



Land value surges along DA-PRDP's longest road project



More Travel Options. A longer-than-usual modified jeepney passes through a segment of the DA-PRDP's Imbang-Grande-Agtabo farm-to-market road (FMR) sub-project in Barangay Jaguimitan, Passi City, Iloilo. With increased economic activities in the barangays traversed by the FMR, more vehicles are now purchased by the residents, giving them more options on transportation other than these jeepneys that only travel once a day.

Land value along the Imbang Grande-Agtabo farm-to-market road (FMR) sub-project in Passi City, Iloilo, the DA-PRDP's longest sub-project in the country, has increased as the project implementation progresses, local officials said.

Nonato Palma, captain of Barangay Jaguimitan said that before, land-owners sell their lots at P300 per square meter.

"Now, as the road is being rehabilitated, the price per square meter has increased to about P600

per square meter. We expect that after the completion of the project, the price per square meter will reach P1000 or more," Palma said.

Palma also noted that as the value of real property in the villages traversed by the FMR increases, economic activities have also become more vigorous. He shared that a resident has even put up a bakery, which their community did not have before.

Sugarcane farmer and fish vendor Melrose Pagurayan said that it has become

easier for her to sell fish around their community and to the nearby villages as the road is being rehabilitated.

"It is now easier for us to go to the market [in the city proper] to sell our products and buy our supplies, as well as items we re-sell in our village," the fifty-one-year-old said, noting that more sari-sari stores (small variety stores) have been put up in their village since the start of the road rehabilitation works.

Read more on p.3 

Geomapping eyed as key tool for PCIP enhancement

As the PRDP continuously streamlines its planning tools and processes, the Project has identified geomapping as a key tool to further enhance the formulation and updating of Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs).

Crafting a PCIP requires vigorous and extensive research, and the result is a comprehensive document that serves as a basis on what appropriate infrastructure and enterprise sub-projects should be implemented in a particular area.

PCIPs, which are based on value chain analyses (VCAs), identify priority programs and projects that aim to increase marketable surplus through investments in strategic rural infrastructure and enterprises.

In a recent training at the Luzon A cluster of the Project, the importance of geomapping as an integral part of

innovative planning—that is, producing the PCIPs—was highlighted. The I-PLAN component of the cluster also discussed how the component intends to make the tool a part of the planning system.

Ariel Briones, head of the I-PLAN component of the Luzon A Project Support Office (PSO) said that other than completing the PCIP, the PRDP wants to reform the process of planning for the benefit of the agriculture and fishery sector, and the rural community.

“Let’s not stop substantially gathering information,” Briones said.

Geomapping is a spatial mapping technique used to represent geographical data such as agricultural patterns, crop production and land suitability into an online interactive visual map.

The tool aids in targeting and prioritizing development interventions, and is essential in determining whether priority agricultural commodities are within the value chain that is viable for investment, as captured in the VCA and eventually, reflected in the PCIP.

Geomapping is further complemented by the Expanded Vulnerability and Suitability Assessment (e-VSA), an online tool developed by the PRDP to ensure technical validity and greater transparency in planning and prioritization of infrastructure and enterprise development sub-projects. *(With report from Kayla Arceo, PSO Luzon A InfoACE Unit)* ■

Realizing Aspirations of Rural Communities

“Sabi ng mga matatanda noon, puputi raw ang uwak kung masesemento ang daan namin. Eh ngayon, pumuti na [siguro] ang uwak kasi nasesemento na.”

[Our elders had said that the crow would turn white if our road will be concreted. The crow would have already turned white since our road is now being concreted.]

Nonato B. Palma, Barangay Captain,
Jaguimitan, Passi City, Iloilo
on the rehabilitation of the 28-kilometer
Imbang Grande-Agtabo farm-to-market road (FMR)
that passes through their village



Land value surges... (from page 1)

More residents have also bought motorcycles, according to Pagurayan, making transportation to and from the city proper more accessible anytime of the day, especially for students.

"Before, we had to wait for jeepneys that only travel on once-a-day schedule; now, we can go to the city anytime we want," Pagurayan said.

Myrna Reyes, another farmer said that before, it was difficult for them to transport their products to the city.

"We would leave very early in the morning, but we would arrive in Passi

City at high noon. Our products were no longer fresh by the time we get to the city. [More] public utility vehicles now ply this road such as motorcycles and tricycles. We can travel anytime without having to wake up at 2 a.m. just to catch the jeepney—the only mode of transportation before," Reyes said.

The FMR, which traverses 10 barangays, will benefit at least 19,000 individuals or 4,000 households in a road influence area of 12,600 hectares.


Among the major commodities that the FMR will support in the area are rice, sugarcane and corn.

Besides supporting increased agricultural productivity, the FMR,

will also support emergency response to mitigate disaster in Central Iloilo which was devastated by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013.

At least 1,200 kilometers of FMRs, along with other infrastructures such as bridges, potable water systems and communal irrigation systems, among others, are expected to be constructed all over the country before the Project ends in 2020.

