



WB conducts review on DA's rural development projects

Consultants from the World Bank (WB) and Department of Agriculture- Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) assess the quality and design of a bridge proposed for a rehabilitation under the Project during the First Review Mission of the WB in January to February this year. The WB will again visit some sub-projects funded and implemented under the DA-PRDP starting August 26 until September 16 for the Implementation Support Mission to the Project.

A team from the World Bank (WB) will visit several sub-projects implemented under the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) to assess the progress of the Project and address issues and concerns its implementation.

As of August 14, 2015 the Project has already allotted over P12 billion (B) in funds for the implementation of various sub-projects which include farm-to-market roads, bridges, potable water system and production, processing, and marketing support activities envisioned to boost the value chain of agricultural commodities in the rural areas.

Of the amount P10.96-B has been approved for infrastructure projects funding under the Infrastructure Development (I-BUILD) component, while P1.62-B is allocated for production, processing, and marketing activities of agri-fishery products under the Enterprise Development (I-REAP) component.

A total of 10 infrastructure projects worth P297.61 million are now ongoing-

implementation and are over 50% complete, while 33 other infrastructure projects worth P2.02-B are below 50% in progress.

Sixteen sub-projects worth P616.85-M have been approved for implementation, through the issuance of No-Objection Letter 2 (NOL-2) and 124 sub-projects amounting to P8-B have been approved for funding and have been given NOL-1.

Under the I-REAP component, 10 sub-projects worth P78.65-M have been approved for funding. Among these is the calamansi marketing and trading project of the Naujan Farmers' Association in Oriental Mindoro which recently received P700,000.00 worth of cheque from the PRDP. Last June, the PRDP also transferred P20-M worth of checks to the Polo Samahang Nayan Cooperative to jumpstart their cassava granules production and marketing project.

As PRDP moves to boost the economy in the rural areas through financial grants to rural development

projects, it continues to capacitate the LGUs in planning and implementing sub-projects.

"Together with local governments, the academe, the business sector and other grassroots stakeholders, we have endeavored to develop the right tools to determine the right investments for the development of commodities produced by our farmers and fishers," explained DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala.

The PRDP has also introduced modern tools to help identify, validate, and monitor sub-projects under the Project.

"We have instituted reforms in planning among local government units using scientific and evidence-based tools that are responsive to the needs of specific localities. Through these reforms, we contribute to the eradication of patronage politics that perpetuates corruption and hampers delivery of services to areas where these are needed most," added Alcala.

PRDP DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES



WOMEN BENEFICIARIES

Based on the economic evaluation of the Project, Enterprise and Infrastructure Development components would have an estimated 1.9 million direct beneficiaries of whom about 0.9 million (48%) would be women.

Furthermore, there would also be a substantial number of indirect beneficiaries with a combined total of some 21.8 million, of which about half (10 million) would be women.



TARGET BENEFICIARIES



Small-scale agricultural, livestock, and fishery producers throughout the country with the potential to increase their productivity, but who lack the capacity to do so because of factors such as poor access to markets, lack of timely market information, inefficient post-harvest handling, dependence on intermediary trader, small volumes, inadequate finance, outdated technology and unfamiliarity with benefits from improved, climate-smart technology.



The rural infrastructure investments under the Project aims to benefit producers, traders, and rural population more generally through reduced travel time, improved access to markets and by increasing productivity (both in terms of quality and quantity.)

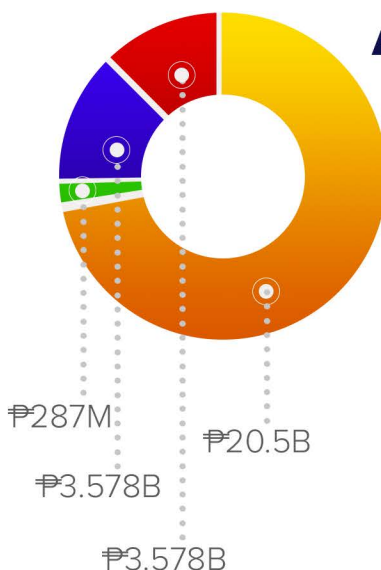


Enterprise development will directly target small-scale producers through the provision of technical services, training, market linkages, and financial assistance.

