



# Damag Agri

*Be riceponsible.  
ABKD ay gawin.*

**A**dlay, mais, saba, atbp. ay ihalo sa kanin

**B**rown rice ay kainin

**K**anin ay huwag sayangin

**D**apat bigas ng Pilipinas ang bilhin



### VISION

A prime-mover towards a modernized and industrialized agriculture and fisheries sector.

### MISSION

To provide suitable, timely, and innovative interventions for a sustainable agriculture in the Ilocos Region.

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Resilency- Overcoming challenges  
Integrity- Valuing public trust  
Vigilance- Responding to clients' needs  
Excellence-Raising the bar

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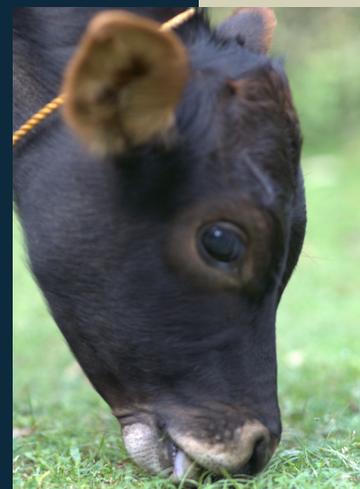
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# SOA-SRA empowers



A total of 2, 122 farmer-enrollees received from the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) their certificate of completion as graduate of the season-long School on-the-Air on Smart Rice Agriculture (SOA-SRA) in a Mass Graduation ceremonies held at the Urdaneta City Cultural and Sports Center on October 25, 2022.

An activity started in August, 2022 which aims to empower farmers to become more competitive in modern rice farming techniques using radio and social media platforms, the program was carried out by the ATI, in tandem with the Department of Agriculture through the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section and the participating local government units (LGUS) in the region.

Topping this year's SOA-SRA graduation is Maria May S. Morales from Binalonan, Pangasinan who successfully completed the 25 episodes of the SOA. Ms. Aileen Calizo and Mr. Carlos Cera were named as the top 2 and 3 graduates from San Jacinto and Mangaldan, Pangasinan respectively.

The other 18 top performers include:

1. Prescilla Abardo – Sison, Pangasinan
2. Oliver Cabinain – Currimaog, Ilocos Norte
3. Lee Rose Ruiz – Natividad, Pangasinan
4. Bonifacio Visperas – Mapandan
5. Jacqueline Terrado – Tayug, Pangasinan
6. Melanie Rodriguera – Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan
7. Elmer Cezar – Bani, Pangasinan



# 2,000 Ilocos farmers



8. Mildred Bulong – Batac City, Ilocos Norte
9. Merlie Ebanculla – San Quintin, Pangasinan
10. Amerlyn Pardico – Asingan, Pangasinan
11. Betty Pacusan – Pozorrubio, Pangasinan
12. Maribel Ramos – Bayambang, Pangasinan
13. Gener de Guzman – Alcala, Pangasinan
14. Orlando Luingay – Labrador, Pangasinan
15. Jeremias Esteves – Manaoag, Pangasinan
16. Rosie Cudiamat – Urdaneta City, Pangasinan
17. Vima Macabiog – Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
18. Marilyn Rosario – San Fabian, Pangasinan

As top honor, Ms. Morales received from ATI a medal, certificate and cash award amounting to Php5,000. The remaining top performers also received from ATI a medal and a certificate of recognition.

Of the 24 participating LGUs in the SOA, the municipality of Manaoag garnered the most number of graduate-enrollees with a total of 297 finishers in the course followed by the city of Laoag with 258 graduates.

In her pre-recorded message during the graduation rites as the Guest of Honor and Speaker, ATI Director, Ms. Remelyn Recoter lauded the graduates for actively and patiently taking

part in the SOA-SRA to learn and upgrade their knowledge in innovative rice farming.

She likewise thanked the DA and ATI for bringing closer to the farmers vital information which did not only focused on production but covered the value chain process providing lectures on entrepreneurship, marketing, value-adding, mechanization, among others.

Dr. Annie Bares, OIC-Regional Executive Director of DA-RFO I in her pre-recorded message encouraged the farmer-graduates to maximize the benefits of the learnings that they have acquired in the SOA for them to become better producers and progressive agripreneurs and encouraged them to share the information that they have acquired to other farmers for their cohesive and collective growth and development.

The SOA-SRA is DA's response for the need to improve rice productivity in municipalities where rice yield are at 4t/ha which comprises of where most of the farmer-enrollees were drawn out as part of the guidelines of the program.

With the first batch of 3,164 SOA-SRA graduates from the pilot season, and the second batch of 2,122 who just graduated, the program was now able to empower a total of 5,286 rice farmers in Ilocos Region.#

# La Union hog raisers get P9.75M worth of livestock interventions



Following the distribution of sentinel animals in the municipalities of Sinait and Cabugao in Ilocos Sur, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region continued on in the municipalities of Balaoan and Luna, La Union with the distribution of 195 heads of pig sentinel for the ASF-affected backyard hog raisers that is worth P9.75 million on October 18, 2022.

In a separate venue of the

distribution, 45 individuals from the 19 barangays of Balaoan, La Union and 60 heads for 20 individuals from the seven barangays in Luna, La Union, received from DA a total of 135 heads of piglets at Brgy. Butubut, Balaoan, and Brgy. Busel-Busel, Luna, respectively.

As part of the guidelines of availing such a project, each beneficiary was given P50,000 worth of project that forms include three

heads of piglets, 1 sack of starter, and 2 sacks of grower feed plus drugs and biologics which could last to at least 40-45 days.

Having been pre-identified by the office of the municipal agriculturist, the beneficiaries have undergone a technical briefing on the operational management system of the project conducted by the Livestock Banner Program of DA in tandem with the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian

on October 13, 2022.

Extending support to the implementation of the sentineling program, La Union Governor Rhaquelle Veronica Ortega-David, together with La Union First District Representative Francisco Paulo Ortega, joined the distribution in Luna alongside the members of the Sangguniang Bayan in Luna led by Luna Mayor Gary Pinzon.

