# Dana

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### On briefing local aggie heads about DA's thrusts, agenda: LGUs highly essential to project performance – RED Bares



Keeping the Municipal and City Agriculturists in the four provinces of Ilocos Region updated on the agridevelopment programs and projects, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region through its Field Operations Division (FOD) met with its counterparts in the local government units for a two-day consultation and briefing in Bolinao, Pangasinan on April 11-12, 2023.

Led by DA-RFO I Regional

Executive Director Annie Bares, FOD presented DA's thrusts and socioeconomic agenda and raised issues and concerns in the implementation of various programs and projects.

In her message, RED Bares reiterated her request for the municipal and city agriculture offices to complement the DAs efforts in all its undertakings towards achieving the goals and objectives on food sufficiency, accessibility, affordability and safety.

"Kung kami lang, di namin talaga ito magagawa at maiimplement. Dahil nandiyan kayo, ang aming mga collaborators at partners sa implementation ng programs and projects, ay taos puso kaming nagpapasalamat sa inyo," said RED Bares.

Mentioning about the challenges that the sector met aside from the











Covid-19 pandemic such as food inflation, high cost of inputs due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, climate change and the high incidence of pests and animal diseases, she encouraged the LGU-aggie heads to sustain all efforts to increase the agricultural yield and production performance in the region.

Moreover, RED Bares emphasized that clustering will be used as a major approach to improve the average yield of all sectors.

"Iyong modality natin ngayon is through clustering. Iyong Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation Program (F2C2) to maximize the economy of scale. Iyon na ang patutunguhan natin," RED Bares added.

F2C2 strategy will be adopted in the rice, corn, high value crops and livestock banner programs.

To further intensify the region's efforts in monitoring the implemented programs and projects, RED Bares requested the MAOs and CAOs to provide a regular report on the status of project implementation to maximize all services intended for the farmer beneficiaries.

## Binalonan marks first ever onion field day

While it's true that the first time is always the hardest, farmers in barangay Sumabnit, in Binalonan, Pangasinan have shown that onion growing is feasible in their area. This was proven after farmers from other barangays and neighboring towns attended the first-ever onion field day on April 13, 2023.



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Through the initiative of the LGU Binalonan and the assistance of the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Plant Industry, the adaptability trial on red onion production was established at about 2,500 square meters area owned by Municipal Councilor and Chairman, Committee in Agriculture of Binalonan Mr. Arturo Romoa who allowed the free use of his lot for the field trial. The inputs were likewise provided by four participating private companies namely the EastWest Seed Company, Ramgo International Corporation, Allied Botanical Corporation, and Enviro Scope Synergy, Inc.

The activity was highlighted by the field walk wherein participants witnessed and rated the performance of the three varieties planted namely Red Onion, Super Pinoy, and Onion 88. Other than that, the activity also highlighted the ability of the town of Binalonan to grow onion which



is more known as palay and corn producing area.

Ms. Carlina Cabico, farmer cooperator, said she was happy with the result of the trial despite the difficulties of producing onions for the first time.

A harvest of roughly two metric tons of red onions from an area of about 2500 square meters is anticipated with a promise from their Municipal Agriculture Office to take charge of selling their produce at around P100-120 per kilo with all the sales to be handed to their association.

Meanwhile, Mr. Leonel Limbauan of DA-BPI mentioned the ORION (Onion Industry Network) Program, a lending program under the ACPC geared towards a self-sufficient, profitable, and progressive onion



industry in the country.

In addition, the DA RFO 1 through the HVCDP awarded a total of 1,317,696.36 worth of interventions to Riverview Sumabnit Farmers' Association and Pasileng Farmers Association. Specific interventions given were a greenhouse with hydroponics, one unit pump and engine set, and one unit multicultivator.

Reflecting on the success of the adaptability trial, Ms. Maricar Bongais, HVCDP focal person, anticipates the town to be one of DA's expansion areas for onion production to help address the insufficiency of the commodity in the country.

### DA-PhilRice's digital seed monitoring system to be adopted in time for wet cropping season

Anticipating a higher bulk of seeds to be distributed to farmer beneficiaries for the upcoming cropping season this year, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region along with local government units were given a green light on the use of the Rice Seed Monitoring System (RSMS).

In an orientation participated by technical staff of the DA, Mr. Jonathan Palileo from DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) demonstrated the use of the RSMS developed by PhilRice, which has been initially used in the implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) program.

Palileo said that through the system, seed positioning until delivery to farmer beneficiaries will be easily tracked as data such as allocation of hybrid and inbred seeds per city and municipality, delivery date, and inventory, among others will be supplied by the LGUs and regional field offices.

For a systematic use of the RSMS, the same list of beneficiaries uploaded in the Farmers and Fisherfolk Registration System (FFRS) will be utilized. Upon encoding of the seed distribution matrix, packaging specifications, seed volume and other details by regional field officers, counterparts from the LGUs will send profiles of beneficiaries, seed variety claimed, area planted and yield from the previous season.





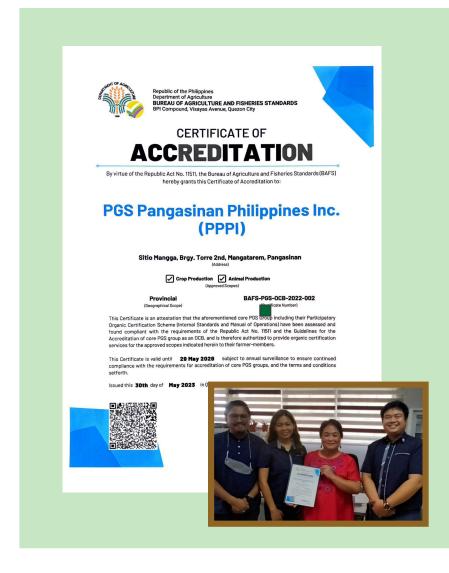
The RSMS is available as a web and mobile application.

Meanwhile, DA Regional Executive Director Annie Bares is confident that the system will expedite the delivery of services to farmers and fisherfolk.

