



## World Bank lauds community participation in Bulacan sub-projects

DA-PRDP Deputy Project Director Arnel de Mesa and World Bank representatives Noel Sta. Ines and Michael Roscitt check on the project bulletin and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) poster of the Bubulong Malaki-Bulusukan-Bubulong Munti-Bohol na Mangga FMR Improvement sub-project in San Ildefonso, Bulacan during a visit and assessment in the province. The GRM poster aims to encourage citizens to report complaints and unsatisfactory service by the project implementers. (Photo by Kathrino Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE)

The World Bank lauded the Bulacan provincial government for involving the community and various stakeholders in the implementation of sub-projects funded under the PRDP.

During the World Bank team visit in San Ildefonso town on October 13, 2015, the delegates were impressed with the involvement and participation of the residents in the planning, procurement and implementation of the various PRDP initiatives.

The Bulacan provincial government unit (PLGU) has recently received approval for the implementation of a 9.8-kilometer farm-to-market road (FMR) in San Ildefonso, and is currently awaiting the funding approval for their Triple B Charantin enterprise development sub-project.

Jocelyn Sayco, a farmer from Barangay Bukal said she donated a portion of her land affected by the road improvement.

"Nagsisimula na rin akong magtanim ng ampalaya, para sa

I-REAP (enterprise development) project dito sa amin," she added. (I have already started planting bitter gourd as participation to the I-REAP project in the municipality.)

The I-REAP proponent groups in the municipality have also attended series of trainings in business plan preparation and financial management to further capacitate them in handling the enterprise development sub-project.

Rolando Cayetano, Jr., chairperson of the Bohol na Mangga Marketing Cooperative said that because of the members' desire to progress, they join the trainings conducted by the PRDP.

Darwin Calderon, barangay captain of Bulusukan, added that one cooperative member, Zaldy Nuñez even donated 750 square meters of his land for the construction of a processing facility for the I-REAP sub-project.

The P14.9 million-worth I-REAP sub-project proposed by the PLGU

aims to improve the production, processing and marketing of ampalaya as an ingredient for herbal capsules and tea, promoted as anti-diabetic supplement.

Arlene Pascual, head of the Bulacan Provincial Project Management and Implementation Unit (PPMIU) said that arrangement with farmers in supervising the construction of the road is also underway.

"This is to ensure that the project is implemented [properly] by the contractor and the local government," she explained.

Pascual added that the four barangays have formed a Barangay Inspection Team (BIT), and as part of their task, the BIT members will attend a training on the PRDP's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) conducted by the Project Support Office in Luzon A (Northern and Central Luzon cluster).





Estrella Balhao of the Gawidan Farmers' Association (GFA) in Tabuk City, Kalinga roasts coffee beans at the GFA's processing center in the outskirts of the city. The farmers' association is one of the affiliate proponent groups for the Kalinga Integrated Coffee Processing and Marketing Enterprise, a project jointly funded by the DA-PRDP, the Kalinga PLGU and the Kalinga Coffee Cluster, an alliance of cooperatives and farmers' associations where the GFA is a member. (Photo by Dicksteine Pascual, RPCO 2 InfoACE)

## Coffee project to boost livelihood of Kalinga IPs

### World Bank lauds...(from page 1)

The World Bank delegates were impressed to see that the community is enthusiastic about the sub-projects, but reminded that they need to learn basic skills to see if the project is implemented properly.

The team added that the province should also engage university students as well as civil society organizations near the area to monitor, ensure proper construction of the road.

The PRDP, the government's main platform for rural development, aims to improve rural economy by operationalizing local-level convergence among agricultural stakeholders, synergizing programs and projects for modern, climate-smart and market-oriented agro-fishery sector that benefits the greater segment of farmers and fishers. ■

Indigenous peoples (IPs) engaged in coffee farming in this part of the Cordilleras see bright prospect for improved marketing with the proposed Kalinga Integrated Coffee Processing and Marketing Enterprise, a sub-project under the PRDP, in improving their livelihood.

Rose Macabio of the Gawidan Farmers' Association (GFA) in Bagumbayan village, Tabuk City said that with the sub-project, coffee farmers in their community will no longer need to bring their harvests to Tuguegarao City or Isabela to sell. She explained that their association will directly buy coffee beans for processing from local farmers.

