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WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



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# 22 OSYs receive Php4.4M worth of cattle

Twenty-two out of school youths (OSY) from the municipalities of Banna, Solsona and Badoc in the province of Ilocos Norte received from the Department of Agriculture a total of 66 heads of cattle worth P4.4 million in a roll out activity today of cattle production project held at the Badoc Auction Market, Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

A project under the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) that aims to provide livelihood opportunity for the out of school youths, the turn over ceremonies was led by DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban together with Ilocos Norte 2nd District Representative Angelo Marcos Barba.

In his message during the awarding ceremonies, Senior USec. Panganiban reminded the out of school youth recipients of their obligations in the program that will help them sustain and expand their cattle raising enterprise.

“Alagaan ninyong mabuti ang mga bakang matatanggap ninyo ngayon at kapag naibenta na ninyo, gamitin ninyong mabuti ang mapagbentahan ninyo para ito’y lumago,” Senior Usec Panganiban said.

Senior Usec Panganiban also highlighted various DA initiated projects in the province that is expected to further







# Birth of cattle intervention

revitalize and boost agricultural productivity in the province.

He mentioned the P13 million irrigation projects in Bacarra, P26 million irrigation project in Batac City as well as the P80 million KADIWA project for the provincial government of Ilocos Norte that shall provide marketing assistance to agri-fishery products in the province.

Other projects that the good Senior USec informed is the P30million worth project to revive the operation of the National Foods Corporation and the P100 million investments for the improvement of the salt industry.

Meanwhile, Ilocos Norte 2nd District representative Angelo Marcos Barba and Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc who was represented by Board Member Jonathan Torralba expressed their gratitude to DA for continuously providing agri development programs and projects in the province towards attaining its vision to have a safer, stronger and more progressive province.

Aside from the roll out cattle raising activity, the DA likewise distributed a total of P5.6 million in the form of hybrid corn and vegetable seeds as well as shallow tube wells.



Taking advantage of the presence of Senior Usec Panganiban, he was also invited to grace the distribution of the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA) given to 250 rice farmer individuals in Dingras, Ilocos Norte who received from DA each an amount of P5,500 intended for their rice farming operations. Fuel subsidy discount vouchers were also distributed to corn farmer-recipients including hybrid corn seeds and agri infra projects.#



# 30 corn farmers in Pangasinan complete FFS to manage fall armyworm



Sixteen weeks (16) of learning together, doing things to enhance their technical know-how in planting corn with the help of the assigned agricultural extension workers in their area, 30 farmer-graduates completed the season long Farmer Field School cum Participatory Technology Development on the Management of Fall Armyworm on March 29, 2023 at Brgy. Pangpang, San Carlos City, Pangasinan.

In a field day and graduation ceremonies, the 30 farmer-graduates received their Certificate of

Completion from the DA headed by Regional Crop Protection Center's (RCPC) Chief Marivic Gambala and Regional Integrated Pest Management's Coordinator, Mr. Aries Magat together with Ms. Estrellita Jacaban, San Carlos City Agriculturist.

Graced by no less than San Carlos City Mayor, Julier Resuello, the farmer-graduates were encouraged to apply the learnings they have acquired from the training to enable them to increase their production and income in corn.

Assuring once more of the LGUs support and commitment towards improving the implementation of programs and projects under the agriculture sector in San Carlos, Mayor Resuello pledged his support in the provision of improved farm machineries and equipment to the farmers to improve their productivity and make them become more competitive in corn production.

Ms. Estrellita Jacaban, City Agriculturist of San Carlos shared the same insights with Mayor Resuello as she encouraged the farmer-graduates



to be more pro-active in all the activities of the City Agriculture Office especially on projects such as the FFS-training for farmers.

Noting the benefits that the farmers could have acquired especially in reducing their production costs upon learning the effectiveness of bio-control agents in controlling corn pests in their farm, Ms. Jacaban called on the farmer-graduates to continue applying what they have learned and share it as well to their fellow farmers.

To sustain the usage of bio-control agents in their farm, the DA through the RCPC provided various bio-control agents for the farmer-graduates such as trichogramma evanescens, beauveria bassiana and



earwigs which they may use in their farm to control fall armyworm and other corn insects in their area.

The FFS-PTD project is an activity of the Department of

Agriculture in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization in partnership with the Local Government Unit of San Carlos City, Pangasinan.#





# 50-ha corn model farm field day held in La union, Pangasinan

## Corn model farm in Pangasinan

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 along with the local government unit of Villasis and Bayer CropScience conducted a 50-hectare Corn Model Farm Field Day at Barangay Barangobong, Villasis in Pangasinan.



About a hundred or more farmers from Villasis and nearby towns attended the activity that aimed at showcasing corn production using farmers' practice and site-specific nutrient management (SSNM) technology.

Based on the results of the crop cut activity presented, the SSNM produced a yield of 8.7 metric tons while 7.25 metric tons were produced from farmers' practice. At an estimated buying price of 21/kg of dry maize, SSNM has a gross income of P182,070.00 and P152,250 for the farmers' practice giving a difference of P29,820.00.

Aside from the results that pleased the Villasinian farmers, Municipal Mayor Nonato Abrenica pledged to buy

wet corn at a price not lower than P15.50 depending on the quality of the corn as a means of extending help to farmers.

"Ginagawa namin ito para makatulong ang munipipyo na mapataas ang presyo ng pagbili ng mais sa ating bayan at nang matulungan ang ating mga magsasaka na mapataas ang kanilang kita" Abrenica said.

Following the presentation of the result, some farmer-cooperators expressed their gratitude to the Agriculture Department for conducting the activity in their area. They likewise thanked the DA for the interventions they are receiving from the government through the agency.



## Corn model farm in La Union

Through DA-RFO1's Corn Banner Program, in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist - La Union and the Local Government Unit of Aringay successfully held the 50-hectare Corn Model Farm Field Day at Sitio Riverside, Brgy. San Simon West, Aringay, La Union on March 1, 2023.

