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Dagyaw 2023 highlights agriculture, food security

With the theme “Usapang Aksyon sa Agri Produksyon at Pagkaing Sapat Para sa Lahat,” the Dagyaw Open Government Town Hall Meeting took place on July 5, 2023, at the Provincial Livelihood Development Center in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur.

Dagyaw, which means Bayanihan, embodies the purpose of providing help to those in need by uniting the government sector, non-government organizations, and the people as one.

The town hall meeting was attended by key officials from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), and other line agencies, along with Ilocos Sur Governor Hon. Jeremias “Jerry” Singson. Officials from the provincial and local government units, partners from civil society organizations, as well as farmers and fisherfolk groups from Region 1, were also present.





This year's Dagyaw focused on discussions regarding agricultural production, food security, and other related issues wherein Ms. Doris Joy Garcia, PMED Chief, presented the Department of Agriculture's thrusts and strategic agenda for 2023-2028.

During the town hall meeting, Director Annie Bares delivered a message of support, emphasizing the significance of agriculture and that food is everybody's concern. She stated "Bagamat mandato ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka na siguraduhing may sapat, de kalidad, at abot-kayang halaga ng pagkain para sa bawat pamilyang Pilipino, ang ibang sangay ng gobyerno ay kabahagi po dapat sa pagbibigay ng karampatang suporta upang ang ating mga programang pang-agrikultura ay maihatid,

maitaguyod, at mapagbuti katuwang ng ating lokal na pamahalaan".


The Dagyaw Open Government Town Hall Meeting has consistently served as a platform for dialogue and collaboration between the government and the people it serves. Through this annual event, stakeholders are given a voice, and their concerns are taken into account when formulating policies and programs.

As part of the activity, Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita was also installed, showcasing agricultural products and by-products in Region 1.

Over 600 farmers, fisherfolk, AEWs join Ilocos info caravan

Bringing closer to the people of Ilocos Region the services of the Department of Agriculture, a total of 600 farmers, fisherfolks and agri-extension workers trooped to the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena on Sept. 20, 2023 for the Ilocos leg of the National Information Caravan, spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture thru the Agriculture & Fisheries Information Division (AFID), in partnership with the DA-RFO I - Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS).





Carrying the theme “Masagang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya tungo sa Bagong Pilipinas,” the information caravan in Ilocos Region is part of a series of caravans being conducted by AFID nationwide to equip farmers and fisherfolk and other agri-stakeholders with relevant agricultural information that is vital in achieving inclusive growth for the entire agri-sector.

“Information is such a potent component of development. The conduct of activities like this Information Caravan is a crucial strategy, an effective platform where we can bring together in one setting the important information about our programs and projects in the Department that we want our farmers to know and understand so they can actively partake in our efforts to attain agricultural development,” said Engr. Dennis I. Tactac, DA-RFO I’s Regional Technical Director for Operations who represented Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares during the program.

Dwelling on the topics such as Credit and Financial Assistance program by DA-ACPC; Agri-enterprise Development by DA-AMAS; El-Niño mitigation and adaptation strategies by the Fields Operations Division (FOD), African Swine Fever (ASF) updates by BAI; and the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program.

The information caravan also provided an opportunity for the participants to get direct answers to their queries, issues and concerns through the booths set-up at the venue which showcased DA’s programs and services.

To provide a festive mood of the event, and as a token of gratitude to the active participation of the farmer-participants, a raffle draw was held as part of the activity where prizes such as cash, bags, caps, grocery items, vegetable seeds, fruit tree seedlings were given. IEC materials and other collaterals were also provided to the participants as supplement to the information that they have acquired from the event.

Making the event more meaningful is the presence of Laoag City Mayor Michael Marcos Keon who warmly welcomed the participants with his message during the opening program.

The conduct of the info caravan nationwide by the AFID is expected to generate greater awareness among its stakeholders about DA’s programs and projects that hopes to spur further agricultural development in the country.

Prov'l corporate farming program launched in Pangasinan

Under the leadership of Pangasinan Governor Hon. Ramon Guico III, a Provincial Corporate Farming Program was launched on July 7, 2023, to boost the agricultural sector in the province.

Accompanied by signing of a memorandum of agreement with program partners, LGUs and FCA beneficiaries, the event was held in Ramon Guico Sr. Sports and Civic Center in Binalonan, Pangasinan.

It was participated by different national agencies including DA-RFO 1, DA-PhilRice, NFA, CDA, NIA, PhilMech, PCC, PhilSCAT as well as private companies involved in agricultural machinery manufacturing and chemical and seed companies.

The primary beneficiaries of the said program are farmers' associations and cooperatives in Pangasinan. With the aim of enhancing food production and ensuring the profitability of farming, the Provincial Corporate Farming Program intends to address the major concerns of the agri sector in the province that has led to a decrease in the income of small farmers.

Moreover, it also aims to demonstrate food production cost efficiency thru corporate farming approach.

During the launching, Hon. Leocadio Sebastian, Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development of the Department of Agriculture, served as the keynote speaker.

He reiterated the President's directive for government and private sectors to work together in a



coordinated manner, saying “sa ating mga kasama sa gobyerno pati na sa private sector, you have to converge, you have to cooperate, and you have to coordinate. This is to ensure that our assistance and interventions are well-planned.”

“Ang corporate farming, ang focus po nyan ay hindi lang para mapabuti ang produksyon, kundi para maayos yung value chain” he added.

Key officials such as the Governor of Pangasinan, Hon. Ramon Guico III, local chief executives, heads of various

national agencies including DA RFO 1 Regional Executive Director Annie Bares, and representatives from private sectors were present during the event.

The project site will cover 120 hectares and is scheduled for implementation in the CY season 2022-2023, spanning from October 2022 to November 2023.

Major projects under the program will include the production on rice, corn, and high-value crops.



DA inaugurates Bacarra's irrigation canal system

True to its commitment of helping farmers have better irrigation facilities necessary to improve their rice productivity in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos through Regional Technical Director Dennis Tactac led the inauguration of the rehabilitation and improvement of the Cabaruan

Irrigation System Canal at Cabaruan, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte on July 7, 2023.

A P13 million worth of project committed by Senior USec Domingo Panganiban during the National Rice Technology Forum held in Bacarra, officers and members of the Zanjera de Sales together with Bacarra Mayor

Nicomedeza Cruz expressed gratitude to the DA with the expansion of their service areas intended for rice planting especially this coming wet cropping season.

Also present during the inauguration ceremony is DA's Rice Consultant, Dr. Santiago R. Obien.

DA conducts 5th reg'l organic agri congress

The Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I, through the Organic Agriculture Program, conducted the 5th Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) with the theme, “Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK” at Centennial Arena, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte on August 31, 2023.