In her message to the recipients, Governor David reiterated the need for the recipients to register in the Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture or the RSBSA to avail of the many benefits that agriculture would provide

to the farmers and livestock raisers especially on the animal insurance through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

Dr. Domingo Bobby Calub III, the Provincial Veterinarian of La Union reminded the beneficiaries of the project to be more proactive and vigilant in safeguarding the possible entry of animal diseases in the province like ASF considering that there are still reported cases of ASF in the Visayas region.

He likewise reiterated the non-feeding of swill foods to the animals and to be on guard for animals “in

doubt” that are entering from areas that still have reported cases. In such cases, Dr. Calub enjoined the beneficiaries to immediately report them to the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian.

Expressing his support for the DA’s endeavor, La Union First District Representative Francisco Ortega encouraged and reminded the beneficiaries to maximize the benefits of these interventions to help them not only improve their livelihood but to contribute as well in the region’s economic growth and ensure the provision of safe, accessible and affordable hog meat supply in the region.#



# It is not just all about Wagyu



"The message that we would want to share through this Wagyu project is in fulfilling interventions for farmers in the whole value chain process. There is a need to harmonize financial and physical resources to achieve a wholistic development."

"Hindi kailangan ang malaking pondo to make a project successful. You only need to strategize. Kung gusto, laging may paraan. Walang imposible. Nasa Dios ang awa, nasa tao ang gawa, na kay Mayor ang Maniobra."

Former Piddig Mayor Eduardo Guillen in the province of Ilocos Norte made these remarks in an exclusive interview

with DA communicators about the town's existing Wagyu Cross Breed Production project at the Municipal Hall recently when he was asked about how his leadership would be able to pull off another remarkable project that supports the region's livestock industry.

Gaining more public interest with the production of Brahman breed of cattle in the area that has been perceived to provide another sustainable livelihood for Piddig farmers, the Wagyu project in Piddig is another initiative of ex-Mayor Guillen to address poverty incidence in Piddig.

A project in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Regional Field Office in Ilocos, the Wagyu Cross Breed Production began sometime in September of 2021 and is among the many initiatives of the LGU-Piddig to increase farmers' income and provide additional source of livelihood other than crop production.

Involving around 3,000 individual-farmer as partners, the project focuses on the production of Wagyu calf via artificial insemination using the semen requested by Piddig from the DA-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) in Quezon City.

Obtaining an initial 100 semen under DA-BAI's National Beef Cattle Research & Development Center, and a succeeding 500 semen given to the LGU through the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, the project has now produced a total of 28 calves under the care and management of the farmer-partners.



The DA-RFO I, through the Livestock Banner Program has also provided AI paraphernalias like straw sheaths, gloves, drugs and biologics , vitamins and hormone inducers.

Assuring sustainability for the project according to Ex-mayor Guillen is the ready market thru the Adelaide River Farm from which the LGU-Piddig has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the marketing if the Wagyu. As part of the MOA, the Adelaide River Farm will serve as the marketing outlet of the wagyu calves being produced aside from providing technical assistance to the farmer-cooperators thru the Veterinarian that they shared who shall supervise the care and management of the wagyu calves. The Adelaide River Farm is a Manila-based meat depot which shall absorb the wagyu calves produced at a price of 25% higher than the prevailing price in the market.

For eight months from the time of birth, the farmer-cooperator have to sell their calves and they may able to have their cows artificially inseminated again. However, in case where the farmer-cooperator would opt to take care of the animals especially if the offspring is a female calf, Ex-mayor Guillen encouraged the cooperators to observe the agreements so they may be able to provide the needed supply of the market making the project more sustainable.

Putting effort in considering all aspects in the value chain process of the project and having inspired by the success of the existing Piddig coffee convergence project that the municipality had been known, Guillen has high hopes in making the project a model for a successful livestock enterprise in the entire province of Ilocos Norte.

Keen on expanding the project and ensure a higher profit where they have to fatten first before selling to Adelaide, the LGU-Piddig has entered into a MOA with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for a 100-hectare idle land in the municipality that would serve as pasture area for the animals to be fattened.

Finding the need for a sweeper bull, a good breeder to increase the success rate of producing Wagyu calves and also considering to propose an embryo transfer instead of artificial insemination to upgrade the breed of the animals being raised into Brahman, Guillen is in constant coordination with BAI.

Seeking for the support of the Local Chief Executives in the province for a project expansion, Guillen is also hopeful on the full support of Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Joseph Manotoc to extend partnership for the said livestock enterprise.

Meanwhile, revealing further his plans to maximize the benefit of an available market for Wagyu, Guillen has recommended that the LGU fund under the RA 7171 shall be optimized to purchase cattle that shall be distributed to farmers to increase the number of animals for AI production.

Sharing his great vision for the project, Ex-Mayor Guillen intends to discuss with the DA-NMIS or the National Meat Inspection Service for the value adding of the produce with the establishment of an AA slaughterhouse in Piddig.