As mentioned by DA-RFO1's Corn Banner Coordinator Ms. Anne Lovelle Dato, the corn production project in San Simon West, Aringay was endorsed by the Aringay LGU through the Municipal Agriculturist Office because first, they have a good source of water which comes from the riverbanks and well.

Second, they plant Dekalb seeds which is just enough for the Municipality, and they will be the one to provide to the corn farmers, and third, they are an organized association/group registered in SEC in which they passed the guidelines provided for the corn model farm.

Present in the activity were Aringay Vice Mayor Ma. Isabel Diaz, SBM Committee Chairman on Agriculture Nelda Mapile, SBM Woodrow Araojo Jr., Municipal Agriculturist Benjamin Magno, delivered their inspirational messages and expressed gratitude for choosing Aringay as the location of

the corn demo in La Union. The activity was also attended by barangay councilors, kagawads, MAO staff, and OPAG staff.

"Ang LGU ng Aringay ay buong sumusuporta sa lahat ng programa ng farmers", said Aringay Vice Mayor Diaz.

Meanwhile, Mr. Emmanuel Serame, Campaign Activation Coordinator at Dekalb Philippines, talked about the company's history and what they do. He emphasized that Dekalb, which is owned by Bayer, is focused on developing innovative solutions to produce high-quality crops.

According to the results of the crop cut activity presented by Ms. Dato during the Field Day, using the SSNM approach is more profitable than using the Farmer's practice, with a gross income of Php125,600 compared to Php111,800, a difference of Php13,800.

Farmers from San Simon West shared their testimonies, and farmers from Rosario and Tubao, La Union, and various barangays in Aringay were also present to witness the corn plantation and share their farming practices and feedbacks.

Brgy. San Simon West in Aringay, La Union is a good area for data collection, as it is compact since the 50 hectares field are blocked. The Corn Model Farm project is practically all free, but there will be payment dues that will go directly to the association as part of their funds.#







# Watered fields:

**Irrigation projects in Ilocos Norte aids in agri recovery after typhoon disaster**

Right after Typhoon Ompong devastated the country in 2018, the agriculture sector in Ilocos Region was left at a loss with Php 6.7B. Widespread damage to irrigation projects was reported, recording a total of Php306.15M.



\Among the provinces of Ilocos Region, the province of Ilocos Norte was the most hit with damages amounting to PhP2.13 billion or 38.21% of the total region wide damages.

The rice growing municipality of Solsona was adversely affected, incurring PhP17 Million worth of totally damaged diversion dams and communal irrigation systems in barangays Bagbag-Bubuos, Pagpatan, and Barcelona.

After the typhoon battered these areas, farmers struggled to find irrigation water which reduced farm output, yield, and income.

“Our brass dam was damaged. Canals were entirely blocked off and access routes to the dam were destroyed. So, we had a lot of problems back then,” said Reynaldo G. Mariano, 58, president of Zanjera SOLPIDING Farmers Association, Inc.

To address this, rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation system projects were implemented in 2019 by DA-RFO1 through funding support from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF).

Farmers in the municipality of Solsona were granted three irrigation system projects.

In Brgy. Barcelona, Zanjera Capiddigan Jambaro Rumaneng Farmers Association, Inc. was granted 2.4M funding for its improvement of diversion dam intake structure and canal lining.

Zanjera CadonJuanan Farmers Association, Inc in Brgy. Nagpatpatan and Zanjera SOLPIDING Farmers Association, Inc in Bgy. Bubuos received 2.7M and 3.5M, respectively, for its canal lining improvement.

Stronger and more disaster-resilient irrigation systems were built to reduce its vulnerability to future disasters which provided significant profits to farmers.

“The project was built with good and strong materials,” attested Noel Manaran, 49, president of Zanjera CadonJuanan Farmers Association, Inc.

A total service area of 447 hectares were restored from the targeted 376 hectares benefiting 386 farmers in 11 barangays in Solsona, Ilocos Norte.

Additionally, farmers now harvest two to three times annually instead of just one to two times.

The rehabilitation of irrigation projects resulted in an increase of 3,992 kgs. or 103% in rice productivity per hectare from 3,858 kgs. to 7,860 kgs. utilizing hybrid and inbred seeds.



Likewise, the corn production in the area recorded a growth of 17% or an additional 657 kgs., from 3,912 kgs to 4,569 kgs.

In terms of farm income, a growth of 32% was posted in rice net income per hectare and per cropping, from Php47,733 to Php62,880. Income in corn production increased by 66%, from Php15,160 to Php 25,158 per hectare.

The increase in net income was attributed to the increased yield productivity and reduced production cost on fuel and labor utilized in the irrigation activities.

Farmers also saved an average of 20 hours in facilitating the irrigation of water from the systems to the crops. With the rehabilitation of the systems,

watering for rice and corn per hectare ranges from 2 to 9 hours.

The saved time was utilized by farmers in doing other economic activities such as carpentry, livestock raising, taro “gabi” production and others to augment their income.

Much of the project’s success is attributed to the cooperation between farmers and the local government. Farmers had actively involved themselves from the initial construction phases of the project, up to its required maintenance activities at present.

“We have assigned groups and schedules for the maintenance of the irrigation systems,” said Ronnie Miranda, 63, president, Zanjera

Capiddigan Jambaro Rumaneng Farmers Association, Inc.

Operations and maintenance activities of farmers were facilitated through the general conduct of periodic cleaning and clearing in the canals and surroundings of the irrigation systems. Per agreement, members not attending these activities including meetings are fined. Farmer-beneficiaries also pay an irrigation maintenance fee. Collected amounts serve as a revolving fund in facilitating operations and maintenance.

To date, farmers continue to maximize these irrigation projects to provide drinking water for their livestock, fish production, cultivate taro, and as source of water for household consumption.







# 17th NOAC kicks off in South Central Mindanao

The Department of Agriculture - National Rice Program (DA – NRP) conducted a Cluster-Wide Meeting and Consultation on Rice Industry Development in the regions of I, II, III and CAR on March 27-29, 2023 at The Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

“Let’s focus on outcomes, not just outputs.” said Dr. Leocadio S. Sebastian, Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development, as he discussed the Masagana Rice Program and highlighted the Four Key Strategies: (1) Climate Change Adaptation; (2) Cluster our Farmers; (3) Value Chain Approach; and (4) Digital Transformation.