ALLOCATIONS & COSTING

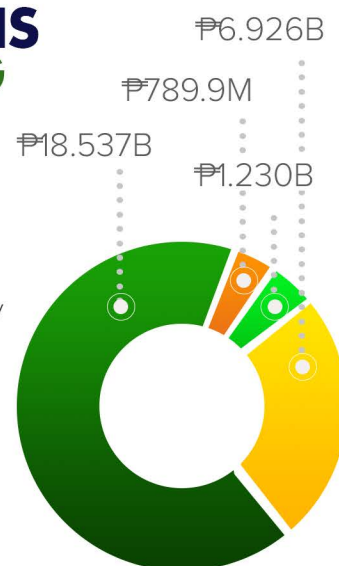
TOTAL PROJECT COST
27.535 BILLION

- Loan from the World Bank
- National government
- Local government unit
- Global environment facility



BUDGET ALLOCATION BY COMPONENT

- Infrastructure development
- Enterprise development
- Project support
- Local and national planning



WB conducts...(from page 1)

The Expanded-Vulnerability and Suitability Assessment (E-VSA) Tool for instance, a user online tool takes account of socio-economic indicators to help target interventions under the Project.

The Applied Goetagging (AGT), on the other hand, is used to validate and monitor progress of sub-projects under the PRDP. Through the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology in smartphones, photographs of proposed and implemented sub-projects can be laid out in Google Earth and be viewed online.

With AGT identifying the exact location

of projects, ghost and overlapping projects will be avoided.

"Certainly, the PRDP has become an avenue to foster participation, an indispensable element of good governance that this administration promotes. Through the PRDP, we have been able to further mainstream our good governance agenda," said Alcala.

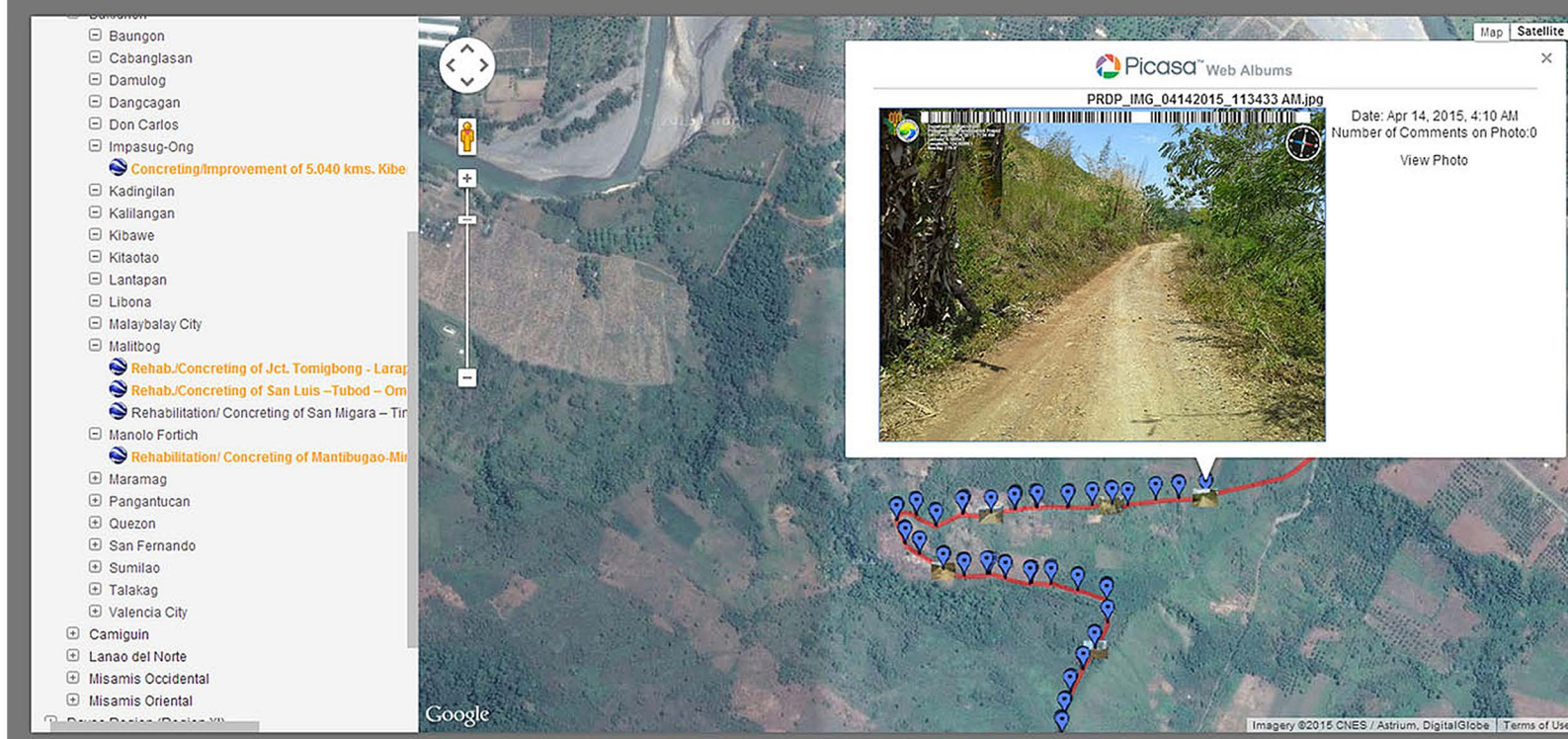
The DA-PRDP has also strengthened the protection of beneficiaries and people affected by project implementation through the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