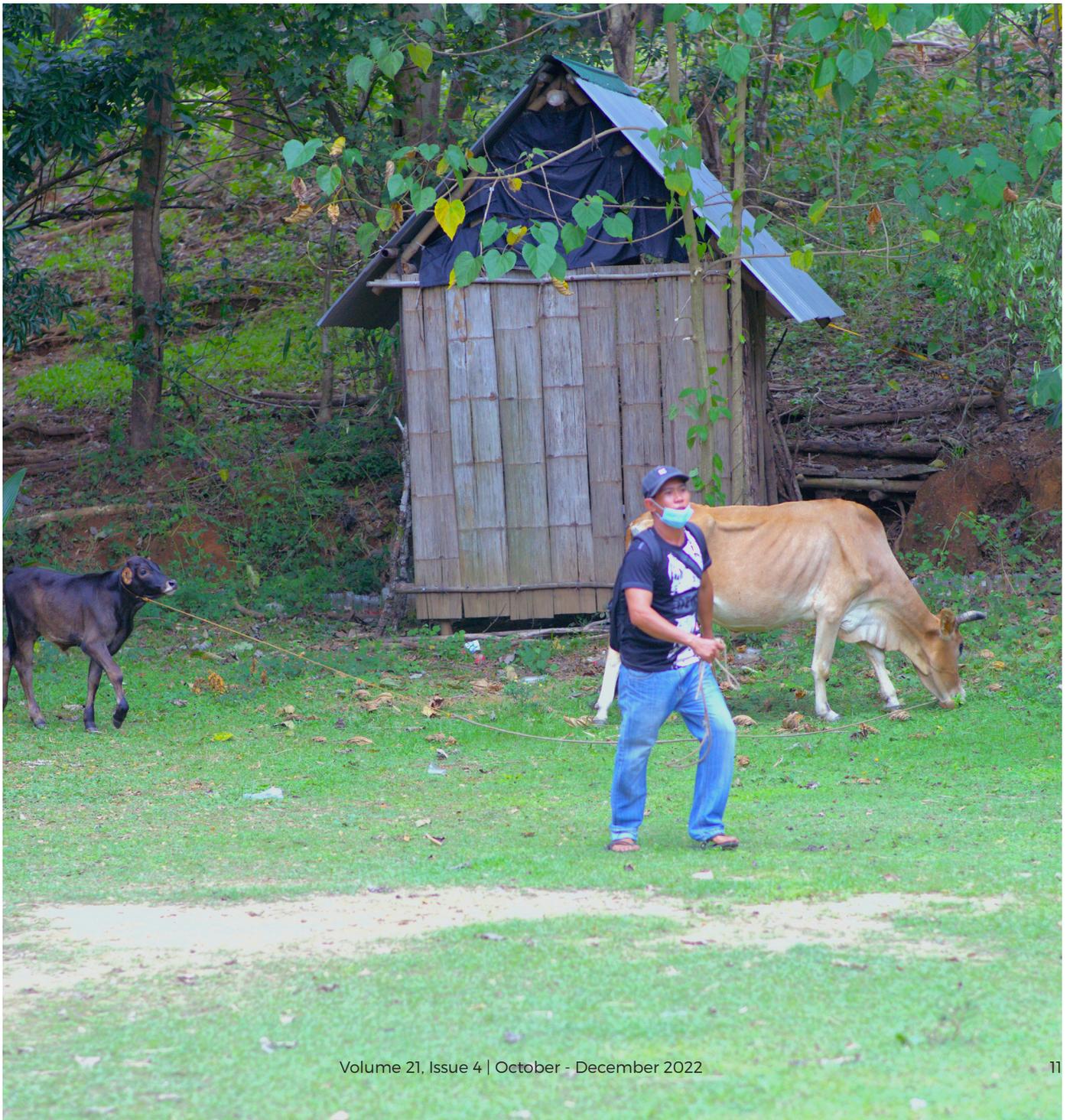
Indeed, even when not in position as Chief Executive, Ex-Mayor Guillen continue to advocate good governance and benefitting from his inspiring leadership are the Piddiguenos who bear witness to a kind of service that they truly deserve. The Wagyu project is but one of many worthwhile projects of Piddig that sprung out of a very enterprising wisdom of Guillen providing his townmates especially the farmers, simple solution to their struggles on low productivity and income.

Having a thorough understanding on the problem and finding simple solutions using “common sense” as he described, he expressed his high hopes in agriculture.

“Giving farmers the buying power and not merely as producers who shall enjoy being consumer of the goods and services they deserve makes a difference. The only way to do that is to pull them up from the poverty threshold.”, ex-Mayor Guillen said.

To date, the poverty threshold in Piddig based on the Philippine Statistics Data is 5.59 percent way lower than the 9% poverty threshold set by the current administration for the country which is now at 23.7 percent.

With the implementation of the Wagyu Cross-Breed project in Piddig and the high possibility of area expansion in Ilocos Norte and some other parts of the country, the problem on food security can certainly be addressed.#



# DA-PhilRice holds first harvest festival for golden rice

Following a series of stakeholders meeting in which the objectives and benefits of the Golden Rice project in the Province of Pangasinan were presented, stakeholders finally had the opportunity to personally experience how golden rice looks and tastes.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Batac organized a harvest festival in the rice field of Pangasinan seed grower, Mr. Nelson Domingo, in Brgy. San Joaquin, Balungao, Pangasinan on October 28, 2022.

Before the Golden Rice in the fields were harvested, Mr. Domingo took various key stakeholders, local agriculture and health officials on a farm tour of his 0.75ha golden rice production area. A short program was held at Mr. Domingo's home after which everyone tasted the cooked

golden rice together.

Mr. Rodolfo L. Castro, Provincial Consultant on Agriculture in Pangasinan, represented Pangasinan Governor Ramon V. Guico III, shared a brief history of how golden rice was developed before posing questions to the experts in attendance about how golden rice can be fully utilized in their province and throughout the country.

On the other hand, Balungao Mayor Maria Theresa "Riza" R. Peralta expressed hope that the Golden Rice project would be able to help all communities with high cases of Vitamin A deficiency.

She also expressed an interest in learning more about the economic aspects of golden rice production in order to not only focus on health, but also on increasing farmers' income.

"I hope this project would truly succeed because I'm very excited about it (knowing its benefits) and I really do hope we would be able to at least help out and cooperate with the PhilRice in furthering their researches," said Mayor Peralta.

Highlight of the program is the taste-testing of the golden rice which started with two batches of the grains distributed. One had been harvested for a long time, while the other had recently been harvested.

Majority of the feedbacks stated that it has the same taste as white rice, with the only distinction is the color. Some participants also have different preferences, wherein they prefer the taste of the recently harvested grains.

While everyone's usual concern





was the safety of eating golden rice, Ms. Aileen Garcia, project manager from the International Rice Research Institute (IIRI) and project coordinator of the Golden Rice project, explained about the project's timeline and how it obtained its regulatory approvals while undergoing field trials.

Based on the project's timeline, after the field experiments, golden rice was granted the Direct Use for Food, Feed, or Processing (FFP) Permit. This signifies that Golden Rice is safe for human consumption as with the ordinary rice. The project also acquired a permit for commercial propagation from the DA - Bureau of Plant Industry (DA – BPI) just last year.

As mentioned by Ms. Garcia, golden rice's regulatory safety assessment was thorough and long and she's proud to say that this festival activity took place after that very long journey.

Pangasinan seed growers Mr. Nelson Domingo and Mr. Antonio Pertudo Jr., also related their

experiences in cultivating the Golden Rice. Both emphasized the difficulties they've had to undergo with rice insect infestations and climate change.

Planting golden rice, according to Mr. Pertudo, is the same as planting regular inbred rice. The only difference was that protocols had to be strictly followed such as the use of carbonized rice hull, where the 10kg golden rice seeds required 41 bags of carbonated rice hull.

