



'We have learned great lessons out of PRDP' – Gov. Cua

(From left to right) Quirino Governor Junie E. Cua, Ms. Elma S. Mananes, PSO North Luzon Deputy Project Director, Engr. Cirilo N. Namoc, National Deputy Project Director, and Ms. Frauke Jungbluth, World Bank Task Team Leader for the PRDP during the North Luzon leg of the World Bank Mid Term Review Mission for the Philippine Rural Development Project. (Photo by Kathrino V. Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

"The Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) has taught us great lessons and experiences, it has brought us better perspective in project identification leading to an improved agricultural development program," Governor Junie Cua said in his message during the opening preliminaries of World Bank Mid Term Review Mission held at the Quirino Watersports Tourism Complex, Provincial Capitol, Cabarroguis, Quirino.

"We have learned many lessons out of PRDP, great lessons I tell you. It's a lesson, it's an experience that we can never forget. I think the concept of agricultural development has been put in place," he said.

Great lessons from PRDP

By undertaking the project, the province has greatly appreciated

all the tools in project implementation. "We now have a better framework of our agri programs," Cua said.

Since the project's inception in 2016, Quirino has undergone innovative ways of implementing projects. "It taught us a systematic, transparent and open procurement process not to mention our engineers now have a better grasp with site instructions," he revealed.

More importantly, PRDP "greatly changed the culture of our people, our staff being more professional than ever befitting of funding support from the World Bank."

"We need to constantly improve the way we do things and the time we approve things so that we may be worthy of the trust this project has given us," he added.

He stressed that Quirino "had to look into the commodities that

fit the province considering various social and environmental factors along the value chain."

"Why do I say this? Because we are forced to come up with our Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP)," he said.

"We are forced to come up with a serious survey, considering the environmental impact, so I salute the Social and Environmental Safeguards Unit (SES). It also taught us how to implement and conduct our weekly coordination meetings. Our resident engineers are getting familiar to issue site instructions. They are now more professional than before," he furthered.

[Read more on p. 3](#)



PRDP helps shape future agri-fishery plan



The country's next "agricultural and fisheries blueprint" or the 2018–2023 Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Plan (AFMP) will be based on the results of the tools and processes developed by the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP).

"One of the aims of the Project is to modernize the bureaucracy of the Department of Agriculture (DA) through efficient processes and scientific tools. Using these in crafting the AFMP ensures that the programs and projects of the department will be in line with the needs of the stakeholders and the industry," CALABARZON Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) Director Arnel de Mesa said.

The third AFMP to be formulated under Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997 will be built from the gains of the AFMP 2001–2004, AFMP 2011–2017, and the good practices developed under the

PRDP. The new plan will help transform the agriculture and fisheries sector from a resource-based industry to a technology-driven one.

AFMA

The AFMA mandates the DA to develop a medium-range plan that will empower the agriculture and fisheries sector to attain development and sustainability. This plan will support the goal of the national economy for a more equitable and sustainable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth.

The AFMP focuses on poverty alleviation and social equity, food security, and people empowerment. It also looks into rational use of resources, global competitiveness, sustainable development, and protection from unfair competition.

Based on the AFMA, the planning process should be participatory in nature and must involve

the farmers and fisherfolk, private sector, civic organizations, and the appropriate government offices during the consultation process.

PRDP I-PLAN and the Project tools

The PRDP local and national level planning (I-PLAN) component aims to institutionalize the national and regional AFMPs as the main bases of decision making by the DA at the national, regional, and local levels. Thus, all subsequent plans and budget of the department shall be consistent with the AFMP.

The commodity-specific Value Chain Analysis (VCA) and the Provincial or City Commodity Investment Plans (P/CCIPs) are two of the major outputs of the component that will help shape the AFMP.

[Read more on p. 3](#)



CALABARZON RPCO I-PLAN Component presents to LGUs the different Project tools from by PRDP. (Photo by PRDP-RPCO 4A InfoACE Unit)

'We have learned'...(from page 1)

He referred to the different science-based tools the PRDP has introduced like the Vulnerability and Sustainability Assessment (VSA), Geotagging and geomapping but foremost, he lauded the SES and its significance on infrastructure and enterprise development.

