PRDP inFOCUS

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PRDP mainstreams transparency, accountability in Western Visayas livelihood projects

For Fatter Cattle. Rey Ferrer (right), president of the Central Panay Green Revolution Association in Dueñas, Iloilo shows the proposed site for their cattle fattening small livelihood project (SLP), which the group has proposed for funding and technical assistance under the PRDP. The SLP will help the members increase their incomes as the association will buy fodder from them.*(Photo: Remegio S. Soqueño II/Wed Administrator-RPCO 6)*

The Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) in Western Visayas is engaging proponent groups for small livelihood projects (SLPs) in the region to uphold transparency and accountability in the management of their SLP finances.

During a recent training workshop on simplified financial management, farmer association partners have expressed their appreciation of how the DA-PRPD ensures transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds released to SLP proponent groups.

Rey Ferrer, president of the Dueñas, Iloilo-based Central Panay Green Revolution Association, said that proper recording system will ensure proper use of funds released by the DA-PRDP.

"Appropriate and proper recording of daily transactions in implementing the enterprise using different books of accounts will surely ensure success of our proposed cattle fattening project, an approved small livelihood project under the PRDP," Ferrer said.

Meanwhile, Andrew Tiples, secretary-general of the same organization said that the training workshop enabled him to discover more about the DA-PRDP and the kind of financial management system it requires from its proponent group partners.

"You cannot show and prove transparency to your members without showing them proper records of income and expenses reflected [in] the books of accounts," Tiples said.

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DA-PRDP's P113-M assistance to boost agribusiness in Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is optimistic that the P113 (M)-worth enterprise development sub-projects approved under the agency's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) will further enhance agribusiness in Central Luzon and Cagayan Valley Regions.

Late last year, the DA-PRDP National Project Coordination Office and North Luzon Project Support Office have endorsed eight out of 12 business and procurement plans compliant with the Project's requirements and standards for the issuance of a No Objection Letter (NOL).

The issuance of the NOL gives the go-signal to proceed with the procurement activities identified in the sub-project procurement plans.

The approval of the eight sub-projects came a few months after the World Bank had signaled the implementation of the P12.4-M integrated coffee processing and marketing enterprise in Tanudan and Tabuk City, Kalinga, the cluster's pilot I-REAP sub-project.

The I-REAP, or the Investments for Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Productivity is a component under the PRDP that aims to strengthen and develop viable agro-fisheries-based enterprises. Under this component, the PRDP provides technical, financial and infrastructure support to make value chains of key commodities in targeted sub-project areas more efficient.

The approved sub-projects are the P6.64-M dairy enterprise in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; P28.16-M dairy enterprise in Mallig, Isabela; P12.88-M Triple-B Charantin enterprise in San Ildefonso, Bulacan; P8.69-M ampalaya enterprise in San Jose, Nueva Ecija; P17.3-M onion farm mechanization service facility in Talavera, Nueva Ecija; P9.16-M onion enterprise in Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija; P27.84-M

Dairy Task. A worker at the existing facility of Maligaya Development Cooperative in Mallig, Isabela extracts cow's milk for bottling. The cooperative is the proponent group of the recently approved P28.16-million dairy enterprise in said town. *(Photo by Katrhino V. Resurrection, NPCO InfoACE Unit)*

sweet potato custom service provision, processing center and storage facility in Moncada, Tarlac; and P2.08-M mungbean production, a small livelihood project, in Botolan, Zambales.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala said that the farmers' association or cooperative-led enterprise development sub-projects will complement the PRDP's infrastructure development sub-projects and other DA regular programs and projects in these areas.

The Secretary also stressed that these interventions will provide members of proponent associations and cooperatives opportunities to increase their incomes.

"We are positive that our enterprise development interventions will enable farmers' associations and cooperatives to grow. And as these groups flourish, we could expect that the members economically progress as well," Alcala said.

The DA-PRDP is a six-year World Bank-assisted project that 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. The Project also seeks to benefit the greater segment of farmers and fishers to contribute to the nation's goal of inclusive growth.

PRDP mainstreams...
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Norlito Ibañez, head of the DA-PRDP enterprise development (I-REAP) component in the Project's Visayas cluster said that understanding the relevance of books of accounts among proponent groups will lead to easier generation of financial statements.

Ibañez stressed that appropriate record keeping is necessary to all DA-PRDP SLPs in order to liquidate the first tranche of fund releases to provincial local government units. It is also a requirement to avail of the second and final fund release.

The training workshop is part of the capability building interventions for SLP proponent groups in the region to enhance their capabilities in implementing enterprise development projects. The same is provided to all DA-PRDP SLP proponent groups in the entire country.

DA Secretary Proceso Alcala said that the PRDP is one of the agency's platforms to encourage participation of grassroots organizations in the government's rural development strategy.

"The PRDP is also a venue for the government to cultivate a culture of transparency and accountability among organizations that partner with and avail of resources from the government," Alcala added.

