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# Damag Agri

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# PBBM gives Php10k aid to Pangasinense farmers, fisherfolk

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday led the distribution of Php 10,000 cash aid to farmers and fisherfolk whose livelihoods were affected by the successive typhoons in recent weeks, as part of the Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fisherfolk, and Families (PAFF) program.

“Layunin nitong maging unang hakbang upang makaahon muli ang inyong mga kabuhayan,” President Marcos said. (The goal of this [program] is to serve as the first step toward rebuilding your livelihoods.)

The PAFF program was launched to help farmers and fisherfolk recover from the impact of El Niño, which was reported to have caused a total of Php

9.50 billion in damage to the country’s agriculture sector.

However, after this phenomenon, six consecutive tropical cyclones struck the country within 25 days, two of which were super typhoons. The president has therefore noted how climate change is affecting the country.

“Sa nagdaang mga linggo, naramdaman natin ang hagupit ng kalikasan na dulot ng climate change o pagbabago ng klima,” he said. (In the past few weeks, we have felt the wrath of nature brought about by climate change.)

President Marcos encouraged the public, local government units, and

national agencies to utilize resources and adopt current innovations from the government to address this global phenomenon, such as the geological hazard maps created by the Department of Science and Technology.

“Hinihikayat ko ang lahat, na gamitin ang ating kaalaman, materyales, at pondo upang mas maging handa tayo ano man ang pagsubok na dumating sa atin. Tulad ng mga geo-hazard map. Itong geo-hazard map, ito po ang mga ginagawa ng DOST upang maipakita kung saan dadaan ang bagyo at anong lugar ang pwedeng tamaan,” PBBM explained. (I encourage everyone to use our knowledge, resources, and funds to better prepare ourselves for whatever challenges may come our way. One

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## NCI-SRD approves 12 Ilocos convergence sites

One step closer to realize the goals and objectives of the proposed convergence sites in Ilocos Region, the Department of Agriculture through its National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) in partnership with its regional counterpart convened the proponents of the 12 proposed convergence sites in Ilocos Region for the ceremonial signing of the NCI-SRD Resolution approving the various cities and municipalities as convergence areas. The signing was held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management Convention Hall in Diliman, Quezon City on October 16, 2024.

With the presence of the Local Chief Executives and other representatives including all other partner agencies of the 12 convergence sites, the ceremonial signing provided an avenue to gather the

commitment of the various partners to work together in planning, budgeting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating each of the Convergence Area Development Plan of the 12 proposed convergence sites in Ilocos Region.

NCI-SRD Permanent Alternate Head of the National Steering Committee and the DAs Undersecretary for Operations, Agri-Fisheries, Mechanization and Rural Credit, Engr. Roger Navarro in his message during the event lauded the efforts of the RCI technical working group together with the municipal and city proponent groups with their commitment and support especially in the preparation of documentary requirements as a pre requisite in the approval of their 5-year CADPs, enabling the region to produce the most number of convergence sites proposed from among the 15 regions in

the country.

OIC-Regional Executive Director, Dr. John Pascual recognized in his message the relevance of commitments and collaborations among the partner agencies especially the partner municipalities and cities in the implementation of the proposed convergence development programs and projects especially in resource sharing to enhance agri-fishery performance leading to a more sustainable livelihood for farmers and fishers.

Encouraging everyone's support in the realization of the goals and objectives of the convergence plans and programs, a manifesto of support was signed by the attendees led by DA USec Navarro, Atty. Jonas Leones represented by Ms. Llarena Mojica, Ms. Rowena Taduran and Usec.

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# DA-RFO1 promotes healthy eating through Run for RICEponsibility event

The Department of Agriculture Ilocos region through the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS), successfully held the “Run for RICEponsibility” fun run as part of the 2024 National Rice Awareness Month celebration.

More than 100 employees from the DA-Regional Field Office 1 participated in the event to support the advocacy for responsible rice consumption. The top

five finishers were rewarded with cash prizes and certificates of recognition.

The activity aimed to raise public awareness about the importance of mindful rice consumption and promote healthier alternatives, such as brown rice.

“Run for RICEponsibility” is one of the many strategies of the DA to encourage everyone to value rice not

only as a staple food for Filipinos but also as an important component in achieving national food security.

NRAM is observed every November to raise public awareness about rice, promote better health among consumers, improve the income of local farmers, and attain rice self-sufficiency, among other goals.



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example is the geo-hazard maps. These geo-hazard maps were created by the DOST to show where storms may pass and which areas could potentially be affected.)

“Sa wastong paggabay at paggamit ng impormasyon na ito, maiiwasan natin ang malalang pinsala ng mga sakuna,” he added. (With proper guidance and use of this information, we can avoid the serious damage of disasters.)

Through the Department of Agriculture, the president assured farmers and fisherfolk that they would receive enough buffer seeds and other assistance to help them strengthen their livelihoods once again.





## DA Ilocos honors top performing units in year-end assessment

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA RFO 1) honored its top-performing units at a year-end assessment held in Baguio City on December 16.

The awardees were evaluated based on their physical and financial accomplishments, good governance, and client satisfaction results.

In the Locally-Funded Projects category, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program secured first place. The Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) took second place, while the Adaptation and

Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) program was recognized in third place.

For research stations, the Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center (INREC) Dingras Station and the Ilocos Sur Research Center (ISReC) shared first place, while the INREC Batac Station claimed second place.

In the Banner Programs category, the Corn Banner Program emerged as the top performer. The National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program earned second place, while the Organic Agriculture

Banner Program and the High Value Crops Development Program tied for third place.

The top performing divisions were the Field Operations Division, the Integrated Laboratories Division, and the Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Division, all sharing first place.

The awarding ceremony highlighted the significant contributions of DA-RFO1's various units in the implementation of its programs, projects, and activities in Ilocos Region.



