



## **A road project no more rotten agri produce in Kalinga town soon**

**Narrow and Weathered.** Soon, this portion and the rest of the 13-kilometer stretch of the Banneng-Gombowoy farm-to-market road in Tanudan, Kalinga will be concreted under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP). Farmers from this town, the top producer of coffee beans in Kalinga, have long endured this narrow and weathered road in transporting their products to Tabuk City, the province's capital and commercial hub 20 kilometers away. *(Photo by Ma. Isabel B. Zabala)*

For Agnina Bomosao, a resident of Barangay Pangol in Tanudan, Kalinga, the government's new farm-to-market road (FMR) project in their town means no more rotting of their agricultural produce.

"We are happy that the road will be improved so that we can easily sell our products from our barangays. Our [products] are rotting because we find it difficult to transport them to the market," Bomosao said.

Recently, the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural

Development Project (DA-PRDP) has endorsed the implementation of the improvement of the 13-kilometer Banneng-Gombowoy farm-to-market road (FMR) that was proposed to address this difficulty, among other issues, in this town.

The P119 million-worth FMR will pass through barangays Dupligan, Lay-asan, Mabaca, Pangol and Banneng and is expected to benefit a population of 4,000 individuals or about 700 households.

The Tanudan municipality is connected to the capital city, Tabuk, by a steep, rough, rugged and muddy 20-kilometer road. Even before the municipality's founding in 1932, the poor road condition has caused several transportation problems to the residents.

Read more on p.3 



# Tarlac road upgrade a boon to sweet potato 'home'

Dubbed as Tarlac's Home of Sweet Potato, the Sapang Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SPMC) in Moncada town can soon further develop its sweet potato industry with the improvement of a 14.7-kilometer farm-to-market road (FMR) that links it to the market.

The FMR sub-project implemented under the infrastructure development (I-BUILD) component of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) is expected to augment the income of sweet potato farmers as hauling cost is reduced. Through reduced travel time from the farms to the markets, the road will improve the efficiency of farm inputs and produce delivery.

The P142-million FMR will support the sub-project on provision of custom service and establishment of processing center and storage facility for sweet potato. The sub-project, which will be managed by the SPMC, is implemented under the DA-PRDP's enterprise development (I-REAP) component.

The FMR will benefit at least three barangays, namely, Capaoayan, Banaoang and Ablang Sapang, with a population of about 58,000 or more than 13,700 households.

Ricardo Cayapan, a farmer from Banaoang West shares the hardship they encounter in traversing the existing road, particularly in emergency situations.

"This project is really a big deal to us. Because our area is always prone to flood, it's really hard when we encounter emergencies and we need to rush to the hospital. It's a big sacrifice, but we have no choice but to keep up with it," Cayapan said.

Tarlac Province largely depends on the agriculture sector's growth for its local economic development, as it boasts wide production areas of commercial crops. However, the current condition of some farm-to-market roads (FMRs) limits transportation efficiency, hence limiting increase of farmers' incomes. (Kayla Arceo, PSO Luzon A InfoACE Unit) ■



**Sweet Potato Home.** Member farmers of the Sapang Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative transplant sweet potato (kamote) cuttings on a farm in Moncada, Tarlac. Their approved enterprise development sub-project aims to increase the incomes of farmers by at least 5% on the first year and 30% after six years of operations. Likewise, it will create additional employment opportunities in the municipality.



## With DA road project... (from page 1)

"We have experienced difficulty transporting our products such as coffee, banana, corn and others to the market—we would have wanted to sell these—because of the distance and the poor road condition," Bomosao said.

Bomosao explained that the road is dusty during summer and is not passable during rainy season. According to her, students are also having a hard time going to school because vehicle drivers avoid using the road.

"The road is so muddy during the rainy season that is why we have to take our shoes

off and go barefoot to school," one high school student from Pangol said.

Bomosao added that with the new road, their community will be encouraged to pursue coffee production with hopes of increasing their income.


While Tanudan is also a producer of rice, corn, banana and fruits, the town was identified as a major coffee production area in Kalinga with 65% of its total municipal agricultural land devoted to this crop.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said that under the PRDP, the DA implements rural infrastructure development sub-projects not as stand-alone interventions but as support to flagship agricultural commodities in

targeted areas.

"We ensure that our infrastructure development sub-projects complement existing or proposed enterprise development sub-projects to yield the optimum outcomes for our smallholders," Alcala added.

