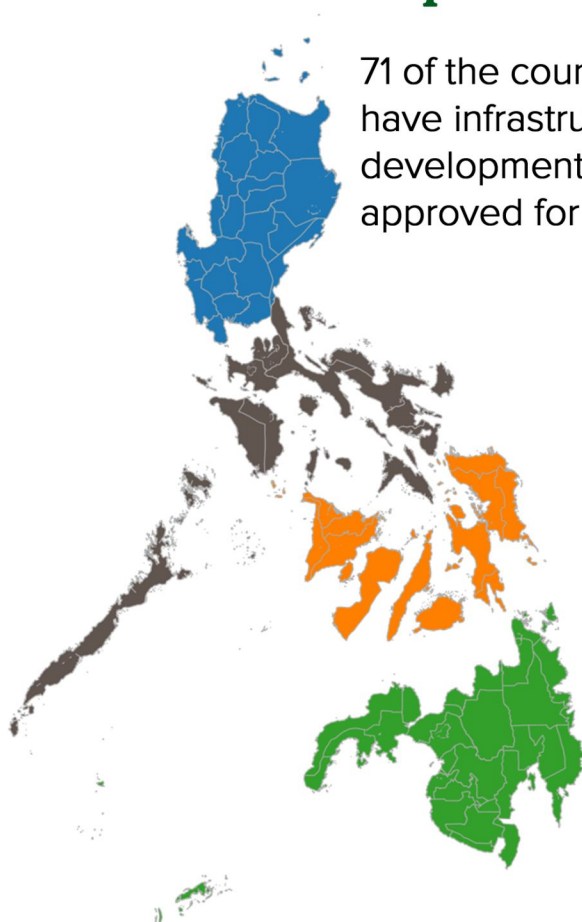
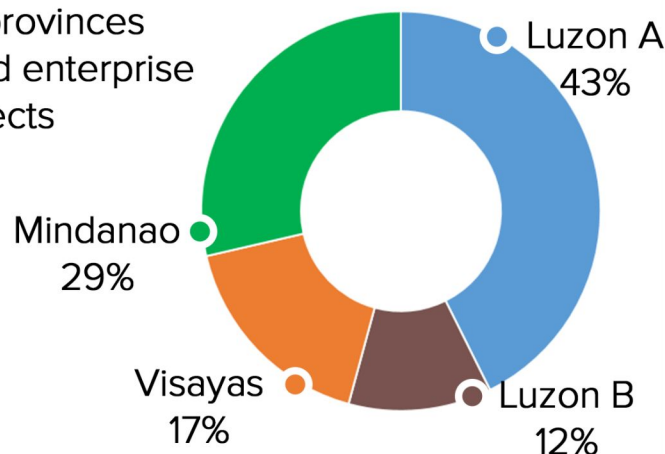




DA further expands reach of rural dev't project



71 of the country's 81 provinces have infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects approved for funding



Number of Approved Infrastructure and Enterprise Development Subprojects per Cluster

	I-BUILD	I-REAP	Total	
Luzon A	111	202	313	43%
Luzon B	46	39	85	12%
Visayas	39	87	126	17%
Mindanao	175	35	210	29%
			734	100%

With only ten of the country's 81 provinces yet to be covered, the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) has further expanded its reach nationwide this year.

As of December 31, 2016, 71 provinces have already clinched approved subprojects under the agency's flagship platform for value chain-oriented, climate-smart and inclusive agri-fishery sector development.

Of the P19.99-billion total funding for approved subprojects, the Mindanao cluster secured the biggest share at P8.38 billion, followed by the Luzon A cluster at P5.01 billion. The Luzon A cluster

comprises the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Cordillera regions.

The Luzon B cluster—composed of the CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and Bicol regions—meanwhile has an approved portfolio amounting to P3.59 billion. The Visayas cluster has the smallest portfolio at P3.01 billion-worth of approved subprojects.

The approved subprojects will benefit at least 380,000 households under the infrastructure development component, and 63,000 households under the enterprise development component.