# Two years in advance: DA convenes shareholders for 2026 plans, budget proposals

Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office One (DA-RFO1) through its Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (PMED) gathered over 100 Pangasinan Local Government Units (LGUs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and agencies for the 2026 Plan and Budget Proposals Joint Planning Exercises. This two-day event was held at Kabaleyan Cove Resort, San Carlos City, Pangasinan, on November 19-20, 2024.

different agencies, PMED Chief, Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, urged the participants to pay attention to the presentations and plan proposals, stating that “The DA (Department of Agriculture) cannot stand alone in agri-fishery, we must stand together, government agencies, para mas marami tayong matulungan.” Hence, the plans for the years were set in advance to give agencies and implementers ample time to prepare and adjust.

years, providing avenues for information and inquiry exchange amongst program implementers and beneficiaries. Topics included the Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028, Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas Plan 2024-2028, Commodity Investment Plans, possible areas of convergence and collaboration, and sector assessments and insights. The event also involved workshops and presentations of outputs regarding budget and plan proposals for the year 2026.

The event tackled various projects and plans for the upcoming



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for Local Government Marlo Iringan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), respectively.

The twelve convergence sites namely: Dur-Asen Vintaren in Piddig and Dur-As Madongan in Ilocos Norte; the

Sinait River, Bagnos Cabugao, Caoplisan and Abra River. Basin in Sinait and Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, the Western Block of Mangatarem Cluster and Agro-Ecotoirism of Mt. Balungao in Pangasinan and Saracat Watershed in San Juan, Baroro Watershed in Bacnotan and PaPCor in Santol, La Union upon the approval of the resolution as coverage sites may be able to launch by the region upon completion of the required documents of their CADPs.

Working on for the administration, management and coordination of the 12 convergence sites was made possible by the RCI-SRD Technical Working Group led by its Chairperson in the Region, OIC-RED John Pascual and its Focal Point, RTD for Operations Dennis Tactac, NCI-SRD Secretariat Head, Ms. Karen Roscom hand in hand with the other regional partner agency heads and their representatives.





## DA-RFO1 convenes LGU aggie heads for consultation, briefing for 2025 plans, programs

The Department of Agriculture in Ilocos through its Field Operations Division in tandem with the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division convened the Provincial/Municipal/City Agriculturists and Veterinarians of the four provinces in the region for a consultation and briefing on DA programs and updates at the Hotel Ariana in Bauang, La Union.

A two-day activity that gathered around 125 heads of municipalities and cities in the region, the consultation and briefing provided an avenue for the DA management and field operations group to give updates and policy directions in the implementation of agricultural programs and projects for CY 2025.

RTD for Operations, Engr. Dennis Tactac in his welcome remarks noted the importance of conducting this consultation dialogue with the DA's

partners to thresh out the issues and concerns in project implementation while providing an opportunity for sharing good practices and experiences of the LGU-partners which can be adopted by the other local government units in the region for better DA project implementation.

Providing in details what the DA would be working on in CY 2025, Ms. Milagros dela Rosa, in lieu of Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, the Planning Officer of DA in Ilocos presented the DA's CY 2025 strategic directions aligning with the goals, thrust and objectives of the 'Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas' plan of the Marcos administration.

Ms. Analiza Ramos, Chief of the Field Operations likewise updated the Municipal and City agriculturists with the various priority plans and programs of the DA in Ilocos this coming 2025 emphasizing more on

the five major banner programs of the DA including its special programs for specific sectors in the region.

To provide the participants an avenue to air their issues and concerns, an Open Forum was facilitated with OIC-RED John Pascual back-to-back with RTD Tactac leading the activity in addressing the issues and concerns raised relative to devolution of AEWs, protocol and guidelines in project implementation, capacity and competency of hired agricultural extension workers, among others.

The consultation and briefing with the LGU heads in agriculture is an annual activity of the DA in Ilocos to strengthen its partnership and collaboration with them necessary to carry out the programs and projects in the agriculture and fishery sector in the region.



# We listen: DA lends ears to stakeholders for corporate plan 2025-2029

Inviting Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and representatives from the private sector, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office One (DA-RFO1), opened a forum for stakeholders to give their inputs for the agency's five-year corporate plan in the workshop entitled, "Intensifying Public Service in Agriculture: DA-RFO1 Corporate Plan (2025-2029) – Stakeholders' Day" on December 2, 2024, at the DA-RFO1, 5th Floor, Conference Hall.

The activity focused on giving invited stakeholders a safe space for expressing their thoughts, suggestions, and recommendations for the improvement of DA plans and projects for the upcoming years. It also served

as an avenue for collaboration between agencies, government, and private sectors alike, allowing the voices of different sectors to be heard.

As worded by OIC-Regional Executive Director John B. Pascual, "Together, we can create initiatives that empower farmers, to improve access to resources and technologies, and prosper innovations across the region," hence, representatives were given ample time to group, exchange thoughts and opinions, and present their comments on the uniqueness, implementation of programs, and governance of the DA-RFO1.

Dr. Evelyn Aro-Esquejo, Corporate Plan Consultant, summarized that the presence of the stakeholders for DA's five-year

corporate plan (2025-2029) is valuable for their insights as paths connecting the agency to the people, specifically, farmers and fisherfolk, stating that, "The DA aims to change strategies that are lacking and retain those that are already good."

In that line, invited participants stated the competencies they applaud and issues that need to be addressed, as well as expectations from the DA-RFO1 in the coming years. The workshop is held in promises of improvement in accordance with suggestions and constructive criticisms of stakeholders, with the government agencies ending their presentation stating, "The more we communicate problems, the more we communicate solutions."







## DA-RFO1 successfully completes external audit for ISO 9001:2015 recertification

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) has successfully concluded its external audit for the renewal of its ISO 9001:2015 Certification, marking another significant milestone in its commitment to quality management and service excellence.

The audit, conducted from November 26 to 29, 2024, by Certification International Philippines (CIP) auditors Florante B. Zarate and Janet N. Safranica, aimed to evaluate DA-RFO I's continued compliance with ISO standards, the effectiveness of its management system, and the relevance of its operational scope, including adjustments to significant changes.

Subjected to the rigorous evaluation were DA-RFO I's research stations in Ilocos Norte (INREC), Ilocos Sur (ISREC), La Union

(ILIARC), and Pangasinan (PREC). The auditors assessed the centers' operations, equipment maintenance, and calibration processes.

At the Regional Office, the audit covered critical divisions, including the Research and Development (R&D), Field Operations (FOD), Regional Agricultural Engineering (RAED), Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PMED), Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance (AMAD) and Regulatory divisions, as well as the Human Resources, Procurement, Property and Supply.