The congress convened around 200 stakeholders composing of organic agriculture practitioners in the region, organic farming advocates, staff from Local Government Units, Provincial Organic Agriculture Focal Persons, and the academe as well as the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB).



The event was graced by SUC Representative of NOAB Dir. Adeflor Garcia, Small Farmer Representative of NOAB Dir. Antonio Jesus Orbida, Vice Governor Cecilia Araneta Marcos, Atty. Pancho Jose who represented Governor Matthew Joseph M. Manotoc, Engr. Ma. Theresa Bacnat, officer-in-charge of the Ilocos Norte Provincial Agriculture Office, Regional Organic Agriculture Program Focal Person Dr. Marvin Quilates, and INREC Chief Mr. Medardo Pablo who represented DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares.

NOAB SUC Representative Dir. Adeflor Garcia emphasized the importance of soil and the reduction in soil health as a global threat to sustainability of all agri-food production. Dir. Garcia reminded the

participants to take part in the soil conversation advocacy, while NOAB Small Farmer Representative Dir. Antonio Jesus Orbida also discussed the NOAP initiatives and how the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) was incorporated into the Organic Agriculture Law.

Vice Governor Cecilia Araneta Marcos also showed her support in Organic farming and urged the organic practitioners to increase their drive in producing organic food.

“I laud all your efforts kasi meron pang adbokasiya na maging healthy ang komunidad, maging health ang pamilya, at maging healthy ang probinsya.” she said.

Mr. Dale Russeth Gabanes,

Development Management Officer III of NOAP introduced the company, Healthy Options, the first and largest all-natural and organic products retailer, and discussed the company's history as well as potential market opportunities for organic practitioners in the region.

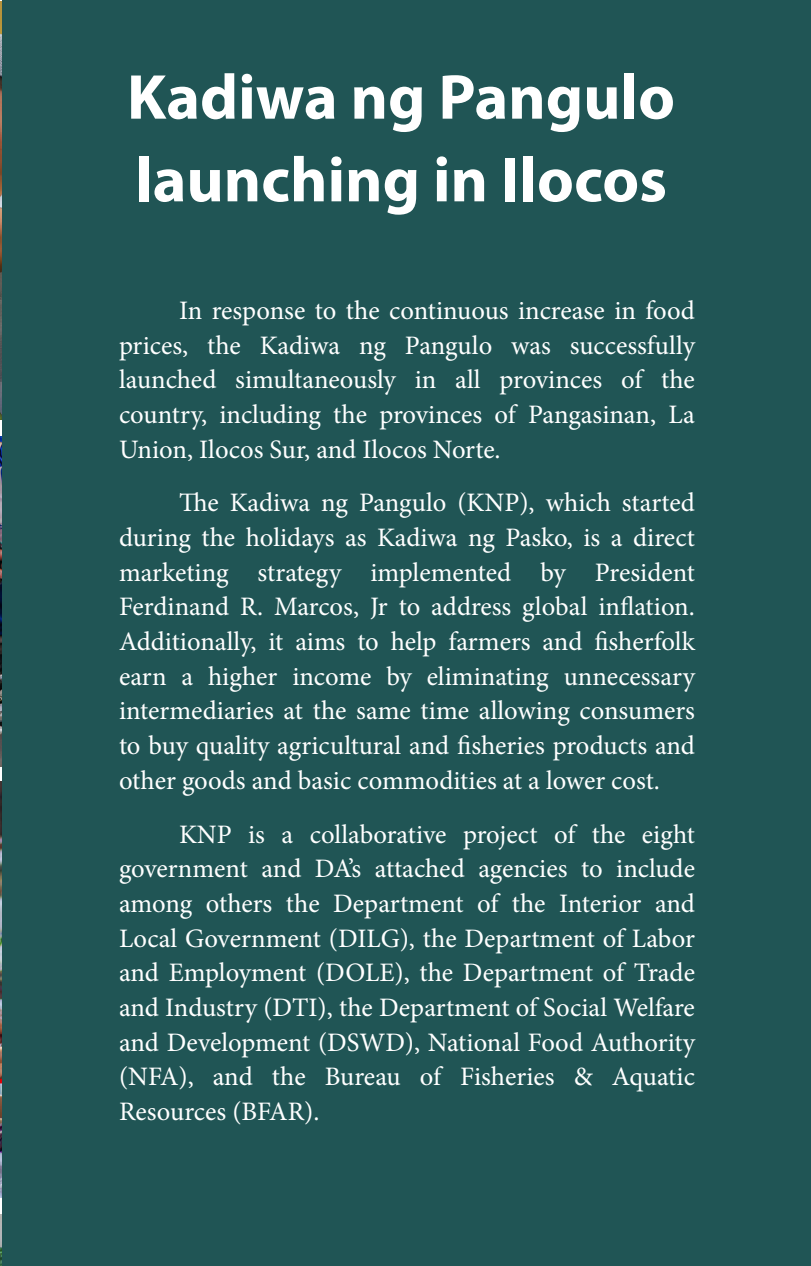
The Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) intends to bring together organic agriculture practitioners from around the region in order to provide them with wider marketing opportunities as well as discuss industry's latest trends and concerns. The activity is also an opportunity to present the accomplishments and 2025 goals for the organic agriculture farming sector by province.

Kadiwa ng Pangulo launching in Ilocos

In response to the continuous increase in food prices, the Kadiwa ng Pangulo was successfully launched simultaneously in all provinces of the country, including the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, and Ilocos Norte.

The Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP), which started during the holidays as Kadiwa ng Pasko, is a direct marketing strategy implemented by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr to address global inflation. Additionally, it aims to help farmers and fisherfolk earn a higher income by eliminating unnecessary intermediaries at the same time allowing consumers to buy quality agricultural and fisheries products and other goods and basic commodities at a lower cost.

KNP is a collaborative project of the eight government and DA's attached agencies to include among others the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Food Authority (NFA), and the Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (BFAR).



More than 2,000 rice farmers complete SOA-SRA program 3rd szn

A total of 2,582 farmers from 33 municipalities/cities in Region 1 received certificates of completion of the School on-the-Air on Smart Rice Agriculture (SOA-SRA) program with the theme “Makabagong Pagsasaka a Himpapawid” in a mass graduation held by the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) 1 on August 4, 2023, at the Urdaneta City Cultural & Sports Center, Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

Sison farmer Mr. Rolando Parrocha topped this year's SOA-SRA graduation and received a medal, certificate, and a Php5,000 cash award, while Ms. Jhonadelle Delfinado from Asingan, Pangasinan was named top 2 performer.