Aside from the technical staff from the DA-RFO1 led by Field Operations Division Chief Ms. Analiza Ramos, partner seed companies and PhilRice staff were also present in the orientation.

A week back, Municipal and City Agriculturists from the entire region were convened to undergo the same training before the system's full implementation in preparation for the wet season.

## PPPI receives accreditation as 1st PGS organic certifying body in llocos



The PGS Pangasinan Philippines Inc. (PPPI) finally received its certificate of accreditation from the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) as the first-ever PGS-Organic Certifying Body (PGS-OCB) in Ilocos Region on May 30, 2023.

The accreditation has a validity of five years and attested that the said

core PGS group has been assessed and found compliant with the requirements of the RA 11511 and guidelines for the accreditation of a core group as an Organic Certifying Body (OCB) and therefore authorized to provide organic certification services for crop and animal production as their approved scope, to individual farmers of Pangasinan practicing organic farming who also wants to be organically certified.

Prior to the accreditation, the PPPI core members received their Participatory Organic Certificates (POC) on June 24, 2022. The POC has a validity of three years and acts as documentary proof that a core PGS farmer member complies with the requirements, standards, and norms of organic farming/agriculture. This document is also one of the requirements for the accreditation of the core PGS group as an organic certifying body.

In partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 1, DA-RFO 1 has assisted the PGS Pangasinan Philippines Inc. towards their accreditation.

The official address of the now accredited PGS Pangasinan core group is at Sitio Mangga, Mangatarem, Pangasinan, and is headed by their President, Ms. Lea Astrude Santiago, a known staunch advocate of organic farming in Ilocos Region.

Ms. Santiago received the Certificate of Accreditation from BAFS officials, Ms. Joeve S. Calleja -Chief, Organic Agriculture Division and Mr. Vicente D. Limsan, Jr. -Science Research Specialist II, Organic Agriculture Accreditation Section, and Mr. Ronald John L. Lamano - Senior Science Research Specialist, Organic Agriculture Certification Section.

A first in the Ilocos Region, PPPI is now the 11th accredited PGS core group in the entire Philippines.

### San Nicolas pioneers farm machineries, equipment ownership registration in llocos Norte

Heeding the call for a national registration of ownership of agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment as spelled out in the DA-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2018-02, the municipality of San Nicolas in Ilocos Norte conducted its 4-day registration of various agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment in Brgy. San Guillermo, Catuguing, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte on June 14, 2023 to June 17, 2023.



First among 21 municipalities and 2 cities in Ilocos Norte to draft its resolution, the LGU of San Nicolas headed by its active and supportive Mayor Mike Hernando pioneered the implementation of its resolution and now became the model municipality in implementing this national guideline.

Administered by the DA-Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization and the DA-Regional Field Office I thru the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED), in cooperation with the LGU San Nicolas through its office of the Municipal Agriculturist, the registration of the various agrifishery machinery and equipment is a one-time registration with payment of Php100 per unit renewable in five years at no cost.

Mr. Nicomedez Luis, 54, a farmer

from Brgy. Catuguing and owner of 1.4 has. farm lot planted with rice, corn, garlic and other high value crops voluntarily registered his 4 units of water pumps which of these two units were acquired through his own money while the other two units were given by the government.

Finding this program beneficial to farmers like him since he was able to secure ownership of the said units, the registration would also provide better information to the government on how government resources will be equally distributed to beneficiaries.

Among the list of farm machinery and equipment that are required to be registered include tractors and their attachments, power tillers, seeders, transplanters, harvesting machines, greenhouses, slaughtering equipment, milling machines like dryers, threshers, cold storage, reefer vans, etc owned by any individual, registered farmer cooperatives and farmer associations, private entities which are registered under SEC, DTI, DOLE or CDA.

With the registration fee of P100 inclusive of the cost of issuance of QR code sticker by the Municipal Agriculture Office, collected payments shall be reverted to the farmers in the form of farm assistance like the provision of fuel subsidies including the repair and replacement of the units whichever may be applicable.

To date, the LGU-San Nicolas was able to register around 80 units of various farm machinery and equipment owned by around 50 farmer individuals, cooperatives, and farmer associations.



## LGUs urged to pass ordinances promoting organic agriculture







Local government unit (LGU) representatives in the Ilocos region expressed their receptiveness in adopting ordinances that promote the practice of organic farming in their localities.

This after the Organic Agriculture Program (OAP) of the Department of Agriculture in Region 1 concluded the region-wide information caravan on organic agriculture in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, La Union, Ilocos Sur, and Pangasinan.

Participated by sangguniang bayan and panlungsod members, municipal and city agriculturists, and some organic agriculture practitioners, the information caravan on #OKsaOA is focused on the implementation of the DA and DILG Joint Memorandum Circular 01-2022 highlighting the LGU's roles and responsibilities as stewards of the programs and projects of the National Organic Agriculture Program.

Meanwhile, DARFO1 OAP Focal Dr. Marvin Quilates underscored the importance of practicing organic farming to promote healthier lifestyle and ensure the protection of the environment.

As such, he encouraged the LGUs to create their own local technical working committees to ensure the continuous monitoring of the program's implementation within their jurisdiction and at the same time, establish a database of all organic farmers in the region.

In February this year, the province of Ilocos Norte hosted the first #OKsaOA caravan in the region, followed by the other three Region 1 provinces in May.





## Agri-enterprises continue to shine in ASPIRE

From a warm cup of hot choco made out of hundred percent cacao from Pangasinan to the newly innovated pakbet crisps of Ilocos young farmers, to the nine-year old bugnay wines of Ilocos Norte, and handicrafts that were creatively put together piece by piece... surely the local agribusiness industry of Region 1 has so much to offer not to mention its ever popular bagnet, chichacorn, longganisa in different variations and whatnot.

Annually, the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, jointly holds the Agribusiness Support for Promotion and Investment in Regional Exposition (ASPIRE).

This yearly celebration has provided farmers and fisherfolk an avenue to promote their products, both fresh and processed. "In ASPIRE, we aim to connect the farmers and fisherfolk to the market in hopes to transform the sector with more competitive agripreneurs," said PCCI Agri-committee Co-Chair Mr. Salvador Salacup in his keynote message.