“Dahil alam po natin na kapag programa ng gobyerno, para sa mga tao. Para ito sa kabutihan ng tao.” Mr. Pertudo added.

Joining the festival and the taste-testing activity were Dr. Santiago R. Obien, DA Senior Technical Adviser

and former Executive Director of PhilRice, Balungao Vice Mayor Philipp Peralta, OIC – Director of PhilRice-Batac Dr. Hazel Orge, Assistant-OIC Branch Director of DA-PhilRice Batac Ms. Anielyn Alibuyog, Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Dalisay Moya, Provincial Seed Inspector Mr. Eleuterio Saoi, Jr., DA-RFO I Regional Seed Coordinator Ms. Analiza Ramos, Dr. Maricel Dacapias from ATI-RTC1, Dr. Benito Andaya from BPI-NSQCS1, staff from various LGUs, Municipal Agriculturists in Pangasinan, representatives from DA-BPI and IRRI, staff from PhilRice, and Pangasinan Seed Growers.

Golden rice, also known as "Malusog 1," is derived from its parent material, PSB Rc82, and thus has the same grain qualities and taste.#



# Towards effective info campaigns: DA - RFO1, FAO PH collaborates with PIOS, local media



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1's Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) and Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS), conducted a two-day training workshop for Provincial Information Officers and Local Media Practitioners on Developing and Implementing Mass Media Campaigns on Sustainable Fall Armyworm Management in Pangasinan.

The workshop was held at The Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan on November 23-25, 2022, where representatives from BPI – Manila, DA-PhilRice, LGU Agriculturists, Pangasinan Provincial Information Officers and local media practitioners in the province such as

DZAG Radyo Pilipinas (RP) Agoo, La Union, DWRS RP Tayug, Pangasinan, DZMQ RP – Dagupan, Pangasinan, and GMA Regional TV were convened to participate in the workshop.

Mr. Edmundo Quinit, the consultant of the Global Action for FAW Control Program in Region 1, expressed hope in his introductory remarks that the strategy for the effective and efficient implementation of environmentally friendly technologies for farmers would be developed.

"If we can properly control this damaging pest, we will be able to contribute to improved food security in the Philippines, particularly for corn. It's not just for farmers' needs, it's for everyone's needs" Mr. Quinit said.

The goals of the workshop are undertaking communication need assessment where it aims to inform the target groups that this global invasive species has a significant economic impact, as well as knowing and understanding the biological and ecological cycles of the Fall Army Worm.

Another objective is to develop key messages that must be communicated to the various target groups, particularly corn farmers and local government officials, to develop an integrated IEC strategy, and put in place measures for implementing it by selecting appropriate video communication, and to develop IEC materials in vernacular languages (Tagalog, Ilokano, and Pangasinense).

"This is a holistic approach to control, prevent, and eventually eradicate any pests

or diseases. Be it – livestock, crops, and other commodities in the agriculture sector. I am very pleased that all of you are here. From the information group of the LGUs, our mass media partners. We are all here to come up with appropriate information or advocacy materials.” said OIC – Regional Executive Director of DA – RFO1, Dr. Annie Q. Bares.

Dr. Bares also mentioned that this workshop is very essential because it raises awareness of the Fall Armyworms among all stakeholders, including our stockholders, policymakers, and most especially farmers.

Mr. John Paul Maminta of the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) - Crop Pest Management Division (CPMD) delivered a report on the implementation of Global Action for Fall ArmyWorm (FAW) control in the Philippines, while Mr. Jose Tolentino, Jr. of the DA - RFO1 RCPC introduced the biological and ecological cycles of the Fall ArmyWorm, other major insect pests of corn and their Sustainable Management through IPM-PAMS.

On the other hand, Ms. Jasmine Magtibay, Programme Assistant at FAO Philippines, discussed the guidelines on FAO Communications while Ms. Eva Agustin, Information Officer II from DA RFO1 – RAFIS, discussed the various types of Media platforms and determined which media tool is efficient in reaching out to the target groups in relation to info advocacy for major corn pests.



On the second day of the workshop, the attendees went for a field visit to one of the farmer’s 32 hectares of corn plantation in Brgy. Nilombot, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan. The attendees were also given the opportunity to see and observe the Fall Armyworms, as well as witness how severely they infested the crops during both the reproductive and vegetative stages.

Following the field work, Dr. Maricel Dacapias, ATI Information Officer, continued the workshop by explaining how they communicate information using the ATI – RTC 1 method and also informed the participants their programs, activities and



how they reach out to the said various target groups.

Sharing as well cases on rice plantation infested by Fall Army Worms in Region II was Ms. Evelyn Valdez, FAW project team lead of DA-PhilRice. Ms. Valdez also mentioned that she is grateful to be part of the workshop since it would be a great help for them just in case the fall armyworms would infest rice in the future.

The participants were grouped and tasked to develop IEC materials for Farmers, for Agricultural Technicians, for the general public and for the policy makers. They were able to produce an Audio Visual Presentation and prints, reading materials, and a commercial.

After the presentation of the IEC



materials, the participants were grouped once again according to their profession in making an action plan for the production and distribution of IEC materials for the year 2023.

Ms. Lea Astrud Santiago, owner/manager of The Our Farm Republic, in her closing remarks, stated that this problem with the Fall ArmyWorms can be solved.

“Ako bilang isang farmer, natutuwa kami dahil dumadami tayo. I’m happy na yung mga napakalaking sector at napakalaking impluwensya – ang media ay kakampi na natin.” She said.

In attendance were Ms. Marivic Begonia, Chief of the Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) Region 1, Mr. Aries Magat, DA PREC – Chief in Sual, Pangasinan, Ms. Debbie Davalos, FAO Philippine GA-FAW Control Program Focal Person, Dr. Marvin Quilates, Focal Person for Organic Agriculture, Ms. Wilma Cuaterno, FAO Consultant, Mr. Ferdinand Matro, Former chief of Corn Banner Program, representatives from OPAG Pangasinan, Municipal Agriculturists in Pangasinan, representatives from DA-BPI CPMD, DA-PhilRice Batac, and staff from FAO PH and DA-RCPC Region 1.