Rice related national program activities were also discussed such as the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) program, Suitability and Fertility status of Rice Areas in Luzon Regions, and the Location – Specific Cropping Pattern and Calendar both discussed by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management.

Meanwhile, Ms. Analiza Ramos, DA - RFO1’s Field Operations Division Chief, presented the Ilocos Region’s production performance, targets for the 2023 wet and dry season, Palay farming prices, preparations for the wet cropping

season, best practices, and key strategies for increasing rice production in the region.

One concern in the region is that half of the area of Ilocos Region are rain fed and harvesting season always coincides with typhoons. “This is also a contributor aside from the lack of technology and other interventions if not all areas will be rain fed.” Ramos said.

As a result, the panels concluded that collaborating closely with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is the best approach.

The event was also attended by the National Rice Program Consultants, Regional Directors from CAR, Regions I, II, and III as well as representatives from various agencies, Provincial local government units, and other private sectors involved in the Rice Industry.

The purpose of the cluster-wide meeting and consultation is to discuss the situation, issues, and strategies for achieving the goal of increasing productivity and farmer income in the Philippines, particularly in the rice industry.



# DA-Ilocos welcomes FAO reps; shows large scale demo on FAW control

The Department of Agriculture-Ilocos Region led by Regional Executive Director Annie Q. Bares and the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) representative Mr. Yubak GC warmly welcomed the second batch of the 13 delegates from the Southeast Asian Geo-zone countries for a weeklong visit in the Philippines in relation to the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control.

Held at the Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan, the activity signals the start of a weeklong endeavor of the DA in collaboration with the FAO, the Bureau of Plant and Industry, National Crop Protection Center, the local government unit of Pangasinan and the city of San Carlos, Pangasinan as they visit the Large-Scale Demonstration of Fall Armyworm IPM-PAMS Management Strategies and Technologies established at Brgys. Payapa and Bocboc San Carlos City, Pangasinan.

Dr. Constancia Diaz, chief of the Integrated Laboratories Division of DA-RFO I emphasized in her welcome remarks the

essence of the conduct of the scheduled activities of the Geo-zone country representatives where they were able to interact with the Farmer Field School participants to learn the best management options and strategies that they have been doing to manage the fall armyworm infestation in the region.

Showcasing some of the sustainable management and control measures especially on the package of technologies using bio-control agents, other cultural management such as seed treatment, weed management, synchronous planting as well as early detection and monitoring, farmer field school training and some other regulatory strategies, Dr. Diaz noted that the methodology of sharing experiences, technologies and strategies from the participating countries will surely yield a collective defense against fall armyworm.







Meanwhile, Dr. Yubak GC in his opening remarks likewise expressed his great appreciation to the BPI and DA for organizing the event and actively participating in the implementation of the demo field. He also reminded the 13-men delegates to take the opportunity of learning from the many good practices that the Philippines has been doing to mitigate the spread of the fall armyworm in the region.

DA's Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban in his message of support read by RED Annie Bares expressed his concern on the negative impacts that the infestation has to do with the corn and livestock industries. Nonetheless, he expressed optimism that the integrated management strategies that the FAO and its allies especially the DA in the Philippines which embarked in an all-out campaign to manage fall armyworm infestation would bring a positive impact to manage the fall armyworm effectively.

As one of the highlights of the field visit, the DA through the Regional Crop Protection Center in

collaboration with the DA-Research Division shall lead the delegates into its Large-Scale Field Demonstration of FAW IPM-PAMS that showcases management strategies and technologies to control the FAW.

The delegates shall also visit the DA's Biological Control Laboratory managed by the Regional Crop Protection Center in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan and witness the actual field demonstration of the adopter's field at Brgy. Bocboc, San Carlos City, Pangasinan.

The field visit shall provide an avenue for the 13-men delegates to interact with the Farmers' Field School participants in San Carlos City, Pangasinan and somehow share their ideas, insights, and experiences in managing the FAW.

Joining the DA officials in welcoming the delegates is Calasiao former Mayor Roy Macanlalay, who also represented Pangasinan Governor Ramon Guico III.





# DA Ilocos celebrates women's month; Week-long Kadiwa opens



In the observance of March as Women's Month, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region through its Gender and Development Unit kicked-off the month-long celebration with the Opening of the Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita Trade Fair held at the DA-RFO I Grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union.

In its Opening today, employees of the DA-Regional Field Office I wearing their purple shirt carrying this year's Women's celebration theme: "WE for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society" marked their renewed commitment to support activities that promotes gender equality and women empowerment.

In her message during the opening ceremony, DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Annie Bares made emphasis on the vital role of women not only in the home and in the workplace but as a productive member of the society. She also reminded everyone especially the men employees to respect, love and nurture women as mother, as co-worker and as individual inasmuch as they serve as an important partner in nation building.

Recognized for her Outstanding contribution as an empowered woman, Ms. Evelyn G. Banan, 2022 Outstanding Rural Women and a

National Finalist of the Search for Outstanding Rural Women graced the occasion by giving her testimony of how she was able to contribute her skills, knowledge and resources as a woman, a mother and a community leader in their barangay.

Meanwhile, the Opening of the Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita Trade fair was participated in by the 15 women and young agripreneurs in the region who displayed their fresh and processed agri-fishery products helping them to market their produce.

The month-long celebration also includes activities such as the coastal clean-up scheduled on March 21, 2023 at Ilocanos or Lingsat in San Fernando City, La Union; Gender





# GAD unit holds women's forum

Celebrating the 2023 National Women's Month this March, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region through the Gender and Development (GAD) Unit conducted a two-day Forum on Magna Carta of Women and Gender Programs on March 9-10, 2023 at the DA-RFO I 5th Floor Conference Room, City of San Fernando, La Union.

