



PRDP exceeds target number of household beneficiaries

Project Reach by the Numbers

72 of the 81 targeted provinces with approved subprojects for financing

3 provinces have proposals that have yet to be approved

6 provinces have yet to submit subproject proposals

869 Subprojects P20.68 billion-worth of investments

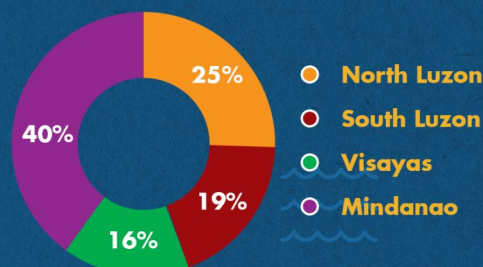
387 Rural Infrastructure Development Subprojects (P19.83 B)

Beneficiaries: \approx 400,000 households (exceeds Project target of 360,000)

482 Enterprise Development Subprojects (P858.73 M)

Beneficiaries: \approx 100,000 households (exceeds Project target of 54,000)

Distribution of Approved Infrastructure and Enterprise Development Subprojects Across Clusters



Data as of September 8, 2017

Midway through its implementation, the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) has already exceeded the number of target beneficiaries with its P20.68 billion-worth of rural infrastructure and enterprise development investments around the country.

The PRDP subproject portfolio has considerably increased during its first three years and as of September 2017, it already covers a total of 503,326 household beneficiaries or 4.46-percent higher than the project-end target of 411,182 household beneficiaries.

Out of the 81 targeted provinces, only six have yet to submit subproject

proposals while three provinces are awaiting approval of their proposed subprojects. The remaining 72 provinces already have approved infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects at various stages of procurement and implementation.

The approved subproject portfolio comprises 869 subprojects, 387 of which are rural infrastructures worth P19.83 billion. Meanwhile, the 482 enterprise development subprojects cost P858.73 million.

The PRDP has already engaged 675 proponent groups, or farmer and fisher associations and cooperatives under its enterprise

development component. About 41,000 or 45 percent of the 90,748 members of these PGs are women, who are given focus by the Project as it pushes for inclusive growth in rural areas.

According to the Monitoring End evaluation (M&E) Unit of the Project, about 40,000 households already benefit from completed infrastructure subprojects, mostly farm-to-market roads (FMR), in 22 provinces.

Read more on p.3

P154-million port expansion to boost agri-fishery, tourism in northern Negros

The construction of an additional 280-meter rock causeway worth P154.17 million at the existing Sagay City feeder port is seen to boost agri-fishery and tourism industries in the northern cities and municipalities of Negros Occidental.

Funded under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), the improvement of the port will encourage more sea vessels, both carrying goods and passengers, to ply through the routes to and from Sagay City.

Sagay City Mayor Alfredo Marañon III said that the improved port will speed up travel and cut costs on the transport of products such as muscovado sugar, swine and seafood.

Currently, transporting of muscovado sugar, one of the province's

priority commodities, had to be done through the Danao Port in Escalante City.

The provincial local government unit (PLGU) estimates a ten-percent increase in the volume of muscovado shipped from the port, once the expansion has been completed.

"The expansion of the feeder port is a realization of our vision of linking this part of Negros to other parts of the country—and probably, the world," Marañon said.

The PLGU identified the northern cities of Cadiz, Escalante and San Carlos, and the municipalities of Manapla, Toboso and Calatrava to also benefit from the development of the port, especially in transporting their products.

The mayor added that increased economic activities at the

port will have a trickle-down effect on ordinary residents as livelihood opportunities will open up for them, such as selling food and water to ship and port workers.

"The port will bring inclusive growth," Marañon said.

Marlon Vasquez, barangay captain of Old Sagay said that the expansion of the port, which will also serve as fish landing, will enable fisherfolk in the area to increase their sales, hence improving their incomes.

PLGU data show that direct beneficiaries of the subproject include 3,600 households, most of whom are engaged in fishing.

"Most of residents here along the coastline could not bring their products outside [Sagay]. We believe that the improvement of

[Read more on p.3](#) 



Port Expansion. With a P154.17-million financing package under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), this part of the existing feeder port in Sagay City, Negros Occidental will be improved, increasing its capacity to accommodate more and bigger sea vessels. The expansion will boost economic activities in the coastal city as the port links it with more commercial hubs in Visayas and Luzon. (Photo by Joseph R. Caldino, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

PRDP FMRs: Paving the Way for Production Boost

"Before, it would take us almost two hours to reach the town proper. Now, it only takes us 20 minutes to less than an hour. We can now bring other products outside [our village] since the fare is already cheaper. Lands that used to be idle are now cultivated especially that the agriculture [department] has a program on planting coffee, hence providing additional sources of livelihood for farmers."

Julius Bulting

Barangay Captain, Dingasan, Cabarroguis, Quirino

Subproject Name: Rehabilitation of PRJ–Dibibi–
Dingasan FMR **Length:** 3.9 km **Cost:** P38.28 million
Beneficiaries: 406 households
Priority Commodity Supported: Coffee



PRDP exceeds target...(from page 1)

The Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits (RAEB) for FMRs conducted by the PRDP reveals significant changes on the transportation experience of beneficiaries. For instance, the average travel time from farms to markets has been reduced by 61%, or 31 percentage points higher than the Project-end target. Hauling costs have also been reduced by an average of 42 percent.