The main objective of the workshop is to bridge information gaps about fall armyworms among farmers, agricultural technicians, policymakers, and the general public.#

# DA honors champs on young farmers' challenge program

Recognizing the young entrepreneurs' initiatives and innovations in developing worthwhile agri-based enterprises, the Department of Agriculture in Ilocos Region conducted the second batch of Young Farmers Challenge (YFC) Program in an Awarding Ceremonies today held at the DA-Regional Field Office I 5th Floor Conference Room, San Fernando City, La Union.



A DA's pet project that started in CY 2021 initiated by the Office of Senator Imee Marcos that provides access to financial grant assistance for the youth as they venture into profitable agri-fishery based enterprises, the YFCP has a total budget allocation of P150 million for the whole duration of the program.

enterprises initiated by the 100 young farmers in CY 2021 are now in place and now growing for an additional 73 enterprises today owned and managed by 109 young farmers.

Of this 73 enterprises for the current year (CY 2022), 34 of which are being managed by 54 young farmers belonging to Batch 1 while the 39 enterprises owned and managed by 55 young farmers are included in Batch 2.

Out of the 39 enterprises, seven have passed for national evaluation and two were adjudged as the national finalists who led the second batch's awardees this year.

They are the young farmers from Candon City, Ilocos Sur and Badoc, Ilocos Norte with their enterprises, the MERB Biomass Briquette owned and managed by partners Bryson Vince



Montero, Maria Louise Esguerra, Ellaisa Grabanzor and Rick Jayson Gamueda and the LastRun Integrated Farm and SLEY's Delighted Bunnies owned by partners Clarence Luna and Shirley Malapira.

As National finalists, they shall



With the two-year implementation of the program, recipients of the project have reached to a total of 209 young farmer-entrepreneurs from the 131 proposed agri-based enterprises.

Based on DA's record, a total of 58



be given a chance to win an additional P300,000.00 cash award for each enterprise should they be adjudged as national winner in the upcoming National Youth Summit scheduled in December 15 at the Sola Hotel in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. This amount is in addition to their P150,000.00 and P50,000.00 cash awards as the regional and provincial awardees, respectively.

In her message during the awarding ceremonies, OIC-Regional Executive Director Annie Bares lauded the valuable efforts of the young farmer winners who were able to access the governments' resources and opportunities leading to productive and profitable agri-based enterprises.

Expressing her support especially in providing the much needed interventions from business development, planning, product development as well as marketing assistance, Director Bares likewise noted the importance of the financial grants that the awardees will be receiving which shall serve as start-up capital to improve and develop their chosen business enterprises.

Meanwhile, of the P150 million total budget allocation for the program, the Ilocos Region has acquired 7% share equivalent to P10.59 million. #

# Lectures on GAD seen to empower new DA staff

Having a more inclusive and safer workplace for employees creates harmony and a ripple effect that leads to a better discharge of services of a government institution.

Thus, the Gender and Development Program of the Department of Agriculture Ilocos Region held a seminar on workplace harassment and violence with emphasis on the Safe Spaces Act and domestic violence in line with the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women.

Ms. Edilyn Goldara, the DA-RFO1's GAD focal person, said that this year, they targeted as participants the newly-hired employees of the agency in order for them to be aware of their own and other's rights and to extend the same respect to the department's clients notwithstanding their status and gender identity.

In her lecture, Atty. Anna Leah Romero of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Region 1 stressed that GAD advocates are not imposing any

belief, instead, they aspire to educate the public on how to be gender-sensitive.

"Let us learn to live in harmony because at the end of the day, respect [to one another] is the only thing that matters," Romero said.

Romero likewise encouraged the participants to be more empathic and initiate voicing their concerns to defend victims of gender-related violence especially in public places.

On the other hand, Ms. Celia Quedado, also from CHR, said that even men are prone to being victims of any type of harassment, hence they must not be afraid in seeking help when they become a victim of violence.

The seminar is only among the series of activities of the DARFO 1-GAD during the campaign to end VAW which started on November 25 and will end on December 10, 2022. #



# Aggie dep't holds 4th quarter RMC integration workshop with member agencies, bureaus



Chaired by DA-RFO 1, the Regional Management Council in region 1 held its 4th quarter meeting for CY 2022 on December 6, 2022 at ATI, La Trinidad, Benguet.

The meeting was conducted to inform the participants of the guidelines on fertilizer discount voucher for dry season 2022, the status of RCEF implementation in the region, and the status of African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza. The meeting was attended by heads and representatives from member agencies and attached bureaus.



Mr. Erwin Frigillana, Agriculturist II, presented the amended guidelines on fertilizer discount voucher for dry season wherein he mentioned that to serve more farmers, the maximum voucher value an eligible farmer-beneficiary can receive is P13,200 which is equivalent to 2 hectares. The vouchers that will be distributed for the CY 2022 dry season can be used in acquiring urea fertilizers to attain the target yield of 4.22 MT per hectare for 2023.

Following the presented updates on FDV, Ms. Analiza Ramos, OIC chief of the Field Operations Division also tackled the RCEF implementation in region 1 with a detailed discussion on each component of the program.

Meanwhile, the status of bird flu or Avian influenza and ASF was also presented by Dr. Allen Mae Doctolero of the Regulatory Division along with the corresponding actions taken by the department to prevent the widespread of the viruses in the region. Aside from the preventive measures undertaken, the DA also provided interventions to swine and poultry raisers affected by the said animal diseases.

Further, the council also discussed the action plan for the integrated implementation of projects and programs for CY 2023 in order to provide the needed interventions from the clients' end. /continued on page 19



# RGADC-1 confers GAD resource pool during regular meeting

Held on December 2, 2022 at the DA RFO 1 conference room, the Regional Gender and Development Committee in region 1 convened its members for a regular meeting for the last quarter of the year.

The activity was conducted to discuss the proposed culmination activity to END VAW campaign for 2022, the highlights of the levelling session, return demonstration and the results of the final deliberation of the R1GRP applicants.

Presided by Atty. Harold Kubaron, director of the Commission on Human Rights and RGADC-1 Chairperson, the program was attended by members from PIA, PSU, CHR, Provincial Government of La Union, DA, DOH, PNP, POPCOM, NEDA, DMMMSU, MMSU, and DepEd.

