

## North Luzon

### Kalinga's coffee blend business

With a total cost of P2,399,462.51, the construction of the Kalinga Coffee Trading Center (KCTC) is now completed and was turned over to the proponent groups (PG) of the Kalinga Integrated Coffee Processing and Marketing Enterprise, a subproject under the PRDP's I-REAP (Enterprise Development) component.

Six (6) cooperatives from the different municipalities of Kalinga joined together and reformed as Kalinga Coffee Cluster Agricultural Cooperative (KCCAC) for the development of the coffee industry in Kalinga and for the operation of the coffee enterprise as well. These are Dupigan Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative, Tanudan Savings and Lending, Mananig Multipurpose Cooperative, Gawidan Malin-awaan Marketing Cooperative, Patiking Agriculture Cooperative, and Nambucayan Agriculture Cooperative, according to Bonet A. Gatan, KCCAC Chairman.

The trading center is located at Old BAExt. Compound, Purok 5, Bulanao, Tabuk City. It will be used for the consolidation and marketing of coffee and other crops. "With the assistance of the PRDP and the PPMIU, we will surely give our best in the operation and management of the coffee Enterprise," added Gatan.

The Kalinga coffee enterprise was conceptualized in response to the need for alternative buyers and market expansion that will give higher income to coffee grower members. It has a total project cost of more than P14,000,000.00 including its civil works. It is expected to boost the economic status of coffee farmers in Kalinga and improve the quality of their coffee as well. (Elvy S. Taquiao, RPCO-CAR InfoACE Unit)

## South Luzon

### PRDP fosters stronger partnership with local gov't

After initiating the inter-agency convergence for the key commodities of Puerto Princesa City last year, the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) continues to work with the city government in acquiring strategic investments for rural development.

Hence, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between DA and its partner agencies, manifesting a stronger collaboration between all units involved.

The MOU is a formal arrangement among government and non-government agencies with the goal of generating strategic investments in developing the priority commodities of each province or city.

Through this collaboration, the local government can extend efforts in funding interventions identified in each commodity investment plan even after the six-year implementation of PRDP.

In Puerto Princesa, only the cashew and mango industries have ongoing subprojects under the PRDP. These subprojects respectively include farm-to-market roads and a processing center.

Moreover, there are several assistance from other agencies being implemented such as the continuous regulation on the mango produce by the BPI – Quarantine due to the presence of mango pulp weevil in the Province of Palawan and provision of farm machineries and equipment for mango growers funded by DAR through its ARC Connectivity and Economic Support Services.

For the cashew industry, the DOST has community factories located in the cashew-producing municipalities in Palawan. At the same time, the agency is also providing technology acquisition support for banana processors in Puerto Princesa City.

For seaweed farmers, a training on seaweeds production was also conducted by the DOST in cooperation with the PSU.

"Even after PRDP, we will continue implementing the City Commodity Investment Plans (CCIPs) from which the respective government agencies and institutions can assist in developing the four commodities of Puerto Princesa," said City Agriculturist Melissa Macasaet. (Leira Vic Colongan, DA-PRDP MIMAROPA RPCO InfoACE Unit)

## Visayas

### Visayas-Mindanao Seaweed Stakeholders Consultation prepared for opening opportunities

Brian Willis, an Australian private investor, expressed appreciation as he attended a gathering of more than 60 individuals from various sectors in a

Seaweeds Stakeholders Consultation for the National Value Chain Analysis (VCA) on Seaweeds on July 12, 2018.

"It's very informative. There are lots of opportunities and identified problems and we are learning a lot."

The Visayas-Mindanao leg activity was spearheaded by the Planning Component (I-PLAN) of the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) in partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. It seeks to capture, collect data and information relative to seaweed farming activities in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Data gathered will be translated into a Value Chain Analysis (VCA) document which is vital in the creation of the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP) to facilitate prioritization of investments for the industry.