Key areas of compliance examined included customer satisfaction, organizational context, QMS scope, leadership, and management review.

During the exit meeting, Mr. Zarate acknowledged the organization's

efforts, highlighting more evidence of compliance with ISO standards despite identifying three minor non-conformities and one open minor non-conformity. "We have observed significant improvements and a strong commitment to quality management," Zarate noted. As a result, the audit team unanimously recommended DA-RFO I for recertification.

Meanwhile, DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director John B. Pascual lauded the efforts of the entire DA team as it hurdled the 4-day external audit and further encouraged the group to take note on the observations, make the necessary corrective actions on the non-conformities raised from the audit to ensure consistent and strict compliance to the requirements of the standards.

The successful audit underscores  
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# AMAD convenes youth for future up-scaling, YFCP competitions



Initiated by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office One (DA-RFO1) Agribusiness Marketing and Assistance Division (AMAD), some 40 Young Farmers Challenge Program (YFCP) awardees and up-scale applicants were invited for the three-day training workshop for business plan preparation at the City of San Fernando, La Union, on December 18-20, 2024.

“This activity was held to assist and help you (participants) to prepare in joining the up-scaling of the YFCP, as well as those interested in availing other finance programs of the department,” said Ms. Rhoda Galban, Officer-in-Charge of AMAD, in her rationale of the activity.

It sought to equip participants, youth agri-preneurs, past awardees of YFCP, and other interested parties with skills and knowledge

regarding project matters, business operations, financial projection and analysis, venture sustainability, and risk management for the upcoming Young Farmers Challenge Program competition. This does not only give them an edge over fellow competitors for the challenge but also helps them prepare and plan ahead for the success of their respective ventures outside of the program.

The Young Farmers Challenge Program is a program initiated by the Department of Agriculture Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (DA-AMAS) established to promote agri-interest and agri-business ventures among the youth aged 18-30 years old through grants amounting as high as P300,000.00 for the national level.

In discussions, Ms. Galban also mentioned an inter-collegiate category

for the YFCP in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to encourage college students in taking up agri-related enterprises.

The future of agriculture is now in the hands of the youth. Through these various programs and trainings, the Department of Agriculture ensures that the young agri-preneurs are given enough support in order to attain a sustainable and innovative future for agriculture and fishery.

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DA-RFO I's dedication to maintaining high standards of service delivery and operational efficiency, reinforcing its commitment to supporting the agricultural sector in the Ilocos Region.

With the endorsement for recertification, DA-RFO I continues to lead by example, ensuring that quality management remains a cornerstone of its mission to serve the farmers and agri-stakeholders.





## DA-RFO1 conducts AgriNegoSkwela training for young farmers challenge program 2024

The Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO 1), through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), successfully conducted the AgriNegoSkwela Training for the Young Farmers Challenge Program CY 2024, bringing together representatives from the four provinces of Region 1.

The two-day training aimed to equip young farmers with essential knowledge and skills to enhance their agribusiness ventures. Around 15 participants from various provinces in the region attended the event, which featured a comprehensive lineup of

topics that include Integrated Business Licensing and Registration; Taxation for Micro and Small Enterprises; Basic Business Recording; Understanding Financial Statements; Bookkeeping and Basic Accounting for Non-Accountants; and Pricing and Costing Fundamentals

These sessions were designed to empower young farmers with practical tools for managing and growing their agribusinesses effectively.

An open forum was also held during the training, providing participants an opportunity to

raise concerns, seek clarifications, and discuss challenges in their entrepreneurial journeys. The forum encouraged knowledge-sharing and fostered a collaborative environment to support the participants in building sustainable and profitable agricultural enterprises.

Through initiatives like AgriNegoSkwela, the DA-RFO 1 continues to demonstrate its commitment to nurturing the next generation of agripreneurs, promoting sustainable agriculture, and driving economic growth in the Ilocos Region.



# DA-PRDP in Ilocos Region turns over Php14M worth of facility, enterprise to Pangasinan peanut farmers

The Department of Agriculture (DA) - Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) through the Regional Project Coordination Office I (RPCO I), celebrated a significant milestone with the inauguration and turn over of the facility for the Peanut Production, Consolidation, and Marketing Enterprise to the Catuday Agrarian Reform Cooperative in Barangay Catuday, Bolinao, Pangasinan on October 30, 2024.

The project, funded with a total investment of PHP 14,991,384.36 under the PRDP, is set to transform the local peanut industry by empowering cooperative members with enhanced production and marketing capabilities.

The project provides the Catuday Agrarian Reform Cooperative with vital resources and facilities to support peanut farmers in producing and marketing high-quality peanut planting materials and food-grade shelled peanuts. Essential services made available through this initiative include a 4-wheel tractor, mechanical peanut planters, a peanut pod stripper, a peanut sheller, organic fertilizers, and trike rentals for transport.

The cooperative expects to achieve a 12% increase in average enterprise income and production volume annually through this enterprise. This growth is anticipated as a result of improved planting materials, expanded production areas,

and increased yields. By supplying quality seed planting materials, the project also aims to enable more peanut farmers to access resources that enhance both productivity and profitability.

Gracing the ceremony were former DA Secretary now Chairman of the Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives Mr. Leonardo Q. Montemayor, DA-RPCO I-Support Component Head and PRDP Action officer Mr. Deo Rivera representing DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Dr. John B. Pascual, and Pangasinan Board Member Ms. Apple DG. Bacay representing Pangasinan Governor Ramon V. Guico III.







## Ilocos project advisory board approves four proposals for PRDP Scale-Up funding

The Regional Project Advisory Board 1 (RPAB1) has approved for funding under the Philippine Rural Development Project Scale-Up the subproject proposals from the municipalities of Bayambang in Pangasinan, Tagudin in Ilocos Sur, and Paoay in Ilocos Norte.

The recommendation for approval was granted during the RPAB1's 31st and 32nd meeting on December 18 and 27, respectively.

### 31st RPAB meeting

Of the three proposals, two were proposed by LGU Bayambang and one by LGU Tagudin. The approved subprojects are valued at Php647.6M.