The activity was highlighted by the conferment of eight Resource Pools for Gender and Development in Region 1 (R1GRP) who will assist the Philippine Commission on



Women in providing GAD-related technical assistance to requesting clients based on their area of expertise. The certified members are expected to carry out their roles and functions as R1GRP.

One among the conferred GR pool is Dr. Jacinta Marissa D. Olalan, chief of the Administrative and Finance Division of DA-RFO 1.#

“There are so many interventions from the government, and with you colleagues, we can arrange the system of giving interventions to our farmers, with closer coordination like this we can make the implementation smooth,” said OIC RED Annie Bares at the meeting.#



# Pangasinan municipality, organic agriculture stakeholders craft roadmap



The Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I, through the Organic Agriculture Program, held a two-day Municipal Organic Agriculture roadmap workshop in Pangasinan from December 6-7, 2022 at Purok Marcela Resort, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Certified Organic Practitioners of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Pangasinan Philippines Inc., as well as Organic Agriculture Focal Persons per LGU, OPAg Pangasinan, Pangasinan Municipal and City Agriculturists, and farmers, gathered in this workshop to develop a strategic plan for the next 2-3 years.

Dr. Marvin Quilates, Regional Organic Agriculture Focal Person, discussed the activity's rationale as well as the roadmap template, in

which participants were clustered according to the products they produce. On the other hand, Mr. Acrenio Corpuz, consultant, discussed how to create a business plan.

In attendance were Lingayen Mayor Leopoldo N. Bataoil, who is also an advocate in Organic Farming, shared stories in relation to his advocacy on the “Rebirth of Philippine Ylang-Ylang” with a three-fold mission of bringing back Ylang-Ylang’s glory, Mr. Ferdinand Matro, consultant, and staff from

DA – RFO1 Organic Agriculture Program.

On the second day of the activity, the participants presented their drafted business plans for each organic commodity namely, rice, corn, mungbean, peanut, Pinakbet vegetables, chicken, herbs, onion and garlic, for feedback, suggestions and recommendations.

The completion of the roadmap for Organic Agriculture for Region I would enable them to have a clear strategic plan to follow regarding organic farming in order to attain their thrusts and goals of increasing yield, improve farm productivity and food security in the next coming years.#



# DA-RFO I employees make time for mother earth

Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office I employees make time to fulfill their social responsibility of giving due importance to mother earth via a tree planting activity held at the DA-Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center in Sual, Pangasinan (DA-PREC) on December 9, 2022.

The tree planting activity was organized by the DAEA Employees Association spearheaded by DAEA Region I Chapter President Juanito Malazo Jr.



Providing encouragement and support, DA-RFO I OIC Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares led the employees in planting bamboo trees at the surrounding areas of the station which hope to provide protection from soil erosion especially for the uphill areas of the DA station and could also become a source of raw materials for bamboo crafts and other purposes.#



# DA-ACPC offers loan capital on cattle production to OSYs

Are you an out of school youth (OSY) wanting to venture in a cattle fattening business but no capital? Worry no more, the Department of Agriculture has loan offer for cattle fattening business enterprise.

Through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) under its credit and financing facility program, all interested out of school youths from 6 priority provinces can avail an affordable and accessible credit program. In Ilocos Region, the pilot area is the province of Ilocos Norte.

In its program launching held on December 15, 2022 at the Sola Hotel in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, the program was launched with no less than DA's Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban in attendance.

Meanwhile, Mr. Noel Clarence Ducusin, Chief Administrator Officer of ACPC explained the mechanics of the program.

According to Mr. Ducusin, all eligible out of school youths could avail of up to Php200,000 to buy 3 cattle fatteners with an interest rate of 4% per annum plus 3% one time service fee payable within 5 years with one-year grace period on principal payment.

To avail of the program, interested applicants must have a

good moral character who are willing to borrow and undertake livestock raising business.

Prior to the provision of capital, OSY-borrowers are required to undergo training in cattle raising for him/her to be equipped with technical know-how and competencies in raising cattle. He/she is required to present a training completion certificate that he undergone as part of the loan requirement.

To provide safety nets for the animals being raise, the animals are also provided with full livestock insurance to cover them against diseases and natural calamities through the help of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

In Ilocos Region, a total of P20 million was allocated out of the P60 million from ACPCs approved GAA budget downloaded to the Rural and Cooperative Banks who were tapped to act as delivery channels of the loans to eligible borrowers.

Once the animals are ready to dispose, the OSY-borrower is likewise provided with market linkages to potential livestock buyers and/or consolidators at proper time and reasonable price.

For those interested OSY to avail of the project particularly in Ilocos Norte which serves as the pilot area, you may visit your Office of the Provincial Veterinarian.#

# 2nd natl young farmers summit held

“Ito ang rason kung bakit nagbabago na ang outlook ng ating young generation sa Agriculture.” Dr. Annie Q. Bares, DA - RFO I’s OIC - Regional Executive Director.

The Department of Agriculture, through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS), recognizes the 35 young farmer national finalists from different regions in the four categories of the 2022 National Young Farmers Challenge (YFC): Production, Processing, Digital Agriculture, and Supply Chain Business Solution.

The 2nd National Young Farmers

Summit and Awarding Ceremony with the theme, “Mag-Agri Tayo! Ang makabagong ideya at pamamaraan ng Kabataang Magsasaka ang susi tungo sa pagpapaunlad ng pambansang agrikultura.” was held on December 15, 2022 at Sola Hotel, Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

Twelve (12) agribusinesses were chosen as Outstanding Youth Agribusiness Models from among the 35 national finalists. Six were from the Production category, with two each from the Processing, Digital Agriculture, and Supply Chain Business Solution categories. Each received a grant of Php300,000 to

be used as additional funding for developing and improving their businesses.

The agribusiness models of the awardees were evaluated based on their entrepreneurial attributes, innovativeness, revenue stream, value addition, and social responsibility.

Young Farmers from Region I were among the 35 national finalists, which included the MERB Biomass Briquettes owned by partners Maria Louise Esguerra, Ellaisa Grabanzor, Rick Jayson Gamueda, and Bryson Vince Montero from Candon City, Ilocos Sur, as well as the LastRun





Integrated Farm and SLEY's Delighted Bunnies owned by partners Clarence Luna and Shirley Malapira from Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

The awarding ceremony was attended by Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew M. Manotoc, DA officials led by DA Senior Usec Domingo F. Panganiban, Assistant Secretary for Consumer Affairs and DA Spokesperson Kristine Y. Evangelista, Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service OIC-Director Junibert de Sagun, DA-RFO I OIC-Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares, staff from DA Central office and from different DA regional offices and the young agripreneurs.