Through the GRM, the Project is ready to accept and address grievances, complaints, and suggestions of the

public in relation to the better implementation of the sub-projects.

Prior to the visit of the WB officials to PRDP sub-projects, a kick-off meeting will be held on August 24, 2015 at the DA-Bureau of Soils and Water Management Convention Hall in Quezon City. The team from the WB will be led by its Task Team Leader for PRDP Mr. Samik Sundar Das.

Officials from WB and DA-PRDP will visit sub-projects in Palawan for South Luzon cluster, Isabela for North Luzon cluster, Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte for Mindanao cluster, and Bohol for Visayas cluster. ■



A geotagged location using the camera application developed and utilized by the DA-PRDP is accurately located when laid out in Google Earth. To further enhance security and prevent alterations, a unique barcode is embedded in the photo.

DA strengthens transparency through geo-tagging of projects

The Department of Agriculture (DA) will now use Applied Geotagging (AGT) in all projects to strengthen transparency and good governance, following the standards developed and utilized by the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)—another DA-implemented foreign project.

In a memorandum released on July 28, 2015, Secretary Proceso J. Alcala has enjoined DA officials and project implementers to use the AGT in carrying out all DA programs and projects.

Alcala said that AGT is a vital tool in the validation and monitoring of proposed and implemented projects of the government and an effective mechanism to promote transparency within the government.

“The utilization of the tool is a critical input in the development of the Field Operations Service’s Information System that manages data and provide efficient, reliable and real-time information on all programs and projects under the DA,” he continued.

To further secure the use of AGT and prevent possible modification or alteration of geotagged photos, the PRDP has developed a unified AGT Android Mobile Application which will also be used by all DA programs and projects.

The award-winning tool, which bagged the top place on the Science of Delivery Awardees in the Global Procurement for Complex Situation Challenge last year, has been recognized by the World Bank recently as a critical tool in promoting transparency of government-implemented projects.

AGT was first developed and applied by the successfully-implemented DA program Mindanao Rural Development Program in 2011, and has helped increase transparency in project implementation, especially in remote and conflict-stricken areas in the region.

Currently, some DA programs have started using the tool such as the Irrigated Rice Production Enhancement Project (IRPEP), Rice Program, and

Farm-to-Market Road Development Program (FMRDP), applying techniques developed and used by the MRDP and PRDP.