The first proposal from

Bayambang includes a 6.16-kilometer farm-to-market road (FMR). The road project, which will connect major onion production areas to markets, cost Php319.18M. It is an extension of the 1.87-kilometer FMR with 61.5-meter bridge established in Barangay San Gabriel II under the PRDP Additional Financing 2 funding scheme.

This new road will link Barangays San Gabriel II and Pantol, benefiting nearby Pangasinan municipalities – Bautista and Alcala, including Moncada, Tarlac.

The second Bayambang proposal involves the establishment of an onion cold storage facility in Barangay Amancosiling. With a capacity to store 145,000 bags of onions, the facility aims to serve some 858 onion farmers.

The municipality of Bayambang is the lead producer of onion in Region 1.

The third proposal, presented by LGU Tagudin, is the establishment of a Php82.4M slaughterhouse in Barangay Ranget. The facility is expected to benefit small-scale livestock raisers in the area and provide the residents with safe and quality meat adhering to the National Meat Inspection Services standards.

### 32nd RPAB meeting

Following the endorsement of the three subprojects, the construction of the Ubbog Bridge with Approaches in Paoay, Ilocos Norte was approved

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# Groundbreaking held for Php37.4M onion cold storage in Bayambang, Pangasinan

A new era for onion production in Pangasinan begins as the Department of Agriculture (DA), in collaboration with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Bayambang, breaks ground for the construction of a state-of-the-art Onion Cold Storage Facility on December 9, 2024.

With a project cost of P37,402,935.98 under the DA's High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), this facility will have a storage capacity of 20,000 bags. It is poised to address longstanding challenges faced by onion farmers, including post-harvest losses, unstable market prices, and the lack of adequate storage facilities—barriers that have hindered the full potential of this thriving sector for years.

Bayambang, widely recognized as a key producer of onions in the Ilocos Region, plays a critical role in supplying onions to local and national markets. The region, with its 214% onion sufficiency level, significantly contributes 21% of

the Philippines' total onion production, which reached 170,000 metric tons in 2023.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, officials emphasized the facility's far-reaching impact, both on farmers' livelihoods and the national onion industry.

With its advanced capacity, the storage facility hopes to reduce post-harvest losses by preserving the quality of onions for extended periods. Alongside this, it is also expected to stabilize market prices by allowing farmers to store their produce and sell when prices are favorable as well as empower farmers to negotiate better prices and improve their incomes. The facility will also strengthen food security and market stability, benefiting producers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

Speaking during the event, DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Dr. John B. Pascual highlighted the significance of the initiative: "This

facility is not merely an infrastructure project—it is an investment in the future of Bayambang's farmers and a testament to their indispensable role in ensuring food security and agricultural sustainability in the Ilocos Region."

The LGU of Bayambang, the project proponent, expressed its gratitude for the DA's continued support and underscored the transformative impact of the storage facility on the farming community.

By addressing critical challenges and boosting the competitiveness of local farmers, the Onion Cold Storage Facility is expected to propel Bayambang's onion industry to new heights.

This groundbreaking event reflects the government's steadfast commitment to uplifting farmers, supporting the agriculture sector, and reinforcing the role of Ilocos Region as a key contributor to national food sufficiency.





# DA-F2C2 program concludes 2nd Summit in Pangasinan

Despite the threat of Typhoon Kristine in Ilocos Region, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO I) through its F2C2 Program or the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation successfully conducted the three-day F2C2 Summit at The Monarch Hotel in Calasiao, Pangasinan.

Held on October 23-25, the summit gathered around 120 agri stakeholders in its aim to strengthen farmers groups and associations in the region through clustering and consolidation.

F2C2 National Director Ricardo Oñate in his message during the opening program recognized the importance of conducting activities such as the summit as it provides an avenue for farmers group

to interact and engage with other farmer-association while establishing linkage to DA's partner groups for possible collaboration.

With the 1,492 validated F2C2 clusters involving around more than 600 thousand farmers with covered area of about 814,460 hectares in the country, Dir. Oñate reiterated the importance of the Provincial led Agriculture and Fishery Extension System (PAFES) as a partner of the F2C2 to provide agri-fishery development programs especially on providing grant and credit programs to all the cluster cooperatives and farmers group in the region.

F2C2 Focal Person in the region, Mr. Juanito Malazo, Jr. briefed the

participants on the major issues and concerns of the FCAs in the region and discussed how the DA through the F2C2 Program is providing the necessary support to farmers groups and cooperatives.

The provision of institutional markets for farmers and fishers groups, working capital, production inputs and better mechanization programs are among the major concerns raised and discussed through the Summit.

Providing the attendees some updates and information on the various programs and projects of the DA's agency partners, each agency representatives was given an opportunity to discuss salient

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## Ilocos bags 4 awards in 10th Nat'l Agriculture and Fisheries Volunteers' Day celebration

The Ilocos Region bagged four awards at the recently concluded 10th National Agriculture and Fisheries Volunteers' Day celebration, an annual event hosted by the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) to recognize its national network of consultative bodies, including the Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) and the National Sectoral Committees (NSCs).

Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, Planning and Monitoring Division Chief of the Department of Agriculture—Regional Field Office 1, was named first runner-up in the Outstanding Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AFC) Executive Officer category. Ms. Jenelle Idica, Provincial AFC Coordinator of Ilocos Sur, placed as first runner-up for the Outstanding Regional PAFC Coordinator award.

Meanwhile, Ms. Florencia

Mendoza, the City AFC Coordinator for the City of San Fernando, was awarded second runner-up in the Outstanding CAFC Chairperson category. Mr. Rodolfo Abao, the Provincial AFC Chairperson of the Province of La Union, was recognized as one of the esteemed Pillars of Consultative Bodies.

Through this annual celebration, PCAF gives due recognition to the valuable contributions of volunteers in helping the Department of Agriculture modernize the sector's value chain and uplift the lives of Filipino farmers, fishers, and their communities.

Bearing the theme "Celebrating a Decade of Volunteer Recognition in the Agri-Fishery Sector," the event took place in Cebu on December 3, 2024.

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by the Ilocos RPAB members on December 27, 2024 at the DA-RFO1 5th floor conference room, Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union.