Mr. Romeo Espejo of Bayambang, Pangasinan was named as the top 3 performer, followed by Ms. Aida Ingel of Sinait, Ilocos Sur and Mr. Erwin Pidlaon of Urbiztondo, Pangasinan as top 4 performers.





The other 5 top performers (with honors) include:

1. Mary-Ann D. Balonggo - Currimao, Ilocos Norte
2. Jovelyn B. Rodulfo - Burgos, Pangasinan
3. Leankin M. Jude - Pozorrubio, Pangasinan
4. Ricardo N. Cueva - Binalonan, Pangasinan
5. Kares Ostil-Principe - Bani, Pangasinan

According to a message delivered by DA-RFO1 Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) Chief Ms. Vida Cacal, the Ilocos region achieved a 4% increase in rice sufficiency level in 2022, from 177% rice sufficiency in 2021 to 181% rice sufficiency in 2022, all thanks to the contributions and efforts made by the empowered SRA-SOA graduates.

“Every year may mga makabagong teknolohiya kaya napakahalaga po na maki-ayon tayo sa panahon, sa paglinang ng inyong mga kakayahan at kaalaman sa larangan ng teknolohiya. Kasi ito ang inyong magiging sandata para lalong mapalago ang inyong produksyon.” Said Ms. Cacal.

The program’s goal is to equip small-scale farmers with essential knowledge, advanced technologies, and assistance from various rice industry stakeholders in order to enable comprehensive and continuous education in the field of smart rice agriculture.

The graduation ceremony was graced by ATI-RTC 1 Center Director Dr. Rogelio Evangelista, together with DA-RFO1 RAFIS Chief Ms. Vida Cacal, representative of DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Bares, Pangasinan Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Dalisay Moya, Atty. Lily Tadeo, from the City Agriculture Office of Urdaneta, OIC-Assistant Provincial Agriculturist of La Union Ms. Sharon Vilorio, representative of La Union Governor Raphaele Veronica Ortega-David.

Also present to give support were Municipal Agriculturists Mr. Benjamin Magno of Aringay, La Union, Ms. Minerva Rosas of Asingan, Pangasinan, Ms. Regina Labiano of Bangar, La Union, Ms. Cleofe Martinez of Binalonan, Pangasinan, Ms. Jean Manzano of Santiago, Ilocos Sur, Mr. Randy Reburon of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, Ms. Marivic Dacpano of Sison, Pangasinan, and Ms. Julie Ann Quilates of Urbiztondo, Pangasinan.

Counting this year’s graduates, there are currently a total of 7,868 rice farmers in the Ilocos region, including the first and second batches, who are now equipped with the new technologies in rice production.



26 OSYs receive P5.2M worth of cattle fattening enterprise

The Department of Agriculture, through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), rolled out 78 heads of cattle worth P5.2 million to the second batch of out-of-school youths (OSY) on July 19 at the Cultural Center, Banna, Ilocos Norte.

The second batch consisted of twenty six (26) OSY recipients from the municipalities of Banna, Badoc, Bangui, Nueva Era and Solsona in the province of Ilocos Norte, with each receiving three

heads of cattle.

Banna Mayor Mary Chrislyn Abadilla spearheaded the roll-out activity together with DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Bares. Mayor Abadilla expressed her gratitude for giving the OSYs the opportunity to be one of the project's recipients.

“Maswerte kayo kasi you are being chosen to have this program of DA. This is always a blessing kasi hindi naman

ito basta basta na makukuha natin kaya pagyamanin natin kung ano man yung natatanggap natin.” Mayor Abadilla advised to the OSY recipients.

Meanwhile, RED Bares urged the OSYs to form an association in order to acquire various DA assistance more swiftly, as the DA now only provides assistance through established cooperatives or associations.

“Ito lang po dahil kayo ay pilot, ay

LGU Bayambang get P10M for INSPIRE project

As part of an effort to revitalize the livestock industry, the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office 1, through the Livestock Banner program, awarded a P10 million check to the Local Government Unit of Bayambang, Pangasinan for the Swine Clustering Project entitled "Community Based Swine Production through Clustering and Consolidation" today, July 24, at Bayambang's Event Center in Bayambang, Pangasinan.

In attendance were Bayambang Vice Mayor Ian Camille Sabangan, along with Municipal Treasurer Ms. Luisita Danan, Bayambang councilors, and Bayambang Poverty Reduction



individual ang inyong credit line. The Institutional Development Section of DA and AMAD will organize you in collaboration with MLGUs and the PLGU para mas mabilis ang makatanggap ng ibat ibang ayuda ng DA." RED Bares said.

The awarding ceremony was also graced by ACPC Director Noel Ducusin, Board Member and Committee Chair of Agriculture Jonathan Toralba representing Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Manotoc, Mr. Edwin Cariño, representative of Congressman Ferdinand Alexander "Sandro" Marcos, Mr. Benjamin Campaño III, Chief of Staff of Congressman Angelo Marcos

Barba, PCIC Regional Manager Raul Servito, Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Loida Valenzuela, and ATI director Dr. Rogelio Evangelista.

The cattle raising credit and financing program is a pilot program under the ACPC that intends to give livelihood opportunities as well as a more formal scientific approach to cattle growing and fattening.

The first roll-out of the program was awarded to 22 out of school youth from Ilocos Norte last March 8, 2023 graced by Senior UnderSecretary Domingo F. Panganiban.

Action Team, Pangasinan APCO Dr. Marvin Quilates, Ms. Jerlyn Labatete of the Livestock Banner Program, and Ms. Jasmin Artates-Pareja from the Cashiering Section.

The DA's Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives For Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) program, which includes the Php10 million fund grant, aims to increase local swine inventories of pork by producing heads finishers while also providing an additional source of food and income to farmer members.



Advocacy planning workshop held to push OA agenda

Department of Agriculture (DA) Information Officers, Marketing Officers, and Regional Organic Agriculture focals were convened by the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) on July 24-27, 2023 in Davao City for an Advocacy Planning Workshop which aims to firm up various advocacy support activities for the Organic Agriculture Program.

NOAP Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan in her opening message during the program reiterated the role of organic agriculture in ensuring a healthy citizenry vis-a-vis protection of the environment.

“Agriculture is dependent on the environment. There is a need to

preserve natural biodiversity because it is crucial in food production,” she emphasized.

The Organic Agriculture Program is geared on achieving its mandate to promote, propagate and further develop and implement organic farming practices all over the country. Hence, engaging the support of the communications and marketing team of the DA to craft and plan for an effective advocacy campaigns is seen as an important strategy to increase and widen support for organic farming in the country as well as help organic farming practitioners access several marketing platforms for their organic products.

