



# PRDPinFOCUS

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National Project Coordination Office (NPCO)  
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## DA prods LGUs to tap non-road infra projects anew

Other types of rural infrastructures eligible for financing under the PRDP:

- Production facilities
- Postharvest facilities
- Fish landings
- Fish sanctuaries
- Tramlines
- Greenhouses
- Solar driers
- Watchtowers
- Nursery watchtowers
- Slope stabilization works

**Rural Roadwork.** A concrete saw operator cuts control joints on the farm-to-market road (FMR) being constructed in Dapacan Bajo, Bunawan and D'Ban villages in Calamba, Misamis Occidental. As the budget for similar rural infrastructure has already been oversubscribed under the PRDP, the DA encourages local government units to propose for other infrastructure subprojects other than FMRs.

The Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) is again encouraging local government units (LGUs) to propose for other infrastructure subprojects besides farm-to-market roads (FMRs).

According to DA Undersecretary Ariel Cayanan, who serves as the PRDP's national project director, LGUs need not limit their proposals to FMRs as there are other equally important infrastructure subprojects available under the PRDP portfolio that they can access.

"While we recognize the big role of FMRs in making our agricultural production system more efficient, we also have to think how to complement these with other facilities that could further improve our productivity," Cayanan said.

The list of other infrastructure projects eligible under the infrastructure development component of the PRDP—which remains practically untapped—includes, among others, production and post-harvest facilities, fish landings, fish sanctuaries, tram lines, greenhouses, solar driers and even watch towers.

The PRDP has recently reported that it has allocated at least P473 million for these types of subprojects.

Post-harvest facilities may include equipment needed to process staple grains such as rice and corn, and other valuable agricultural produce such as coconut, cacao and bananas into various ready-for-market products.

Read more on p.3 



## Tap PRDP's enterprise development funds, Bicol LGUs urged

The Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) is urging the local government units (LGUs) in Bicol to expedite their filing of subproject proposals to access the Project's remaining budget on enterprise development.

The Bicol Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) reported in its recent re-orientation meeting series with LGUs that at least P185 million is still at stake under the enterprise development, or the Investments for Rural Enterprises and Agricultural and Fisheries Productivity (I-REAP) Component of the PRDP.

Adelina Losa, I-REAP component head of the PRDP-Bicol, said that municipal LGUs may now partner with the DA in implementing subprojects under the PRDP.

She explained that originally, the entry point was the provincial LGU, but in order to expand the Project's

reach, the management has decided to accept subproject proposals from the municipal level.

During the meetings, personnel from the PRDP's components and units also provided an overview of the implementation process, including discussions on documentary requirements and innovative tools. The use of geotagging technology, value chain analysis, and expanded vulnerability and suitability assessment were highlighted.

The orienting team also underscored the Project's commitment to global quality standards and social and environmental safeguards, as well as the focus on local commodities and observance of participatory implementation, to convince newly elected local chief executives to engage more in the Project.

Attendees of the re-orientation

meetings expressed assurance that they would convince their respective principals to access the PRDP's available funds, highlighting outstanding characteristics of the Project, such as PRDP's lower counterpart scheme, reducing the need for the LGU to ask for loan from other funding agencies to implement its infrastructure and livelihood projects.

Interested LGUs must first submit a letter of intent to the PRDP through the DA Regional Field Office and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Project to officially start the partnership.

As of this writing, Bicol has a total of five I-BUILD subprojects worth P6.42 million being implemented and four I-REAP sub-projects P47.79 million, which are still under procurement stages. (Annielyn L. Baleza, PRDP RPCO 5 InfoACE Unit.) ■



Coco-net Enterprise. Weavers Edwin Sentillas (left) and Crecenciano Tolop (right) in Libon, Albay weave coconut husk fiber twines into geonets, which are used for stream, riverbank and shoreline protection, slope stabilization, and mining sites rehabilitation. The cooperative producing these geonets has sought for the PRDP's assistance in the purchase of additional machines needed to expand its operations, hence employing more workers. The PRDP's office in the region encourages local government units, in partnership with farmers' and fisherfolk's cooperatives and associations to propose for enterprise development subprojects like the coco-net enterprise. (Photo by Hermito Antonio T. Privaldos)



## DA prods LGUs...(from page 1)

Fish landings facilities may include transport for the actual collection of fish from the sea up to the cleaning, chilling, weighing and packing. To maintain the freshness of the catch and the overall quality of the fish products, the most important facility would be cold storage, which can also be funded under the PRDP.

Tramlines, on the other hand, are unmanned suspended transport system that are particularly useful for hauling agricultural products in areas where roads would be expensive or difficult to construct. It uses cables which eliminates the need for additional cost from trucking.

Also part of the list are slope stabilization works that may be needed to protect existing infrastructure including FMRs in

landslide-prone areas, hence ensuring continuity of agricultural production even during disasters.

It can be recalled that the PRDP had also sought proposals for communal irrigation systems and potable water systems, the P337-million available budget for which has barely been tapped. The budget for FMRs, meanwhile, has already been over-subscribed.

The undersubscription for non-FMR infrastructure subprojects was pointed out during a recent discussion for the proposed additional financing of US \$450 million for the PRDP, which was approved in principle by the technical board of the National Economic Development Authority's Investment Coordination Committee (NEDA-ICC).

It was noted that other than FMRs, there were no pipelined subprojects for other types of infrastructures that are likewise important in providing opportunities for farmers and fishers to improve the livelihoods.