According to Antonio Yuri Yap, Executive Director of the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (SIAP), 2017 data showed that Raw Dried Seaweeds (RDS) production in the Philippines is roughly at 97,765 metric tons (MT) out of the total market annual requirement of 144,960 MT.

Processors in the country continue to import seaweeds from Indonesia.

In the workshop, identified constraints along with opportunities, were given weight and complemented with interventions to form part of the national VCA for Seaweeds.

Among the segments captured were: alternative opportunities for the players in the chain, sharing of technology/practices from other areas, Role of Traders: Linking players and matching supply and demand among others.

This segment shall be reflected in the final VCA draft and will be disseminated to all stakeholders for reference. (Bexmae Jumao-as, RPCO 7, Writer)

## Mindanao

### 6.69 km road project continues to improve beneficiaries' lives

In the outskirts of Siay, Zamboanga Sibugay settles a community of farmers whose livelihood positively changed after the completion of farm-to-market road (FMR) project.

Through the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) and Local Government of Siay, the poor road condition of two barangays were addressed through the rehabilitation and concreting of Bagong Silang-Magsaysay FMR project amounting to P61 million.

"Before, our living condition here was very difficult. We had to hike in going to Batu (another barangay) for three hours while carrying our produce like vegetables," said famer Rosalinda R. Ito.

Currently, residents no longer experience the hassle and difficulty when travelling and transporting their goods because of a cemented road.

"Now, our travel time from here to Poblacion is shortened to 40 minutes. Before, we used to spend P120.00 for our fare while today it lowered to P80.00 only," she said.

Stretching 6.96 km, the road influence area of the project covered three barangays which include Brgy. Bagong Silang, Villagrancia, and Magsaysay with a total of 227 household beneficiaries.

The project which started in 2015 was completed last December 22, 2017. Six months since its completion, residents are now starting to feel the impact of the project in their lives and community as well. (Joy M. Montecalvo, PSO)

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## PRDP holds stakeholders' consultation for coconut, cacao

Participants writing their inputs and comments on the presentation during the first day of stakeholders' consultation on Coconut Value Chain Analysis. (Photo by Gian Enrique/ PSO Mindanao)

The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) will finalize a National Value Chain Analysis for Coconut and Cacao, after a presentation and consultation with Mindanao stakeholders' in Davao City.

Based on the initial results and findings of the study, there are new opportunities for coconut for food and non-food, consequently increasing the income of farmers. Cacao also posts an increasing demand for food, cosmetics and wellness sectors.

However, both industries are restricted by challenges including the limited know-how on climate change resilient technologies for coffee and weak compliance to mandatory requirements, standards and lack of

production for cacao.

"It is important for us to clearly identify the constraints and opportunities in our VCAs, because from here, we will see our direction and we will know where we are in the market and what are the things we can do to address these concerns," said VCA Consultant Marian Boquiren.

"VCA allows us to identify the necessary investments for a particular commodity based on the recommendation from participatory and scientific approach for us to modernize the gaps and constraints," said National I-PLAN Alternate Component Head Cerenio T. Tila. Coconut and cacao are among the important produce of the country that will be accorded investment priorities. Other commodities include mango;

banana cardava; seaweeds; native pigs; goat; and highland and lowland vegetables.

"We have already produced VCAs before but only in the Mindanao context. This time, it's more on the national context. We will expand our VCAs per commodity which will cover other concerns of all four clusters from Luzon A, Luzon B, Visayas and Mindanao. That's why we are also leveraging our resources to other National Government Agencies so they can also provide support," said Tila.

To date, the I-PLAN has 98 of approved VCAs while the remaining 49 are still ongoing. (Joy M. Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao, InfoACe Unit) ■



## PRDP implementers trained on geomapping to ensure transparency

To level up knowledge of implementers of Department of Agriculture (DA) programs and projects in CAR from geotagging to geo-mapping, the I-PLAN Component of the DA Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) conducted a training on geo-mapping through the use of Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) software.