An activity that aims to empower women by providing them access to opportunities to become women agripreneurs, the forum has likewise provided an avenue to widen their knowledge on various issues and concerns in relation to the Magna Carta of Women as well as Gender programs and projects of the DA under its 5 major Banner Programs.

On the first day of the forum, Ms. Mariz Daphne Mendoza, Region I GAD Coordinator discussed the RA 9710 known as the Magna Carta of Women which provided insights on the equal rights and opportunities of men and women while Ms. Marites Bernardo, Head Secretariat of the DA-GAD Focal Point System gave an orientation briefing on DA-GAD Agenda.

Recognizing the important role of women in nation building, Ms. Mendoza emphasized the full integration of women's concerns as well as the important role of the State in enhancing and developing women's skills and capabilities for them to become productive individuals and provide support in policy formulation, planning, organization, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of all programs, projects and services of the government.

Meanwhile, the DA, through the Focal Persons of its major Banner Programs together with the coordinators for DA's Special Projects discussed the Gender Programs under DA including the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division's (AMAD) Kadiwa Project.

Learning about possible agri-based business opportunities, the participants were further empowered on the second day of the forum as Cooperative Development Authority's representative Mr. Noel Ropuya and Department of Trade and Industry's Ms. Junica Shiera F. Manicdao, Negosyo Center-Trade and Industry's Development Analyst discussed the procedures and requirements on Cooperative Registration and business registration procedures and requirements.

To provide the participants information on the requirements on how to avail of programs and projects of the DA-RFO I, Ms. Mildred Rapanut discussed the accreditation procedures under Civil Society Organization, while Ms. Imelda Cornes presented about the DA's Farmer and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Information System registration through AMAD.

Project focal persons from DA-RFO I likewise discussed topics on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Animal Husbandry Practices certifications, gender program under the 4K and SAAD as well as the Agri-Pinay Loan Program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council

Sensitivity Training on Basic Vehicle Maintenance and Troubleshooting on March 4, 11, and 18, 2023 in partnership with TESDA-Region I; Women Forum cum Orientation on Institutional Development on March 9-10, 2023. Adding to the activities in celebration of women's month is the RAGE I Outreach Program - an inter-agency activity sponsored by the Philippine National Police to be held on March 24, 2023 in Sudipen or Santol, La Union where the DA in Ilocos shall be providing various kinds of vegetable seeds to the beneficiaries.

Making these activities possible is the Gender and Development Unit of DA-RFO I led by the DA-RFO I's GAD Focal Person, Ms. Edilyn Goldara



# RDC-1 endorses Php48.3B proposed FY2024 budget

Ensuring that the agency programs and projects are consistent and supportive to the regional thrusts and priorities of the Regional Development Plan for 2023-2028, members of the Economic Development Sector (EdSeCom) of the Regional Development Council met for its 1st Regular Meeting at the Ynad's Place Hotel and Resort, City of San Fernando La Union on March 8, 2023.

Presided over by the EdSeCom Chair, Dr. Annie Bares, heads of the member agencies including the Local Chief Executives presented and discussed their priority development programs and projects for FY 's 2024 that will directly contribute to the Region's development thrusts and

priorities.

A total of Php48,351,652,000.55 worth of projects proposed by the 10 member-agencies was endorsed by the RDC as among the priority programs and projects for implementation in FY 2024.

The ten Economic Sector member-agencies which include among others the Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Fisheries and Agriculture Resources (BFAR), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI),

National Tobacco Administration (NTA), and Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) presented their budget proposal for priority programs and projects that focuses on strategic investments for modernizing agri-fishery and agribusiness, research and development, technology as well as trade investments.

Keeping the member-agency heads updated with the other priority projects, the meeting also provided an avenue to discuss the proposed scaling-up of the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP), the proposed creation of the Sea Salt Center in Bolinao, Pangasinan, and the CY 2022 Year-end RPMES Monitoring Support program.#







# Sen. Marcos meets YFC, Kadiwa beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the Young Farmer Challenge (YFC) and Kadiwa Grants in the provinces of Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan met with Sen. Imee R. Marcos on March 3, 2023 at the Provincial Farmers Livelihood Development Center in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, and on March 4, 2023 at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall, Capitol Building in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

During the dialogue, young farmers and kadiwa associations were able to share the status of their enterprises, provide updates on the program's assistance, and address their concerns about their enterprises.

"Something's got to scale up. Something's got to get bigger." Sen.

Imee Marcos told the beneficiaries, urging them to scale up their farm businesses and enterprises in order to meet growth and revenue targets.

She also emphasized the importance of collaboration in order to level up their products and expand their market.





# DA, ATI-RTC plan CY 2023 agri-fishery extn activities

Harmonizing and complementing the delivery of agri-fishery extension services to agri stakeholders, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region, in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC), conducted a Harmonization and Planning Workshop for FY 2023 at the DA-RFO I Conference Room, City of San Fernando La Union on February 8, 2023.

Dr. Annie Q. Bares, Regional Executive Director, in her message, recognized the concerted efforts of both agencies in complementing the extension services to maximize the resources of DA.

With the increase in budget for DA-RFO and DA-ATI in the current year to finance the delivery of extension support services under the Extension Support, Education and Training Services, Dr. Bares is optimistic that both offices could come up with a cohesive agreement and doable plans so that resources will not be wasted.

Dir. Rogelio Evangelista of ATI-RTC shared the same insights as he briefly explained the need to harmonize ESETs activities in the region.



Finding the fragmented extension delivery system, duplication of agri-fishery and extension (AFE) services, coverage and beneficiaries, low impact of AFE programs that leads to low productivity and income as among the challenges that the region faced in previous years, the complementation and harmonization activity such as these paved way for both agencies to have a holistic approach in implementing their extension delivery services.

By sharing the physical as well as financial resources, technical expertise and synchronizing all important activities and extension strategies, Dir. Evangelista noted that it will not only expand the delivery of extension

services but more importantly enhance and strengthen the partnership and linkages for both agencies.

True to their commitment to collaborate and complement their activities, both agency representatives for every sector identified the major extension-related activities for CY 2023 that include among others trainings, advocacy support, information, education campaigns using various platforms.