For its fifth year, ASPIRE kickedoff today at Robinson's Place, Calasiao, Pangasinan which was participated by 25 exhibitors from June 16 to 18.

Showcased during the event were fresh and processed products of milk, mushroom, bangus, mango, peanut butter, bagnet, longganisa, miki, tablea, squash noodles, wine, and duck binagoongan.

Other local products presented include condiments such as sukang Iloko and soy sauce alongside booths with displays of chicacorn, chichapop, banana chips, cornick, cassava chips, baked goodies, handmade crafts, organic fruits and vegetables.

## DA llocos ready for El Niño

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) on Tuesday, May 2 has reported that recent conditions and model forecasts indicate that El Niño may emerge in the next three months at 80% probability and may persist until the first quarter of 2024.

In preparation to this, the DA-RFO1 allocated an initial funding amounting to more than P870M for interventions that would address the projected yield loss in corn and rice which is at 30% during the wet season covering the period of September 16-30 to March 1-15 and 40% during the dry season from March 16-31 to September 1-15.

In an action plan crafted by the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management team of the department, various interventions both for vulnerable and nonvulnerable areas in the region were prepared.

"Aside from the usual interventions of DA, the agency will be distributing pump and engine sets in areas with available sources of water, However, for localities that cannot possibly grow rice due to El Niño, they'll be provided with drought tolerant high value seeds," said Regional Technical Director for Operations, Engr. Dennis I. Tactac.

Aside from drought, high pest incidence is already anticipated hence, the department has heightened its monitoring and surveillance operations.

"Pesticides and other biocontrol agents are also being prepared as different plant diseases are already expected to occur during this season. Farmers are therefore encouraged to immediately report pest incidences in their areas," said RTD Tactac.

Other interventions prepared also include other irrigation network services such as mobile irrigation, solar-powered irrigation system (SPIS), portable SPIS, small water impounding project, and diversion dams along with fuel subsidy and cloud seeding operations.

As an immediate response, RTD Tactac has reiterated the use of alternate wetting and drying which has already been recommended by the DA Central Office since the first warning of PAGASA on El Niño in the first quarter of this year.

## DA-RCPCs convened for PTD on the mgmt of FAW



"We cannot do it alone. Nandito kayo to cooperate and coordinate. When you go back to your regions, you apply and share what you have learned here in this activity," said DA Region II RED Narciso Edillo during the two-day activity on Participatory Technology Development (PTD) on the Management of Fall Armyworm with Emphasis on the Utilization of Different Biological Control Agents in Region II.

Spearheaded by Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) Chief of Region II Ms. Minda Flor Aquino, the event was held at the DA-Cagayan Valley Research Center (CVRC), San Felipe, City of Ilagan, Isabela on April 12-13.

The Department of Agriculture – Ilocos Region was represented by RCPC Chief Ms. Marivic Begonia, Regional IPM Coordinator Mr. Aries Magat, and RCPC Technical Staff Mr. Wensley Sandi.

DA - RCPC Chiefs and Technical staff from various regions gathered to witness the actual field demonstration of the different treatments used in the control of Fall ArmyWorm in corn crops at the DA-CVRC FAW Learning Field and at the DA - Isabela Experiment Station (DA-IES) in Gamu, Isabela.

The four treatments used were Biological Control Agents (BCAs), biopesticides, farmer's practice, and controlled/untreated.

DA Region II RED Narciso A. Edillo welcomed the participants and thanked them for the opportunity to demonstrate how effective the region is at controlling these pests.

"We're happy in Region II that we were able to show to the whole DA that our BCA is one of the effective mechanisms to eradicate FAW," said RED Edillo.

He also emphasized the importance of developing a detailed integrated plan in order to transform Philippine agriculture on a larger scale through the use of technology.

"Kailangan na natin sundin ang transformation na sinasabi ng ating mga experts. We need to focus not only on production but also on market productivity," he added.

Meanwhile, DA - Ilocos RCPC Chief Ms. Marivic Begonia presented updates on PTD in Region 1 during the program, while Mr. Aries Magat presented the Season Long Integrated Pest Management for FFS PAMS on the Sustainable Management of FAW which was held in the province of Pangasinan.

Also present in the activity were Region II's RTD for Research and Regulations, Dr. Rose Mary G. Aquino, City Agriculturist Mr. Moises Alamo representing Mayor Jose Marie L. Diaz, representatives from BPI, FAO representative Mr. Christian June Reyes, and RCPC - Cagayan Valley staff.

The following day, participants went on a tour of Region II's Integrated Laboratory (ILD) in Cagayan and the RCPC Bio-Con Lab in Isabela.

The goal of the activity is to inform the RCPC staff from various regions about the various treatments used in controlling the Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Region II, share best practices, disseminate information, and apply what they have learned.

#### DAMAG-AGRI

### DA RFO 1, other RMC members convene; strengthens plans for quality service delivery



"Through this meeting, we again assess and reassess our strategies as to the implementation of the different programs and projects. Though we cannot provide all the needs of our stakeholders, through the convergence initiative of the RMC, we will maximize all our resources to implement our programs and projects to deliver a quality service to our clientele," stated DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Annie Q. Bares as she spearheads the 1st quarter meeting on April 28 with the members of the Regional Management Council at DA-BAC conference hall.

Members discussed issues and concerns on climate outlook, status of ASF awareness in Ilocos Norte, Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) implementation, and the CY 2022 harmonized extension support, education, and training services (ESETS) and extension service providers (ESP) in Region 1.

The final output during the integration workshop on MC No. 58 and other matters was also discussed.

"Through this meeting, we will be coming up with a unified action to address the pressing issues and concerns and be updated on the various matters concerning our own offices" added Director Bares.

Mr. Gener Quitelong, DOST-PAGASA representative, discussed the updates on the climate outlook in the country to help the council in crafting solutions to address the looming El Niño which is expected in the months of October, November, and December. However, advice to the farmers is yet to be given once the strength of the impending phenomenon is determined as data varies monthly.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sam Castro of DA-BAI discussed the ASF update in

the province of Ilocos Norte and the recently conducted Super Pig Tours, an awareness campaign to prevent the widespread spread of the ASF virus. He likewise commended the region for the preventive measures undertaken by DA and for having the most numbers of surveillance areas in the country.

