



PRDP to implement prioritization scheme for infra projects



Potable Water. A resident of Lampitak village in Tampakan, South Cotabato fetches water from one of the 60 units of tap stands of the potable water system (PWS) subproject implemented under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP). The P4.3-million PWS benefitting about 253 farming households is one of the first infrastructure subprojects to be completed under the DA-PRDP.

The Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) will be using a prioritization scheme for proposed infrastructure development subprojects to ensure a more equitable distribution of the Project's anticipated additional financing from the World Bank.

While the PRDP's expansion has yet to be approved, it has already begun designing a prioritization protocol that will help in identifying subprojects that best deserve financial assistance under the expanded project. Last year, the National Economic and Development Authority approved the proposed expansion of the Project with an additional \$450-million financing.

The scheme also aims to incentivize good-performing local government units (LGUs) and diversify infrastructure subprojects as majority of the Project's current infrastructure development portfolio are farm-to-market roads (FMRs).

Currently, the PRDP has a 'healthy' pipelined infrastructure subprojects including at least 100 FMRs worth about P10 billion that can no longer be funded under the original loan proceeds. Along with new proposals, these will be considered for implementation under the expanded PRDP, but have to be subjected to the prioritization scheme.

Top priority on first-timer LGUs

According to PRDP National Deputy Project Director Arnel V. de Mesa,

LGUs with no approved infrastructure or enterprise development subprojects but have signified interest and commitment in the Project by submitting proposals will be accommodated and given top consideration under the new prioritization system.

While the PRDP has received sizeable number of subproject proposals especially infrastructure, there are still provinces that have yet to access assistance from the Project. To date, there are still ten—of 81 provinces—that have not yet received financial assistance from the PRDP.

Read more on p.3 

There's more to FMRs in PRDP says DA

The Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) has reiterated that beyond farm-to-market roads (FMRs), there are other infrastructure development, as well as enterprise development subprojects that local government units (LGUs) can tap under the World Bank-assisted Project.

DA Undersecretary Ariel Cayanán, who serves as the PRDP's national project director, has encouraged LGUs to propose for other infrastructures such as warehouses, fish landings, solar dryers and even slope protection works, which are currently undersubscribed as the bulk of proposals accepted by the Project are for FMRs. Even potable water systems are included in the menu of infrastructure development subprojects that can be accessed by LGUs through the PRDP.

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.

"While we know that FMRs greatly contribute to increasing productivity, we also want to emphasize that other infrastructures are equally needed to further develop our commodity value chain," Cayanán said.

The undersecretary has also stressed that the PRDP also caters to enterprise development subprojects, which cover productivity enhancement and market development with farmer-fisher associations and cooperatives as key partners. But recently, the PRDP has started accepting proposals from municipal LGUs.

The Project's P6.93-billion allocation for enterprise development is also undersubscribed with only a total of P828.28-million approved subprojects to date. Some P797.07 million-worth subprojects are already on the pipeline but this includes proposals that are still under business plan preparation.

"Just check your Provincial Commodity Investment Plans or PCIPs for the infrastructure and enterprise development interventions identified to develop your province's priority commodities," Cayanán added.

Interested proponent groups may coordinate with the PRDP's Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs) lodged in DA Regional Field Offices for more information on the process of availing assistance from the Project. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■

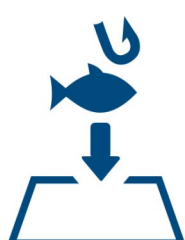
Other types of rural infrastructures eligible for financing under the PRDP



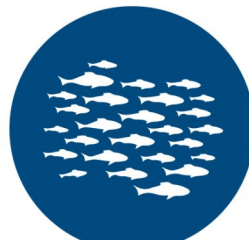
Production Facilities



Postharvest Facilities



Fish Landings



Fish Sanctuaries



Tramlines



Greenhouses



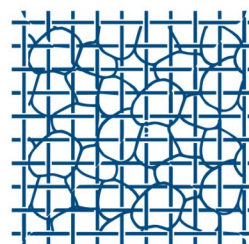
Solar Dryers



Watchtowers



Nursery Watchtowers



Slope stabilization works

PRDP to implement... (from page 1)

De Mesa added that proposals must be linked to the approved Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP), otherwise these will be deferred until the required document has been produced.

“Proposals satisfying the two conditions will automatically be placed on top of the priority list and will be exempt from all succeeding assessments,” de Mesa added.

Potable water system (PWS) proposals, however, will be exempted from the PCIP-link criterion as these are not identified as intervention to directly boost agricultural productivity but to improve access of farming or fishing communities to safe drinking water.

Multiple proposals from prioritized LGUs will be accommodated in 2017 until the P1-billion allotment for first-time infrastructure subproject proponents has been obligated.

Proposals that are not

automatically prioritized must satisfy two additional conditions to pass the initial screening and will again be subjected to the succeeding prioritization steps. LGUs with previously approved applications but would still want to avail of additional infrastructure subprojects must have an approved enterprise development subproject, but this excludes microenterprises for calamity-stricken areas. Until this condition is met, the proposed infrastructure subproject will be deferred.

Additionally, proposals of LGUs with unresolved grievance relating to non-conformance to PRDP procurement and finance guidelines will be put on hold until the grievance has been settled.

LGU performance, subproject type

Proposals from LGUs with previously approved applications will be subjected to further prioritization, which will consider the LGU's performance in its past engagement with the PRDP and

the type of the subproject being proposed.