The sub-project has received the initial endorsement from the World Bank. As such it can now proceed with the next steps of implementation with the issuance of a No Objection Letter 1 (NOL 1). This letter gives clearance

for the local government unit (LGU) to proceed with the procurement process of the proposed sub-project. After the sub-project complies with conditions set under the NOL 1, a No Objection Letter 2 (NOL 2) will be issued, signaling the LGU to proceed with the awarding of contracts to winning bidders.

"This project also [encourages] us to plant more coffee. We have to increase our production since the processing facility is already here," Macabio added.

The farmer-leader likewise related that there had been a period when coffee, their community's primary product, was not profitable.

"Now that the demand for coffee has improved, the PRDP sub-project's approval is very timely for them.

The enterprise is expected to benefit more than 1,500 hectares of coffee production areas in Tabuk City and neighboring towns, and more than

600 coffee growers from the proponent groups alone, not including those from potential expansion areas. Kalinga is the Cordillera region's top coffee producer and it ranks 7th among coffee-producing provinces nationwide.

The GFA is one of the sub-project's affiliate proponent groups. It is joined by the Tanudan Savings and Lending Cooperative (TSALECO), Mananig Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MAMPCO), Patiking-Bullaguian Farmers' Association (PFA) and Nambucayan Upland Farmers Association (NUFA). Collectively known as the Kalinga Coffee Cluster (KCC), the cooperatives and farmers' associations are headed by the Dupligan Farmers Multipurpose (DUFAMPCO) as the sub-project's lead proponent.

Of the P14.8 million (M) budget for the enterprise, P12.4-M will be spent for processing and marketing, and P2.4-M will be allocated for infrastructure. The PLGU and the proponent groups will have equities worth P2.9-M and P3.9-M, respectively, while forty percent of the sub-project cost, or P6.3-M, will be sourced from the World Bank loan proceeds. The rest of the budget equivalent to P1.7-M will be

shouldered by the national government through the Department of Agriculture.

To complement the coffee enterprise, a P118-M-worth FMR in Tanudan town where coffee is most abundantly produced in the province, is also proposed under the PRDP's infrastructure development (I-BUILD) component.

The enterprise will have post-harvest equipment that will ensure proper transport and handling, and uniform drying of coffee beans. To improve sustainability, the enterprise will likewise adopt good agricultural practices (GAP) and financial risk management mechanisms, hire quality control staff, and ensure meeting of social and environmental safeguards, among other measures.

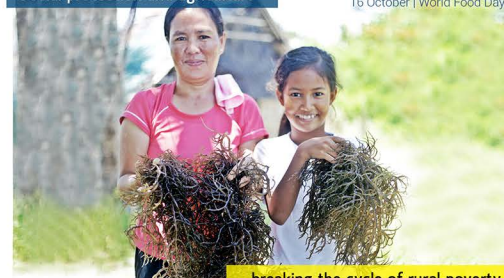
The PRDP is a six-year national initiative implemented by the DA with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank. In partnership with LGUs, civil society organizations, the business sector and other local stakeholders, the project seeks to establish a modern, climate-resilient and market-oriented agriculture and fisheries sector that supports inclusive rural development, targeting marginalized sectors such as women and IPs. ■

## PRDP joins the world in celebrating the World Food Day on October 16



Social protection and agriculture

16 October | World Food Day



breaking the cycle of rural poverty

Through the PRDP, the DA augments the government's interventions in ensuring food security and uplifting rural economy through the installation of value chain-oriented production and marketing facilities, complemented by strategically located and climate-resilient post-harvest and logistics infrastructures. ■

## Harnessing Potentials of Grassroots Changemakers

"Kung sarili lang namin—wala kaming finances e—siyempre, malulugi lang kami. Kaya nagta-tap kami ng government agency na makakatulong sa amin... Nasa amin na yung mga ideas. Kung tutulong ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno, mas maganda pa. Lalago ang aming kabuhayan."

(If we go by ourselves—we don't have the finances—naturally, we would just go bankrupt. That's why we [try to] tap a government agency that could help us... We have the ideas. If government agencies would assist us, it would be much better. Our livelihood would progress.)