In addition, updates on the CY 2022 harmonized ESETS and ESP were presented by ATI-RTD 1 Director. Rogelio Evangelist while Ms. Doris Joy Garcia discussed the updates on PAFES implementation in Region 1 and the integration workshop on MC #58 final output.

The activity was concluded with a discussion on the schedule of the next RMC meeting and the announcement of birthday celebrators for the months of January to April.

### DA, llocos Sur province inks PAFES agreement

Considered as a transforming tool in delivering a localized interventions for the agri-fishery sector in the Province of Ilocos Sur, the Provinceled Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System or PAFES is all set and ready to roll in Ilocos Sur with the signing of its Memorandum of Agreement between the DA, the PLGU and MLGUs of Ilocos Sur and other key signatories.

Dr. Annie Q. Bares, DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director spearheaded the MOA signing held on May 1, 2023 at the Provincial Farmers Livelihood Development Center in Vigan City as part of the celebration of the province's 1st Labor Day Festival.

"PAFES will not only put together and integrate existing agri-fishery programs of the DA and its attached agencies for a cohesive and harmonized



delivery of services but will likewise augment the financial and human resource capability of the LGUs in the province," said Dir. Bares.

Government agency leaders and all labor sector representatives in the province were convened to celebrate the first Labor Day Festival in Ilocos Sur where various projects and livelihood assistance were awarded and distributed to recipients.

DA through the Agribusiness

and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) and Provincial Agriculture Office have also put up KADIWA selling booths featuring agri-fishery products from farmers associations and local entrepreneurs in the province.

Other officials graced the occasion along with Dir. Bares are DA-RFO I's Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Operations, Engr. Dennis I. Tactac and ATI-Region I Center Director Dr. Rogelio Evangelista.

#### DA-RFO1 project monitoring team created

Strengthening the monitoring of completed big ticket projects of DA in Ilocos Region, Farmer Director Benjamin Campañano recommended the inclusion of the Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (PAFC) in the soon to be organized monitoring team of DA- RFO I.

In a Regional Management Committee meeting on May 22, at the 5th floor conference room, presided over by FD Campañano, a strong motion from Regional Technical Director for Operations Dennis Tactac was made for the DA-RFO I to organize a monitoring team that will be tasked to check the functionality and sustainability of projects implemented and completed in the previous years.

Among the divisions and operating units involved in the monitoring team shall be composed of the Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer, staff from the



Regional Agriculture Engineering Division, Field Operations Division, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED), Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section, and the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division.

Of the many big ticket projects that have been completed, the monitoring team will focus on checking the functionality of projects like the solar-powered irrigation system, recirculating dryers, silo, rice processing centers, diversion dams, and small water impounding projects.

The composition of the monitoring team was borne-out of the observation of FD Campañano and on the feedbacks received by the office during his stint as the Farmer Director in May and the instruction of 4th District Congressman Christopher de Venecia to check the implementation of completed agri-farm machineries and facility projects.

#### DAMAG-AGRI

### EdSeCom meeting held; reg'l tourism dev't plan discussed



Providing updates on various development plans and programs being implemented pertaining to agriculture, tourism, investment and other priority economic programs in the region, members of the Economic Development Sectoral Committee of the Regional Development Council convened at the Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives (NSCC) in Caoayan, Ilocos Sur for the CY 2023 2nd Regular Meeting on June 8, 2023.

Sponsored by the NSCC and presided over by Dr. Divina Quemi, a private sector representative (Economic) and the Vice-Chairperson of the Economic Development Sectoral Committee, the meeting provided an avenue for the various national government agency-members to present the various development plans and programs for 2023-2028 and to provide updates on the accomplishment and monitored projects for the first semester of this year 2023.

Leading the reporting of its development plan is the Department of Tourism delivered by its Consultant Mr. June Damienta who elaborated the major strategies and approaches that the agency will be implementing to boost the tourism industry in the region.

Among the major planned strategies that the DOT will be implementing is the clustering of various tourism facilities in the four provinces and the improvement and development of tourism products that the region has to offer to its visitors.

With the improved products and unique experience that the tourist could get in coming to the region, the DOT will be enhancing its cultural and historical sites including the need for capacity building for tourism frontlines.

In terms of infrastructure support investments, the DOT will be focusing on the gateways in the region with the improvement and expansion of airports and seaports as well as enhancement of highways and expressways.

With the benefits of digital transaction, the DOT upon the suggestion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas representative, will be launching the digital platform payment in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry for hassle-free and easier transaction of tourists in the region and shall use the google map to legitimize the existence of establishments in the region and for easier access to their locations.

The Cooperative Development Authority is likewise keen on getting the names of these establishments to provide market access on the products of the cooperatives that they are assisting including the farm learning sites that the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) that would serve as tourism sites for visitors who are coming in the region.

The tourism plan shall be adopted upon integration of the suggestions and recommendations by the memberagencies.

Meanwhile, other national government agencies like the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Statistics Authority reported updates on their projects such as the salt industry, RCEF or Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, Investment promotion capability building and CMCI as well as the Sustainable Development Goals Priority Indicators under the economic sector.

In the same event, the Committee also approved the Economic Component of CY 2022 Regional Development Report, CY 2023 Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Monitoring Plan and the CY 2023 1st Quarter RPMES Report

The EDSeCom is one of the sector committees under the Regional Development Council chaired by the Department of Agriculture Regional Executive Director, Dr. Annie Q. Bares that sets the direction of economic development in the region through the various national government agencies and private sectors.

### Ilocos Region 2022 rice production up at more than 3% - PSA

Rice production last year in the Ilocos Region is up by 3.31% as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority during the Rice Assessment and Planning Workshop held by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 on May 8-11, 2023, in Caoayan, Ilocos Sur.

The Ilocos region comes in at number four in terms of national production, contributing 9.5% of the nation's overall output, or more than 1.9 million metric tons (mt).

With an output of 4.82 mt per hectare, the region ranks second in terms of yield.