More points will be given to LGUs proven to have conformed with the PRDP standards on procurement, disbursement, transparency, and social and environmental safeguards, among others. Similarly, non-FMR subprojects such as communal irrigation and potable water systems will be given more priority.

FMRs that are projected to provide significant socio-economic benefits will be prioritized and will be given points based on benefit-cost ratio, road influence area density and number of farming/fishing households, among others.

Both proposals in the automatic priority category and those ranked based on the prioritization criteria will be included in the list of priority subproject proposals for further technical review. The PRDP has already conducted and test run of the scheme and will soon use it after some fine-tuning. (Alladin S. Diega and Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■

Economic Empowerment of Women

“Having this project helps a lot in augmenting our income. In a week, I can finish 700 twines. At P2 each twine, I earn about P1,400 per week. With this amount, we can buy groceries and provide for our children's daily school allowance.”

Myrna Unabia, Coco Coir Twiner
Name of Subproject: Integrated Coconut-Based Enterprise
Proponent Group: Malingao Community Services Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Tubod, Lanao Del Norte
Cost: P16.79 million
Beneficiaries: 2,058 members



LUZON A (North Luzon)

Isnegs to receive solar dryers

The PRDP is set to construct solar dryers in Adams, Ilocos Norte a far-flung municipality and home to the Isneg indigenous people.

According to Tribal Chieftain Tawali, the Isnegs in Adams lived off kaingin (swidden farming) and hunting. At present, they own small parcels of lands and grow commercial and native rice varieties.

Tawali is among the attendees of the recent pre-bid conference of the solar dryers to be constructed in Sitios Maligligay, Mallaggao and Sinidangan. The solar dryer has an estimated project cost of P1,018,000 for Sinidangan; 1,405,000 for Maligligay; and P 1,346,000 for Mallaggao. (RPCO 1 InfoACE Unit)

LUZON B (South Luzon)

Farmer describes PRDP FMR 'malaking alwan'

"Malaking alwan" or a big relief is how Venancio Valencia, a farmer of Barangay San Gabriel in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro described the first completed infrastructure development subproject of the PRDP South Luzon Cluster.

According to Valencia, the concreting of the Bagong Silang-Macatoc FMR worth P24.59 million has made transportation easier for the residents, including those from nearby villages of Antonio, Macatoc, Loyal and Bagong Silang.

The provincial LGU said the FMR is anticipated to benefit about 10,200 individuals in terms of reduction in travel time from 35 to 20 minutes and savings in transportation costs from P35 to P27. (Gumamela Celes Bejarin, PSO South Luzon InfoACE Unit)

VISAYAS

PRDP opened opportunities for Negrosanons—governor

The chief executive of Negros Occidental has lauded the PRDP for having opened opportunities for Negrosanons, particularly farmers and fisherfolk.

"The [DA] PRDP has provided links between producers to the market because of the access to better and improved roads," Governor Alfredo G. Marañon, Jr. said.

According to Marañon, the travel time from Sitio Aluyan in Caduha-an, Cadiz City to the market was reduced from one-and-a-half hours to twenty minutes, with no more back-breaking motorcycle rides.

"But the most impact can be seen in education. With better roads, going to school has become easier and more convenient for both the teachers and students," the governor added. (John Paul F. Cadiz, RPCO 6 InfoACE Unit)

MINDANAO


Better road lessens hardship in MisOcc town

Farmers in Barangay Casilak San Agustin here used to endure the slippery portions of the road going to the town proper about 10 kilometers away.


"The road was very slippery that we need to disembark from the motorcycle to avoid accident," 68-year-old resident Letecia Lagunay said.

But recently a fully concreted 2.26-kilometer Casilak San Agustin FMR was opened to welcome farmers, students and the community for a safer and faster ride or stroll. The P23.5 million-worth rehabilitation was jointly implemented by the PRDP and Tudela LGU.

The FMR directly benefits about 140 households and more than 3,000 hectares of agricultural land. (RPCO 10 InfoACE Unit)



Mainstreaming Natural Resources Management in Rural Development



On top of its regular infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects, the PRDP, with a \$7-million grant from the Global Environment Facility, also implements microenterprise subprojects that integrate coastal and marine resources conservation in select key marine biodiversity areas, as well as

- Quezon Province (Tayabas Bay) | 1 MPA
- Guimaras Strait | 4 MPAs
- Palawan Province (Green Island Bay) | 7 MPAs
- Sorsogon Province (Ticao-Burias Pass) | 4 MPAs
- Masbate Province (Ticao-Burias Pass) | 1 MPA
- Guimaras Strait | 8 MPAs
- Danajon Bank | 8 MPAs

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief: Cheryl C. Suarez
Associate Editor: Adora D. Rodriguez
Writers: Jan P. Dacumos, Alladin S. Diega, PSO and RPCO InfoACE Units
Photographers: Kathrino V. Resurreccion, Joseph R. Caldino
Lay-out Artist: Ana Victoria C. Margallo
Adviser: Arnel V. de Mesa
Circulation: Dave Christian M. Delos Santos, Maricel D. Natividad, NPCO Administrative Unit

PRDPinFOCUS is a monthly publication of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project National Project Coordination Office. We encourage reproduction of articles and photos with proper acknowledgment. For queries, comments or suggestions, email us at: prdpnpcoinfo@gmail.com or visit us at the PRDP Office, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

 Philippine Rural Development Project
 DA_PRDP  www.daprdrp.net