To further assess the implementation of the identified collaborative activities, both agencies agreed to conduct an assessment on the implementation of the projects by the end of the year.







# Chinese diplomats visit Ilocos farms; eyes possible partnerships

As an offshoot of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s recent official trip in China, Manila assigned diplomats Mr. Bai Xun and Mr. Zhao Yiguang held a visit to various farms in Ilocos Norte.

Representing the Ministry of Agriculture in China, Bai and Zhao had a direct consultation with farmers to discuss on commodities with potentials for the Chinese market.

Assisted by DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares, Regional Technical Director for Operations Engr. Dennis Tactac and representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Bureau

of Plant Industry (BPI), the group made a courtesy call with key officials of the Province thru Atty. Pancho Jose of the Office of the Governor, Mr. Edwin Cariño, Technical Consultant of the Office of 1st District Congressman Sandro Marcos and OIC-Provincial Agriculturist Teresita Bacnat.

Citing the high cost of fertilizer which are usually imported from China, Atty. Jose sought possible assistance on a cheaper supply to satisfy the requirements of farmers on their farm productions in Ilocos Norte.

Mr. Cariño likewise suggested possible collaborations on aqua

culture production, technology that will hasten soil fertility mapping efforts that will aid in determining suitable crop productions of the province, possible marketing tie ups, and likewise mentioned the black garlic produced by MMSU, among others.

Field tours were conducted at the Editha Dacuycuy-owned REFMAD dragon fruit farm in Burgos, Ilocos Norte, the Bacarra Sanjera Farmers' Association rice fields, and Ricardo Tolentino's Mango King Food Products in Laoag City.

On trade and industry, the diplomats recommended the





As an offshoot of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s recent official trip in China, Manila assigned diplomats Mr. Bai Xun and Mr. Zhao Yiguang held a visit to various farms in Ilocos Norte.

Representing the Ministry of Agriculture in China, Bai and Zhao had a direct consultation with farmers to discuss on commodities with potentials for the Chinese market.

Assisted by DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q.

Bares, Regional Technical Director for Operations Engr. Dennis Tactac and representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), the group made a courtesy call with key officials of the Province thru Atty. Pancho Jose of the Office of the Governor, Mr. Edwin Cariño, Technical Consultant of the Office of 1st District Congressman Sandro Marcos and OIC-Provincial Agriculturist Teresita Bacnat.

Citing the high cost of fertilizer which are usually imported from

China, Atty. Jose sought possible assistance on a cheaper supply to satisfy the requirements of farmers on their farm productions in Ilocos Norte.

Mr. Cariño likewise suggested possible collaborations on aqua culture production, technology that will hasten soil fertility mapping efforts that will aid in determining suitable crop productions of the province, possible marketing tie ups, and likewise mentioned the black garlic produced by MMSU, among others.





Bai and Zhao also spoke with Mariano Marcos State University President Dr. Shirley Agrupis for future investment collaboration of the university with the Chinese government. The university showed its various existing research projects and facilities in the campus where technologies are developed such as the black garlic, Nipa alcohol production, and at the Tuklas Lunas Center, among others.

Meanwhile, farmers raised concerns on technology support to resolve Mango cecid fly infestation, increase rice production through China's super hybrid rice variety and other rice production technologies, irrigation support and access to sufficient fertilizer supply.

Ilocos Norte already had a long-term cooperative relationship with the Chinese government through its sister province, Shandong, dating back its establishment in 2002.#



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On trade and industry, the diplomats recommended the assistance of the DTI so that the Philippine mango and dragon fruit may be endorsed for exhibition in this year's China International Import Expo, the biggest buying event in China.





# DA, PLGU La Union ink Mo



Binding all efforts towards modernizing the agriculture industry in the province of La Union through the Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Extension System (PAFES), the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region led by Regional Executive Director Annie Bares inked the Memorandum of Agreement with La Union Governor Raphaelle Veronica Ortega-David in a ceremonial MOA signing activity held at the Ariana Hotel, Paringao, Bauang, La Union.

Held on January 9, 2023 with the presence of the various stakeholders including the academe, civil society organizations and the DA's attached and line agencies, the MOA signing signaled the strong partnership and collaboration of DA and the Provincial Government of La Union together with the various partners to carry-out agri-development programs and projects in the province through the PAFES.

In her message during the event, La Union Governor Ortega-David recognized the essence of sealing a partnership with the various stakeholders

as it allowed her administration to ameliorate the already established programs and projects, thereby generating a community of satisfied and contented farmers and fisherfolks.

Finding the MOA signing as a huge step in achieving the province's vision of making La Union the heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon, she likewise reassured her 100 percent commitment to ensuring effective and doable agri-development programs and

projects to improve the living conditions of the people of La Union.

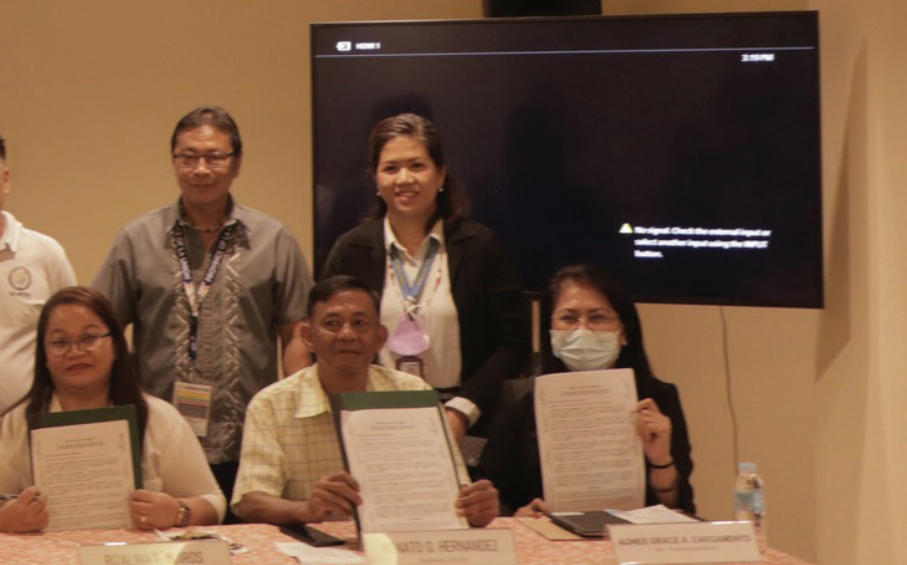
"Rest assured that I am 100 percent committed in ensuring that the provincial government of La Union will effectively do its part to serve our ka-probinsiyaan," Governor Ortega-David said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Sharon Vilorio, the OIC-Assistant Provincial Agriculturist of La Union in her discussion of the





# MOA on PAFES



Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Extension Programs (CPAFEP) identified the coffee as one of the major commodities that shall be given priority interventions along with the seaweeds, rabbit, cacao and goat thru PAFES.