As for provincial production,

Pangasinan remains the top producer with more than 1.2 million mt followed by Ilocos Norte at 330, 749 mt, Ilocos Sur at 244,213.83 mt, and La Union at 171,276.53 mt.

"For this year, we have a lot of activities to do together to strengthen the performance and sustain the production parameters of the national rice program," said DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Annie Q. Bares to the agricultural extension workers who were also present in the event.

At 63,000 mt and 0.17 mt/ha in 2022, Region 1 recorded the highest production and yield growth.

RED Bares has therefore drawn

attention to the need for convergence in order to further increase the region's rice production efficiency.

"Convergence is now our modality. We need convergence both in services and allied sectors especially with our Irrigators' Associations (IAs) and Small Water Irrigation System Associations (SWISA). And with DA, we need to strengthen our partnership with the National Irrigation Administration as irrigation is extremely essential to rice production aside from other agricultural inputs," explained RED Bares.

For the past five years, Ilocos has remained among the top rice producing regions in the country.





## Zero Waste.

### The waste of one is the food of another

THE STORY OF LILIAN GUILLAO Region I 's nominee for DA's Search for Outstanding Rural Women 2023

This has been the guiding principle of the GALLALI IZW farm, a self-sufficient farm practicing Integrated Zero Waste Management Farming System successfully managed by Ms. Lilian Guillao, Region I's nominee for this year's search for Outstanding Rural Women of the Department of Agriculture.

Born and raised in the highlands of Cordillera, Lilian's grandmother who was a farmer influenced her love and passion for farming. Her deep regard for nature also led her to join her husband Mr. Albert Ruiz Quiogue who used to work for a company that develops and markets agricultural products. Together, they were commissioned to reform a farm on the verge of closing down due to fly infestation. Combining their knowledge and innovativeness, they were able to develop natural farm input concoctions that effectively manages foul odors in livestock productions and formulated other organic plant growth boosters.

With their growing family, and after they have successfully restored the farm using their own product which they have also started to market, they decided to develop a farm in Burgos, Pangasinan inherited by her husband Albert from his family.

Starting from scratch since her husband decided to retire from his work, Lilian drew courage and strength from her strong faith in God and supported her husband in establishing the GALLALI IZW farm.

GALLALI is an acronym derived from her children's name **Ga**briel, **Al**bert, **La**llaine, and her name **Li**lian, while IZW stands for Integrated Zero Waste, her guiding principle.

In the initial development of their farm that used to be a forest area planted with bamboos and cogon, and with a limited budget on hand, Lilian learned to maximize all resources in the farm so that wastes are turned into useful materials that complements their crop production with their livestock production. With her deep regard for nature and the environment, Lilian practiced natural farming system. All inputs used in their crop production were derived from nature ensuring the quality of their produce which are fresh and pesticide-free.

Gifted with resourcefulness, innovativeness and determination, Lilian, in tandem with her husband, gradually transformed the farm from an almost barren piece of forest land to a productive, self-sufficient haven of natural food and livestock enterprise.

Lilian employs an integrated farming system to maximize the land area at the same time promote zero waste management. She integrates her livestock and poultry production and vermicomposting under the trees.

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## 60 ASF-affected swine raisers get weaner pigs, feeds

Sixty swine raisers from the municipality of Marcos and city of Batac in Ilocos Norte were given a total of 90 weaner pigs as part of the repopulation program of the Department of Agriculture for African Swine Fever (ASF)-affected livestock farmers through the sentineling protocol.

This protocol determines whether a virus or disease is still present in a location using a sciencebased approach. As a result, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 is dispersing weaner pigs in towns where there have been no documented cases of African swine fever (ASF) for at least 90 days.

Swine raisers were also provided with 30 bags of pre-starter, 90 bags of starter, and 90 bags of starter feeds.

Dr. Loida Valenzuela, the provincial veterinarian, encouraged farmers to strictly practice biosecurity measures, as their committed participation in these procedures is crucial to the management of ASF.

"Do the biosecurity measures. Always practice it. Not only on the putting up of fences, disinfectants, nets, the use of separate footwear within the pig pens, and the recording of visitors, but also be careful of letting people inside to visit your farm," Valenzuela said, adding that they have discovered that people from the outside, mostly from the private sector, bring in the virus after visiting farms in other areas.

Valenzuela further encouraged farmers to immediately report any suspected ASF case for early prevention and proper provision of assistance.

The distribution activity was held on April 19–20, 2023, and continued in the following weeks in the municipalities of Laoag and Banna.

All four sites have a total project cost of PHP 5,334,000.







## IN farmers receive hybrid rice seeds

The distribution of hybrid rice seeds, which took place on April 20,2023 at the DA-RFO 1 Ilocos Norte Experiment Center in Batac City, is estimated to benefit a total of 39,275 farmers in the 11 towns of the second district of Ilocos Norte.

A total of 23,825 bags were distributed amounting to more than PHP 114 million.

Farmers are estimated to obtain a yield increment of one metric ton per hectare.

Through the DA's National Rice Program, farmers are made sure to receive high-quality, high-yield hybrid seeds that are appropriate in their areas in time for the upcoming rainy season.

As per the report of the Philippine Rice Institute in 2022, Ilocos Norte attained a rice production output of 330,748 metric tons with 63,909 hectares of area harvested and a yield per hectare of 5.18 mt/ha.

Ilocos Norte contributes 16.83 percent of the total rice production in Region 1 (PSA, 2023).



### UAPSG receive Php77M under DA INSPIRE Program



The United Association of Pangasinan Swine Grower, Inc. (UAPSG) in San Fabian, Pangasinan was awarded a total of Php 77million under the Department of Agriculture's Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) program on May 9 in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

A total of 14 sites, ranging from Pangasinan Districts 2 to District 6, have been approved after a thorough evaluation and document compliance procedure. Of these, two are already breeder-based biosecurity level 2 sites, and the other 12 are already in the grow-out phase.

Each site covers 5.5million which includes the provision of piglets, feeds and the farm owner/recipients' responsibility to improve its facilities which is necessary for the farm to reach biosecurity level 2.

