



DA-PRDP's Second Additional Financing now effective for implementation

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) is now on track to move forward to the next chapter of project implementation, as the Loan and Grant Agreements between the Philippine government and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) – World Bank (WB) for the Second Additional Financing (AF2)

has been declared effective on September 24, 2021.

With the loan effectiveness in place, the DA-PRDP can proceed with implementation towards the fourth quarter of the year, with the AF2 being retrofitted to complement the initiatives of the DA towards food security and resiliency.

On July 19, 2021, the Philippine government signed

the \$280 million (M) AF2 with EUR18.3-M E.U. Co-financing grant. The AF2 is the second tranche of the \$450-M AF from the World Bank that was approved by the Investment Coordination Committee in 2016.

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Under the AF2, together with the E.U. Co-financing grant, interventions implemented by the DA-PRDP will expand to farmers and fisherfolk in support of food security, as well as promoting enterprise activities, and the linkage of production areas directly to the market.

It is expected that more than 300,000 farmer and fisherfolk beneficiaries will benefit under the AF2, including more than 70,000 jobs generated under infrastructure subprojects and enterprise activities. Also included under the AF2 is the expansion of the DA-PRDP's implementation in Mindanao, which covers conflict-affected regions, areas with Indigenous People (IP), fourth-to-sixth class Local Government

Units (LGUs), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

DA Secretary William Dar commended the approval and effectivity of the AF2, which will greatly aid farmers and fisherfolk affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agri chief has time and again expressed gratitude to the WB for assisting the Philippine government in enhancing its rural development programs.

PRDP National Project Director Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanán expressed his gratitude to the World Bank for the AF2's loan effectiveness, adding that the Project can begin to mobilize the funds for subprojects to move forward.

"We would like to thank the World Bank and everyone involved for the effectivity of the AF2. Now in place, the AF2, together with the EU Co-financing grant, marks as the go signal for us to enhance our activities and complement the DA's initiatives in assisting our beneficiaries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to economic recovery," Usec. Cayanán said.

With the AF2 now effective, the DA-PRDP will begin to open project accounts at the Bureau of Treasury in order to access the loan and grant proceeds, with the processing of request for budget and release of the allotment from the Department of Budget and Management to follow. *(Iconn Mel D. Cayabyab, NPCO InfoACE)* ■

DA chief inaugurates Oriental Mindoro Calamansi Trading Center



DA Secretary William Dar led the ribbon cutting ceremony for the PRDP Oriental Mindoro Calamansi Trading Center (OMCTC), as it entered into a partnership with KLT Fruits Incorporated for the supply of calamansi on September 24, 2021.

Under the partnership, 200 calamansi farmer-members of the Naujan Farmers' Association (NAFA), the PG under the OMCTC will supply 10 tons of fresh

calamansi to KLT Fruits Inc. daily, to be processed into calamansi extract.

NAFA Manager Vic Ulayan shared his joy about this new partnership, as they will have a fixed buyer of their calamansi, thus avoiding spoilage.

"Noong ilang taon noon, nag-tagal ang tag-araw dito nang almost seven months, bumunga nang napakarami ang calamansi,

hindi nabenta. Ang daming nasira noon dito. So humingi kami ng tulong sa provincial government noon at ang nai-rekomenda ni Governor noon eh 'yung PRDP na paglagyan ng produkto na calamansi. For both parties maganda po dahil may potential tayo ngayon dito sa calamansi," Ulayan said.

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DA Secretary Dar leads PRDP... (from Page 2)

With this new partnership, KLT Fruits Inc. plans to expand the calamansi plantation area of NAFA into another 80,000 hectares in the next three years, with a projection of 25% annual growth in demand until 2030.

KLT Fruit Inc.'s Purchasing Manager Ferdinand Pio shared that this will not be possible without the assistance of the DA.

"We need to start 20,000 hectares this year, 20,000 of the original 80,000 hectares. We're asking for DA's help so they could assist farmers to propagate calamansi in this size of land. If DA could endorse a location and assist farmers, it's what we really need," Pio expressed.

Pio also promised to take care of NAFA as they enter into the new partnership.