Raul Figueroa, coconut farmer and founder of the Poro Federation of Farmers and Fishermen Associations (PFFFA) in Camotes Island, Cebu

The PFFFA is a proponent group for a coco vinegar production sub-project under the PRDP's enterprise development component.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## LUZON A LGU officials from RPCO 3 provinces strengthen GRM

Representatives from the LGUs of Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan have attended a two-day training on the establishment and operation of grievance redress mechanism for their respective sub-projects funded and implemented under the PRDP.

The training aims to equip the local officials in addressing complaints and concerns in their community. It also aims to update the participants on the framework of the integrated environmental and social safeguards and the roles and functions of the grievance point persons as well as prepare them in handling complaints and queries from the community.

After the training, participants prepared and presented a GRM action plan that will be carried out during the entire course of implementation of FMR sub-projects in their respective localities. (Mark Erron H. San Mateo, RPCO 3 InfoACE)

## LUZON B Sorsogon to mainstream commodity investment plan in agri dev't

As Sorsogon pushes for the revival of its seaweed industry, it seeks to mainstream the use of Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP) in the province's agricultural development.

Seaweed was identified as the second priority commodity of Sorsogon. Seaweed farming provides livelihood to about 1,300 farmers in the province's top 10 seaweed-producing municipalities.

According to the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and the Agricultural Statistic Service, seaweeds from Sorsogon have higher quality of gel strength than seaweeds from other parts of the country. With 14 municipalities and one city, Sorsogon has an extensive coastal area. (Annielyn L. Baleza, RPCO 5 InfoACE)

## VISAYAS I-REAP component reviews Region 6 sub-projects

Eight regular enterprise sub-projects under Region 6 have undergone rigorous deliberation and study to fast track the issuance of NOL.

Included in the joint technical review are sub-projects on shellfish production and marketing, small-scale coco-based crude oil and copra cakes production,

abaca fiber trading, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-assisted small livelihood project, among others. PPMIU representatives from the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Negros Occidental and Guimaras, together with the proponent groups, presented their respective business plans which were open for deliberation, comments and suggestions from the National Project Coordinating Office (NPCO). (September Macahilo, PSO Visayas InfoACE)

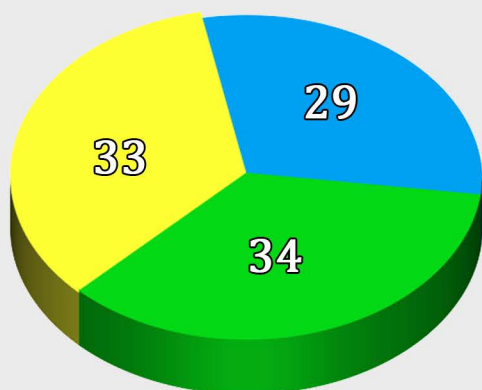
## MINDANAO Mindanao Cluster gets biggest PRDP infra portfolio

With 113 approved sub-projects amounting to P5.1 billion (B), the Mindanao Cluster gets the biggest infrastructure portfolio under the PRDP, which has already approved 190 infrastructure sub-projects amounting to P11.3-B.

Of the approved sub-projects, 69 are already under implementation and the bulk of these are also in Mindanao. The Luzon A Cluster has 22 approved sub-projects worth P2.1-B; the Luzon B Cluster has 30 sub-projects worth P2.2-B; and the Visayas Cluster has 25 sub-projects worth P1.9-B.

The PRDP, under its I-BUILD component, has P26.7 -B-worth of infrastructure sub-projects in the pipeline. (Fletcher Magatao, RPCO 13 InfoACE)

inFOCUS  
THIS MONTH



The Value Chain Analysis  
(VCA)

### Current status of VCA

- Ongoing Data Gathering/Writing of Report
- For or Under NPCO Review for NOL
- VCA approved by NPCO (NOL issued)

A value chain refers to the full range of activities, from input supply or raw material sourcing to production, processing, marketing and distribution of a commodity until it reaches the end-user.

The VCA is a tool used to assess the status of a particular industry, and the linkages and interplay of the different value chain players. The tool is used as well to identify upgrading strategies and interventions that could contribute to the development and strengthening of the industry's competitive advantage.

The VCA results serve as the bases in identifying public and private investment opportunities, which are reflected in the PCIP.

## ENABLING COMMUNITIES EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

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