Ms. Karen Paningbatan, DA - RFO1's Livestock Banner Program Focal Person, thanked the UAPSG for being persistent in meeting all of the needed paperwork requirements. "Hindi pa po nagtatapos dito ang partnership natin since ang INSPIRE project, it is a consolidation and clustering strategy. So after ng production, sa post harvest naman po tayo magve-venture," said Paningbatan.

Meanwhile, DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Annie Q. Bares expressed hope that the project will provide a good opportunity to genuinely move on from the ill effects of ASF in Region 1.

"Ituloy tuloy na natin ang pagunlad ng swine industry. Not only in Pangasinan, but also in the whole Region 1," said RED Bares.

The cheque was awarded to the UAPSG President Mr. Albert Estolas, along with the officials and members of the association, by the Director of the National Livestock Program Dr. Ruth Miclat-Sonaco, Chairman of Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) Engr. Rosendo So, RED Bares, OIC of the Provincial Veterinary Office - Pangasinan Dr. Arcely Robeniol, and Ms. Karen Paningbatan.



## DA-Ilocos continues to extend agri-trainings through FFS

For sustainable management of Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Ilocos Region, 25 farmer-participants graduated on Integrated Pest Management – Farmer Field School – Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring, Suppression (IPM-FFS-PAMS) on April 27, 2023 at Brgy. Santiago, Binalonan, Pangasinan.

Aside from the knowledge and technical assistance the graduates obtained from the 16-week-long learning, they also received 80 packs of Metarhizium anisopliae, four colonies of earwigs, and ten bottles of Nucleo Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV) from the Regional Crop Protection Center of the Integrated Laboratories Division of DA-RFO 1 and ten sachets of Bacillus thuringiensis (BT sprays) from the Crop Pest Management Division of DA-Bureau of Plant Industry.

The farmer participants were likewise encouraged to share with their colleagues the first-hand experiences and practical skills they acquired from the FFS for a wider dissemination of knowledge on the management of FAW.

Attending the said event were Binalonan Municipal Councilor Hon. Arturo Romua, Brgy. Captain of Santiago Mr. Alfredo Delos Reyes, Ms. Aurora Cariaga – Provincial Corn Coordinator, Mr. Christian June Reyes of FAO-Philippines, and from DA-RFO 1 Ms. Marivic Begonia, Mr. Aries Magat, Dr. Debbie Davalos and Mr. Wensley Sandi.

## DA distributes a hundred million worth

In a remarkable effort to support and empower local farmers, a distribution of essential agricultural interventions amounting to 102,888,239.50 was done on June 16, 2023, at the Binalonan Civic Center, Binalonan, Pangasinan.

Graced by Pangasinan 5th District Representative, Hon. Ramon Guico, Jr., the activity was attended by municipal agriculturists and farmers from the province's fifth district. This aimed to provide farmers with the necessary resources to enhance their agricultural practices and boost their productivity.

Under the Rice and Corn Banner Program, farmers were provided with hybrid seeds, hand tractors, and pump and engine sets.

To support vegetable production

during off-season periods, the High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) and the National Urban and Peri-Urban Program (NUPAP) distributed vegetable seeds, plastic crates, multi-cultivators, shredders, plastic mulch, knapsack sprayers, and farm inputs such as complete fertilizer, muriate of potash, organic plant supplements, NEB plus, and various garden tools. These interventions will help in the establishment of



## of interventions to Pangasinan farmers

community and school gardens, promoting sustainable vegetable production even during the off-season.

Additionally, the Organic Agriculture Program awarded plastic drums, plastic crates, and net mesh to farmers, encouraging the adoption of organic farming practices and providing essential resources to support their efforts.

Regional Executive Director

Annie Q. Bares who joined the activity reminded the recipients to take care of the interventions they are receiving from the government saying "Lagi ko pong sinasabi sa inyo na pakaingatan ninyo ang mga natatanggap ninyong interventions, lalong lalo na itong mga machineries. Sana hindi maging rason para sa pag aaway away ninyo kundi maging dahilan ng pagkakaisa ninyo para mamaximize ang mga resources na naibibigay sa inyo ng ating gobyerno." Also present at the venue were Pangasinan 5th district board member Chinky Perez-Tababa, FOD Chief - Analiza Ramos, APCO for Pangasinan - Dr. Marvin Quilates, and representatives of Binalonan Mayor Hon. Ramon Ronald Guico IV and Hon. Governor Ronald Guico III.



## Pangasinan policy makers vow support to sustain GA-FAW activities

Drumming up support in sustaining the implementation of the global action to control the spread of armyworm in the region, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), National Crop Protection Center (NCPC), and the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos through the Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) and in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), conducted a field visit for policymakers from eight Local Government Units in Pangasinan at the corn demo sites located in Brgy. Primicias, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

Held on June 20, 2023, the field visit was participated in by the various Farmer Field School (FFs) graduates in the eight corn demo sites from Asingan, Calasiao, Sta. Maria, San Carlos, Sta. Barbara, Balungao, Binalonan and Mangatarem in the province of Pangasinan.

Aimed at showcasing the various management practices and technologies using different biological control agents and other FAW management options that are proven

adaptable in the region, the field visit opened doors for the policy makers to be encouraged to draft a resolution in their own municipalities/cities supporting efforts for the sustainability of the projects and activities of the FAW management and control in their localities.

Pangasinan Board Member Nicholi John Louie Sison, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture in his message during the Planning Workshop held at The Monarch in Calasiao, Pangasinan vowed to give



all-out support in the implementation of the various FAW-management and control activities as he noted the significant impact to incomes of farmers affected by armyworm infestation.

Dr. Peter Magdaraog, BPI's Chief of Crop Pest Management Division highlighted the various accomplishments being undertaken to control FAW in the region to include among others the large scale field demonstration of the IPM-PAMS technologies and strategies for Geo-Zone countries, pest surveillance and monitoring using the newly developed BPI collect app that replaces paper forms used in surveybased data gathering that is real-time and convenient way to report pest incidence in the locality together with the establishment of Bantay-Peste Brigade and organization of 'Bantay Peste' Pest Scout.