The DA-PRDP is a six-year national project that aims to partner with local government units and the private sector in providing key infrastructure, facilities, technology and knowledge that will raise incomes, productivity and competitiveness in the countryside. *(Mabel Zabala, RPCO-CAR Info-ACE Unit)* ■



## Nurturing Collective Responsibility for Integrity of Interventions

"In the PRDP, implementation [of sub-projects] undergoes stringent processes. The documents should be [prepared] in accordance with set rules. We can see here transparency and accountability, as well as collective responsibility, including that of proponent groups whom we want to directly assist."

Ely H. Vargas, Assistant Provincial Agriculturist,  
Oriental Mindoro

Name of sub-project: Oriental Mindoro  
Calamansi Trading Center  
Location: Victoria, Naujan and Calapan City,  
Oriental Mindoro  
Cost: P9.7 million



# NEWS BRIEFS

LUZON A (North Luzon)

## New road to boost trade in NE veggie bowl

The recently approved sub-project on the improvement of the Basang Hamog-Pantoc-Bulac farm-to-market road (FMR) is expected to improve the economic activity in Nueva Ecija's so-called vegetable bowl, Talavera municipality.

For David Macapagal, a farmer from Basang Hamog, the way of living in their area has remained relatively slow through the years due to transportation difficulties, the area seems to get overlooked by investors.

The sub-project implemented under the DA-PRDP will upgrade the existing road into a safe and climate-resilient access that is supportive of agricultural production.

"We are hopeful for the construction of the road. The new road will result to a shorter time in transporting our products like rice and vegetables. We can be able to sell them fresh because of the shorter time of transportation," he said. (*Kayla Arceo, PSO North Luzon InfoACE Unit*)

LUZON B (South Luzon)

## Bicol's biggest farm-to-market road project starts

Two groundbreaking ceremonies have signaled the start of the implementation of the biggest farm-to-market road (FMR) sub-project under the DA-

PRDP in the Bicol Region—the concreting of the Pinagwarasan—Lanot FMR covered by Basud and Mercedes municipalities.

According to Shandy M. Hubilla, director of the DA-PRDP's Project Support Office (PSO) in South Luzon, the Project's issuance of the No Objection Letter 2 has allowed the winning bidder to proceed with the construction of the 21.15-kilometer FMR worth P219.8 million.

"I am very much thankful because this is a big help for us when going to Daet [the capital and commercial center]. It won't be hard for us to commute; transporting our products will become easier," coconut and rice farmer Susan delos Santos of Barangay Colasi in Mercedes town said.

The FMR will benefit at least 17,500 individuals or 3,500 households in four barangays in Basud and nine coastal barangays in Mercedes. (*Annielyn L. Balez, RPCO 5 InfoACE Unit*)

VISAYAS

## Governance benefits of geotagging stressed in LGUs-contractors' training

The benefits of the DA-PRDP's applied geotagging tool (AGT) in good governance, which is espoused by the Project, were highlighted in a recent training for local government units (LGUs) and contractors in Eastern Visayas.

Engr. Samuel Belamide, head of the geomapping and governance unit at the DA-PRDP's national office emphasized that the AGT, which may be used for free, could aid in decision making, promote transparency in project implementation and ultimately, ensure proper use of government funds.

"We can use [the AGT] especially in validation and monitoring of sub-projects, and even in the process of assessment or evaluation. This will bring about savings in favor of the government as through its proper application, [we] will avoid, for instance, any possible duplication of funding support for any project, and making full payment over unfinished, or worse, non-existent projects," Belamide explained. (*Rodel G. Macapañas RPCO 8 InfoACE Unit*)

MINDANAO

## LGUs urged to propose small enterprises

The DA-PRDP has urged local government units (LGUs), through qualified proponent groups, to propose small and micro enterprise projects up to P15 million pesos under the Project's enterprise development (I-REAP) component.

Arnel de Mesa, national deputy project director of the DA-PRDP has recently announced that startup enterprise projects are now eligible for financing under PRDP's enterprise development component.

"The reason for easing the requirements for I-REAP is for the Project to be more inclusive for those associations and cooperatives with less experience and/or just beginning to implement projects," de Mesa explained.

De Mesa added that startup business even with limited experience on the proposed enterprise can submit proposals as long as they have an association that can help them (in the implementation) and that they are SEC-registered for at least a year." (*Jay M. Rosas PSO Mindanao InfoACE Unit*)

inFOCUS THIS MONTH



Web-based MIS system:  
Rationalizing management decision

The PRDP has worked out on another innovation milestone with the development of its web-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System.

Spearheaded by the Project's M&E unit, the new system fast-tracks the consolidation of project data throughout all regions, thus, enhancing overall Project documentation.

Through the system, progress monitoring is now more systematic, timely and regular with encoded update reports from the Project's components and units.

With real-time, accurate, and sufficient data, milestones are easily tracked, hence, streamlining management decision from the national to the regional levels.

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