



World Bank rates DA-PRDP satisfactory

Frauke Jungbluth, WB senior economist and task team leader for PRDP reports to DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol the findings of midterm review mission of the PRDP (Photo by Kathrino V. Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

The World Bank gave a satisfactory rating to the flagship rural development project of the Department of Agriculture, following a midterm review of the Philippine Rural Development Project.

After a thorough assessment, the World Bank notes that the PRDP has fulfilled its development objectives and overall project implementation. For instance, under the infrastructure development component, the completed concrete farm-to-market-road (FMR) projects nationwide stretches to a total length of 148.4 km. As a result, travel time is reduced by 43%, hauling cost of farmers produce

by 32%, and production inputs by 54%. Collectively, the FMR projects have benefitted a total of 77,000 households.

An additional 1,220 km on-going construction of FMRs are expected to give more benefits. “The newly constructed farm to market roads create a huge impact in the lives of its beneficiaries where average household income increases to 64%. This is accompanied with the increased of school attendance and higher enrollment numbers, improved peace and order, faster response to medical emergencies, improved supplies available at small local stores, and increased crop areas,”

reported Frauke Jungbluth, WB Senior Economist and task team leader for PRDP.

On the other hand, PRDP’s enterprise development component currently supports 111 livelihood ventures, with another 401 underway. All these activities seek to improve production, increase crop area, and add value to agri commodities.

In South Cotabato, a 31% increase in the volume of cassava tubers was noted which directly translated to 9% increase in tubers’ selling price and 47% upsurge in cassava farmers’ income.

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Mango Packaging Center in Ilocos Sur, a dream come true for farmers



The Cabugao Mango Farmers and Multi-Purpose Association (CMFMPA) proposed for a Production and Marketing of Fresh Carabao Mangoes under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) in 2015. After almost three years of repeated revisions of subproject proposal, the infrastructure of the enterprise was finally completed on November 23, 2017 and awarded to the CMFMPA on January 18, 2018.

The enterprise which has a total worth of Php 13,100,971.14 includes the construction of a Mango Packaging Center in the Municipality of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. The packaging center alone costs Php 4,828,230.69.

The packaging center was built on a municipal-owned 800-square meter commercial lot which is beside the Cabugao

Public Market. The floor area of the packaging center measures 200 square meters which can accommodate 28,405 kilograms of mangoes or 1,235 crates containing 23 kilograms of mangoes each.

The Mango Packaging Center is targeted to reduce post-harvest losses and to provide a multi-purpose area for mango farmers to conduct pre-marketing activities (i.e. sorting, grading, and packing) for the production of high quality mangoes to access and cater export markets.

Ms. Faith Sabio, President of the CMFMPA, expressed gratitude to the PRDP as well as to the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur and Municipal Government of Cabugao. She said that the CMFMPA will do its best to sustain the enterprise.

The mango farmers have

been anticipating the completion of the mango packaging center and the full accomplishment of the mango enterprise for almost a year now. The enterprise is a dream come true for farmers which have been experiencing challenges in growing mangoes for the past years because of the infestation of Cecid fly.

The enterprise is the first of its kind proposed under the PRDP. Other enterprises supporting priority commodities like onion and garlic are targeted to start implementation within the year.

The Municipality of Cabugao is also the location of the largest Farm-to-Market subproject proposal under the PRDP in the Ilocos Region amounting to Php206 million, the Rehabilitation of Pug-os-Nagcullooban FMR. *(Vida V. Cacal and Dessa U. Estrada, RPCO 1 InfoACE)* ■



The Mango Packaging Center in the Municipality of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur completed on November 23, 2017. *(Photo by Kathrino V. Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)*

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“This is the result of the strong partnership of the DA, local government units, our farmer-beneficiaries and the strong support of our private sector,” said PRDP Mindanao director Ricardo M. Oñate, Jr.

“We are also seeing now the positive effects of mainstreaming PRDP innovations to provincial planning process,” Oñate added.

The World Bank also notes that PRDP has achieved a wide institutionalization and acceptance of the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP), which served as a technical-based planning platform

for the convergence of programs among its partner agencies. In addition, the business-plan based approach to sustainable enterprise development has pushed the start-up of small enterprises, as the local governments continue to expand investments for enterprises.

Mainstreaming of the institutional and governance reforms across DA units has improved cost savings, while the introduction of enhance planning through PCIPs has enabled LGUs to provide PhP 8 billion counterpart funding.

To date, PRDP takes pride in its best practices which continue

to bring in high impact benefits to rural communities. These include the geo-tagging linked to web-based MIS system for the enhancement of sub-project design, progress monitoring and oversight; rapid appraisal of emerging benefits tool that allows feedback on subproject outcomes upon completion; and development of web-based MIS system and maintained in-house that integrates data and reports for management, based on analysis that integrates statistical, economic, and safeguard inputs. *(Joy M. Montecalvo/ PSO Mindanao)* ■

PRDP sets out financial plans and strategies for CY '18

For the first time since the nationwide roll-out, the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) gathered all component and unit heads and key personnel from the national, cluster and regional offices in a coordination meeting and action planning workshop last February 5-9 in Angeles, Pampanga.

The meeting centered on planning and budgeting for the current year in preparation for the project expansion for infrastructure subprojects. Comprehensive workshops were held per component, unit, and cluster to enable the participants to come up with a Work and Financial Plan that maximizes the financial resources of the Project.