While some provinces including Basilan, Batanes, Camiguin, Cavite, Davao Occidental, Dinagat Islands, Negros Oriental, Rizal, Siquijor and Sulu have yet to implement subprojects under the PRDP, only two provinces—Biliran and Davao Occidental—have not yet crafted their respective Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs).

The PCIP is a value chain analysis-based document that is used by the provincial local government units as reference in selecting rural infrastructures and enterprise development subprojects to be proposed for funding under the PRDP.

P19-billion infra, P731-million enterprise projects

DA Undersecretary for Operations and PRDP National Project Director Ariel Cayanán said that as of end of the year, 44 of the 81 provinces already have infrastructure subprojects, which may already be completed, or under construction or procurement.

“Most of the approved infrastructure subprojects are farm-to-market roads (FMRs), the equivalent length of which totals to 1,644 kilometers, including 362.21 kilometer-long FMRs with bridges. We have already completed 22 FMRs stretching to 70.26 kilometers, while 97 FMRs equivalent to 672 kilometers are at various stages of construction,” Cayanán said.

The infrastructure component of the Project has so far approved the funding of 371 infrastructure development subprojects worth P19.26 billion.

The undersecretary noted that aside from the total approved subprojects, there are 297 pipelined subprojects

amounting to P23.02 billion and 231 projects under procurement with P10.98 billion budget.

Cayanán added that infrastructure subprojects under procurement and in the pipeline also includes non-FMR facilities such as potable water systems, communal irrigation systems, slope protection, warehouses and trading posts, among others.

Under its enterprise development component, the Project has already approved 363 enterprise development subprojects worth P731.34 million. These include microenterprises (formerly called small livelihood projects) mostly proposed in areas severely hit by natural calamities such as the Bohol earthquake and Typhoons Yolanda, Lando and Nona, to help farmers and fishers recover from their lost livelihoods.

“We also have some P893 million-worth of pipelined subprojects under the enterprise development component,” Cayanán added.

P19-billion infra, P731-million enterprise projects

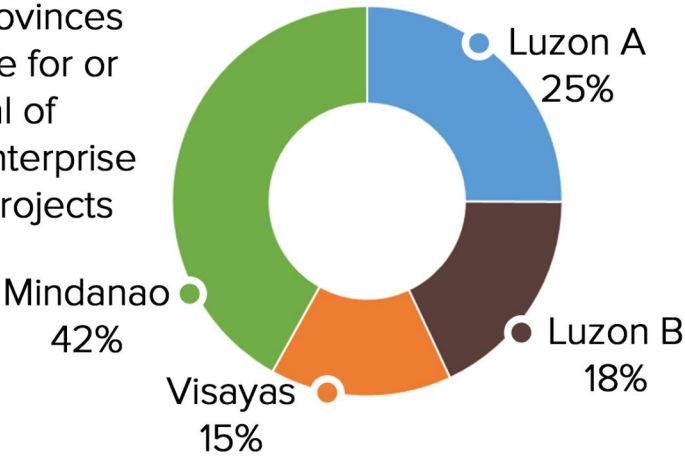
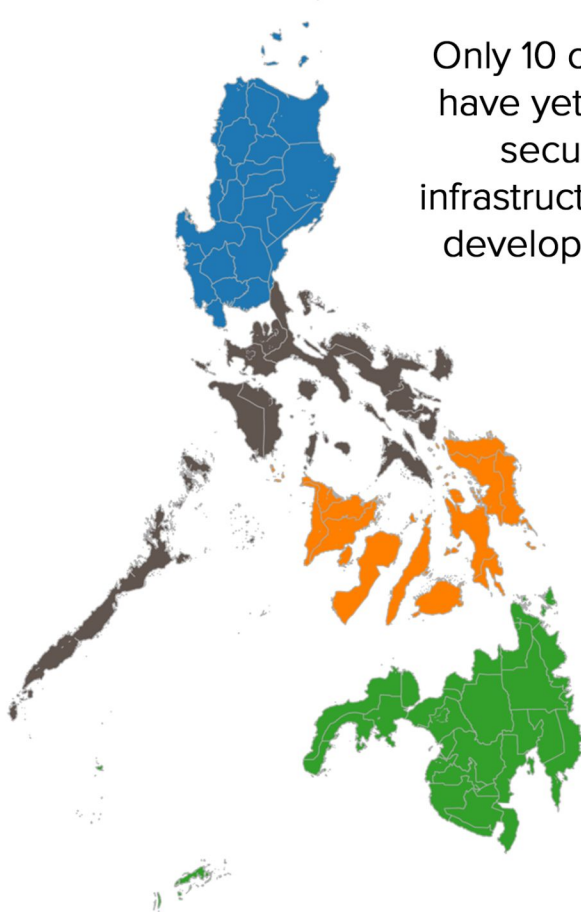
Cayanán also stressed that reaching out to more provinces means more than providing funding and technical assistance to more LGUs.