Agriculture Undersecretary Ariel Cayanan, PRDP's national project director said that the reduction of travel time and hauling costs could mean higher incomes for farmers and fishers.

"Reduced travel time can increase productivity as time spent in traveling can instead be used for more beneficial activities," Cayanan said.

"Expenses on hauling costs, meanwhile, can otherwise be saved or used in other farm and household expenses, and even as capital for agribusiness," he added.

On the other hand, RAEB results for the completed potable water system (PWS) subproject in South Cotabato show a 24-percent reduction in water fetching time. PWS subprojects are implemented in select areas across the country to improve water-related health indicators

among residents of farming communities.

The PRDP's M&E unit also reported that 35 provinces with enterprise subprojects are already using various equipment and goods valued at P173 million. These directly benefit 222 PGs with 32,200 members.

"As we complete the implementation of our subprojects and making these operational, we look forward to serving more household beneficiaries and realizing our goal of raising productivity, competitiveness and incomes in the countryside," Cayanan said. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■

P154-million port expansion... (from page 2)

sea transportation through the feeder port would help us bring and promote our products to other places," he said.

The barangay captain added that with an adequate fish landing facility, fishers can sell directly to buyers, eliminating the middlemen scheme.

The PLGU expects that the increased volume of products transported and increased savings from reduced transport costs and post-harvest losses will eventually lead to improved incomes and living conditions of locals, particularly fisherfolk, who constitute the poorest sector in the country.

Vasquez added that the port will also become a jump-off point in going to other islands promoted for tourism

such as the Bantayan Island in Cebu, and Sicogon and Gigantes Islands in Iloilo.

"Travelers no longer need to take the longer routes in going to these spots," Vasquez said, referring to tourists who are originating from northern Negros.

The city prides itself as an emerging eco-tourism destination with its snorkeling and diving spots, including the Carbin Reef.

Once the project has been realized, passenger vessels may already choose the Batangas–Sagay route, shortening travel time without them having to pass through the Dumangas, Iloilo and the Bacolod ports.

The feeder port will also complement other infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects that support muscovado sugar and swine, the province's priority commodities, as well as other agricultural products, some form the city's upland barangays.

Negros Occidental has an approved PRDP subproject portfolio of P652.39 million for infrastructure development and P33.72 million for enterprise development. Also, nearing approval is the 3770-million integrated swine enterprise in La Castellana municipality. (Jan P. Dacumos, DA-PRDP NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■

North Luzon

Cordillera Dev't Council endorses adoption of PCIPs

The Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC) has endorsed the use of Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs) by other government institutions in the formulation of their annual investment plans, and by other stakeholders in providing funding support to interventions identified in the PCIPs.

"Not all interventions can be funded by PRDP, hence, we are selling this document for other agencies to use as their basis for funding projects," Susan Balanza, chief of the DA-Cordillera planning, monitoring and evaluation division, said.

The PCIPs, crafted based on commodity value chain analyses, serve as key references in proposing for infrastructure and enterprise development subprojects under the PRDP. (*Elvy S. Taquio, CARPCO InfoACE Unit*)

South Luzon

Sorsogon fisherfolk assume 'guardians of the ocean' role

Members of the Cogon Fisherfolk Organization (CFO) in Castilla, Sorsogon have assumed their new role as "guardians of the ocean" since they received 10 non-motorized fiberglass boats from the PRDP.

"Because of PRDP's support, we are now able to maintain the cleanliness of the ocean so we could grow our seaweeds. For our seaweeds to thrive, it is necessary to keep the ocean clean," Nerma Belmonte, CFO's chairperson, said.

The P1.26-million Cogon Seaweed Production and Marketing, one of the 10 microenterprise subprojects funded by the PRDP for calamity-stricken areas in Sorsogon, will venture in the production and marketing of raw dried seaweeds. (*Annielyn L. Baleza, RPCO-5 InfoACE Unit*)

VISAYAS

Eastern Visayas advisory board okays P56-million 'ridge-to-reef' subprojects

The PRDP's Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) in Eastern Visayas has recently endorsed for approval the P29 million-worth coco-geonets and banana enterprise subprojects, and the P27 million-worth of subprojects involving the rehabilitation of marine sanctuaries along the Guiuan coast in Eastern Samar.

DA Regional Office-8's OIC Executive Director U-Nichols Manalo said, "These are big investments that will hopefully raise the income levels of our fisherfolk, and farmers, especially in the province of Eastern Samar."

"The enterprise subprojects were found viable by the Board and beneficial in terms of raising the income levels of our farmers and fisherfolk and in opening up employment opportunities. The proposed subprojects in our marine protected areas in Guiuan Coast will surely help boost overall effort in promoting marine biodiversity conservation," Director Manalo added. (*Rodel G. Macapañas, RPCO-6 InfoACE Unit*)

MINDANAO

DA introduces science-based planning tools to LGUs

The DA has started rolling out innovations utilized under the PRDP to further improve agriculture and fisheries investment planning in Mindanao.

Partner agencies and LGUs took an intensive 96-hour training-workshop from May to September on science-based tools particularly the rapid market appraisal and the value chain analysis. The training modules covered competencies on commodity prioritization, data analysis and report writing and competitiveness strategy.

"These marketing studies are critical inputs to the provincial commodity investment plans, and as the bases for resource allocation and prioritization of DA programs, projects, and activities implemented at the national and regional levels," Ricardo Oñate, director of the PRDP's Mindanao Project Support Office, said. (*Sherwin B. Manual, Mindanao PSO InfoACE Unit*)

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