



## DA-PRDP GEF conducts stakeholders' consultation on MPA rehab, microenterprise livelihood post Typhoon Odette

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and microenterprises affected by Typhoon Odette in Roxas, Palawan are set to gain further assistance, as the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) Global Environment Facility (GEF), together with the Project Support Office (PSO) South Luzon

Cluster, met with Proponent Groups (PGs) and MPA Management Boards from seven (7) GEF covered MPAs through a stakeholder's consultation held from February 15-17, 2022.

The GEF Sites Review Mission – Stakeholders Consultation, Assessment, and Planning was held to serve as a venue for dialogue between on the ground stakeholders, the local government,

and the DA-PRDP, aimed at determining the scope and cost of damages to MPA facilities, goods, and equipment brought about by Typhoon Odette, which hit the country in December 2021.

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During the meeting, DA-PRDP stakeholders were able to determine priority goods and facilities for replacement or repair, forming rehabilitation plans to bring back the viability of the projects started. Likewise, the need for crop insurance, early warning systems, and safeguarding of equipment and facilities in the onset of disasters were also highlighted.

Several Barangay councils and PGs conveyed initiatives to lead the rehabilitation of goods, requiring small work repairs to boats and signages.

“Kailangan maisakatuparan ang pag-rerehab mula sa mamamayan, sa mga properties na nasira hanggang sa pangkabuhayan, ‘yun po ang commitment ng barangay”, Barangay Tinitian Chairman

Andrew Golifardo expressed.

PGs and MPA Management Boards also emphasized the immediate installation of buoys to mark the boundaries of the MPA's core zones to deter illegal fishers from further poaching inside the protected areas.

The damage to green grouper and seaweed cultures under the microenterprise subproject was also assessed during the consultation. With losses in facilities, structures, and marketable products, some microenterprises are not expected to recover, however, the local seaweed industry is inclined to rebound.

“Yung plano po namin doon sa microenterprise, patuloy po kaming magtatanim ng seaweed kasi po ‘yun talaga ang bukod

sa hanapbuhay na namin talaga siya, doon din kami kumikita ng maganda”, Green Island Fisherfolks Association (GIFA) President Jebrel Ompad shared.

GIFA is currently searching for sources of seaweed propagules to begin re-planting this season. With the majority of the existing stock in the province washed out by Typhoon Odette, the PG is appealing for government assistance in finding quality planting materials for their cultures.

In response to the identified needs for recovery, the PSO South Luzon and the local government of Roxas will facilitate procurement of goods for the rehabilitation of the livelihood of coastal folks and of the MPA, using remaining funds. *(Carm T. Novilla, NPCO GEF-NRM)* ■



(Photos by Alvin DG. Santos, NPCO GEF-NRM)

# World Bank orients DA-PRDP on changes of procurement regulations



Undersecretary for Operations and PRDP National Project Director Engr. Ariel T. Cayanán, together with PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla and DA-PRDP NPCO Alternate Unit Head Engr. Romeo L. Malong lead the orientation on the World Bank Procurement Regulations on February 14, 2022 in the DA-PRDP NPCO Office in Quezon City.

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) Procurement Unit conducted the Orientation on the World Bank (WB) Procurement Regulations with top caliber speakers on procurement on February 14, 2022.

The week-long event aimed to provide an overview of the changes on the procurement framework of the WB, and its application to DA-PRDP procurement policies and guidelines.

DA-PRDP National Project Director Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanán led the opening ceremonies, together with WB

Task Team Leader Eli Weiss, and DA-PRDP Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla.

In his message, Usec. Cayanán expressed the importance of the meeting, being as an opportunity to further develop the procurement framework of the WB.

“That is why this week-long meeting is crucial. Given that this orientation is one of the agreed actions during the last World Bank Implementation Support Mission, we are gathered here to have a clear overview of the changes on the procurement framework of the World Bank. Don’t worry, these changes only mean one thing – and they are all for improvement, and their application to the DA-

PRDP procurement policies and guidelines,” Usec. Cayanán said.

WB Task Team Leader Weiss lauded the DA-PRDP and its Procurement Teams for constantly setting the bar high when it comes to overall project accomplishment.