“This initiative is a timely one and a truly effective one kasi ito rin po ang pinupush natin sa Ilocos Norte. This is what we need and of course, we cannot do this without the youth and without our young farmers.” said Gov. Manotoc in his message, highlighting the importance of going into product processing in Agribusiness in Ilocos Norte.

Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban stated in his message that if young and experienced farmers worked together, ideas would be put into practice, enhancing Philippine agriculture's growth and boosting farmers' competitiveness.

“Sa inyong lahat na kabataan, ako’y naniniwala na sa inyong kamay magsisimula ang aking sinasabing pagbabago”, USEC Panganiban added.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bares also thanked the young agripreneurs for having the bravery to embrace agriculture as a stepping stone to making a difference in the world and for

enabling DA to be a part of their journey to become young agripreneurs.

Sen. Imee Marcos' message, read by ASEC Evangelista, expressed optimism that the YFC program will inspire more young Filipinos to become agricultural entrepreneurs, and use modern equipment and digital technology to increase their yield and income.

Also present in the event were the YFC 2022 National Panel of Judges and Coaches, Mr. Joshua Aragon, founder/CEO of Zagana.com, Dr. Ramon C. Yedra, former Deputy Executive Director of ACPC, Ms. Alwyn Joy Rosel, Head of QBO Innovation Hub's Startup Development Program, UPLB Assistant Professor Renen De Guzman, and SOPHIL President Engr. Jaydrick Yap.

The Young Farmers Challenge (YFC) program started in 2021 by the DA's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (DA-AMAS) through the initiative of Senator Imee Marcos which is aimed at encouraging the youth to engage in agri-fishery enterprises on a sustained basis to showcase its viability as a primary source of income comparable to employment in industry and service sectors.

Engaging the youth in agriculture, particularly in agriculture-related enterprises, will help contribute to food security goals, and could transform old business practices through innovations and the use of digital technology that will click especially in the domestic and worldwide markets.#



# DA senior head leads awarding of DA projects in Ilocos Norte



Checking on the status of the committed projects during his previous provincial sorties in Ilocos Norte, Senior Undersecretary for Operations Domingo F. Panganiban led the awarding and distribution of various DA projects to farmers and association beneficiaries on December 16, 2022 at Sola Hotel, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

With an almost P40 million worth of projects, the DA, through Senior Usec. Panganiban awarded P13 million irrigation project to the Local Government Unit of Bacarra for the rehabilitation of canal lining at Barangay Cabaruan in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte and is expected to benefit members of the Zanjera de Sales Irrigators Association.

Another P26.5 was also awarded for the rehabilitation of six diversion dams in Batac City, Ilocos Norte particularly in Barangays Payao, Quiom, Nagbacalan, Magnuang and

Pimentel.

The remaining P435,000 was given to 43 rice farmers as recipients of the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance Program worth P5,000 each that intends to provide capital expenses in their farming operations leading towards an increase in their yield and consequently their incomes.

Of the 43 rice farmers, 20 farmers were from San Nicolas town, and the rest were from Pasuquin, Sarrat, and Vintar and 5 recipients each for Batac City and Paoay.

The RFFA distribution shall still continue for other qualified recipients at a given schedule in coordination with the conduit institution that shall process the cash for the recipients.

In his message during the event, Senior Usec Panganiban underscored the importance of engagement and

linkages of the farmers with their local municipal agriculturists for better services in so far as the agri sector is concerned.

He enjoined the farmers to embrace every opportunity that the DA is giving to improve their production and increase their productivity and income given the various interventions recently awarded to them.

He gave assurance that more projects will be delivered at every visit he makes in the different provinces to make agriculture truly responsive and progressive in the countryside.

Meanwhile, another set of awarding and distribution was held on the next day spearheaded by DA OIC-Regional Executive Director Dr. Annie Q. Bares, with Ilocos Norte Board Member and Committee Chair in Agriculture Jonathan Torralba, and Mr. Benjo Campaño representing 2nd District Representative Cong. Angelo Marcos Barba amounting to Php1,869,481 in the form of farm inputs such as vegetable seeds, farm machineries and equipment like rice combine harvester, hand tractor and pump and engine sets.

Similar activity was also held at the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian on December 16, 2022 where a total of 123 heads of goats were distributed by DA to BP2 recipients.#

# AMIA holds 3-day PCRVA in Ilocos Norte

In order to understand the climatic vulnerabilities of the AMIA villages in Ilocos Region, the DARFO 1's Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program convened the members of two farmers' associations in Marcos, Ilocos Norte for a three-day Participatory Climate Resiliency and Vulnerability Appraisal (PCRVA).

Attended by 25 members of the Zanjera de Balbalay Farmers' Association, Inc. and two from the Gonglo Cacafean Farmers' Association, the workshop involved identification of the livelihood chain and gender roles, sketching the community map of Brgy. Escoda, preparation of seasonal calendar, vulnerability mapping and SWOT Analysis, among others.

Ms. Maybelyn Libong, focal person for DARFO 1 AMIA Program, said that the significant information gathered in the workshops will be used in crafting a development plan and

come up with options to address climate impacts and identify tailored-fitted interventions.

Other facilitators include Ms. Reinamae Banquirig and Ms. Marimar Agustin of DA-INREC Dingras, and Ms. Generosa Rucille Rasalan, Municipal Agriculturist of Marcos, Ilocos Norte.

The PCRVA aims to gather inputs from the local people and enable them to evaluate and come up with solutions vis-à-vis their situation.

After Ilocos Norte, three more PCRVA will be conducted in other AMIA villages in the coming months particularly in the provinces of La Union, Pangasinan ang Ilocos Sur. #





# Kadiwa ng Pasko opens; Php25/kilo rice to be sold

Few days before Christmas eve, the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division continues to offer cheaper and fresh farm produce directly sold by farmers and other entrepreneurs through the "KADIWA ng Pasko" at the Department of Agriculture Ilocos Region grounds

Ms. Corazon Valdez of AMAD said that this initiative is in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, DA-National Food Authority and DA-Philippine Carabao Center.

