner, and RPCO 1 (I-PLAN, SES, GGU, I-BUILD).

Among the objectives of the activity are the following: (1) To consult the stakeholders on the correctness of the gathered data (2); To gather additional inputs on the proposed interventions based on the

identified constraints; (3) To solicit recommendations on the over-all result of the study.

The Value Chain Analysis is a document to be mainstreamed as a planning tool guide for the preparation of Provincial Commodity Investment Plans, which in turn serves as bases by the DA and other funding institutions in prioritizing interventions for the upgrading of the hog industry in the region.



SLP beneficiaries undergoes entrep training



To capacitate cooperatives that have become proponents of the Small Livelihood Project (SLP) under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), the IREAP Component of DA-Regional Project Coordination Office I (RPCO I) conducted a Capacity Building Development Training which started today October 6, 2022 and will conclude tomorrow, October 7, 2022 at the Regency Hotel in Calasiao, Pangasinan.

Proponent Group (PG) members from the Southern Binmaley MPC; Progressive Cooperative of Oraan East MPC; Bayanihan Hundred Island MPC; and BLP Farmers & Irrigators Association were the participants to the training.

As a way to ensure sustainability of the proponents' enterprises that were supported by PRDP, various topics were set to create an over-all knowledge enhancement for the coop members to become effective agribusiness entrepreneurs.





Three resource speakers from the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) North La Union Campus-Institute of Agribusiness Management were invited to lecture on seven important topics.

Dir. Arnelie Laquidan initially discussed today about Entrepreneurial Mind Setting and Values Formation. She will be lecturing as well about Leadership Management and Skills Training on the second day of the activity.

An important aspect of being an

agribusiness entrepreneur is to know how to start, maintain and grow one's business venture.

With this, topics on How to start a business; Human Resource Management; and Internal Control System were discussed today by Dr. Joana Quinquito and will discuss as well the topic on Office and Organizational Management for tomorrow's lecture, together with the topic on Simple Book keeping, Recording and Accounting by Ms. Leny Grace Garcia.

The conduct of the Capability Building Training is an off-shoot of IREAP's business process review activity conducted previously where training needs and other technical assistance needs were identified by the proponents to help them manage efficiently the livelihood assistance provided to them by DA thru PRDP.

The Ilocos Region has a total of 52 approved and implemented SLP under PRDP where 30 of which were awarded to Pangasinan PGs.



DA regular projects adopt PRDP best monitoring tool practices

Imploring the best practices of project monitoring under the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) for DA-awarded projects in Ilocos Region, the Regional Operations & Maintenance Audit Team (ROMAT) of DA-RPCO I and the technical staff of the Planning Monitoring & Evaluation Division (PMED), Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED), and the Field Operations Division





(FOD), conducted monitoring and evaluation in Brgy. Turod, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur on November 4, 2022 for a Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) project of the Brgy. Turod, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur Farmers and Irrigators Association worth P5.7M and which was awarded under the Rice Banner Program in 2019.

This is part of the mainstreaming activities under PRDP which seek to integrate the best practices developed thru PRDP into the Department of Agriculture's regular programs and projects for more effective and efficient project implementation.

Utilizing the PRDP tools such as the Operations & Maintenance Audit System (OMAS) and the Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits

(RAEB), members of the ROMAT and the technical staff of DA RFO I is set to inspect and evaluate a total of four identified SPIS projects regionwide and look into the effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the project to the beneficiaries and the community in general.

Under PRDP, the OMAS is conducted every six months after completing the subproject to monitor the proper operations and maintenance of the project and seeks to establish the strategies adopted by the LGU and project beneficiaries in maintaining the quality and condition of the project to maximize its benefits.

Meanwhile, the RAEB is an evaluation tool designed to assess the impact of implemented subprojects



on intended beneficiaries and find out whether the project contributed to the attainment of the Project's development goals. Applying the RAEB tools in the project monitoring and evaluation activity also helps in identifying some of the challenges in project implementation from which the DA can recommend solutions, practices and sustainability measures.

Other than the actual field visitation of the project, the team conducted geotagging, Key Informant Interview (KII) with the municipal agriculturist assigned to oversee the project, spot interview and survey with beneficiaries, and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with officers of the farmers' association and barangay council to gather relevant data to determine the impact and success of the DA-implemented project in attaining the projected benefits and assess





the current efforts and sustainability plans of the Local Government Units (LGUs) for the project.

Based on the responses gathered through the interviews conducted, the SPIS has contributed to the increase in farm productivity and income and cropping intensity of farmers that benefited from the 15-20 hectare service area of the project directly benefitting a total of 20 farmer members.

Mr. Edgar Garcia, the association president shared that before the project was established, farmers in the area planting rice used to harvest around 5.0-5.5 t/hectare but with the project now providing them sufficient irrigation, they are able to increase their harvest to 6.0-7.0t/ hectare. For corn, an increase from 90-120 bags/hectare (@40kg/bag) to





130-200 bags/hectare was obtained after the project.

The project has likewise reduced their cost of production as they were able to save P5,000-P8,000.00 cost on fuel for their irrigation activities throughout their cropping season. Other members were now also able to grow other crops like vegetables, in addition to their rice and corn crops.