As part of the workshop, the

participants were grouped into four teams to come up with several proposals for the set activities to be undertaken under the OA program. These were on the conduct of Caravan and Regional Organic Agriculture Congress; PGS Summit; Organic Agriculture Month; Website and Social Media campaigns; Marketing Assistance and Product Promotion.

Crucial in the successful implementation of these planned activities is funding, thus, with a limited fund, the OA Program hopes to tap support from other banner programs.

DA-RFO1 conducts prov'l rice techno forum

STA. LUCIA, ILOCOS SUR

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1, through the Rice Banner Program, held a Provincial Rice Techno Forum in Barangay Catayagan, Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, with fourteen (14) private seed companies participating.





Around 300 farmers, Municipal Agriculturists, and Technicians from the Province of Ilocos Sur attended a site visit with the 31 varieties of hybrid seeds planted in .25 hectares each, where they also interacted with seed companies about the varieties that were planted in the field.

Each was given an assessment form to rate the hybrid rice varieties' cropstand, panicle formation, and pest resistance.

The activity aims to demonstrate the various hybrid seed types in terms of performance, determining which one has the highest yield, and determining which varieties are suitable for their specific areas.

Sta Lucia Mayor Joseph Simon Valdez, Vice Mayor Eduardo Toquero, and SBM Committee on Agriculture Rex Costales all expressed their support and encouraged the farmers to select the hybrid rice seeds that are suitable in their area. They have also expressed gratitude for the activity being held in their municipality.

Joining the activity were Provincial Rice Program Coordinator Engr. Julius Bragado, Provincial Rice Program Coordinator Mr. Joseph Tadeo, Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer (APCO) for Ilocos Sur, Mr. Jomar Dayap, Regional Rice Techno Forum Coordinator Mr. Rodolfo Estrada, Jr. Agriculturist II/Fertilizer Coordinator Mr. Erwin Frigillana, Brgy Captain of Catayagan Ms. Teodora Sevilla, Municipal Agriculturist of Sta. Lucia Mr. Ronald Hernaez, Ilocos Sur OPAG Staff.

TAYUG, PANGASINAN

Finding the suitable rice varieties

for each specific location and giving the farmers' best option of hybrid seed varieties, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos in collaboration with the 13 private seed companies and the local government units of Pangasinan and Tayug held the Provincial Rice Technology Forum on Sept. 28, 2023.

Held in Brgy. C. Lichauco, Tayug, Pangasinan, the techno forum served as an avenue for the farmers to learn and adopt various new and applicable rice technologies to enhance rice production and yield.

In her briefing about the project, Provincial Rice Program Coordinator, Ms. Gloria de Guzman noted the importance of conducting activities such as this techno-forum as this will not just enhance the capabilities of the farmers in farming but strengthen the collaboration between and among the local government units, private sectors and other stakeholders in the rice industry.

In the same event, Tayug Vice Mayor Lorna Primicias in her message during the event reminded the farmers to be more responsible in the availment of the various DA programs and project by properly abiding with the guidelines in availing such projects and interventions most particularly in the RSBSA registration and the accreditation of farmers organization in the area.

Tayug Mayor Tyrone Agabas shared the same reminder as he encouraged the farmers to change the farmers' mindset particularly in adopting the newest farming technologies that the techno forum has provided.

"Ngayong napatunayan ninyong aabot sa 70% milling recovery sa inyong

ani ang paggamit ng hybrid seeds, bakit hindi natin ito subukan," Mayor Agabas said.

He also encouraged the farmers present in the event to serve as an agent to inform and disseminate the relevance of using hybrid seeds to improve harvest and yield of farmers.

Meanwhile, following the techno forum in Tayug, the DA in collaboration with the 11 bio organic fertilizer companies and the Longping seed company conducted the field day of the Balance Fertilization Strategy Challenge that aims to find cost-efficient bio-organic fertilizers available in the market.

As a result of the Challenge, Mr. Nestor Blanco, a Senior Science Research Specialist reported during the event that all the 11 bio-organic fertilizers used really helped in increasing the yield of the farmers and likewise help in reducing the cost of inputs. However, there is no significant result as to which of these bio-fertilizer inputs is recommended in as much as these bio fertilizers has its own pros and cons so that farmers will have to select from among them which they find more suitable in their current needs. While some of these bio-fertilizers are expensive in price, and others may be cheaper, it is up to the farmers to select which one is appropriate to their needs," Mr. Blanco explained.

Apart from providing farmers with information on rice production technologies, farmers were also updated with some major project guidelines to include among others the fertilizer and bio-organic fertilizer voucher, the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program and the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program.

35 young agripreneurs win big in prov'l YFC 2023

"You reap what you sow" is DA Ilocos Regional Technical Director for Operations' message to the young entrepreneurs as they received their certificates as provincial winners of the Young Farmers Challenge Program (YFCP) 2023, Thursday.

Underscoring their grit and wisdom to outlast the other applicants, RTD Dennis Tactac told the young awardees to continue to enrich their unique skills and resourcefulness. He likewise reminded them that the reason they were chosen as provincial winners is due to their determination to succeed.

For this year's YFCP, 35 young agripreneurs out of 44 applicants were deemed recipients of P80,000 start-up capital. The said amount will be used to develop and improve their agri-based enterprises.

The following are the provincial winners of this year's YFC:

Pangasinan

- WD Free Range Chicken and Vegetable Production (Wilfredo Duqueza, Jr.)
- RoBiVermicoolture (Ronel P Bate and Billy Joel T. Briones)
- Uson Polyculture Farmstead Aquafarm (Rosy S. Uson)
- King David's Probiotic Rich Plant-based Livestock Feed Production (David Christian R. Azarcon)
- Samson's Egg and Black Meat Chicken

Production (Noilson M. Samson)

- PD's GOAT FARM (Rustom L. Pande and Rogelio L. Dalay, Jr.)
- PIG-YOUR EAT OUT! (Babuyang Walang Amoy And No Bath Technology) (Daniel C. Distor)
- Capra aegagrus hircus Production (Angel C. Bacalan)
- Native Goat (Christian Lee S. Lapurga)

La Union

- R & M AQUAPONICS (Mark Gil L. Raguin and Rudy S. Mejia)
- B.W.A.BOY Eco Farm (Babuyang Walang Amoy and Eco-Friendly Farm) (Edmer O. Mueca)
- AGOENOS HERBINEGAR (Saramae M. Oribello and Jamaica T. Rivera)
- Narang-ay Integrated Backyard Farming (Starhex R) L. Consolacion)
- H & E Goat Raiser (Esmael C. Simon and Holly Ann S. Atimpao)
- MUSHROOM MANIA (Emilfred L. Estolas)