“Engaging the rest of provincial LGUs means expanding our base to support institutionalization of reforms being introduced through the PRDP,” Cayanán said, emphasizing that LGUs are indispensable partners in mainstreaming and institutionalizing good practices that the Project champions.

The DA has also pushed for the expansion of the PRDP through an additional financing of \$450 million from the World Bank, mainly to cover pipelined infrastructure subprojects. The proposal was already endorsed on November 3, 2016 by the board of the National Economic Development Authority, which is chaired by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Under the request for additional financing, the DA proposes to further strengthen and sustain the PRDP project-approach and institutional reforms, integrating these into the DA’s regular programming and budgeting processes.

Only 10 of the 81 provinces have yet to propose for or secure approval of infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects



Cost of Approved Infrastructure and Enterprise Development Subprojects per Cluster, based on Investment Cost

Cluster	Cost (PHP Million)
Luzon A	5.01
Luzon B	3.59
Visayas	3.01
Mindanao	8.38
Total	19.99

Emerging benefits of PRDP FMRs exceed targets

Results of rapid appraisal of emerging benefits (RAEB) piloting activities reveal that P R D P - i m p l e m e n t e d farm-to-market road subprojects have exceeded targets in some intermediate result indicators.

The Project, through its Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, has conducted RAEB piloting activities on completed FMRs in Isabela for the Luzon A (North Luzon) Cluster, Bohol for the Visayas Cluster, and Sultan Kudarat for the Mindanao Cluster.

Consolidated feedback from beneficiaries show that average travel time from farm to market has been reduced by 67 percent, or from 18 to 6 minutes per kilometer.

This figure is more than twice the target, which is 30 percent.

Average hauling cost per sack has also decreased from P35.2 to P10, or a reduction by 72 percent, a 22-percentage points lead above the target of 50 percent.

Meanwhile, traffic count in study areas has also dramatically increased from 1,097 to 2,726, or a 148-percent increase.

Thirty-nine-year-old farmer Arnold Nolasco of Manano village in Mallig, Isabela said that before, they always had difficulty passing through their road, especially during rainy days when it gets too muddy.

“Our vehicles get stuck in the mud. However difficult and long to

travel it was—about 30 minutes—we would endure it. Now that the road is paved, it only takes us 10 minutes to reach Trinidad and Siempre Viva (neighboring barangays),” Nolasco said.

The 9.17-kilometer Olango–Siempre Viva–Trinidad–Manano FMR, which has a total subproject cost of P62.45 million, was completed in August 2016.

Other benefits surfaced during the RAEB focus group discussions and key informant interviews include increase in the value of land along the new FMRs, reduction of vehicle maintenance cost, reduction in transport losses, and even increase in student attendance and retention in schools. ■

Beyond Agri: Improving Access to Healthcare Services

“The FMR has also been of great help to pregnant women. Before, because they could not pass through the rugged and dangerous road; they had to take a boat to Sitio Tangalan (nearest access village to the main road) before they could reach the health center. But [with the new road], they can now easily travel to the health center for pre-natal checkups.”

Zulficar Maca-ampo
Barangay Captain/Fisherfolk
Gulayon, Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay

Name of Subproject:
Rehabilitation of Gulayon–Sitio Tantawan FMR
Length: 2.04 km
Cost: 20.84

Status: 66.79% physical progress as of December 15, 2016

NEWS BRIEFS

LUZON A (North Luzon) High subproject approval rate in North Luzon due to PPMIUs

The Project Support Office (PSO) of Luzon A (North Luzon) Cluster has recognized in a recent meeting the big role of PPMIUs in the cluster's high percentage of subproject approval.