Emerging benefits derived from the project was the production of tilapia which the association president initially thought of by putting 3,000 tilapia fingerlings inside the water reservoir/tank connected thru the SPIS as an additional source of food for the association members.

The LGU, through the MAO, has expressed gratitude to DA for the implementation of the project in their municipality which he said has sparked a future plan of duplicating the said project in some other areas in the municipality adopting the

design and strategies set by the DA.

In support of the association, the Cabugao LGU has likewise provided various farm machinery and equipment from which the income derived from the rental/use of said machinery is used as part of the operations and maintenance fund of the association.

With the evaluation conducted by the team focusing on the functionality, physical condition, and its social and institutional status, the ROMAT gave the association a rating of 8/10 or "Good" rating as they were able to maintain the project and kept it in good condition, however, record-keeping on the expenses and income and other documentation reports relative to the maintenance of the project has been part of the recommendations to further sustain the project and deliver its maximum benefit to the farming communities in Brgy. Turod, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur.###



PLGU partners in PRDP implementation readies climate resilient PCIP

Determined to execute the concepts imparted during the initial orientation briefing on Integrating Climate Risks & Resilience into the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP), as part of the Overall Enhancement of the IPLAN Component Operations Manual of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), the Provincial Project Management and Implementation Units (PPMIU) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices (DRRMO) of Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan convened anew for a follow-up workshop in Baguio City on August 16-19, 2022.

In the said workshop spearheaded by RPCO I IPLAN component, the PLGUs were given prescribed templates to



work on where they provided the corresponding data identifying risks and climate resiliency factors that should be considered as part of their PCIP to ensure sustainability and efficiency of proposed projects and interventions whether it be under PRDP or as a regular project of the province.

The auto generated templates was provided by the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) where data gathered from the PLGUs would be incorporated in the Planners Portal which is part of the move that all innovations of IPLAN and GGU will be accessed in the planners portal.

In the initial orientation activity, the PLGUs were already oriented on what concepts should be integrated



in their PCIP such as the Climate Resilience Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), Spatial Planning (where areas are categorized as coastal, lowlands, or highlands), as well as considerations on plant health risks.

The workshop aims to guide PLGUs that in proposing for an intervention, risks & climate resiliency should also be looked on and know the mitigating measures to avoid losses due to unexpected climate and other related risks.

During the 14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission, it was reiterated that one of the deliverables for the I-PLAN component is the integration of Climate Risk Resiliency consideration in the PCIP.

IPLAN Component head Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, who is also the newly designated RPCO I Deputy Project Director and recently as DA-RFO I Regional Technical Director for Operations, conveyed her thanks



affect projects and investments hence should integrate this in their planning activities. “This could best be done if a Business Continuity and Management Plan be prepared/ adopted as part of the regular planning and programming”, she said.

Data generated during the workshop is expected to provide guide for government planners to decide/identify suitable and sustainable interventions for a particular commodity/enterprise in their locality. #

for the active involvement and interest of the PLGUs in keeping up with various activities and efforts towards further improving the PRDP implementation aiming for a climate resilient and sustainable infra and enterprise subprojects in the regions.

She mentioned the need to continually enhance the IPLAN Operations Manual to cope with the fast evolving technologies and innovations in project implementation. Like for example, in the Commodity prioritization guide, it now includes the geological hazards such as earthquake, volcanic eruptions among others, because these are not considered in the old EVSA baseline data.

Also joining the group on the second day of the workshop was the new OIC-Regional Executive Director of DA-RFOI, Atty. Jennilyn M. Dawayan who underscored the crucial need for agencies and government units to be ready in addressing risks and climate considerations that may



RPCO 1 convenes LGUs; reports progress, barriers

The Regional Project Coordination Office 1 (RPCO1) is conducting a Quarterly Coordination Meeting with its I-BUILD Counterparts in Provincial/Municipal Project Management and Implementation Units (P/MPMIUs) in Ilocos Region at the City of San Fernando, La Union on August 4-5, 2022.

The activity aims to track the progress of infrastructure subprojects in Ilocos Region issued with No Objection Letter (NOL) by the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) under Additional Financing 1 & 2, assess

the operations and maintenance of infrastructure subprojects completed under the Original Loan (OL), and identify bottlenecks affecting implementation.

RPCOs are also monitoring and surveying PRDP infrastructure





subprojects that may have been affected by the recent 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck North Luzon on July 27, 2022.

The Coordination Meeting is being attended by the Provinces of Ilocos Norte and La Union, Municipality of Bayambang, Pangasinan, Municipality of Bauang, La Union, Municipality of Manaoag, Pangasinan, Municipality of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, Municipality of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur, Municipality of Vintar, Ilocos Norte, and Municipality of Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

On 03 August 2022, RPCO 1 likewise held its Mid-year Assessment and discussed the implementation updates for the Enterprise and Infrastructure Components. The financial progress of RPCO 1 in terms of obligation and disbursement was also tackled.

During the Assessment, OIC, Regional Executive Director Erlinda F. Manipon reminded the PRDP staff in Ilocos Region to continue exerting their best efforts to beat the deadline of completion of PRDP subprojects by 2024.

**ENABLING
COMMUNITIES**

**EXPANDING
OPPORTUNITIES**