Ilocos Sur

- J's Capsicum Greenery (June P. Batao-ey)
- Upland Catfish (Charo Kim G. Copio)
- IKONG'S BROILER PRODUCTION (John Nicole D. Tendencia)

- Illek Farm (Swine Production using Home-mixed Feeds) (Shierly S. Ombania)

- Manzano's Backyard Mushroom (Kenjie M. Manzano)

- Giardino Verde: Vermiculture (Raphael Felix L. Queddeng)

Ilocos Norte

- SPC JUICE (Darizel C. Vidad)
- Natural Vegetable Farming Automated Water Drip Irrigation System (Ar-jay A. Ballaco and Aisha Uddon)
- Eugene's Piggery Farm: Development of a Traditional Pig Farm to State of the Art Production (Eugene S. Orosco)
- Naive Native Chicken Farm (Stephenleigh A. Guitap and Abigail C. Lopez)
- AGRlinAct Integrated Farm (Shaina May L. Ganitano and Kristine Joy C. Tabios)
- ROGERS POULTRY (Roderick H. Dahlig)

Meanwhile, the top performer among the awardees, June Batao-ey, an agricultural engineer from Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur, owner of J's Capsicum Greenery recognized the ingenuity of his fellow awardees and thanked the Department of Agriculture for creating the YFC program that serves as an avenue for the youth to showcase their entrepreneurial skills.

He considers being a YFC winner as his calling and stepping stone to pursue his dream,

and someday give back to his family and his people.

The YFCP has three categories, including production, processing, and digital agriculture.

Out of the provincial winners consisting of 27 enterprises, 13 enterprises will move forward to the regional level: four from Pangasinan, and three each from the provinces of La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

These include WD. Free Range Chicken and Vegetable Production, Ro-Bi Vermiculture, Uson Polyculture Farmstead Aquafarm, King David's Probiotic Rich Plant Base Livestock Feed Production, R & M Aquaponics, B.W.A.BOY Eco Farm (Babuyang Walang Amoy and Eco-Friendly Farm), Agoenos Herbinegar, J's Capsicum Greenery, Upland Catfish, Ikong's Broiler Production, SPC Juice, Natural Vegetable Farming Automated Water Drip Irrigation System, and Eugene's Piggery Farm.

The regional winners will then receive P150,000 additional capital and will proceed to the national level.

Joining the DA officials in the awarding ceremonies are the OIC-Provincial Agriculturist of La Union, Ms. Sharon Villoria, Chair of the Panel of Judges, Mr. Ferdinand Navarro, City and Municipal Agriculturists, and parents of the winners.





Region 1 Bantay Presyo task force in full force to impose price cap

On the day of the effectivity of the price cap on rice on September 5, 2023 implementing agencies in the Ilocos region conducted simultaneous monitoring in different public markets to guarantee the compliance of vendors with the mandated price ceiling signed last week.

Based on Executive Order No. 39, the price cap for regular milled rice shall be P41.00 per kilogram, while well-milled rice is P45.00.

In La Union and Pangasinan, most rice traders were compliant

with the price cap implementation. Others, however, are still selling above the price ceiling and are asking for consideration and a grace period to sell their old stocks of rice which they bought at a high cost. They explained that selling their rice goods at the suggested price ceiling would incur them significant income loss.

As such, the Department of Agriculture, together with the Department of Trade and Industry, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government Unit





are tasked to come up with list of affected rice retailers for the corresponding assistance/interventions being readied through DA, DTI, DILG and DSWD to cover their income losses.

Prior to the EO's issuance, the price of local well-milled and regular milled rice in public markets surged up to P50.00 to P54.00 per kilogram in the Ilocos region, double its farmgate price.

To effectively implement the mandate, members of the Bantay Presyo Task Force have started their monitoring activities daily, in coordination with the market administrators, to ensure strict compliance by the rice retailers to the EO. Non-compliance to the order corresponds to penalties as provided for under the Price Act where amount of fine is based on percentage of excess in prescribed price or a fine of P5,000 to P1 million for retailers while P40,000 up to P1 million for wholesalers/Distributor. Violators may also face imprisonment of 1 year up to 10 years.

On Wednesday, DA Regional Executive Director Annie Q. Bares and Department of Trade and Industry Regional Director Grace Falgui-Baluyan both led the surveillance of rice stalls in San Fernando and Agoo, La Union markets, respectively. Other members of the Bantay Presyo Task Force, together with the Philippine National Police, are also being deployed in the other three provinces of the region to monitor compliance of EO 39.



DA-RFO1 continues to intensify agri support to Ilocos farmers

As the Department of Agriculture continues to intensify its support to Ilocos farmers, another awarding of agricultural interventions was held, July 21, in Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

With a total cost of Php 124.8M, the distribution covers farmers in the municipalities of Mangatarem, Aguilar, Basista, Binmaley, Bugallon, Labrador, Lingayen, and Urbiztondo.

Around 21 farmers associations including the local government units received hybrid rice seeds, hand tractors, pump and engine sets, rice precision seeder, four wheel drive tractor, knapsack sprayers, vegetable seeder, vegetable seeds, plastic crates, multi-cultivator, shredder, plastic mulch, plastic drums, complete fertilizer, muriate of potash, organic plant supplement, liquid fertilizer, garden tool set, and net mesh, among others.

A total of 4,572 fertilizer discount vouchers on the other hand is already available for the qualified beneficiaries from the eight municipalities.

The occasion was led by DA-RFO1 Regional Executive Director Annie Q. Bares, 2nd District of Pangasinan Representative Hon. Mark O. Cojuanco, Mangatarem Mayor Hon. Ramil P. Ventenilla, Pangasinan AFC Chairman Engr. Orlando T. Rosquita, DA-RFO1 Field Operations Division Chief Ms. Analiza R. Ramos and Pangasinan APCO Dr. Marvin G. Quilates.

La Union farmers receive P3.1M worth agri interventions

Six Farmers Associations from the first district of La Union received a total of Php3,172,204 worth of Agri-machineries and equipment distributed by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 1 on July 21, 2023, at the Ilocos Region Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ILIARC) in Sapilang, Bacnotan, La Union.

The interventions handed over with the assistance of the Field Operations Division's three banner programs - Rice, HVCDP, and Organic Agriculture – include a four-wheel drive tractor, hand tractor, tractor, pump and engine sets, plastic crates, power sprayers, floating tiller, and rice thresher.

The distribution were attended by First District of La Union representative Francisco Paolo Ortega V, Board Member Gerard Ostrea, DA-ILIARC Chief Ms. Editha Estacio, APCO for La Union Assistant Ms. Febielyn Calias, FOD Banner program staff, and farmer recipients.