With a total cost of Php 109.89 million, the subproject will significantly benefit farmers in four barangays: Callaguip, Cayubog, Masintoc, and Oaig-Upay-Abulao. By enhancing connectivity, the bridge will reduce transportation costs and facilitate the timely delivery of various agricultural commodities to markets, including rice, corn, garlic, onion, vegetables, mango, shrimp, malaga, bangus, and tilapia.

Currently, the municipality of Paoay has already reaped the benefits of two previous PRDP-funded infrastructure projects: the rehabilitation of the Nalasin-Sungadan-Langiden farm-to-market road and the rehabilitation of the Paoay communal irrigation system.

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programs and projects which the farmers group may avail of.

Institutional buyers like the Dizon Farm, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development - Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (DSWD - EPAHP) were likewise given time to discuss their requirements and demand for a particular commodity that would provide guidance to the farmer-group attendees on what crop to plant at a certain period and other relevant information that they may be able to consider in the next cropping season.



# DA celebrates World Food Day 2024, honors student creativity

The Department of Agriculture (DA) joined the global celebration of World Food Day with a special event recognizing the creativity and vision of the youth in promoting food security. A highlight of the celebration was the gathering of 15 regional student winners of the on-the-spot poster making contest in Makati City on October 15, 2024, where they showcased their talents and competed at the national level.

The contest, held in each region prior to the national competition, aimed to raise awareness about this year's World Food Day theme "Right

to Food for a better life and a better future" focusing on sustainable food systems and the importance of ensuring healthy diets for all.

At the national level contest, the students displayed their creativity and talents in crafting their art works depicting the theme which was revised on the spot to "Youth in Action for a Food-Secure Nation."

Five outstanding entries from Regions 4-A, 6, 8, 9, and 12 were declared winners, each receiving a cash prize of P15,000 and a Certificate of Recognition from the DA. The

official awarding ceremony was held at the Quezon City Circle at 4:00 PM on October 16, 2024.

The World Food Day celebration emphasized DA's ongoing efforts to strengthen food systems, improve agricultural productivity, and enhance access to nutritious food for all Filipinos.

The Department congratulates all the participants and winners for their contributions to this meaningful event, highlighting the power of art in advocating for a food-secure future.







## 2024 Regional IP summit celebrates indigenous culture, unity in Ilocos Sur

With the theme “Ibiag Nan Kannawidan, Kultura Ay Nainsigudan Ayyewan, Padayawan!” the summit aimed to honor the enduring customs and traditions of Indigenous Peoples in Region 1. The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 through the Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4Ks) program, participated in the 2024 Regional Indigenous Peoples (IP) Summit, which took place on October 11, 2024, at the Municipal Covered Court in Barangay Cabaroan, San Emilio, Ilocos Sur.

The day-long event convened

leaders, advocates, and community members to celebrate the vibrant culture and unity among the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) across the region. The summit started early in the morning with a Thanksgiving Ritual called “Begnas” followed by a Solidarity Walk starting from the San Emilio Public Market and ending at the Municipal Covered Court.

Highlights of the summit included cultural presentations such as traditional dances and performances and various solidarity messages

from prominent leaders, including Ethnographic Commissioner Gary A. Cayat, Ilocos Sur Governor Honorable Jerry Singson, NCIP OIC-Regional Director Atty. Marvin Biligan, and Ilocos Sur APCO Jomar Dayap.

Additionally, a series of cultural dance competitions were held in the afternoon, including the Sayyadok 2024 Cultural Dance Competition. Awards were also given to individuals and groups who have championed Indigenous Peoples’ practices and showcased their talents.



# It's a woman's world: GAD honors outstanding women in reg'l awarding ceremony

Gender and Development (GAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1) hosted the Regional Awarding of the 2024 Search for Outstanding Rural Women on October 9, 2024 at the J&V Hotel and Resort. The event was attended by more than 70 representatives from local government units (LGUs), women farmers organization and agri-preneurs across region one.

After careful validation by the Regional Search Committee for

Outstanding Rural Women, three women came out victorious and were awarded accordingly for the year 2024. The winners are as follows:

Regional winner - Veberly Jubilo Uyaan of Balaoan, La Union

1st Runner-up - Lea Casilla of Rosario, La Union

2nd Runner-up - Eleanorgay C. Cabusaso of Bani, Pangasinan

Each winner received a plaque,

a certificate of recognition, and cash prizes of P50,000, P30,000, and P20,000, respectively.

Veberly Uyaan, the Regional Winner, will represent Region 1 in the national search for Outstanding Rural Women 2024. In her own words, the winner stated, "Hindi lang dapat basta babae, kundi isang inspirasyon sa mga Kabataan at mga kababaihan."

Congratulations to the Empowered Rural Women of Region 1!







## Right to food for a better future in color: Students of R1 districts join reg'l poster making contest

With the theme “Right to food for a better life and a better future,” student representatives of different schools division offices (SDOs) in Region 1 participated in the 2024 World Food Day Regional on-the-spot poster making contest, an annual activity spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Department of Education in celebration of World Food Day 2024. It was held at the DA-RFO1 Conference Hall on October 4, 2024.

each participant was given P1000 consolation prize, a certificate, and a token for their efforts and artful abilities. The winners are as follows:

1st Place: Rafael Harvey Fabro of Vigan Central School, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur with P5000 reward, a token, and certificate;

2nd Place: Cyrel Jhane Bautista of Tombod Integrated School, Villasis, Pangasinan with P3000 reward, a token, and certificate;

3rd Place: Samantha Picardo of

Calaoaan ES, Candon, Ilocos Sur with P2000 reward, a token, and certificate;

First placer Rafael Harvey Fabro will be representing Region 1 in the National Poster-Making Competition on October 15, 2024 in Makati, Philippines.

Congratulations to the winners, their coaches, and their families!

After three hours of contest time,



# Rural women convene in planning workshop on gender needs, agri dev't

Headed by the Gender and Development (GAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1) under the leadership of GAD Focal, Ms. Edilyn C. Goldara, around 70 women of agriculture, LGUs, representatives, and Farmer Cooperatives and Associations (FCA) members, convened at the J & V Hotel and Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union on October 9-10, 2024 for the training entitled “Rural Women Convention cum Planning Workshop on Gender Needs and

Agricultural Development.”