“First of all, I want to provide the PRDP Procurement Team a big congrats for helping, achieving all the Project’s accomplishment and for its proactivity in finding solutions even before problems occur. So, you are super proactive, and that’s really appreciated, so thank you so much,” Weiss said.

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Later on, DA-PRDP NPCO Alternate Procurement Unit Head Engineer Romeo L. Malong presented the overview of the activity, followed by the overview of the Procurement Framework, which was presented by WB Lead Procurement Specialist for the East Asia and Pacific Region Ahmed Merzouk.

During the five-day orientation, key speakers from the World Bank discussed the following topics: overview of the Word Procurement Framework, procurement regulations key

conditions, selection methods for works, goods, consulting, and non-consulting services, overview of the World Bank Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement (STEP), and the Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD).

Speakers during the orientation include WB East Asia and Pacific Region Lead Procurement Specialist Ahmed Merzouk, WB Jakarta Senior Procurement Specialist Arun Kumar Kolsur, WB Manila Senior Procurement Specialist Engineer

Dominic Aumentado, Procurement Consultant Engineer Noel Sta. Ines, and WB Manila Procurement Assistant Ernie Monteverde.

Also present during the event were World Bank Co-Task Team Leader Maria Theresa Quiñones, procurement practitioners from MIADP, BFAR-FISHCORE, DAR-SPLIT, DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS, BAC – Bureau of Customs, and representatives of Procurement teams from the NPCO, Project Support Offices (PSOs), and Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs). *(Iconn Mel D. Cayabyab, PRDP NPCO InfoACE)* ■



Clockwise: Usec. Ariel T. Cayanan, Dir. Shandy M. Hubiila, World Bank Task team Leader to the DA-PRDP Eli Weiss, Engr. Romeo L. Malong, Procurement Specialist Rossana Joaquin, Procurement Officers Lovella Montealto and Raymund Rivera, and Associate Procurement Officer Robin Peralta hold the orientation on the World Bank Procurement Regulations. *(Photos by Ana Victoria C. Margallo, NPCO InfoACE)*

## North Luzon

### RTFC's heirloom rice biz enhanced through DA-PRDP support

Operation of the enhanced heirloom rice processing business of the Rice Terraces Farmers' Cooperative (RTFC) is now in full swing with the completion and turnover of their enterprise subproject on the processing and marketing of quality export Ifugao heirloom rice, held on February 11, 2022 at Amganad, Banaue Ifugao.

The newly constructed Ifugao Heirloom Rice Consolidation, Processing, and Marketing Center along with a trading capital and several processing machineries, was turned over to the RTFC as part of their enterprise.

During the turnover ceremony, Ifugao Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Member Agustin C. Calya-en, representing Ifugao Governor Jerry U. Dalipog, commended the efforts of the RTFC and everyone involved, for its compliance with the DA-PRDP requirements.

"We have been beneficiaries of several foreign-funded projects in the past, so we know that the requirements are not easy especially for the LGU," Calya-en said.

Calya-en added that despite having implemented under three (3) LGUs, the importance of the continuity of efforts towards the collective well-being and happiness of Ifugaos must be sustained, which falls in line as one of the province's missions.

The RTFC's enterprise subproject aims to improve the socio-economic status of its farmer-members while empowering the heirloom rice industry. Through the enterprise, RTFC intends to increase total heirloom rice production from its farmer-members from 42,930 kilograms (kg) to 220,000 kg in the span of 10 years; increase farmer income by 5% on the first year; increase cooperative's income by 100% until the 10th year; increase RTFC members by at least 2% every year; and create employment.

DA-PRDP Project Support Office (PSO) North Luzon Cluster Deputy Project Director Elma S. Mananes said that along with the upgrades, the income of the farmers must also be prioritized in order for more beneficiaries.

Among the Cordillera provinces, Ifugao has the largest area planted with heirloom rice varieties at 5,141 hectares. Additionally, Ifugao is the top producer of aromatic and pigmented rice with the municipalities of Mayoyao, Banaue, Hungduan, and Aginaldo as the top producing areas. (Elvy T. Estacio, RPCO CAR InfoACE)

## South Luzon

### Catanduanes breaks ground for PhP177-M worth FMR

Residents in Viga, Catanduanes will formally connect abaca farms to the market in the future, as the PhP176.97 million (M) 5.50-kilometer Concreting of Junction Ogbong – Mabina Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) formally had the groundbreaking on January 12, 2022.