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ST Egay leaves Ilocos with more than P648.1M in agri damage

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 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.



DA hands over agri-machinery to farmers during Post-SONA

Joining the Philippine Information Agency in the conduct of the Ilocos leg of the Post-SONA Forum Series, the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office 1 presented its accomplishments and future plans to address the issues besetting the agriculture sector.

DA Regional Executive Director Annie Bares assured the farmers and fisherfolk, especially those severely affected by recent typhoons in the region, that the agency has already allotted funds for the recovery and

rehabilitation of the damaged farms and infrastructure and loss in the livestock, poultry, and fishery sectors. She also reported that to date, 95% or 82 municipalities in the region, have already been lifted from the red zone or African Swine Fever (ASF)-affected areas.

She also said that the DA is continuously distributing production support services through the provision of seeds, farm supplies, animals, and other farm inputs, including fertilizer vouchers and fuel subsidies to increase

production in the agriculture sector.

Director Bares highlighted that for the previous year, the agriculture, forestry, and fishing (AFF) sector recorded 1.7% growth compared to 2021. She also ensures that the region has more than sufficient supply of rice, corn, and other primary agri-commodities.

Meanwhile, a total of P26 million worth of agri-machinery was given to five farmers' associations during the forum. These include one





four-wheel drive tractor each for 45 Tangid Farmers Association, Inc. and Zanjera San Magro Ragas Irrigators Association, Inc., one combine harvester for the Laoag City Couthwest Corn Cluster Association, Inc., a hauling truck for the Bagnos Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and P20M INSPIRE Program for the Baggak Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Aside from the said interventions, fresh agri-fishery produce were also sold at an affordable price through the Kadiwa sale.

The Post-SONA Forum, hosted by the Philippine Information Agency partnering with other line agencies and the local government units of Laoag City and Ilocos Norte, has



served as an avenue in echoing the accomplishments and the plans by the government as expressed during the State of the Nation Address of the president in July.

Also present during the forum are Gov. Matthew Joseph Marcos

Manotoc, Laoag City Mayor Michael Marcos Keon, DA Usec. Mercedita Sombilla as the keynote speaker, Mr. Edwin Carino representing Rep. Sandro Marcos, Asec. Ana Carmela Remigio, and farmer-leaders, among others.



DA Ilocos joins in Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair launching event

The Department of Agriculture joins the simultaneous launching of the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) today, September 23 in four provinces across the country– Davao de Oro, Camarines Sur, Leyte, and Ilocos Norte.

Held at the Centennial Arena, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocano farmers received agricultural machineries and inputs worth more than Php149.5M.

Interventions received by farmers' cooperative and associations were one unit each of four-wheel drive tractor, shredder, and floating tiller. Others include two units of combine harvester, eight units power sprayer, ten units pump & engine set, 100 kgs. vermicast, 400 sets OPV vegetable seeds, 600 pieces fruit tree seedlings, 1,800 packets of assorted hybrid vegetable seeds, and 13,685 bags hybrid rice seeds.

Claiming of fertilizer discount vouchers and yellow corn productivity program were also made available to 9,800 beneficiaries.

BPSF is a campaign that aims to converge major government services and extend its services closer to the grassroots level.



DA-RFO I convene partners for RMC 2ndQ meeting



The Regional Management Council (RMC) in Ilocos Region has recently convened for the 2nd Quarter Regional Management Council (RMC) meeting held at Villa Marand Resort, Bauang La Union on August 16, 2023.

Hosted by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Region I, the RMC meeting is staged per quarter of the year, to provide updates on the various DA programs and projects

being implemented for the agri-fishery sector in Ilocos Region.

Chaired by DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares, the RMC is composed of 18 agency members including two expanded memberships representing the Regional Agriculture & Fisheries Council (RAFC) and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC).

Presiding over the meeting, Director Bares called on the RMC members to further strengthen their collaboration and coordination with each partner agency to maximize available resources and attain inclusive growth for the agri sector in general.

“In order for us to achieve economies of scale, offices with similar plans and programs must collaborate and strategize to maximize the delivery

of interventions to our stakeholders, particularly in strengthening the value chain of our agri commodities,” she encouraged.

With the onset of the wet season when planting of palay has already started, DA hopes to distribute on time the needed interventions to support farmers in their production activities.

Under the Fuel Assistance to Farmers Project reported by Engr. Richard Neri of DA-RFO I, Region I was allocated a total of P27.84 million to provide P3,000 worth of fuel subsidy to a total of 9,280 farmer recipients for CY 2023.

Meanwhile, under the Fertilizer Discount Voucher (FDV), Ms. Leah Coloma of the Rice Banner Program provided updates on the number of distributed FDV in the region. From the targeted 394,153 hectares, a total of 162,596 vouchers have been generated covering a total of 136,238 hectares. About 9,210 farmers have already claimed the generated FDV while 153,388 vouchers are yet to be claimed.

The Rice Banner Program is currently fast-tracking the distribution of the FDV through a caravan to distribute the remaining vouchers to qualified farmer recipients. The FDV program is in its fourth year of implementation this 2023.

On the updates on African Swine Fever (ASF) situation in Region I, Dr. Alfiero Banaag, Chief of the DA-RFO I Regulatory Division, reported that there are a total of four Municipalities/Cities in the region with active cases of ASF affecting six barangays and 76 raisers with a reported mortality of 454 swines and a total of 1,201 heads of swine were subjected to culling. The reported active cases were from Pangasinan, La Union and Ilocos Sur provinces.

Reporting the Super Typhoon Egay damages, Ms. Irene Tactac of the Planning Monitoring & Evaluation Division (PMED) informed that as of date, the agri-fishery sector in Ilocos





Region has incurred a total of Php2.66 billion in damages and losses with Ilocos Norte incurring the largest reported damages amounting to about P1.3 Billion or 50% of the total damages and losses for the region.

Next to Ilocos Norte is the province of Ilocos Sur with P647.1 million in reported damages and losses, followed by Pangasinan with P493.9 million and La Union with P200.6 million worth of reported damages. From among the sectors, Infra has the highest incurred damages at 43%, Rice at 16%, Corn at 14%, High-Value Crops at 11%, Livestock at 8%, and Fisheries at 8%.

As of date, said reports are currently being validated, and DA-RFO I has proposed a rehabilitation and recovery plan amounting to P4,138,835,430 of which P120,525,000 has available funds while the P4,018,310,430 is subject to funding.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) presented the Development of Salt

Industry Project which aims to increase salt production in the region. Currently, according to BFAR, there are 42 municipalities engaged in salt production entire the region with a recorded annual production of 136.58 metric tons. A total of P10 million has been allocated to fund various development initiatives for the salt industry for CY 2023.