Several Banner Program Focals were invited as resource speakers to inform participants about various DA programs and services involving rice, corn, high value crops, livestock, Kadiwa, and the CSO accreditation. All of which would be useful in nurturing the growth and success of the invited members of farmer clusters highlighting the outreach to women farmer cooperatives and associations.

The convention also led way for the three-year plan for the Gender Needs Assessment and Planning Workshop wherein GAD, PMED, and Banner focals and representatives answered queries regarding said plans while exchanging inputs on the needs of various sectors.

The event was concluded in the afternoon of October 10 through the awarding of certificates.







## DA-PhilMech gives Php110.3M of post-harvest facilities, equipment

The Department of Agriculture through the Philippine Post Harvest and Mechanization (PhilMech) turned-over a total of Php110.3 million worth of agri-interventions to the various farmer's associations and cooperatives in Ilocos Norte on October 10, 2024 held at the Bacarra Zanjera Irrigators Multi-Purpose (BZIMPC) Cooperative Compound in Brgy. Buyon, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte.

The PhilMech, thru the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Mechanization Program (RCEF),

awarded to the BZIMPC the multi-million-peso rice processing system III along with the 68 units production and mechanization technologies such as tractors, farm implements, precision seeder, mechanical transplanter, threshers, and rice combine harvesters to the various farmers organizations and groups that aims to enhance productivity and yield in Ilocos with an improved post-harvest facilities and mechanization activities.

Considered as a multi-million government investment, the Rice

Processing System III (RPS) covers the provision of a rice mill with a capacity of 2-3 tons per hour or more or an equivalent of 48 tons per day operation. Aside from the rice mill, the project has also covered the two units 12-tonner per batch capacity and two units six-tonner per batch capacity of dryers to help farmers improve their palay-drying activities, especially during the rainy season.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel in his message delivered by the Regional Agriculture Engineering



Division Chief of DA-RFO I, Engr. Mark Harry Pastor recognized the importance of improving the post-harvest systems as well as infrastructures in the agriculture sector to empower the farmers to become better agri-preneurs while at the same time providing consumers more quality rice at an affordable price.

Mr. Edwin Cariño, consultant of the Office of the First District Representative, representing Ilocos Norte 1st District Congressman Ferdinand Alexander “Sandro” Marcos encouraged the BZIMP to cater not only to the members of the

Cooperative but also to non-members where a consolidated trading must be in place.

Noting the best practices of Denmark when it comes to consolidated farming, Mr. Cariño expressed his desire that this project may be able to duplicate through the cooperation of all the farmer’s groups and associations in the province.

He likewise encouraged the LGUs of Ilocos in collaboration with the various agencies to have a marketing and trade forum for special commodities so that they may be able

to discuss salient plans and programs to dominate not only on local and national trade but on foreign market as well.

Engr. Joel Dotor, PhilMech Director has also announced in the turn-over ceremony the proposed amendment and extension of the RCEF where PhilMech shall be allocated P9 billion instead of the current P5 billion per year until 2030 with the inclusion of Php10-15 million worth of warehouse or bodega covering not only the 57 provinces but all the major rice producing provinces in the country.



DA-Rafis Ilocos Region



RAFIS Ilocos Region



<https://ilocos.da.gov.ph>





## Avoid, adapt, recover – AMIA introduces Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal to Ilocos LGUs

In response to climate change and unpredictable weather conditions, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office One (DA-RFO1) Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program invited over 50 LGUs and representatives for the Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal (ACAP) —a website designed to deliver agro-climatic advisory to farmers for the initiative of avoiding, adapting, and recovering from climate change effects—during the two-day

training on September 24-25, 2024, in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, and on September 26-27, 2024 in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur.

With the rampant effects of climate change, Ms. Jennifer Milo of DA-RFO1 AMIA emphasized the need to use tools and adaptation of technologies in farming such as the Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) and Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal (ACAP) as well as building

farmer clusters for an organized approach, stating, “Our goal is to level up AMIAL villages through adapting and to improve the farmers’ lifestyles.”

ACAP is a website that seeks to disseminate agro-climatic advisory to farmers and fisherfolk with ease. Connected to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA), the portal uses the ever-changing weather and climate as basis



for making outlooks for growing crops. This is initiated by the DA-AMIA with the help of the University of Los Baños Foundation Incorporated (UPLBFI) and Alliance Bioversity & CIAT.

This portal includes features and services such as the ten-day farm weather outlook and advisory that uses the PAG-ASA's weather forecasts, tropical cyclones and bulletin, cyclone information, droughts, and rainfall forecasts; cropping calendars that shows crop activity

from preparation stage to maturity; Seasonal recommendations in the six-month period like climate risks and impact outlooks; and additionally, the convenience of exporting said information to PDF files in order to be printed and disseminated to interested farmers. Farmers and individuals may also register for SMS notifications.

The training is part of the initiative of AMIA in creating AMIA villages that are climate resilient, aligning to its goals in mitigating

climate change through the avoid, adapt, and recover initiative. Namely, for farmer cooperatives and associations to avoid costly mistakes, adapt to new technologies, and easily recover from disaster.

The last stop for the training workshops was held in the City of San Fernando, La Union for the LGUs of La Union on October 8-9, 2024.



DA-Rafis Ilocos Region



RAFIS Ilocos Region



<https://>





## Lighting orange sparks: DA-RFO1 joins campaign to end VAWC

Campaigning for the end of violence against women and children (VAWC), Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1) employees participated in the 2024 18-day campaign to end violence against women and children with the theme, “VAW Bigyang Wakas, Ngayon na ang Oras!” by wearing orange clothes on November 25, 2024, at the DA-RFO1 grounds.

Led by the Gender and Development (GAD) office of the DA-RFO1, under the leadership of Ms. Edilyn Goldara, DA-RFO1 personnel took part in the five-year recurring campaign (2022-2027) of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) with the theme “UNiTED for a VAW-free Philippines.”

DA-RFO1 employees will continue to wear orange clothes for the

dates December 2 and December 9, 2024, as part of the 18-day campaign.

The PCW chose the color orange for the campaign to symbolize a bright and optimistic future—a violence-free world for all girls and women alike. In wearing the color, employees also aim to spark awareness and show the people that the DA-RFO1 is one in action to end VAWC.