With the low production of the bio-control agents to date, Dr. Magdaraog saw the opportunity to encourage the local policy-makers to support the establishment of a municipal BCA mass rearing facility and all other vital activities to control FAW to cater the needs of farmers in the field.

Seeing this as a potential livelihood opportunities for the local dwellers in the eight municipalities, the municipal agriculturists wanted the BPI to provide basic information as to the needed budgetary requirements and design of the facility so that they could lobby support from the Sangguniang Bayan for its funding. Other than asking for the support in the establishment of mass rearing facility for BCA, the policy makers are also encouraged to draft resolution for the adoption of technologies on the management of fall armyworm and to sustain the GA-FAW activities in the region.

Also present in the field visit and planning workshop are OIC-Regional Technical Director for Research Dr. Florentino Adame, Ms. Precerpina Luzaran, BPI's- Crop Pest Management Division Assistant Chief, FAO Representative Dr. Wilma Cuaterno and Dr. Hermenigilda Gabertan, Assistant Director of BPI who delivered her welcome remarks via online and ILD Division Chief, Dr. Constancia Diaz.



## DA in llocos distributes P5.2M aggie interventions to LU farm

A total of Php5, 209, 750 worth of agri-farm interventions was delivered today, June 30, 2023 by the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region to various farmers organizations in the first district of La Union that aims to improve the farming sector vis a vis the production and income of the farmer members.

In a separate distribution activities held first in Luna, La Union the DA led by Regional Executive Director Annie Bares and First District of La Union representative Francisco Paolo Ortega together with RTD for Operations Dennis Tactac, fifteen (15) recipients from Luna, La Union each received three (3) heads of swine, feeds and biologics composed of 1 bag pre-starter, 3 bags starter and 3 bags of grower amounting to Php645,750.

Through its sentineling program,

DA through the Livestock Program provided those hog raisers who were previously affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF) but were not able to receive such interventions in previous distribution activities were the recipients of the project.

At the Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center, various farm machineries were also provided by DA to qualified farmers association beneficiaries amounting to Php4,564,000 given to the municipalities of Balaoan, Bacnotan, San Juan and the City of San Fernando in the form of four wheel drive tractor as well as pump and engine sets.

In his message during the simple turn over ceremonies, Congressman Ortega expressed his appreciation for the efforts of DA in continuously providing





## worth ers



interventions to his constituents in the first district of La Union and likewise vowed his support to prioritize allocating funds to finance farming-related activities and projects in the first district of La Union.

RED Annie Bares likewise reminded the recipients to manage well the interventions being given and called on the officials of the farmers associations to share and maximize the use of the farm machineries awarded by DA to their association members as she encouraged them to unify and not allow conflict to arise in utilizing the machineries and equipment that they are receiving.

Organizing the distribution activity is the field operations division in coordination with the Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer, Mr. Juanito 'Bonbon' Malazo, Jr.

### Ilocos RAFC chair assumes farmer-director post

RAFC Chair Benjamin Campañano of Burgos, Ilocos Norte assumed the post as Farmer-Director today as part of the farmers and fisherfolk month-long celebration in May.

In a simple ceremony, DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Annie Q. Bares handed over the key of responsibility to Campañano who was appointed the second time for the role.

Campañano will assume the roles and tasks of the DA-RFO1 director, however his authority is limited only to non-policy activities determining which should not affect the government accounting rules and procedures as well as civil service rules and regulations governing regular government employees.



DAMAG-AGRI



## 3 FAs in Region 1 receive cattle under SAAD

After identifying the needs of farmer-beneficiaries under the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program Phase 2 of the Department of Agriculture through the beneficiary needs assessment, the SAAD implementers started with the distribution of interventions to SAAD pilot areas in the region on May 31, 2023 and June 1, 2023.

On May 31, 26 heads of cattle fattener were awarded to 26 members of the United Barangay San Antonio Sto. Tomas Farmers' Association, Inc. in Pangasinan. It was awarded through a simple ceremony which was attended by Ms. Khristina Leodeth Gagote of the Municipal Agriculture Office, Ms. Amelia Cariaga, representative from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist; and District Veterinarian Dr. Marissa De Vera.

During the ceremony, Dr. Marvin Quilates, Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer for Pangasinan province, emphasized the importance of taking care of the cattle, urging the farmers to treat them with the same level of care they provide for themselves. He encouraged prompt reporting of any observations regarding the cattle's health or well-being for

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appropriate action. "Alagaan nyo po yan gaya ng pag aalaga ninyo sa inyong mga sarili. Pag may naobserve kayong hindi maganda sa inyong baka ireport nyo agad para maireport sa supplier" said Quilates.

On June 1, 2023, both the Sibugan Farmers' Association in Bagulin, La Union, and Riverside Greeners Association in Dumalneg, Ilocos Norte also received 26 heads of cattle each.

In addition to the cattle, the recipients were provided with essential supplies such as drugs, biologics, and ruminant grower feeds. These provisions ensure the overall wellbeing and health of the livestock, promoting optimal growth and productivity.

To generate revenue from the

animals, the beneficiaries may sell their cattle after years of tending them and use the proceeds to purchase another head of cattle, which will then be dispersed among the association's members.

To support the associations in tending this livelihood, DA SAAD will be providing the beneficiaries with education about the proper care of their animals.

#### DA distributes farm interventions in 3rd District of Pangasinan

Preparing for the wet cropping season, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos has distributed a total of 17,617 bags of hybrid rice seeds amounting to Php 84,734,968 in a ceremonial distribution held at the DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on April 27, 2023.

#### Pangasinan farmers receive Php144M worth of agricultural interventions

The Department of Agriculture - Ilocos Region distributed a total of Php144,487,401 worth of agricultural interventions to farmers in Pangasinan's first and fourth districts, in a distribution ceremony held at the DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Centers in Sual and Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on May 18, 2023.

#### DA hands over farm machinery, equipment as farmers ready for the next cropping season

During the distribution ceremonies led by DA Region 1 Regional Executive Director and 1st District Representative Ronald Singson on Independence Day at the Ilocos Sur Research and Experiment Center in Labnig, San Juan, Ilocos Sur, a total of P74,582,021 worth of interventions were given to local government units and farmers' cooperatives and associations.