According to Ms. Vilorio, the province will be improving the production of Arabica and Robusta coffee varieties with the provision of various interventions to the identified

partner farmers by way of area expansion.

Among the interventions identified are the provision of quality planting materials, provision of organic fertilizers, organization and accreditation of coffee growers, provision of irrigation as well as postharvest facilities, pests, and disease management, capacity enhancement training, farm-to-market roads, market development, and entrepreneurial support as well as the establishment of



mother clonal garden that shall serve as the source of quality planting materials.

For all these projects, the province of La Union shall need an initial Php757,000 to be taken out from the Region's total budget on PAFES for the year amounting to P3.1 million.

Also present during the MOA signing are the League of Municipal and City Mayor of La Union President, Balaoan Mayor Aleli Concepcion, League of Municipal and City Agriculturist President, Ms. Rizalina Quiros, Jr., PAFC- La Union Mr. Rodolfo Abrio, OIC-Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Agnes Grace Cargamento and Mr. Renato O. Hernandez, Chairman of the La Union Coalition of Civil Society Organization, among others.#





## DA-NRP conducts cluster-wide meeting, consultation on Luzon rice industry dev't

The Department of Agriculture - National Rice Program (DA - NRP) conducted a Cluster-Wide Meeting and Consultation on Rice Industry Development in the regions of I, II, III and CAR on March 27-29, 2023 at The Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

“Let’s focus on outcomes, not just outputs.” said Dr. Leocadio S. Sebastian, Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development, as he discussed the Masagana Rice Program and highlighted the Four Key Strategies: (1) Climate Change Adaptation; (2) Cluster our Farmers; (3) Value Chain Approach; and (4) Digital Transformation.



Rice related national program activities were also discussed such as the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) program, Suitability and Fertility status of Rice Areas in Luzon Regions, and the Location – Specific Cropping Pattern and Calendar both discussed by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management.

Meanwhile, Ms. Analiza Ramos, DA - RFO1's Field Operations Division Chief, presented the Ilocos Region's production performance, targets for the 2023 wet and dry season, Palay farming prices, preparations for the wet cropping season, best practices, and key strategies for increasing rice production in the region.

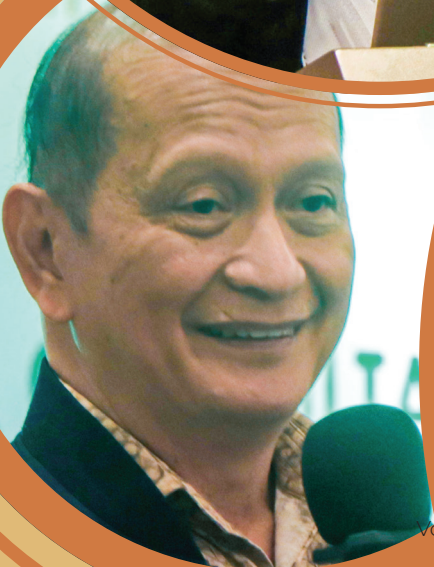
One concern in the region is that half of the area of Ilocos Region are rain fed and harvesting season always coincides with typhoons. "This is also a contributor aside from the lack

of technology and other interventions if not all areas will be rain fed." Ramos said.

As a result, the panels concluded that collaborating closely with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is the best approach.

The event was also attended by the National Rice Program Consultants, Regional Directors from CAR, Regions I, II, and III as well as representatives from various agencies, Provincial local government units, and other private sectors involved in the Rice Industry.

The purpose of the cluster-wide meeting and consultation is to discuss the situation, issues, and strategies for achieving the goal of increasing productivity and farmer income in the Philippines, particularly in the rice industry.





# Ilocos region participates in HAPAG kay PBBM nationwide launching

In line with the simultaneous launching of the HALina't magtanim ng Prutas At Gulay sa Barangay Project | Kadiwa Ay Yaman | Plants for Bountiful Barangays Movement (HAPAG KAY PBBM) on March 1, Ilocos region successfully launched said program at Barangay Casilagan, San Juan, La Union.

The HAPAG KAY PBBM is a collaborative program of the Department of Interior and Local Government's (DILG) HAPAG sa Barangay Project and the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Green Revolution 2.0: Plants for Bountiful Barangays Movement to address food insufficiency and hunger and achieve food accessibility, affordability, and security in the Philippines by having vegetable gardens in the barangay through urban and peri-urban agriculture and community engagement.

To better understand the program, Ms. Maricar F. Bongais, HVCDP focal person discussed the HAPAG and the PBBM program.

The PBBM o Green Revolution 2.0 o Luntiang Ani ng Mamamayan was launched in October 26, 2022 through the initiative of DA-Bureau of Plant Industry to support fresh food supplies in urban, peri-urban and rural areas and encourage citizens to ensure their own food security and engage in urban agriculture as a potential additional source of income.

Meanwhile, the HAPAG sa Barangay project aims to strengthen the capacity of barangays towards sustainable agricultural initiatives by enhancing and promoting related activities such as barangay community gardens and encouraging households and communities to produce fresh, healthy, and affordable fruits and vegetables from their backyards.

Acknowledging the crucial role of barangays in the success of the program, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr. who led the nationwide launching stated that this program is yet another step towards strengthening the capacity of barangays to adopt sustainable agriculture initiatives even in the small scale.