## DA Ilocos empowers employees with wellness training

In an effort to promote holistic well-being among its employees, the Gender and Development (GAD) Unit of the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos conducted a two-day training focused on comprehensive health, wellness, and managing psychosocial risks. The training, held in the 5th-floor conference room of the DA Ilocos office was participated by around 50 regular and contract of service employees on October 3-4, 2024.

The first day of the training featured sessions led by volunteers from the Science of Identity Foundation Community Assistance

for Responsible Existence (SIFCare). Participants learned about various health and wellness practices including acudetox, music meditation, and self-massage. They also received a lecture on the pillars of health and engaged in hands-on experience on the said health and wellness activities to deepen their understanding of these wellness practices.

On the second day, the focus shifted to personality development and psychological first aid. Experts from Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University-College of Management and the Red Cross Youth and Volunteer

Services shared practical advice and strategies for managing stress and building resilience.

Ms. Edilyn C. Goldara, GAD focal person of DA-RFO 1, expressed her hope that the training would empower employees to better manage their emotions, cope with stress, and improve their overall well-being. This initiative is part of DA Ilocos' ongoing commitment to creating a healthy and productive workplace for all employees.



# Together against violence: DA-RFO1 trains on gender, anti-VAWC advocacy

Some 40 Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1) and Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg) employees joined the Training on Gender Advocacy Anti-Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) on November 26, 2024, at the OPAg Conference Room, City of San Fernando, La Union.

As part of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAWC by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the

Gender and Development (GAD) office of the DA-RFO1 invited various GAD experts who discussed different topics relevant to the campaign, enhancing employee knowledge and awareness on VAWC.

Resource speaker Mariz Dafnae H. Mendoza, Senior Economic Development Specialist of NEDA-RO1, discussed topics such as the Safe Spaces Act, sexual orientation, gender identity expression, and anti-discrimination. Charisma M.

Agbayani, Attorney IV of CSC-RO1, tackled sexual harassment and a seminar on the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI). Lastly, Ms. Joan E. Casildo, Population Program Worker of the CPD-RO1, lectured on responsible parenthood and family planning.

The activity is in part of the PCW five-year recurring campaign (2022-2027) with the theme “UNiTED for a VAW-free Philippines.”







## DA-PMED holds 2026 plan, budget workshop with agri stakeholders

Breaking the usual process of preparing the Annual Plans and Budget for the development of agri-fishery sector, the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division convened the various stakeholders from the province of La Union for the two-day 2026 plan and budget proposals joint planning exercises in the City of San Fernando, La Union.

Led by the DA-Ilocos Regional Planning Officer, Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, the planning workshop gathered around 60 individuals from the various government agencies, civil society organizations as well as the provincial and local government units in La Union who were briefed on the various plans

and programs as well as strategies of DA and its attached agencies aligning with the goals, thrusts and objectives to that of the Sustainable Development Goals of the Marcos administration.

In her briefing and Opening Remarks, Ms. Garcia emphasized the convergence, collaboration and coordination of various agri development agencies in the implementation of projects towards the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas plan.

All invited agency representatives, such as the National Meat Inspection, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic

Resources (BFAR) and the DA-RFO I's Field Operations on Rice, Corn High Value Crops, Livestock and Organic Agroculture Programs including its Special Projects such as SAAD, AMIA and 4k Programs presented their priority programs and projects to identify potential collaborative projects.

A workshop and open forum provided a platform for issues and concerns to be tackled and further enhance the needed collaboration and cooperation from among the funding agencies and the recipients of the planned programs and projects ready for implementation.



# DA-RFO1 awards agri-infra, marketing support grants to Laoag City, Binalonan, and Umingan

In a significant boost to agricultural development, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO 1), through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), awarded financial grants to key stakeholders in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, and the municipalities of Binalonan and Umingan in Pangasinan.

On December 16, 2024, DA-RFO 1 OIC-Regional Executive Director Dr. John B. Pascual, together with OIC-AMAD Chief Ms. Rhoda Galban, handed over the checks to representatives from the respective local government units (LGUs) and a

multi-purpose cooperative.

The awarded grants include a Php2.5 million to Laoag City, Ilocos Norte for the procurement of a delivery vehicle and processing facility, accepted by City Agriculturist Engr. Sheila Marie Opelac; Php5 million to Binalonan, Pangasinan for the establishment of an agricultural warehouse and storage facility, represented by Municipal Agriculturist Ms. Cleofe J. Martinez, along with officials from the Municipal Treasury, Engineering Office, and SB on Agriculture; Php2.5 million to the Alo-o Progressive Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Umingan, Pangasinan

for the procurement of a delivery truck to support palay consolidation and marketing, received by Chairperson Mr. Bryan Philipe C. Murao, Cooperative Treasurer, and Board of Directors.

The grants aim to enhance the storage and delivery of agricultural products, improve farmers' market access, and provide them with better pricing for their produce. The agricultural warehouse and processing facilities will ensure safer and more efficient storage, while the delivery vehicles will address logistical challenges and ensure prompt distribution of food products.





# Integrated Laboratories Division conducts 2nd wave of outreach program in Vintar, Ilocos Norte

The Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I (DA-RFO 1), through its Integrated Laboratories Division (ILD), successfully held the second wave of its outreach program in Vintar, Ilocos Norte, on December 6, 2024.

The program aimed to strengthen collaboration and build stronger relationships between the agency and local farmers by addressing pressing agricultural concerns and providing vital technical support.

Hon. Richard A. Degala, Mayor of Vintar, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to DA-RFO 1 for its steadfast

commitment to empowering farmers and helping them overcome the challenges in the agricultural sector.

The activity featured a wide range of essential services, that include animal health and disease diagnosis with expert recommendations; crop health and pest diagnosis to manage and prevent infestations; distribution of biological control agents (BCAs); soil nutrient analysis and personalized fertilizer recommendations; feed nutrient and aflatoxin analysis; and other specialized technical services aimed at improving farm productivity.

This initiative was spearheaded

by ILD in collaboration with its key units: the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL), Regional Feed and Chemical Analysis Laboratory (RFCAL), Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC), and Regional Soils Laboratory (RSL).