The DA-PRDP is a six-year project that envisions increasing farm and fishery productivity and household incomes of target areas in 16 regions. *(James Earl E. Ogatis, DA-PRDP RPCO-6 InfoACE Unit)*

PRDP Farm-to-market Roads: Reducing Post-harvest Costs, Increasing Farmers' Profits

"Traveling on our [dirt] road has been very difficult for us. And when it comes [to hauling our products] we have to pay more because of the bad road condition. Now, we pay P20 per sack for the hauling of our rice harvest. But after the [construction of the] road has been finished, we would only pay P10 per sack."

Mercedita Billones, 47, farmer and agrarian reform beneficiary of Songkoy, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte

Name of Sub-project: Construction of Gamoton-Lake Mainit Farm-to-market Road
Cost: 8.74 million
Length: 1 kilometer

NEWS BRIEFS

LUZON A (North Luzon)

PRDP Cordillera approves P32-M livelihood projects for Typhoon Lando-affected areas

To help farmers in the region recover from the brunt of Typhoon Lando, the PRDP Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) has approved P32 million-worth small livelihood project (SLP) proposals submitted by the Provinces of Abra, Benguet and Mountain Province under the Project's enterprise development (I-REAP) component.

The SLPs will provide short-term recovery interventions for the farmers, according to Josie Beray, I-REAP component head of the CAR Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO).

Dr. Danilo Daguio, deputy project director of the RPCO in CAR, said that accepting of SLP proposals is extended until December 2016. He added that SLPs require less rigid measures for approval, unlike other PRDP sub-project proposals. *(Mabel Zabala, RPCO CAR InfoACE Unit)*

LUZON B (South Luzon)

Over P1-B funding for rural dev't to aid Bicol farmers, fisherfolk

The PRDP's Bicol Regional Project Coordination Office has announced that the region has already received over P1 billion-worth of sub-projects from the Project since 2014, enabling more farmers and fishers to be assisted by the government's flagship platform on rural development.

Over P1.1 billion-worth of these sub-projects are for infrastructure development such as concreting of farm-to-market roads. Over P91 million-worth of these sub-projects, on the other hand, are for enterprise development.

These sub-projects are expected to raise the annual real farm incomes of household beneficiaries by at least five percent; increase the value of annual marketed output by seven percent; and boost the number of farmers and fishers with improved access to DA services by 20 percent.

Shandy M. Hubilla, director of the PRDP Luzon B (South Luzon) Project Support Office has also announced that they are now accepting proposals for small livelihood projects for Typhoon Nona-affected areas in Albay and Sorsogon, and Typhoon Lando-affected areas in Catanduanes. *(Annielyn L. Baleza, RPCO 5 InfoACE Unit)*

VISAYAS

After Nona: infra, livelihood projects approved in Eastern Visayas

After the havoc brought about by Typhoon Nona in Eastern Visayas, help has come on its way after the PRDP's Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) in the region approved for funding three infrastructure development sub-projects and six small livelihood projects (SLPs).

The RPAB endorsed three farm-to-market road (FMR) sub-projects, namely, the 2.96-kilometer Salhag-Kailingnan FMR in Rosario, Northern Samar; 4.38-kilometer Hantag-Laboon FMR in Maasin City, Southern Leyte; and 5.95-kilometer Cogon-Villa Aurora FMR in Basey, Samar.

The newly approved SLPs are from the proponent groups of the municipalities of Almeria, Biliran; and Catarman, Allen and Mondragon in Northern Samar. *(Rodel Macapanas, RPCO 9 InfoACE Unit)*

MINDANAO

DA-PRDP turns over machineries to boost cassava project in South Cotabato

The lead proponent group of a cassava granules production and marketing sub-project in South Cotabato, implemented under the PRDP is positive that the machinery awarded to them by the Project will further boost their productivity.

Five tractors were recently turned-over to cassava farmers in Polomolok town to improve the implementation of their cassava-based enterprise.

"We are moving forward. The five cooperatives continue our positive and upbeat implementation of the project," Raul Gerada, chair of the Polo Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Polo SN MPC), said in his acceptance message during the ceremony.

Polo SNMPC is the lead proponent of the P39-million enterprise development sub-project, together with other cluster members, namely, the Self-Reliant MPC, San Jose MPC, Pobusilla MPC, and Topland MPC. A P20-million funding was released to the cluster last year to jumpstart their sub-project implementation. *(Carl Ulysses L. Aguillon, RPCO 12 InfoACE Unit; Sherwin B. Manual, PSO Mindanao InfoACE Unit)*

inFOCUS THIS MONTH

Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP): Optimizing competitive advantage through harmonized national-local strategies

To strengthen local-level planning capacities, the PRDP requires partner LGUs to craft a Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP). The PCIP is a three-year rolling plan that identifies appropriate upgrading strategies and interventions to be proposed by an LGU for a particular industry. This mechanism harmonizes national goals of the agro-fishery sector with local needs, priorities and strategies, hence, effectively developing the subject industry's competitive advantage.

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