The participants, composed of implementers from the local government units in CAR together with some regular staff from the DA Regional Field Office CAR and PRDP Regional Project Coordinating Office (RPCO), were able to gain knowledge on the concepts of Geographic Information System (GIS) which allows them to create

maps for a more efficient decision making.

According to Arnel Gaguas, Planning Specialist of PRDP RPCO CAR, the PRDP uses GIS in planning, monitoring, evaluating and implementing subprojects and that GIS particularly monitors the quality of work, delivery of goods, the compliance to the SES, among other things.

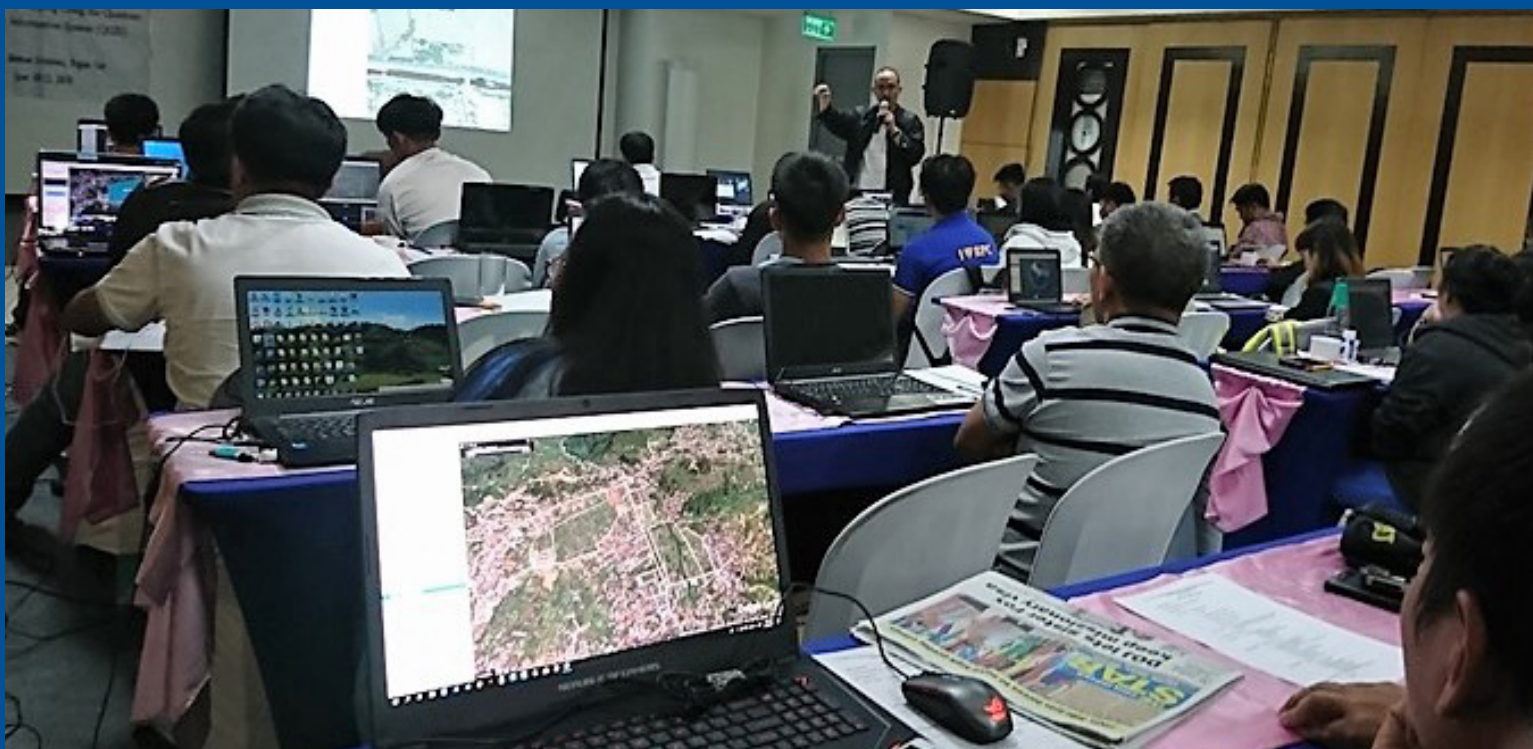
“One of the objectives of this training is to capacitate all participants on the technical skills about the open source GIS, to enable them to gain knowledge on the application and use of GIS and to create GIS generated maps,” he said.