## **INTENSIFYING PI SUPPORT TO FAR**

#### 2nd District Ilocos Sur farmers receive Php103M worth of farm interventions

The Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region distributed on May 4 a total of Php103,351,485 worth of farm interventions to hundreds of farmers in the second district of Ilocos Sur held at the Candon Convention Center, Candon City, Ilocos Sur. DA-RFO I awards Php193.6M worth of aggie projects for Pangasinan farmers

Sixth District farmers in the province of Pangasinan received from the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region various farm interventions amounting to P193,593,803 in a distribution and awarding ceremonies recently held at the DA-Pangasinan Research & Experiment Center (DA-PREC), Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan. DA distributes 18M worth of agri interventions in llocos Norte for better farm prod'n activities

A total of Php18,925,132 worth of agricultural interventions was distributed to various farmers' associations in Ilocos Norte's 1st and 2nd district. The distribution took place on June 13 at the Ilocos Norte Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Center (INAFEC) in Laoag City and at the DA - Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center (INREC) in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

#### DA-NUPAP distributes upgraded goats to eight FCAs in Pangasinan

In an effort to strengthen the agriculture sector in the region, the Department of Agriculture's National Urban and Peri-Urban Program (NUPAP) distributed six does and two bucks of upgraded goats to eight farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in the province of Pangasinan as part of the community garden package on May 25, 2023.

## ROD'N ROERS

### La Union FCAs get goats through DA's NUPAP

In a simple turnover ceremony, four farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) from the city of San Fernando and municipalities of Santol, Rosario, and Agoo in La Union get upgraded bucks and does as among the interventions from the agency's National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP).







from page 21

#### the aquaponics.

Adoption and use of environment friendly technologies is of paramount consideration to Lilian in every step in her farming system. Farm and kitchen wastes are processed into vermicast/ compost and used as fertilizers and additional source of income.

GALLALI IZW Farm produces its own foliar fertilizer and sanitizer using biological solutions as one strategy to adapt to climate change. Borne out of Lilian's innovativeness and resourcefulness combined with her husband's keen understanding of agricultural formulations, they produce the GENESIS - Ionic Mineral Solution which serves as liquid fertilizer to vegetables, ornamental plants and fruit bearing trees and Natural Plant Food as flower inducer. To eliminate flies and malodor in poultry and piggery projects, Lilian has introduced the use of RID IT – a Sanitizer Solution.

Lilian is a conscientious learner. As an empowered woman, she enthusiastically attends and actively participates in various trainings and seminars to further hone her own knowledge and skills. She applies her learnings in the improvement of the production process, development of her products and in the enhancement of their farm management systems and procedures.

She is a member of the Balococ Cacayasen Farmers Assn. in their community. As such, she provides hands-on training opportunities to members of their association by opening their farm for free trainings.

True to her commitment in the empowerment of small land holder farmers and rural women,





she continually collaborates with the Municipal Government of Burgos in support to their conduct of trainings and seminars for technology transfer on Integrated Zero Waste Farming and food processing and product development in support to livelihood development. She is frequently invited as Resource Speaker in hands – on trainings to include the municipalities of Mabini, Mangatarem, Bolinao, Pozorrubio and Sual. Likewise, she has been invited in the National Organic Agriculture Congress [NOAC] held in Ilocos Norte to share her advocacy on zero waste management in support to agricultural development. She is also invited by the ATI – RTC, DA – PREC, DA -Region and other government agencies for livelihood trainings.

In appreciation of her generosity in sharing her time and talent, she was accorded various recognition and awards. However, it is not the awards and recognition that counts but the enterprise that was established that matters most to her. From this sharing, it resulted to technology replication and the establishment of agri-based enterprises.

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested Lilian's ability to overcome challenges. From her flourishing farm enterprise, it experienced a setback on their product marketing affecting the financial side of their farm. However, Lilian explored other sources of marketing thru online platform. She also took advantage of the health crisis to market her fresh vegetables as people then became "health conscious" and preferred organic and healthy food to eat to fight the COVID virus.

They availed the IATF ID issued by the DA for them to pass thru smoothly in the checkpoint and deliver their products to their contact buyers.

Amid the pandemic, Lilian continued to make the farm productive and helped her farm laborer's families, including their neighborhood, access fresh food supplies from their farm during the quarantine period. Furthermore, it triggered Lilian to make herbal soap using their aloe vera and oregano plants. Some of her produced were distributed to their community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. Moreover, she engaged into ornamental plant production and sold as additional source of income.

#### DAMAG-AGRI

Lilian takes pride of serving allnatural and chemical-free food to her family, her farm workers, and to her clientele as she always considers that health is wealth. With the practice of Integrated Zero Waste Management Farming System at their farm, safe and all-natural farm produce is guaranteed. In fact, her products were exhibited and promoted during congress and expositions such as National Organic Agriculture Congress, Organic Agriculture Trade Fairs and Agri-Industrial Exhibit and Trade Fairs

#### (UMAANI).

To date, their farm houses their family home, farm office, processing facility and the various production projects ranging from vegetable production, farm animal production,







local fruit production, culinary herb production, red and black tilapia production and processing facility for fruit wine, pesto, vinegar, fruit juice [seasonal], atchara, ready to eat fresh salad and soap making.

The farm's income continue to grow and from all of their agricultural enterprise, for CY 2022 GALLALI IZW farm registered a net income of 219,580 with an RIO rate of 113%.

Other than its financial gain, Lilian's fulfillment comes from knowing that, through her courage, faith in God, hardwork, patience, and love for farming and deep regard for the environment, their farm has now evolved into a one-stop destination showcasing Integrated Zero Waste Management Farming System and a learning site for technology replication. It serves as an on-site laboratory to visiting farmer groups, on-the-job trainees, lakbay – aral participants and natural farming enthusiasts like Lilian.

It was indeed a successful journey for Ms. Lilian Guillao, a devoted mother, a supportive and loving wife, an innovative, enterprising and hardworking farmer, a woman of great character, deserving of the recognition as OUTSTANDING RURAL WOMAN!