A team from the PRDP has also trained other national agencies that are keen on applying the tool in implementing their own projects. These government agencies include Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways, and National Irrigation Administration, among others.

Last year, the PRDP also trained members of various civil society organizations in hope of involving them in monitoring sub-projects implemented in their locality.

Geotagging is an ICT application that associates digital resource such as photos and videos with geographic and location information with high degree precision.

It is a Google Earth-based tool, facilitating easy and accurate locations of infrastructure, livelihood and agri-fishery facilities on a map enabling virtual monitoring and supervision of sub-project implementation. ■

NEWS BRIEFS

LUZON A

Santiago City eyes peanut and mango as champion commodities

Santiago City in Region 2 has identified peanut and mango as their priority commodities under the DA-PRDP after a stakeholders' consultation meeting on July 28-29, 2015.

The local government of the city where the two commodities thrive will now prepare a City Commodity Investment Plan (CCIP), from where it will identify possible interventions for the development and success of the above-mentioned commodities. At present, Region 2 has 17 identified commodities, and their value chain analyses have already been finalized.

LUZON B

Calamansi farmers' group receives initial financial grant from PRDP

An initial amount of P 700,000.00 worth of cheque was transferred by the

Oriental Mindoro Provincial Project Management Implementing Unit (PPMIU) to the Naujan Farmers' Association (NAFA) on August 7, 2015 as part of the trading capital granted to the group under the DA-PRDP.

The amount is part of the total P9.73-M project cost to boost the calamansi trading and marketing in Oriental Mindoro under the Enterprise Development (I-REAP) component of the PRDP. It covers the provision of trucks, trading capital and other infrastructures that will support the logistics of calamansi from the province to identified markets in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

VISAYAS

Cebu and Bohol endorse P429-M worth of infra proj to PRDP

The Visayas Project Support Office (PSO) has recently endorsed P429.44-M worth of infrastructure projects – mostly farm-to-market roads (FMR) – for Cebu and Bohol to the DA-PRDP National Project Coordination Office (NCPO).

The amount will be allotted to nine sub-projects approved by the Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) and endorsed to NCPO for funding. These

include four FMRs in Bohol, four FMRs and a potable water system in Cebu. The FMR sub-projects for Bohol would cost around P153.7-M while sub-projects for Cebu would reach P275.74-M.

MINDANAO

PRDP strengthens Davao's cacao value chain

To boost Davao Region's booming cacao industry, the PRDP will pour in sizeable investments in infrastructure and enterprise development. A total of P595.45-M proposed FMR projects in major cacao producing areas in the region had already been issued No Objection Letter (NOL1) to start the procurement process.

A total of P453.75-M worth of FMR projects are also awaiting NOL1 issuance, which will also cover cacao areas in the provinces of Compostela and Davao Oriental. Aside from infrastructure, PRDP through its livelihood component is finalizing the cacao enterprise project which will initially cater to the postharvest and processing needs of farmers in Subasta, Calinan, Davao City.

inFOCUS
THIS MONTH



**The All-Around Guy:
Deputy Project Director**

The DA-PRDP's National Deputy Director Arnel de Mesa is no stranger to World Bank-funded projects, having served as the Deputy Director of the successful Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP). De Mesa is one of the brains behind the development of the Applied Geotagging (AGT) utilized in MRDP-2 in 2011, and is now being further developed and used for the transparent and efficient implementation of PRDP.

Currently, the PRDP is further streamlining the use of the tool by training other government agencies like Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of Agrarian Reform, National Irrigation Administration, among others.

Because of his involvement in the AGT development in the country, he was dubbed as one of the influential persons in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) industry and was invited to speak about it in China and Singapore.

He is strong-willed and smart, always aiming for effective and efficient results in implementing projects. As the Deputy Director of the PRDP, Sir Arnel oversees both the administrative and technical aspects of the project, immersed in every aspect of its overall implementation. He graduated from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, and is an engineer by profession.

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Philippine Rural Development Project

DA_PRDP

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