Stephen Mangupag, GIS Data Officer of the Geomapping and

Governance Unit of the PRDP's National Project Coordinating Office (NPCO) and resource speaker for the whole duration of the training underscored the use of Geo-mapping to ensure transparency as well as monitoring and evaluation results of every subproject under the PRDP.

Mangupag said that this tool makes sure that all subprojects are implemented in the right location. He added that geomapping allows project implementers to virtually see the location of subprojects as well as monitor current status and updates of every project anytime since it is available online.

[Read more on p. 3](#)



Stephen Mangupag, GIS Data Officer of the PRDP NPCO Geomapping and Governance Unit (GGU) introduces geo-mapping through the use of the Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) software during the training on Geo-mapping held on June 19-22, 2018 in Baguio City.

# PRDP crafts VCA for climate change resilient coconut, cacao



“If you look at the productivity of coconut trees, this has been changing up and down. In 2016, we had a drought and primarily this was the effect of climate change. This is a sign that adaptation of climate change resilient technology is very important,” shared by Marian Boquiren, VCA consultant during the stakeholders’ consultation for the crafting of National Value Chain Analysis for Coconut and Cacao sponsored by DA-PRDP in Oracle Hotel, Quezon City.

Study shows that there is a growing demand for fine flavor and specialty cacao beans and there is a growing market for coconut both for food and non-food applications. Coconut and cacao are both prioritized commodities of national importance, thus, their

constraints and proposed interventions were discussed during the stakeholders’ consultation which included participants from industry experts, private sector, farmer groups, local government units, Land Bank, DA-Agricultural Credit Policy Council, and Philippine Coconut Authority.

“Now we incorporate climate proofing of the value chain and biodiversity conservation as a way of our adaptation to the current weather disturbances frequently experienced by industry players within the value chain. For example in the production, many of our farmers experience climate change due to low productivity. As part of the analysis, we have to provide innovations and recommendations on how to adapt

to the climate change,” said PRDP NPCO I-PLAN Alternate Component Head Cerenio T. Tila.

“Under PRDP we use science based tools like VCA as basis in translating investments for our rural infrastructure support (I-BUILD) and enterprise development (I-REAP). VCA is very important as we can see constraints, gaps, opportunities and trends of the industry. The result of VCA will capture the crafting of Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP) in every province in the Philippines which will be the major reference of investments to support the province to develop their respective agri- fishery sector. “ said Tila. *(Article and Photo by Kathrino Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)*

## PRDP implemeters trained’...(from page 2)

For the subproject approving bodies, geomapping is one of the ways of determining whether or not subproject proposals match up with PRDP’s criteria. Generated maps can also tell whether subprojects are implemented properly and are therefore used as basis for project cancellation, deferment or redesigning.

“GIS maps will show where subprojects are located and whether it will reach the production areas of priority commodities per area, otherwise the subproject will not be approved,” he said.

Mangupag added that the use of this system is from project identification, implementation, completion, and beyond.

“This tool allowed the government to save around P2.7 million pesos because generated maps have determined that some subprojects are funded by other agencies and are therefore rejected,” Mangupag said. Accordingly, some subproject proposals were discovered to have been proposed under other funding agencies or are already funded through this tool.

At the end of the training, Gaguas reiterated that PRDP implementers need this training because monthly reports with geo-tagged photos imbedded in geo-maps are required. On the other hand, regular DA staff and provincial agricultural technicians benefit from this training through knowledge gained on how to map out agricultural patterns such as area of farmland, vulnerability and suitability of crops among others, he said. *(Mabel Zabala, RPCO-CAR InfoACE Unit)* ■