"We're in a contract now with NAFA. All the calamansi that will be processed in this facility will exclusively come from NAFA. If they do not meet the supply requirement, that's the only time that we can acquire calamansi from another source. What we can commit on our side, aalagaan namin ang payment terms na napag-usapan namin. I will personally make sure na mabayaran sila on time para umikot yung revolving fund nila," Pio added.

The OMCTC is a subproject under the DA-PRDP's I-REAP Component that was completed in

October 2017. With a total cost of PhP12 million, the subproject benefits 432 farmer-members of the NAFA.

Also present in the ribbon cutting ceremony were representatives from KLT Fruits Inc.; representatives from the PLGU headed by Governor Humerlito Dolor; representatives from DA's Regional Office headed by Regional Technical Director for Operations Engr. Elmer Ferry, Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations Louella Rowena Lorenzana, and Agricultural Training Institute Director Pat Andrew Barrientos; and representatives from NAFA headed by Manager Vic Ulayan. *(Danica A. Brutas, DA-PRDP MIMAROPA RPCO InfoACE Unit)* ■

BASEFA combines seaweeds with tourism

Exploring to convert the fruits of their labor into another form of income, seaweeds farmers from the Batangas Seaweeds Association (BASEFA) use 28 floating cottages for tourism, through the help of the DA-PRDP.

Built in January 2019, the floating cottages are aimed to transport tourists to various destinations in Batangas, while also promoting their livelihood through their seaweeds farm. According to BASEFA General Manager Flora Limoico, the project is a combination of their income earned from seaweeds, and the support from the DA-PRDP.

For BASEFA, the floating cottages can be used to transport tourists to regular destinations such as Little Boracay, white sand bars, starfish sites, and snorkeling areas, as well as their very own seaweeds farm.

Limoico added that members



can accompany the tourists and present on-site the role, benefits, and uses of seaweeds, as well as purchase and eat seaweeds while in the cottage. For BASEFA, international travelers and students are the most common tourists that avail the added itinerary to the seaweeds farm.

"Sobrang amazed sila, lalo na ang mga estudyante kapag binabanggit namin kung saan ba ginagamit ang mga seaweeds. Natutuwa silang malaman na ang seaweeds pala ay ginagamit sa gatas, hotdogs, gamot, at body lotion. Nagkakaroon sila ng appreciation at awareness sa mga ginagawa namin," Limoico added.

While the cottages are individually owned, the owners still remit a portion of their income to the association to grow their group further. The association helps them in marketing their services in different

beaches and resorts located in Calatagan.

Still, their seaweeds farming operation is the priority of the members, especially the tourism activities that have been closed by the local government due to COVID-19 pandemic. Even with lockdowns, they can continue growing and selling their produce to their buyers.

"Itong pagtatanim ng seaweeds ang patuloy na sumasalba sa amin ngayong pandemya. Nagpapasalamat kami dahil mayroon pa ring bumibili sa amin," Limoico said.

BASEFA continues to see their future with seaweeds. According to them, even if they diversify to include other sources of income, they will continue and make the seaweeds industry in Calatagan prosper. *(Elijah Jeudi Ocial, CALABARZON RPCO InfoACE Unit)* ■

North Luzon

Agri chief leads turn-over of DA-PRDP completed FMR in Quirino

DA Secretary William Dar officially turned over the completed 8.073-kilometer Ricarte Sur-Magsaysay Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) on September 4, 2021.

The P136.8 million (M)-worth DA-PRDP FMR connects four villages in Diffun, Quirino that will now enjoy easy access through road networks to transport goods and agricultural produce.

In his message, Secretary Dar expressed the excellent partnership of the Provincial Local Government of Quirino and the DA that resulted in a robust collaboration that is substantially helping the farmers and fisherfolk in the province.

Ricarte Sur, Diffun Village Chief Liza Eugenio said the impact of the FMR has been immediately felt by residents, due to the easy transport of agricultural inputs and materials.

"It is easy now to travel especially transporting the agricultural inputs that our farmers need in food production," Eugenio said.

Likewise, Doña Imelda Village Chief Edna Plan said that roads are part of progress and development.

"The roads are proof that our farmers can achieve an optimum result by this newly built subproject," Plan added.