Apart from the launching, the pilot beneficiaries received vegetable seeds from DA RFO 1 and a short lecture on vegetable production from an expert of Enviro Scope Synergy Inc.

Also present at the activity was DILG OIC Assistant Regional Director Paulino Lalata, Jr and staff, Executive Assistant Atty. Reggienald Ng of the Mayor's office of San Juan, Ms. Harlene Fernandez OIC-Municipal Agriculturist, and Ms. Sharon Villoria and other OPAG staff.







HAPPY HALINA'T MACTANIM NG P... SA BARANGAY P...

2023 | 8:00 AM  
SAN JUAN, LA UNION





# DA in Ilocos provides updates on HVCDP projects to LGU counterparts

Giving updates while assessing their counterparts' performances in the implementation of the programs and projects under the High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region convened the municipal and provincial HVCDP coordinators and its report officers for a two-day assessment and planning workshop held in Baguio City on January 19-20, 2022.

An annual activity that aims to harmonize the HVCDPs programs and projects with the support of the local government units in the four provinces in the region, the assessment and planning workshop also led to the announcement of new programs and projects of the DA this calendar year 2023.

Ms. Maricar Bongais, Regional Focal Person of HVCDP in the region reported that Ilocos Region has a total fund allocation of P122 million to implement the HVCDPs programs and projects in the region this year.

Of this total amount, P20 million was allocated for the construction of cold storage in Pangasinan in response to its need to strengthen the

onion industry in the region.

Another valuable HVCDP project to be implemented this year is the continuing provision of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and planting materials, postharvest facilities, machinery, and equipment, as well as irrigation facilities that shall be provided to qualified beneficiaries.

Another valuable project that the HVCD Program shall be launching this year is the utilization of the P100B Coco Levy Fund in collaboration with the Coconut Development Authority which aims to provide support to coconut farmers and improve the coconut industry in the country.

A 5-year development program involving around 11 government agencies, the program provides various developmental projects that were categorized into





seven sub-projects which shall all be implemented towards modernizing the coconut industry in the country.

Of the seven categories, the DA was included in the Community-Based Enterprise Development category which requires the rejuvenation and rehabilitation of existing coconut areas in the country including its area expansion through intercropping with coconut and coffee.

Mr. David John Rondal, the Project Coordinator informed the participants of the assessment and planning workshop that would-be beneficiaries of the program shall have to organize into coops and be enrolled in the National Coconut Registry System to avail of the programs and projects intended for them.

Under this program, the DA has allocated a total of 166 million in its first year to finance the programs and projects which shall be shared by the 15 regions in

the country. Region I's share is P3 million to help farmers with suitable crop areas, have available areas for intercropping and must be active members of the farmers' cooperatives and associations.

Aside from this project, the DA-HVCDP for this year will be launching the Best Gulayan sa Barangay Program which aims to select the best vegetable garden in the barangay.

A project that aims to enhance the capacity of the general public to produce their own food using the technologies in vegetable production, it shall also promote sustainable source of vegetable seeds for household use.

Of the 3,267 barangays of Region 1, a total of 30 barangays are expected to join the Search who served as the beneficiary of the Gulayan sa Barangay Program of the HVCC.

Established in a 600 square meter

area, the vegetable garden shall be provided with various interventions from the DA with the support of the local government units in the form of capacity training, various farm inputs, and other supplies and materials in gardening.

With the project duration of ten months that shall start this February, the Best Barangay Garden shall be selected and awarded in the last quarter of 2023 in time for the harvest festival slated in October or November this year.

Aside from updates of the programs and projects under the Program, the DA-HVCDP is set to conduct a data harmonization with the Philippine Statistics Authority for the fine-tuning of the production data of the various priority commodities in the region under the HVCD Program.





## Ilocos farmers receive aggie interventions worth Php33.4M

Thousands of farmers from the 2nd district of Ilocos Norte benefitted from various interventions of the Department of Agriculture on February 3, 2023.

Under the RCEF-RFFA program, a total of 2,135 rice farmers from Currimao and San Nicolas received a cash grant amounting to 5,000, while 535 individuals from the municipalities of Batac City, Dingras, Nueva Era, Paoay, and Solsona and 3927 from Dingras received fuel subsidy and fertilizer discount voucher, respectively.

Agricultural machinery, equipment and inputs were likewise awarded to farmers' associations, and

individuals under the DA's regular programs and the Balik Probinsya Bagong Pag-asa program.

Pump and engine set, power sprayer, hand tractor, animal zoological Forage chopper, egg incubator, botanical pesticides, nesting baskets, seedling tray, garden shovel and rake, trowel, sprinklers and crates are among the aggie supports distributed.

Present at the event was 2nd district representative hon. Angelo Marcos Barba who assured the recipients of his continuous support to the agri-fishery sector.

## Ilocos Sur farmers receive Php6.8M worth of agri support

Input interventions such as foliar spray fertilizer, specifically bio-cozyme, N.E.B, carrageenan, and amino plus, were distributed to farmers in Ilocos Sur today to service more than 27 hectares of rice land across the 23 municipalities of District 2.

Five associations namely Calao-an Farmers and Fisheries' Association, Ranget Bileg Farmers' Association, Sibsibbu Rang ay Association Inc.,

Lancuas AMIA Integrated Farming Association, and Kallumsing Rangtay ti Panagrang-ay Association - along with the Cervantes local government - received two units of pump and engine set, one multi-cultivator, three hand tractors, and one hauling truck.

This activity was led by Ilocos Sur 2nd District representative, Hon. Kristine Singson Meehan.













## Ilocos Norte farmers receive Php41.4M worth of agri support

Farmers from the municipalities of Bacarra, Bangui, Burgos, Pagupud, Pasuquin, Piddig, Vintar, and Laoag City attended the two-day agri-support awarding and distribution event this week, February 1-2 at the Pasuquin Auditorium, Ilocos Norte.