The campaign for inclusive growth in the country is clearly manifested in the province of Quirino as PRDP has approved five farm-to-market roads (FMR) and two enterprise development projects about to be implemented.

Gov. Cua elaborated that the subprojects underwent a series of studies and consultations with the concerned local government units (LGUs) and beneficiaries.

Quirino, an agricultural province, stands to benefit hugely from these PRDP subprojects, as it would help further solidify inter-agency cooperation, good governance and most importantly in increasing rural incomes and farm productivity.

The governor has expressed his view and stated that these subprojects are great strides

towards the country's agricultural modernization. "The whole PRDP process motivates us [LGU] to work hard since the project widely promotes creativity and innovation," he stressed.

By undergoing the various PRDP processes, the province has greatly improved in terms of harmonizing its planning and budgeting mechanisms, and using development science-based tools in the implementation of its other programs.

He revealed that in his three decades in the government as a congressman and governor, he now feels the firm stance of the government to upscale the agriculture sector. "It is only with PRDP that we are really feeling the government's seriousness in supporting agriculture despite the devolution."

Having formally joined the PRDP through a Memorandum of Agreement on December 22, 2014, the governor affirmed that "PRDP is a most welcome development for provinces like the province of

Quirino, a struggling province, a third class province."

"While competent people work together just like passionate people also work together, there is always room for improvement. We need to constantly improve the way we implement the project, we need to improve the speed of our approval system so that we will be worthy of the support the World Bank is giving us. So, I would like to thank the Department of Agriculture, the World Bank, for promoting this kind of project," he underscored.

He also thanked the different stakeholders for being truly great partners, adding that even though they are fortunate enough to have a structure like this, workshops are most welcome.

Likewise, he expressed his utmost gratitude for PRDP in its all-out support to the implementation of various subprojects during the recently concluded World Bank Midterm Review Mission in the province. *(Ferdinand N. Cortez & Jaycee M. Capalungan, RPCO2 InfoACE Unit)* ■

PRDP helps shape up future...(from page 2)

In conjunction with the VCA, the PRDP also uses science-based tools such as the Expanded Vulnerability and Sustainability Analysis (E-VSA), Rapid Market Appraisal (RMA), and the Applied Geotagging Tool (AGT).

A more comprehensive version of the VSA developed by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), the E-VSA is a critical planning tool that evaluates the suitability of specific commodities in particular areas. It also evaluates the disaster vulnerability and socio-economic conditions of selected municipalities or provinces.

The RMA, on the other hand, is an iterative and interactive

research methodology, which is used to better understand the complex market systems in a short period of time.

Providing geographical data of the influence area of subprojects such as farm-to-market roads, bridges, and irrigation systems, the AGT is used in monitoring subproject progress. The PRDP also uses this tool to promote good governance and transparency in project implementation.

AFMP Orientation

To help the DA CALABARZON come up with its updated regional AFMP, the RPCO I-PLAN component

gathered its partner local government units (LGUs) for a capacity building training on the use of the PRDP tools. The said training was attended by personnel of the agriculture and veterinary offices of the provinces, cities, and municipalities in the region.

"All LGUs in the region have experienced using these tools during the VCA preparation. Now, we want to mainstream it further to ensure that every decision made for the agriculture and fisheries sector will be science-based," RPCO I-PLAN Component Head Maria Ella Cecilia Obligado said. *(Lawrence Albert A. Bariring, DA-PRDP CALABARZON RPCO InfoACE Unit)* ■

North Luzon

Tarlac's first completed PRDP infra supports dried sweet potato chips production

A processing center and storage facility with solar dryer is now finished construction in Barangay Ablang Sapang, Moncada, Tarlac, as part of the province's proposed enterprise supporting sweet potato funded under the DA's Philippine Rural Development Project benefitting 179 farmer-members of the Sapang Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

The warehouse and storage facility will serve as a site for consolidating, chipping, drying, and storing dried sweet potato chips. It will also house equipment such as chipping machinery and mechanical dryer during the rainy season.

Meanwhile, the multi-purpose drying pavement will be used hand in hand with the mechanical dryer to dry chipped sweet potatoes.