The said FMR, implemented under the DA-PRDP, aims to upgrade the existing gravel road traversing five (5) barangays in the Road Influence Area (RIA), namely, Barangays Ogbong, Ananong, Mabini, Sta. Rosa, and Magsaysay.

The groundbreaking ceremony was led by DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol Deputy Project Director Adelina Losa, together with Catanduanes Governor Joseph Cua and DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol I-BUILD Unit Head Engineer Teodoro Eleda.

During the ceremony, Catanduanes Governor Joseph Cua thanked the DA-PRDP for facilitating the approval and implementation of the subproject.

"By making this road concrete, we provide our fellow Viganon, especially the three barangays of Ananong, Mabini and Ogbong, the local farmers an advantage and convenience of passing through the farm-to-market roads, which will lead them to the market towns or any centers of enterprise without facing difficulties that they used to struggle with these unpaved roads," Governor Cua said.

Director Losa oriented the audience about the DA-PRDP, while also acknowledging the vital role of the Provincial Government, particularly the Provincial Governor, who pushed for the budget allocation of the 10% fund counterpart to the I-BUILD subproject.

Director Losa also enjoined barangay captains and their constituents to do their part in strictly monitoring the overall project implementation.

"Hindi lang po ito responsibilidad ng kontraktor, responsibilidad din ito ng mga residente na maki-cooperate sa kontraktor. With your cooperation, nandito ang mga magiging na barangay captain, tulungan po natin na

matapos itong proyekto na maganda at sa tamang oras," Director Losa expressed.

Likewise, the barangay captains of three adjoining barangays that will benefit from the FMR expressed their gratitude and high hopes once the project is completed.

Data from the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) shows that as of 2019, the province of Viga is the third abaca-producing municipality in Bicol, with 1,889 farmers cultivating 5,156.17 hectares.

With the said FMR designed to provide a direct link from farms, directly to markets, it is expected that a total population of 3,093 or 420 farmer households will benefit from the subproject. The FMR is funded under the first tranche of the DA-PRDP's \$450 million dollar-worth Additional Financing from the World Bank.

Also present during the groundbreaking ceremony include Municipal Assessor Engineer Ceferino Berces Jr. representing Viga Mayor Emeterio Tarin, Vice Mayor Cesar Cervantes, Municipal Agriculturist Gerardo Tumala, Provincial Project Management Implementation Office headed by Engineer Elsie Reyes, and Provincial Administrator Lemuel Surtida. (Annielyn L. Balez, DA RAFIS V/PRDP RPCO V InfoACE)

## Mindanao

### Sultan Kudarat SPs undergo Technical Review

Three Local Government Units (LGUs) in Sultan Kudarat recently participated in a technical review of their proposed subprojects (SPs) to the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

Technical personnel from the Municipal Project Monitoring and Implementing Units of Isulan, Esperanza and Lambayong presented their subproject proposals, feasibility studies, program of works and other documents to the pool of consultants of the Project Support Office (PSO) Mindanao and Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) 12.

The joint technical review materialized after the subproject appraisal conducted by the rural infrastructure engineers and other technical staff of RPCO 12. The activity was also a part of the preparation process for the subproject's approval in the Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB).

Proposals were examined in order to secure the viability of the SPs and discuss the possible findings and recommendations to further improve their documents.

Some of the infrastructure SPs included in the joint technical review that will improve the lives of rural communities are warehouses with solar dryer and potable water systems.

RPCO 12 Deputy Project Director Zaldy Boloron commended the LGUs for their enthusiasm in accessing projects from the DA-PRDP.

"I would like to thank you for your unending interest with PRDP... 'though we have a tedious process, you still persevere," Director Boloron noted.

He added that with their experience with the DA-PRDP, the LGUs will earn the respect of other funding agencies, for the integrity they acquired from the World Bank-assisted projects they proposed and implemented.

"We realized that we are trained to be excellent with our proposals," Ovette Viray of Isulan LGU noted.

She said that other agencies will see them as a credible partner for implementing projects because of their experience with PRDP. (Carl Ulysses Aguillon, RPCO 12 InfoACE)

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