The activity highlighted the efforts of the local government units in promptly complying with documents and measures prescribed by the World Bank.

Under the infrastructure development component, Nueva Ecija, which has 13 approved subprojects, topped the 22 provinces of the cluster for having the biggest number of approved proposals. Cagayan, meanwhile, was awarded as the province with highest budget of approved subprojects amounting to P623.01 million.

For enterprise development, Tarlac was recognized for the highest number approved proposals in the cluster at 24 subprojects with a total funding of P41.29 million, also the highest in the cluster. (*Kayla Arceo, PSO Luzon A InfoACE Unit*)

LUZON B (South Luzon) RPCO 5 reviews five GEF project proposals

The Regional Project Coordination Office 5 (RPCO5) has recently reviewed proposals submitted by proponent groups (PGs) from San Fernando town, Masbate, and Bulan, Matnog, Pilar and Magallanes towns,

Sorsogon under the PRDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant.

The proposals aim to provide livelihood while promoting sustainable resources management in the pre-identified GEF sites in Donsol-Ticao-Burias Pass, Sorsogon and Masbate Provinces.

Assisted by LGUs, the PRDP had earlier conducted a series of community dialogues, stakeholders' consultations and proposal writing workshops to help target communities strengthen the protection of their coastal and marine resource base through biodiversity conservation and fisheries management. (*RPCO 5 InfoACE Unit*)

VISAYAS First-tranche funding released to Bohol micro-enterprises

Thirteen PGs in Bohol have recently received the first tranche of financial support for 13 micro-enterprises approved under the PRDP's enterprise development component.

RPCO Director Angel Enriquez handed over the P6.4-million check to Bohol Governor Edgardo Chatto, who said that the funds would be immediately downloaded to each of the PG's respective bank accounts.

The release of the funds signals the implementation of the micro-enterprises proposed by people's organizations. The subprojects include tablea processing; native chicken production; bahalina production; vegetable production; seaweed crackers, squash miki and squash pretzel production; and virgin coconut oil processing. (*Bexmae P. Jumao-as, RPCO 7 InfoACE Unit*)

MINDANAO New FMR opens more opportunities in Sibugay town

About 400 households in two barangays in Buug can look forward to an increase in economic activity with the completion of a farm-to-market road (FMR), which was turned over here, recently.

The FMR connects the barangays of Bawang and Pamintayan whose residents have started to enjoy the benefits of the road even before its completion, according to Bawang Punong Barangay Edmundo Hernandez. In the past, coconut farmers had to hire horses to haul their copra down to the crossing and spend another transport cost from crossing to Poblacion using habal-habal (single motor vehicles).

The 3.62-kilometer FMR is the first project funded and implemented by the Department of Agriculture through its Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) in Zamboanga Peninsula, with a total project cost of P47 million.

Along with the turnover of the new road, a mini ice plant in Barangay Pamintayan was also inaugurated and turned over to the local government of Buug to operate. Of the P1.52 billion Infrastructure Development portfolio of Region 9 under PRDP, the Bawang-Pamintayan road concreting is the first subproject turned over this year. After Buug, two segments in RT Lim municipality are also near completion – the Casacon-Tilasan FMR and San Antonio-Sitio Lugami FMR. (*Remai S. Alejado, RPCO 9 InfoACE Unit*)



IQMDS: Advancing Infrastructure Development Integrity

As the PRDP commits in building climate-resilient support infrastructures while ensuring quality in the execution of its construction work, it has instituted the Infrastructure Quality Monitoring and Durability System (IQMDS) under the Project's I-BUILD Component.

The IQMDS serves as the framework for the Project in ensuring sound contract management and supervision, quality assurance and control, and durability of infrastructure subprojects.

The system, which has proven to be effective in ensuring construction of durable infrastructure at reasonable investment and maintenance costs espouse the following elements of quality assurance:

- Management Support System
- Contract Review Processes and Procedures
- Inspection and Testing Processes and Procedures
- Document Control System
- Operation and Maintenance System

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