A representative from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) also presented the various Agricultural Insurance Programs of PCIC under Rice and Corn, Livestock, High-Value Crops, Non-Crop Insurance, and Fisheries. He also discussed the eligibility requirements for each insurance coverage including the insurance cover limitations.

The meeting was concluded with a birthday surprise greetings for two RMC members, Ms. Vilma C. Gagni of the Philippine Carabao Center - La Union and Dr. Zaldy A. Olivas, Regional Representative of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

DA, NEDA conducts 3Q RDC-economic sectoral group meeting

Keeping the member agency and private sector heads abreast with the latest major economic development programs and projects in Ilocos Region and discussing some major issues and concerns affecting the implementation of the economic sector's plans and programs, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I in coordination with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) conducted today the 3rd Regular Quarterly Meeting of the RDC's Economic Development Sectoral Committee at the DA-RFO I's 5th Floor Conference Room, San Fernando City, La Union.

Tackling the regional tourism development plan for 2023-2028, the CY 2023 Q2 RPMES or Regional Program Monitoring and Evaluation System Report including the updates of the Technical Working Group on Economic Zone Development in Region I and the status of the Sustainable Tobacco Enhancement Program, the meeting was presided over by the Sectoral Committee Chair Dr. Annie Bares.

Hearing some updates on the status of the proposed Ecozones in Region I to include the Suyo Economic Zone, the Agro-Industrial Economic Zone in Sual Pangasinan by the DA-RFO I and the Knowledge, Innovation, Science and Technology (KIST) Special Economic Zone by



the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), members of the committee by motion of Ms. Nenita Madriaga of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), agreed for the indorsement of the proposed economic zones considering the advantages that these developmental programs may bring once established and realized.

LGU-Suyo headed by Vice-Mayor Philip Bistoyong in his message expressed gratitude to the members of the RDC under the Economic Development Sector Committee for helping Suyo in addressing the major issues and concerns necessary to comply the requirements of the Philippine Economic Zone Agency (PEZA) for the town to be qualified as

economic zone.

For the Agro-Industrial Economic Zone in Sual, Pangasinan, RED Bares in her updates about the project revealed that more developments shall be made by 2024 as funds has already been exhausted while the KIST Park in MMSU-Batac shall be pushed through with the help of the Department of Science and Technology and negotiations were already made to fast track the developments in this proposed area.

Following the discussion on the National Tobacco Administrations (NTA) sustainable tobacco enhancement program, the DA-RFO I through Ms. Irene Tactac, Dr. Allen

Mae Doctolero, Ms. Maricar Bongais and Ms. Doris Joy Garcia presented the damage incurred in the agri-fishery sector due to super typhoon Egay, the African Swine Fever Situation and the El Niño Mitigation Action Plan in the region as well as the proposed Regional Stakeholders' Conference and Workshop on Onion and Garlic to be conducted tentatively on October, 2023.

The meeting which was conducted with physical and virtual participants was attended by 43 member-agency heads and representatives.



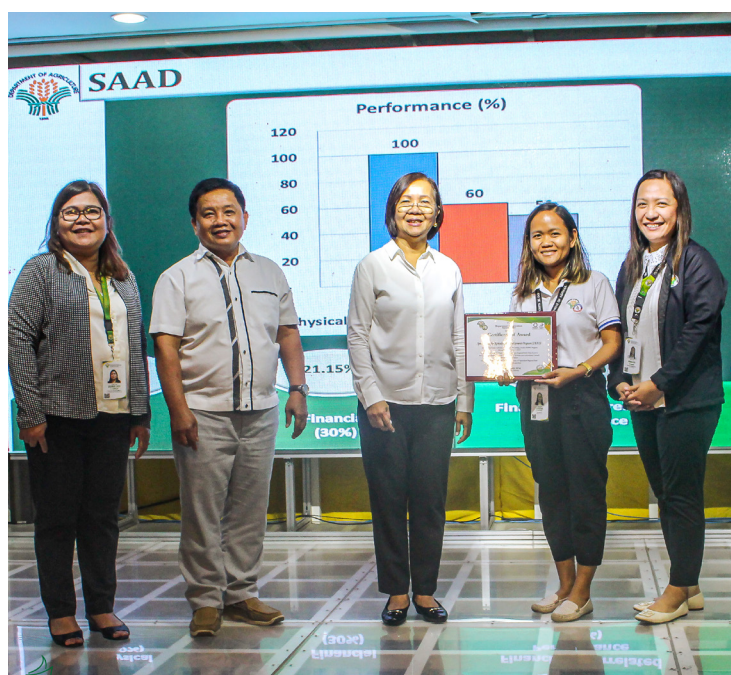
DA-RFO I recognize best performing operating units