"As the government promotes bottom-up approach in developing the agriculture sector, the DA welcomes more partnerships with LGUs in providing needed rural infrastructures to improve productivity—that is, on top of farm-to-market roads," Cayanan said.

The PRDP is a six-year national government platform for a modern, inclusive, value chain-oriented, and climate-smart agriculture and fisheries sector co-funded by the World Bank, the national government and participating LGUs. (Alladin S. Diega, DA-PRDP NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■



### PRDP FMRs: Triggering Economic Vitality in Rural Communities

"Before, life here was difficult because of the poor road condition. We had to leave at 3 a.m. since only one jeepney plies through this road to and from the city. That's why when we go to the city, we had to buy all our supplies. Now, more [public utility] vehicles are getting passengers here. Also, there are now fish vendors in motorcycles roving around households. More stores are likewise opening along the new road."

Melrose P. Pagurayan  
Resident of Jaguimitan, Passi City, Iloilo on the  
concreting of the Imbang Grande–Agtabo  
farm-to-market road



# NEWS BRIEFS

## LUZON A (North Luzon) PRDP to CAR business dev't teams: Make agri-preneurs

The PRDP is pushing the Business Development Teams (BDTs) in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to focus their technical assistance on the marketing and processing aspects of production to help marginal farmers become agri-entrepreneurs.

"I suggest that you focus on assisting our farmers develop their marketing and processing [skills] more than the production process because they are having a hard time connecting to the bigger markets," Bernard Paningbatan, head of the Project Support Office I-REAP Component, told the region's BDTs during a recent training on business plan preparation.

He added that BDTs should as well find out the product requirements of the different market niches as well.

The participants were also encouraged to introduce innovations in their respective provincial priority crops. *(Ma. Imelda Isabel Zabala, RPCO CAR InfoACE Unit)*

## LUZON B (South Luzon) PRDP asks Laguna local execs for implementation support

The PRDP has asked the local chief executives of 16 Laguna towns to exercise leadership in the implementation

of projects designed to improve lives of their respective constituents, particularly small farmers.

During a recently held project implementation orientation, Engr. Arnel de Mesa, PRDP's national deputy project director, stressed that LGUs are the main partners of the DA in the implementation of PRDP's subprojects.

The multi-commodity Provincial Commodity Investment Plan of Laguna covers dairy cattle, coffee, and coconut. Currently, the province has two infrastructure development subprojects located in Luisiana and Cavinti towns, while its sole enterprise development subproject, the corn silage production in Calauan municipality, is still in the preparation stage. *(Lawrence Albert A. Bariring, DA-PRDP RPCO 4A InfoACE Unit)*

## VISAYAS Tigbauan FMR rehab work to start soon

Some 20,000 farmers and residents of Tigbauan, Iloilo, will soon experience the comfort of traveling on a concrete FMR as the subproject's proposal received the final nod from the PRDP.

The road rehabilitation covers 15 barangays, including Parara Norte, Parara Sur, Bagacay, Dorong-an, Buenavista, Bayuco, Binaliuan Mayor, Binaliuan Minor, San Rafael, Nagba, Sermon, Dapdap, Taro and Jamog. It is estimated that about 4,660 households will benefit from the 7.89-kilometer infrastructure.

The groundbreaking of the P77-million-worth FMR subproject is expected to be

held before the end of this quarter. *(September Noon A. Macahilo, PSO Visayas, InfoAce)*

## MINDANAO Mindanao LCEs vow support for PRDP

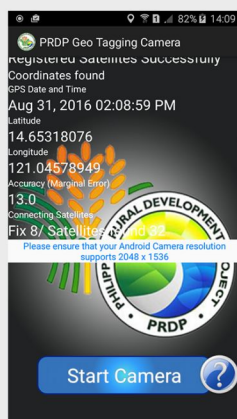
Newly elected local chief executives of Mindanao have pledged to continue support and implement the subprojects under the PRDP.

In a recent information caravan conducted by the PRDP, Davao Oriental Governor Nelson L. Dayanghirang said his administration will continue supporting the implementation of PRDP subprojects, including those that were started by the previous administration and even those in the pipeline.

"If there are problems, we will find solution to make [the implementation] successful," Dayanghirang added.

"It is true that the process of availing a subproject under PRDP is tough and the requirements take time to be complied with, but we still remain patient and determined to effect improvements in our municipality," Leonida Manpatilan, mayor of Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, said.

The PRDP's Regional Project Coordinating Offices in Mindanao have conducted Information caravans across the six regions to ensure that local officials, especially newly elected sustain the partnership with local government units. *(Pooled reports from Fretcher Magatao, RPCO 13 InfoACE Unit; Carl Agullion, RPCO 10 InfoACE Unit; Janelle Flores, RPCO 11 InfoACE Unit; and Sherwin B. Manual, PSO Mindanao InfoACE Unit)*



## The PRDP Geotagging Camera Android App: Tool for Transparency and Accountability

The app was developed for ease of use, security and accuracy in the conduct of geotagging documentation. It combines two basic applications in geotagging—the GPS and the digital camera.

Its enhanced security features—including bar-coded outputs—can detect illegal photo modifications. Through virtual tour, engineers and managers of the Project can monitor the progress and condition of subprojects with associated geotagged photos.

Geotagging has revolutionized the promotion of transparency and accountability in the PRDP. It is now being mainstreamed in the DA operations, and adopted by other government agencies.

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