"During the Yuletide season, our agency would like to help farmers, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MS-MEs), and food processors sell their products at a lower price to consumers," Valdez said.

One of the highlights of this month's Kadiwa retail selling is the more affordable rice sold at only P25 per kilogram by the NFA.

Consumers can also buy fresh fish products BFAR,

chicken, ham, fruits and vegetables and other value-added products.

The KADIWA ng Pasko will be open every Thursday at the DA-RFO 1 grounds, City of San Fernando, La Union, while the AMAD's One-Stop-Agribusiness-Center is open from Mondays through Fridays.#



# FAO UN commends PH's best practices in FAW control



Under the program initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Global Action for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control for the Asia and the Pacific, a delegation of around 20 plant protection experts from FAO UN was welcomed by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1, Bureau of Plant Industry and FAO Philippines, Tuesday (October 11, 2022).

Included in the program was the field visit at Barangay Camangaan, Binalonan, Pangasinan wherein the farmers showcased the technologies they learned during their Farmers' Field School days in controlling the fall armyworm.

Four technology options (treatments) with the use of biological control agents (BCA) to control fall armyworm were established in a 1.3-hectare farm owned by Mr. Benjamin Tomboc.

The first option uses the combination of luring trap (applied at 15-21 days after planting or DAP) + *Trichogramma* (15-21 DAP; 21-35 DAP) + *Beauveria bassiana* (22-28 DAP) + nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV) (29-35 DAP; 36-42 DAP). The second option also uses lure trap, trichogramma, *metarhizium anisopliae* and NPV at 15-21 DAP, 15-21 DAP & 21-35 DAP, 15-21 DAP, and 29-35 DAP & 35-42 DAP, respectively. While the third option uses lure trap, trichogramma, NPV, and *Beauveria bassiana* at 15-21 DAP, 15-21 DAP & 21-35 DAP, 22-23 DAP, and 29-35 DAP & 36-42 DAP, respectively. And the last option showcased was the use of a lure trap at 15-21 DAP, the application of trichogramma at 15-21 DAP & 21-35 DAP, and the application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* at 22-28 DAP & 36-42 DAP.

Through this activity, the UN delegates and the farmers were able

to interact and learn from the best management practices of each participating country.

Following the field visit, a program proper was held at Ramon J. Guico, Sr. Sports and Civic Center, which was joined by Mr. Von Mark Mendoza, Political Affairs Officer and representative of Pangasinan Governor Ramon V. Guico III, Binalonan Mayor, Ramon Ronald V. Guico IV, who delivered his opening remarks and came in full support with his Vice Mayor and Sangguniang Bayan Members, and Pangasinan Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Dalisay Moya, among others.

Mr. Jingyuan Xia, Director of the FAO Headquarters' Plant Production and Protection Division, expressed satisfaction with the results of the Global Action on Fall Army Worm (GA-FAW) project activities in the Philippines. He mentioned three major impressions that is attributed to the

successful implementation of the project in the country and that is because the Philippines has excellent implementation and cooperation, excellent innovation and excellent communication.

"Based on the things I learned while interacting with the farmers earlier, I must say that the Philippines is the most excellent and most successful demonstration country in the world. I hope all of you from Asia and the Pacific who have come here will learn something from the Philippines", he said.

Dr. Hermenegilda A. Gabertan, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry represented Mr. Gerald Glenn Panganiban, OIC - Director of Bureau of Plant Industry and Hon. Domingo F. Panganiban, DA Senior Undersecretary, also provided information on the state of GA-FAW in the Philippines.

She emphasized that the majority of the farmers in the field were actually putting what they had learned from the Farmer Field School program into practice. She also gave them the assurance that they would continue with all the help the department could provide.

Mr. Von Mark Mendoza, the current Political Affairs Officer in the Governor's Office, represented Pangasinan Governor Ramon V. Guico III and expressed

Pangasinan's commitment to fully supporting the FAO's GA-FAW program.

Meanwhile, Dr. Annie Q. Bares recognized everyone who has worked hard to start the program focusing on eradicating Fall Army Worm with the goal of having a FAW-free and a food-secured Philippines in the coming years.

In the afternoon, the farmers were also given the opportunity to hear the status, approaches, and practices, as well as the control and management of the Fall Army Worm from the delegates coming from other Asian countries such as Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Solomon Islands. The presentation was facilitated by Ms. Wilma Cuaterno, FAO Philippines' National IPM Specialist.

"Controlling FAWs takes concerted efforts. There is action needed from the government, from the workers and most importantly from the communities themselves," said Ms. Tamara P. Duran, Assistant FAO representative of the FAO Philippines. She thanked everyone for sharing their knowledge and expertise with them, as well as the DA for their dedicated and extensive support and collaboration with FAO.

Meanwhile, as a continuation to

the field visit, a regional workshop on Fall Armyworm Control for Asia and the Pacific was held at Holiday Inn, Makati Hotel on October 12, 2022.

The participants were divided into three groups for a group discussion on the policy and farmers, the IPM package validation and demonstration, and the communication and partnership.

Speaking on behalf of Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban, BPI Director Glenn F. Panganiban said that the FAO's Global Action on FAW is a much-needed response to control the said pest.

He also mentioned that the activity promotes the exchange of information among the nations of Asia and the Pacific on Integrated Pest Management techniques and technologies against FAW and it provides updates on the progress of GA on the demonstration countries to gather suggestions from the member nations.

In his conclusion, Mr. Xia once again commended the Philippines saying, "There are so many countries with fall armyworm and it's not so impactful. This, I can say it's very impactful. I can say that it's fantastic, my unusual word for a field demonstration. The farmer is actively engaged from the very beginning to the end of the field demonstration. This is out of my expectation", he beamed.

Over the 70 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific that have reported FAW infestation over the years, eight countries including the Philippines were chosen as the pilot countries for the Global Action Plan. It is a global initiative to take radical, direct, and coordinated measures to strengthen prevention and sustainable pest control capacities at the global level as an urgent response to the rapid spread of FAW.#



Golden Rice, once available for commercial production, is intended to be used as one of the approaches to address Vitamin A deficiency. Since rice is widely produced and consumed, it has a unique potential to reach many people including those who do not have reliable access to or cannot afford other sources of vitamin A (PhilRice, 2022).