The DA-PRDP is seeking for additional funding from the World Bank to finance the implementation of more infrastructure sub-projects proposed by LGUs. *(With report from Rem Soqueño, RPCO 6 InfoACE Unit)* ■



PCIPs: Broadening Investment Opportunities for Champion Commodities

"With our PCIP, we secured commitments from other agencies and even municipal LGUs. We already have a lot of interventions provided. The DTI has provided our calamansi processing center with equipment, the DOST provided the processors training on packaging and labeling.

With our PCIP as reference document, we're planning to conduct an investment forum where investors can look into rooms for investment. As Calamansi King, the province welcomes investors to further upgrade the calamansi industry not only in production but in processing and value adding."

**Marilyn M. Alcanices, Supervising Agriculturist,
Province of Oriental Mindoro**

NEWS BRIEFS

LUZON A (North Luzon)

Quirino road project to cut market delivery time by 50%

A farm-to-market-road (FMR) sub-project being constructed under the DA-PRDP in Cabarroguis town in Quirino Province is expected to reduce travel time from the farmers' production areas to the market by at least 50 percent, or from 35 to 17 minutes.

Not only the farmers' fresh harvest will reach the market faster but the Gamis-Calaocan FMR will also reduce output hauling cost by at least 33 percent, or from P15 per sack to P10 per sack, providing additional earnings for the farmers.

The P146.6-million FMR will likewise encourage the development of new agricultural areas, estimated to be at 200 hectares, hence increasing volume of production.

"This project would allow us to finish our important transactions faster and easier," Charlie del Rosario, a resident of Barangay Banuar, said. *(Kayla Arceo, Luzon A PSO InfoACE Unit)*

LUZON B (South Luzon)

LGUs role vital in PRDP's implementation—South Luzon cluster director

Keeping the ball rolling is in the hands of LGUs.

This was stressed by the director of the DA-PRDP's Luzon B (South Luzon) cluster PSO to LGU representatives in a recent assessment of infrastructure

sub-project implementation in the cluster.

Director Shandy M. Hubilla emphasized that unlike the LGU's fund counterpart that is 10% of the total project cost, the LGU's contribution to the project implementation should be 100%. "You do the implementation; we do the monitoring," he told the LGUs.

Hubilla also introduced the Back-to-Office Report (BTOR), which according to him "is an efficient tool that will be used by the monitoring and evaluation unit." The duly signed BOTR and the conduct of exit conference are now required from the LGUs and staff of the Regional Project Coordination Office so that highlights of field activities will be properly documented and discussed.

Lastly, Hubilla emphasized that it should be the LGUs' responsibility to engage the contractors in adhering to the Project's standards. *(Gumamela Celes Bejarin, PSO Luzon B InfoACE Unit)*

VISAYAS

Eastern Samar LGUs to get aid for marine biodiversity conservation

With the grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), marine protected areas of the municipalities of Guiuan, Mercedes Salcedo, Quinapondan and Lawaan in Eastern Samar will soon implement sub-projects under the DA-PRDP that will support the livelihood of residents while conserving marine resources.

The US\$7-million (about P300-million) GEF grant is part of the package under the DA-PRDP that aims to protect coastal and marine resource base in targeted priority areas by preserving biodiversity and promoting fisheries resource management.

Recently, the Project's coordinating office in Region 8 conducted a planning activity where the stakeholders were re-oriented about the GEF component. Implementation arrangements with different components and partner agencies, as well as the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems management using marine spatial planning, among others, were also discussed. *(Rodel G. Macapañas, RPCO 8 InfoACE Unit)*

MINDANAO

DA-PRDP creates over 11K jobs in Mindanao

The DA-PRDP's implementation in Mindanao has so far generated a total of 11,510 jobs from its infrastructure development sub-projects since 2013.

Paying at least P253.43 million in wages, the infrastructure development (I-BUILD) component of the Project implements farm-to-market road, bridge, irrigation system and potable water system sub-projects in collaboration with LGUs and the private contractors.

"Some 4,175 skilled workers were hired ranging from engineers, drivers, masons, heavy equipment operators, welders, steelmen, carpenters and foremen. While, unskilled workers such as laborers and helpers counted at 7,335 over the period of over 3 years and counting," PRDP Mindanao cluster director Lealyn Ramos said.

As more sub-projects have yet to be implemented, Ramos expects that the Project will create more jobs along the way. *(Sherwin B. Manual, Mindanao PSO InfoACE Unit)*

inFOCUS
THIS MONTH



"... We have designed the PRDP to be the DA's platform for reform. There is no going back on this commitment. Whatever we plan and undertake in PRDP, let us ensure that those plans and programs contribute to making the DA a better bureaucracy."

—DA Secretary
Proceso J. Alcala

(From speech delivered during the wrap-up meeting for the 2nd World Bank Implementation Support Mission to the PRDP)

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