Specific interventions given were 18 sets of gardening tools, 36 bottles of botanical pesticides, 306 pieces 72-holed seedling trays, and 306 pieces 128-holed seedling trays to 18 farmers.

A hand tractor was granted to One Ilocos Seed Producers Association, two incubators with 50 nesting baskets to United Farmer Irrigators Association of Pasuquin, 182 sets of various vegetable seeds to LGU Pasuquin, six rolls of tunneling film to Zanjera Carad Sur Farmers Association, one forage chopper and seven rolls of tunneling film to Laoag City Southwest Corn Cluster Farmers Association Inc, and one pump and engine set each to Ayat ti Pasuquin Farmers and Irrigators' Association, Inc., Zanjera Cadaklan Pasacayan and Irrigators Association, and Burgos Ilocos Norte Corn Growers.

A total of 247 farmers received fuel subsidies, 4,028 additional recipients received discount coupons for fertilizer, and 6,088 more farmer beneficiaries received financial assistance of PHP 5,000 each.

The activity was led by Ilocos Norte District 1 Representative Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos III with DA-RFO1 OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations Engr. Dennis I. Tactac, Pasuquin Mayor Robert D. Aguinaldo, and Pasuquin Municipal Agricultural Officer Diana Rose D. Bautista.

The interventions were part of the initiatives of the Office of Congressman Marcos which has provided fund support for the allocation of agri farm machinery interventions for farmers in the province. Other interventions distributed were part of DA's regular support under the Rice, Corn, Livestock, HVCDP and Organic Agriculture Banner programs.

## Ilocos farmers receive Php28M worth of cash assistance, fertilizer discount vouchers

A total of 3,564 rice farmers received Php5,000 cash assistance totaling Php17,820,000 from the Department of Agriculture's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RCEF-RFFA) program, while 4,349 farmers received fertilizer discount vouchers totaling Php10,249,944 on February 24, 2023 at the Vintar Civic Center in Vintar, Ilocos Norte.

The distribution were attended by First District Representative Ferdinand Alexander "Sandro" Marcos, Mayor Richard Degala, Vice Mayor Maribel Albano, DA-RFO1 Regional Technical Director for Operations Engr. Dennis Tactac and DA-RFO1 Rice Focal person Ms. Leah Coloma. Also in attendance were the Municipal councilors and FOD Rice Banner Program staff.



# Five FCAs take Ilocos agri products to BGC



Accessing wider market linkage for Ilocos' high-value commercial crops products, five farmers' cooperatives and associations from the Ilocos Region participated in the Weekend Market at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Metro Manila on Feb 18-19, 2023.

Selling around P272,000 worth of high-value crops products that include among others lowland vegetables such as tomato, eggplant, bittergourd, bottlegourd, onion, and pigmented rice, the marketing event opened doors for the five FCAs to introduce their various high value crops products to new customers in highly urbanized areas like De Jesus Oval and 5th Avenue Bonifacio High Street and Bel Air in Makati City.

Joining the marketing event is the Tugui Grande Farmers Association of

Bani, from Bani Pangasinan which was able to sell 800 kilos of salad tomato, 620 kilos of diamante max tomato, 100 kilos of eggplant, 18 kilos of squash, 20 kilos bittergourd and 82 pcs. bottlegourd.

The Ricebis Bayambang Agriculture Cooperative from Bayambang Pangasinan also has sold out 100 kilos of pigmented rice at P60 (red rice), P100 (black rice), and P150 (special rice) per kilo.

Likewise, the Pasuquin Onion and Garlic Farmers Association of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte sold 350 kilos of red onion and 75 kilos of white onion while the Vigan High-Value Crops Farmers Association, Inc., in Vigan, Ilocos Sur sold 200 kilos each for red and white onion.

The Sanjera Naganakan Farmers Association of Sarrat, Ilocos Norte traded





a total of 1.2 tons of diamante max tomato during the two-day marketing event.

Providing support to this endeavor is the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I's High-Value Commercial Crops Program Focal Person, Ms. Maricar Bongais and DA-RFO I's Chief of Staff, Atty. Dessa Estrada, Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division Marketing Specialist, Ms. Corazon Valdez, and Ms. Lorena Alcodia-Olveña, HVCDP staff.





# Pangasinan farmer sells 6.5 tons of onion through DA's market linkage

A Pampanga-based institutional buyer procured a total of P1.072 million worth of onions from a farmer in Pangasinan in order to help the latter market their produce amid the controversial supply and price of the said commodity in the country.

On Sunday, the DA's KADIWA truck assisted Merlita Gallardo of Bayambang, Pangasinan in the hauling of 2,000 kilograms or two tons of her onion produce to Lubao, Pampanga.

DA Region 1's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division said that the institutional buyer, the Sakahon Marketplace, Inc., and Ms. Gallardo agreed for the purchase of the onions at a farmgate price of P165 per kilogram.

Aside from the two tons hauled yesterday, additional 4.5 tons of onion will be transported by the KADIWA truck on January 24, 26 and 28.

Gallardo has sought the assistance of DA for the marketing of their onion harvest as she now took over the responsibility of tilling their farm since the death of her husband, an onion farmer who, in 2021, took his life after suffering losses incurred due to harabas infestation of his onion farm.

For marketing assistance of agricultural products in Region I, contact AMAD Chief Ms. Wilhelmina P. Castañeda at mobile number 0968-584-4442 or 0917-895-1400.#







# Gov't agencies join Walk for GAD in honor of nat'l women's month

The Walk for GAD is an initiative of Region I advocates for Gender and Equality (RAGE), in which a fun walk or parade of employees from RAGE 1 government agencies was held from City of San Fernando Plaza to DMMMSU - Mid La Union Campus (MLUC), followed by a thanksgiving mass and a short program.

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I took part in the program bringing in full support from its employees who also joined the fun walk.







About 60 employees of DA-RFO 1 together with representatives from member agencies of the Region 1 Advocate for Gender Equality (Ragel) participated in the Coastal Clean Up at CURMA (Coastal Underwater Resource Management Actions), a Pawikan Conservation and Protection Program in Ili Norte, San Juan, La Union in celebration to the National Women's Month.