DA Cagayan Valley Executive and Project Coordination Office Director Narciso Edillo said that this was the result of the commitment of the local office of the DA in uplifting every farmer and fisher in the region. (Mark Anthony Gallibu, RPCO 2 InfoACE)

South Luzon

DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol turns over Abaca Twine Processing and Marketing Enterprise Project in Albay

The DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol turned over the Abaca Twine to the members of the proponent group (PG) of Sta. Teresa - San Francisco Irrigators Association Inc. on September 10, 2021.

The P6 M-worth project includes the construction of the abaca twine processing and marketing building, one (1) hauling truck, 20 units twining machine, two (2) units weighing scale, and 2,000 pieces of abaca suckers.

The interventions will provide convenience to the members of the PG and provide additional livelihood in abaca twine processing and marketing.

The turnover ceremony was attended by representatives from RPCO Bicol, Albay Provincial Fiber Development Office, Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU) of Malilipot, officials of the recipient barangay, and members of the PG.

According to Municipal Agriculturist Romela Montesinay, it takes 3 months before the rice farmers can harvest what they planted, therefore, having another source of livelihood such as abaca twining would be a great help to support their families.

Now that the interventions have been given to the PG, more farmers will be encouraged to engage in abaca fiber processing, which can lead to an increase in the number of abaca producing barangays in the municipality. (Michelle Angela Alfigura, RPCO Bicol InfoACE)

Visayas

RPCO 6 conducts pilot run of mobile OMAS for Iloilo FMRs

Three FMRs in Iloilo were inspected by the DA-PRDP RPCO 6 Team as part of its Operation and Maintenance Audit System (OMAS) Activity. While utilizing the newly-introduced mobile OMAS, joint usage of KoBoCollect Application and PRDP Geo Camera were enforced for pilot run from September 16-17, 2021.

Among the FMR subprojects (SPs) visited were the Tinocuan-Maribuyong FMR in Dueñas, Iloilo; the Parara-Jamog FMR in Tigbauan;

and the Imbang Grande – Tagubong – Gemumua Agahon – Agtabo FMR in Passi City, so far the longest completed FMR subproject in the region.

During the conduct of OMAS for the several FMR subprojects, the team utilized the tools that were tentatively introduced to be rolled out among the local stakeholders of the DA-PRDP projects. The team is also in charge of monitoring the completed or turned-over FMR SPs as a response to the current situation where different restrictions are being imposed due to the pandemic.

"With the use of the mobile OMAS, we could be able to generate a report regarding our monitoring activities and give our recommendations which will lead to the creation of online database for our FMR and other infrastructure SPs," said RPCO 6 Rural Infrastructure Engineer Freddie S. Fernandez.

The pilot run conducted enabled the team to identify the efficiency of holding the OMAS activity using the said tool and find out its viability in terms of the projected roll-out among all other LGUs.

The OMAS is one of the monitoring tools of DA-PRDP that seeks to identify strategies implemented by the LGUs benefiting from PRDP SPs in order to maintain its quality and condition, ensuring progress to farmers and residents. It is conducted every six months after the completion of the subprojects. (April Grace Padilla, RPCO 6 InfoACE)

Mindanao

Facilities for Seaweed Enterprise to Rise in Dinagat

Seaweed farmers may soon expand their production as the Seaweed Solar Dryer and Storage Facility funded by the DA-PRDP is starting to rise in Dinagat Islands.

With a target completion date by December 2021, the project will support the seaweed business enterprise by focusing on providing production inputs, buying fresh seaweeds from member farmers, and processing of produce to raw dried seaweeds. This will help the New Mabuhay Seaweed Farmer and Fisherfolks Association (NMSFFA) increase the production of dried seaweeds from its members.

The dryer, which will be constructed along the coast of Barangay New Mabuhay, with a capacity of 7,500 kg per batch, will improve the quality of raw dried seaweeds. It will be coupled with a 3x6m storage warehouse, with a capacity of 5mt and a motorized flatboat for hauling wet and dried seaweeds from the association members.

Aside from seaweed production, the SP will also support community-based enterprises. This includes the proper handling and moving of seaweed commodities to enhance the post-harvest processing to increase the income of the farmers and the NMSFFA.

In year one, this project envisions to produce and market 109,209 kg of quality dried seaweeds as an added enterprise. It also aims to generate an income of PhP2.9 million for the enterprise, and increase fisher household beneficiaries' income by 25%, from P73.8k to P92.4k. (Zenny G. Awing, RPCO 13 InfoACE)

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