By bringing these services directly to the community, the DA-RFO 1 reaffirmed its dedication to supporting farmers and enhancing agricultural development in the Ilocos Region.







## RIOs, farmcasters convene for annual assessment workshop

Aimed at enhancing agricultural communication, promoting best practices, and strengthening collaboration, Regional Information Officers, RFO and LGU farmcasters gathered in Puerto Princesa, Palawan from December 2-5, 2024, for a four-day training and assessment workshop.

The workshop highlighted discussions on improving communication strategies for programs such as Masagana, RCEF, and other rice initiatives, as well as interventions under the corn program and projects for developing the salt

industry. Regional representatives shared their best practices in Usapang Agrikultura, while an expert from Radio Pilipinas PPC underscored the significance of effective broadcasting in agricultural communication.

Participants also engaged in field visits to Department of Agriculture project sites, business meetings, and a tree-planting activity at the Gintong Butil Agri Farm and Palawan Research and Experiment Station where participants planted Palawan cherry trees and various species of bamboo.







## DA-RFO 1 conducts roll-out of expanded price, supply monitoring system for La Union LGUs

The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO 1), through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), successfully launched the Expanded Price and Supply Monitoring System on December 19, 2024. This event gathered representatives from the Local Government Units (LGUs) of La Union at the DA-RFO 1 Conference Room.

Participants engaged in discussions on various topics, including the background of the

Digital Agriculture Program, guidelines for providing incentives to LGUs, an overview and walkthrough of the Bantay Presyo Monitoring System (BPMS), the creation of LGU BPMS accounts, and the methodology and specifications for the price monitoring activity.

This collaboration with LGU heads in agriculture aims to strengthen partnerships essential for implementing programs in the agriculture and fishery sectors of La Union.





# DA-PRDP I-PLAN Component conducts assessment, planning workshop with PPMIUs



Providing platform to review the progress of ongoing projects, assess physical and financial accomplishments, and identify challenges faced by local government units (LGUs) and other stakeholders, the IPLAN Component of the DA-PRDP RPCO I recently held an assessment and planning workshop on October 9-10, 2024 in Baguio City.

Ms. Milagros Dela Rosa, Planning Specialist presented to the participants the status of Physical and Financial Accomplishments vis-à-vis the 2024 Work and Financial Plan (WFP) of the IPLAN component including

accomplished I-PLAN activities in 2024 and 2025 deliverables. These updates provided a clearer direction for future actions, ensuring a seamless transition as the PRDP moves toward its scale-up phase.

The IPLAN component also shared critical information, such as the PRDP Additional Financing and Scale-Up Action Plan, which guides LGUs in planning future interventions.

Updates on the status of the IBUILD and IREAP subprojects in Region I were also presented by Engr. Amie Tacla, PRDP RPCO I Rural

Infrastructure Engineer (RIE) for Infra projects, and Ms. Rhoda Galvan, IREAP Component head and OIC- Chief of the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) of DA-RFO I for the enterprise subprojects.

By presenting updates and gathering feedback, the activity helped align efforts with the overall goals of improving agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. Said updates provided valuable insights into the physical and financial accomplishments of ongoing subprojects, highlighting the progress made in delivering

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# DA-RFO1 personnel enhance leadership skills thru SDC Tracks 2, 3

Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1) selected employees attend the five-day Supervisory Development Course (SDC) tracks 2 & 3 focusing on empowering growth and performance as leaders on November 11-15, 2024, at the DA-RFO1 5th Floor Conference Room.

The course was co-facilitated by Civil Service Commission Regional Office One officials, Chief HRS Liwayway R. Navalta, Chief HRS Jerwin R. Linsangan, and Director III Cornelia M. Rillera, who lectured on leadership topics such as homeroom management, encouraging, counseling, and mentoring staff, making meetings

productive, enhancing presentations, and facing challenges.

The five-day training event was successfully concluded equipping participants with the skills and insights needed to gain personal and professional growth and improve their service performance. Designed for individuals eager to level up their personal effectiveness as well as leaders seeking to inspire excellence within their teams, the course provided crucial knowledge and guidance on performance enhancement, leadership, and employee development.







## DA-RFO 1 awards checks to LGU Vigan, Pagudpud

Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through its Enhanced Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita Financial Grant Assistance Program awards the Local Government Unit of Vigan City, Ilocos Sur a P2,000,000.00 grant for the purchase of hauling truck and the LGU of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte a P1,000,000.00 for a delivery vehicle for its consolidated farming project implementation in the municipality.

The LGUs represented by Mr. Lito A. Forneas and Ms. Milagros Contreras

for Vigan City and Ms. Bellaflor Malapit and Mr. Ivan Generoso for Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte received the check award on November 14, 2024 from DA-RFO I OIC-Regional Executive Director Dr. John B. Pascual, together with Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance (AMAD) staff headed by Ms. Christine De Leon.

Said funds hope to aid farmers in marketing their produce to increase their income.

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essential interventions to the agri-fishery sector.

As part of the activity, a brief workshop was conducted enabling the representatives from PPMIUs to tackle various concerns affecting the implementation of their respective subprojects, stressing the importance of collaboration with RPCO I to address these challenges. Discussions centered on how to further enhance the execution of PRDP initiatives, ensuring they align with the needs of farmers and fishers in the Ilocos Region.



# Doc Adame retires at 65

Dr. Florentino Adame retires from government service after 35 years of dedicated service to DA-RFO1. Dr. Adame has served as the agency's officer-in-charge of the RTD for Research and Regulations, after previously serving as the head of the Regulatory Division, Field Operations Division, and the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

In a simple ceremony on October 11, his contributions to the agency were recognized by his colleagues, staff, and friends.

Truly, his sermons at every flag-raising ceremony and his advice on every occasion when he was given the opportunity to speak will be missed.

Happy happy retirement, Doc Adame! We wish you nothing but an exciting new journey with your wife, Mam Beth, and your family!











Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1  
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*Research Stations:*

DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan  
DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center, Sual, Pangasinan  
DA-Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center, Bacnotan, La Union  
DA-Ilocos Sur Research and Experiment Center, San Juan, Ilocos SUR  
DA-Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center, Batac City, Ilocos Norte  
DA-Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center, Dingras, Ilocos Norte



DA-Ilocos Region



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