The 512-square meter project has a total project cost of P12,247,933.71, 80% of which came from loan proceeds from the World Bank, 10% from the Government of the Philippines (GOP) and 10% from the Local Government Unit of Tarlac.

The enterprise will also provide trading capital, transportation facilities, tractors, mechanical dryer, and other equipment to increase the income of farmers. *(Kayla Arceo, PSO InfoACE Unit)*

South Luzon

Workers' safety, PRDP's priority

Lucena City, Quezon – The Philippine Rural Development Project's infrastructure development (I-BUILD) component of the South Luzon Project Support Office (PSO) had partnered with Persons 360, an accredited safety training practitioner of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for the conduct of the Construction and Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) training.

Representatives from Persons 360 discussed the importance of occupational health and safety in the construction industry during the training attended by LGU representatives from MIMAROPA, Bicol, municipalities of Candelaria, Mulanay, Guinayangan, and cities of Lucena and Luisiana in Quezon and Laguna, respectively.

The COSH training emphasized the institutionalization of emergency response teams based on DOLE's department order. However, according to the resource persons, this is not a priority for some contractors due to insufficient budget.

"We are happy that all I-BUILD subprojects in the region have a safety officer in place. This is a proof that the PRDP is strict in terms of the proper and better implementation of rural infrastructure projects," PRDP CALABARZON RPCO I-BUILD Alternate Component Head Gene Sta. Ines said. *(Lawrence Albert A. Bariring, DA-PRDP CALABARZON RPCO InfoACE Unit)*

Visayas

PRDP opens up new opportunities for Ilonggos' agri product market expansion

With the approval of the Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIP) for swine and native chicken, PPMIU Head Dr. Raul S. Baniyas is positive that this milestone will open up new opportunities in the province of Iloilo.

"It is time for us to look for other possibilities to expand our market. We already started with swine and native chicken, we are now looking into the possibility of cacao, coffee and high value crops to be included in the project," said Provincial Administrator Baniyas. He shared that proper linkages among farmers and other stakeholders could provide market for the agricultural products of Ilonggo farmers.

With the infrastructure projects like farm-to-market roads (FMR) and rehabilitation programs for ports, auction markets and other facilities, Baniyas is optimistic that the development of agricultural industry in Iloilo will continue to prosper. These projects had helped farmers and other stakeholders in the mobility of various agricultural products. *(Aileen Joy M. Subade, DA-PRDP RPCO 6 InfoACE Unit)*

Mindanao

PRDP road improves governance, social outcomes in Tupi

Tupi, South Cotabato – A farm-to-market road (FMR) project here has improved governance aside from socio-economic impact already being experienced by the residents in the project influence area, Tupi Mayor Reynaldo Tamayo said.

"We attribute the 92 percent satisfaction rating - one of the highest in Mindanao- received by the local government unit (LGU) to the implementation of projects like the Crossing Rubber-Lunen FMR funded under DA's Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)," mayor Tamayo added.

The road project has enabled "sustainability of livelihood" of residents directly benefitting from the concreted road. It is a lot easier to transport agricultural products like cassava, coffee, cacao, rubber, banana and other high-value crops, which now reach the town center, he added.

"It is more convenient and easier to transport our products to the town center from our farms," farmer-resident Sammy Ramos said.

"With a length of 4.9 kilometers, the P41.8-million FMR project that connects barangay Lunen and a portion of Crossing Rubber to the main highway of Tupi has lessened the overhead cost of farmers for they can now easily bring their products to the market. Around 40 to 45 percent or up to 100 kilos of bananas used to be rejected due to poor road conditions, but has been reduced significantly to around 3 percent," Tupi Vice Mayor Noel Escobillo said.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief :	Cheryl C. Suarez
Associate Editor :	Adora D. Rodriguez
Writers :	PSO and RPCO InfoACE Units
Photographers :	Kathrino V. Resurreccion
	Joseph R. Caldino
Lay-out Artist :	Ana Victoria C. Margallo
Adviser :	Cirilo N. Namoc
Circulation :	Dave Christian M. Delos Santos
	Maricel D. Natividad
	NPCO Administrative Unit



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: prdpninfo@pcoinfo@gmail.com or visit us at the PRDP Office, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.



Philippine Rural Development Project



DA_PRDP



daprdp.net