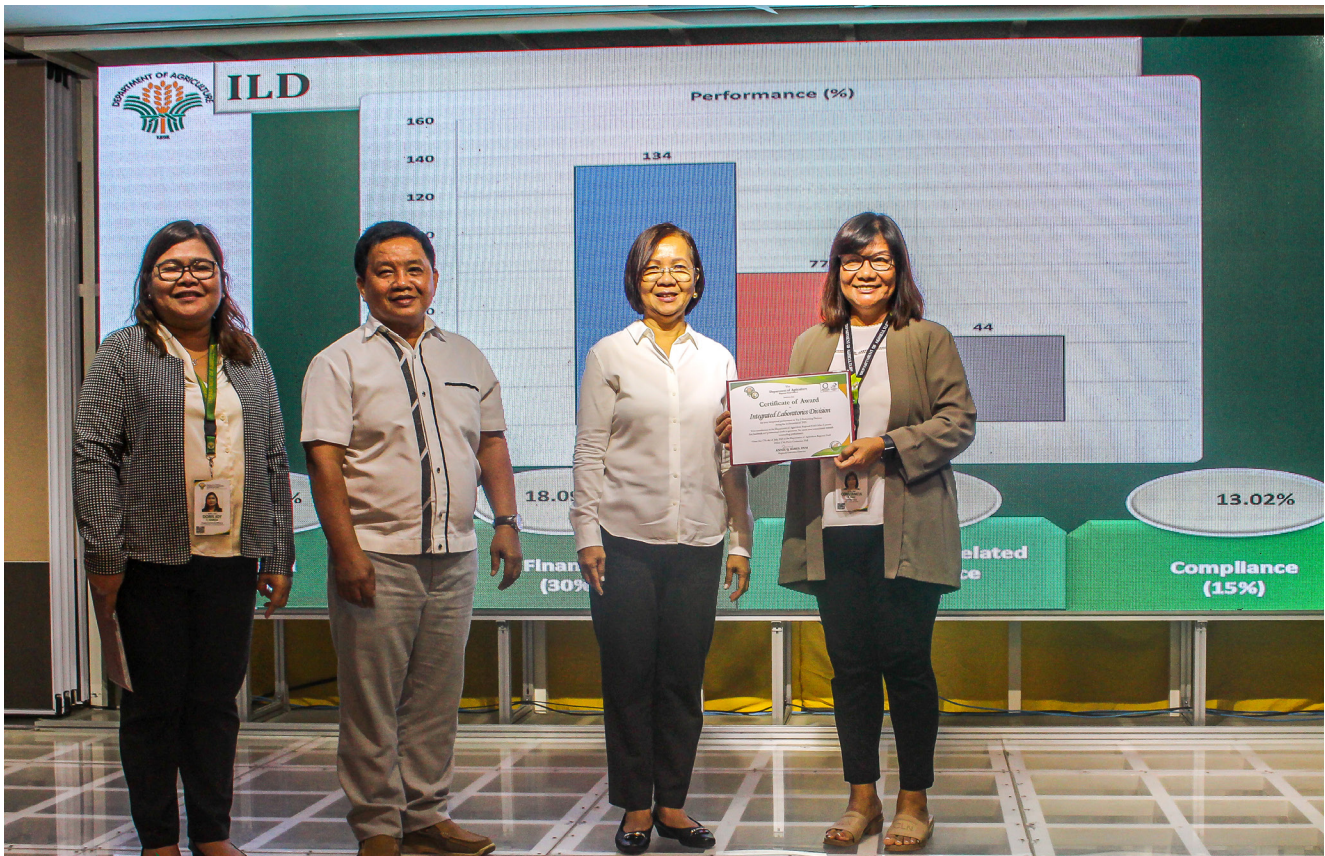


As a way to encourage diligence and commitment to achieve set targets for the agency for CY 2023, the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I, during its recently held Management Committee (ManCom) meeting, recognized its top-performing Operating Units (OU) based on an assessment made by the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED) utilizing a set of criteria for the evaluation of the units' Physical and Financial Performance for the 1st Quarter of 2023.

Emerging as the top 1 in program implementation among the Banner Programs is the Corn Banner Program which achieved a rating of 93.33% or equivalent to an Outstanding performance.

Rank 2nd as best performing program implementer is the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP) which also



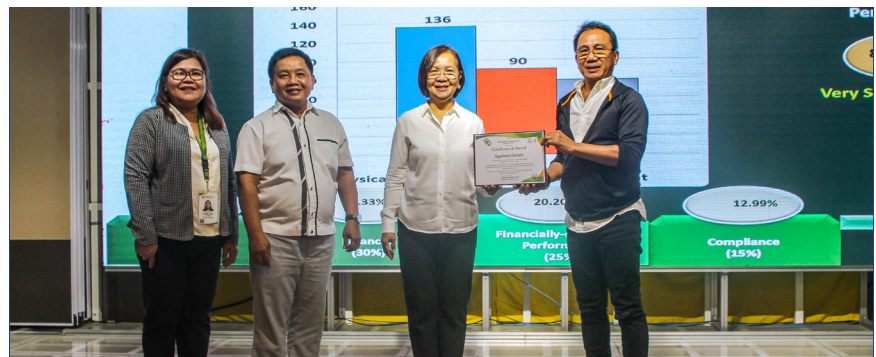


achieved an Outstanding rating of 93.13%. Coming out in the 3rd rank as best performing program implementer is the High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) which achieved a Very Satisfactory rating of 87.92%.

Meanwhile among the Divisions, the Regulatory Division achieved the highest performance rating of 84.25% or Very Satisfactory rating. This was followed by the Integrated Laboratories Division (ILD) with a Satisfactory rating of 71.98%. Ranking 3rd among the divisions in best performance is the Regional Agriculture and Engineering Division (RAED) with a 71.93% Satisfactory rating.

Under Special Projects, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program was awarded best performance with a Satisfactory rating of 79.53%.

The evaluation rating was based on the operating units' percentage contribution to the



Regional Field Office's performance where 30% is derived from physical accomplishment, 30% from financial accomplishment; 25% from financially correlated performance; and 15% for compliances for a total of 100% overall performance.

The DA-RFO I Stations, AFD, PMED, AMIA, YFP & GAD/IDS are not yet included in the 1st-semester performance assessment but for inclusion in the year-end evaluation.

In the recent Operations

Management Meeting (OMG) held by the DA national office, the DA-RFO I under the leadership of its concurrent Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares, is one of the most improved regions among the regional field offices of DA as the office's performance inched upward from its previous ranking.

With this positive outlook, the DA-RFO I workforce is more than inspired and focused to better serve the agri sector in Ilocos Region.



34 DA Ilocos employees undergo SDC training

In a stride towards fostering competent and credible civil servants, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA RFO 1) provided training for 34 of its employees in the first track of the Supervisory Development Course (SDC).

Designed by the Civil

Service Commission, this course is the first segment of a comprehensive three-track training program intended for first-line supervisors to re-examine their attitudes toward themselves, their careers, and others.

The four-day training, held from August 15 to 18, resonated

with the agency's objective of developing capable first-line supervisors.

The training included a range of interactive sessions and discussions that focused not only on imparting technical skills but also on encouraging a thorough reevaluation of the attitudes and viewpoints of the participants.



FRONT AND BACK COVERS | Featuring the Asan Norte Mountain Spring Farmers Association in Sison, Pangasinan, this group was granted a community garden package. Members received assorted garden tools, seeds, cultivator, grasscutter, and knapsack sprayers, among others.

In an interview in September, the association shared how the intervention brought impact to their lives.

“Malaki ang tulong nitong community garden. Dahil ang mga interventions na nareceive namin galing DA ay nakuha namin ng libre. Nakatipid kami at nag-improve ang aming pamamaraan sa pagtatanim. At iyong mga machineries na binigay, pinadali ang trabaho namin. Kesa gumastos kami sa labor, kami na ang nagtatrabaho. Mas mabilis pa.” - Mr. Noli Mat-an Danao, President

“Iyong mga binigay niyong mga binhi na itinanim namin, malaki ang tulong na naidulot sa amin lalo na sa mga anak namin at sa pamilya namin. Kasi ang mga tanim na namin mismo ang kinakain namin. Kabit ang mga kapibahay namin, binibigyan din namin. Kasi nagtatanim din sila. Isa pa iyon na advantage para hindi na kami bumili pa ng pagkain sa labas.” - Mr. Nasario Licican, Vice President