“PRDP has been continuously delivering honor to the Department of Agriculture,” said DA Undersecretary for

Operations and PRDP National Project Director Ariel Cayanán, who reported positive feedback from the World Bank Review Mission exit conference with Secretary Emmanuel Piñol.

Cayanán shared how this feedback is attributed to the Project’s guidelines, procedures, manner of accepting proposals and issuance of approvals.

“However, there are a lot of challenges and some of them are the policies implemented by the government. Policies are policies, laws are laws. When the archer misses the target, the target will not be adjusted; the archer will adjust himself,” he added.

As PRDP enters its fourth official year of implementation, project implementers and technical staff are expected to closely monitor recommendations from the previous midterm review

mission.

Projects also continue to roll out as all provinces of the country bear approved Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIPs).

Under the infrastructure subprojects, 72 out of the 396 approved proposals have been completed, 197 are under implementation and 127 on the procurement process.

For the enterprise component, there are 573 approved enterprises nationwide. Out of this, 149 are completed, 153 are currently being implemented and 271 are undergoing procurement.

PRDP is a special project designed to establish the government platform for a modern, climate-smart and market-oriented agri-fishery sector. *(Kayla Arceo, PSO InfoACE)* ■

North Luzon

PRDP awards ampalaya consolidation building

San Jose, Nueva Ecija – The Ampalaya Consolidation Building was turned over to Ampalaya farmers of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) I-REAP component.

The building was built for the 123 farmer-members of SIKKAP San Jose Ampalaya Enterprise, a farmer cooperative consisting of three component groups; Kapisanan ng mga Babae na Nagtatanim ng Gulay atbp. (KABANGA), Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SIPBU), and Kapisungan Producers Cooperative (KAPISOCO). It is also expected to benefit 173 non-member farmers.

The structure will be used as a sorting, washing, packing and consolidation site for ampalaya and other vegetables produced by the enterprise which will be sold to both institutional and wet markets.

The 300 sq. m structure has a total construction cost of P2, 934,575.51, 80% of which came from World Bank, 10% from the Government of the Philippines (GOP) and the other 10% from the Local Government of Nueva Ecija. (Kayla Lingad, RPCO3 InfoACE Unit)

South Luzon

Bicol I-BUILD upholds project partners for more quality SPs

The government thru the Philippine Rural Development Project aims to improve the lives and livelihood in the rural communities by providing key infrastructures, facilities, and information. Ultimately, the Project seeks to raise farmers' incomes, productivity and competitiveness with the assistance of their respective Local Government Units (LGU).

A Joint Technical Review was recently conducted to assess new subproject proposals submitted by the provinces and municipalities in the Bicol region. The five (5) subproject proposals were duly reviewed by the I-BUILD Engineers, together with the GGU, ECON and SES Units to know the issues and concerns in each subproject. This was done simultaneously with preparation of the required documents for the subproject approval.

Engr. Arnie Ilan, I-BUILD component head, encouraged the LGUs to follow the 3C's—completeness, correctness and consistency in finalizing their project proposals to facilitate the issuance of the No Objection Letter 1 (NOL 1).

To date there are 10 on-going I-BUILD subprojects in the province of Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay and Masbate, which are strictly being implemented in accordance with the quality standards of the World Bank. (Leira Vic Colongon, DA-PRDP MIMAROPA RPCO InfoACE Unit)

Visayas

P153M feeder port construction in Sagay City to commence soon

"We have envisioned this project for such a long time, and now, we are one step closer to that dream. This feeder port will help the fisherfolk and farmers of Sagay City," Negros Occidental governor Alfredo G. Marañon Jr. said during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Sagay

Feeder Port/ Fish Landing construction in Old Sagay, Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

The P153,515,647.50 feeder port under the DA's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) will benefit 12, 521 farmers and 2, 787 households. About 80% of the constituents in the influence-area can avail of the social, agricultural and technological services after the project implementation.

The project aims to increase the market value of agricultural and fishery products that pass through the feeder port. This will also help in the transporting of muscovado, swine, fish products and other commodities from Sagay City to the neighboring islands of Visayas.

Through the feeder port, it is expected that the post-harvest losses will be reduced to 2% especially for muscovado, swine and fish products which have approved enterprises under the I-REAP Component in Negros Occidental.

Mindanao

VCAs for high value crops, fisheries presented

Three more high value crops and two fishery products will be added to Mindanao's champion commodities up for investments.

During a joint-technical review held on February 9-23, 2018 in Davao City, planning officers presented the following VCAs: Lanzones - Region 10 ; Sardines - Regions 9 and 13; Tuna - Regions 12 and 13; Mangosteen - Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM); and Durian - Region 11.

The VCA is an analytical tool that focuses on identifying priority commodity value chains, gaps and needs of particular areas. Through this, PRDP projects will engage effectively with the poorest smallholders within the areas.

According to PRDP IPLAN Head Cerenio T. Tila, the mainstreaming of value chain is one of the deliverables of the Local and National Level Planning (I-PLAN) component where upgraded tools and science based technology such as rapid market appraisal (RMA) and VCA are being transferred to all cluster members that will equip them with skills in crafting the VCA.

"VCA is one of the requirements to access funds from PRDP, either on enterprise or infrastructure development," Tila said.

"Hopefully, if we capacitate our planning partners, the LGUs, Regions, BFAR Provincial and BFAR Municipal, on the next level they will become the experts in their region," he added.

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