



DA-PRDP, World Bank, E.U. formally kick off 14th Implementation Support Mission

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), together with the World Bank (WB) and the European Union (E.U.), officially opened the 14th Implementation Support Mission (ISM) on May 23, 2022.

The 14th WB-ISM is a three-week event of consultations, discussions, workshops, and action planning among the DA-PRDP National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), Project Support Offices (PSOs), and Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs). The

event will formally end on June 13, 2022, with a wrap-up meeting with representatives from the DA-PRDP, WB, and E.U.

[Read more on p. 2](#)



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During the kick-off ceremony, DA Secretary William Dar, in his message, lauded the DA-PRDP, WB, and E.U. for the continuous conduct of the missions, together with the approval of the Second Additional Financing and E.U. co-financing grant in 2021.

“I am pleased to report and thanks to our joint efforts – and with the effective use of technology – the conduct of all our missions under the PRDP were successful and productive, despite the pandemic. I believe the Second Additional Financing and E.U. co-financing grant for the PRDP is evidence of success – and a testament to shared commitment to enable Filipino rural communities and expand opportunities in the Philippine countryside,” Secretary Dar expressed.

With the latest achievements set by the Project, Secretary Dar cited the PRDP as one of the model projects under the DA.

“If there is a model project formal for special projects, new ones, and even for regular programs and projects of the Department of Agriculture (DA), it is the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP),” he stressed.

Transitioning towards rural development

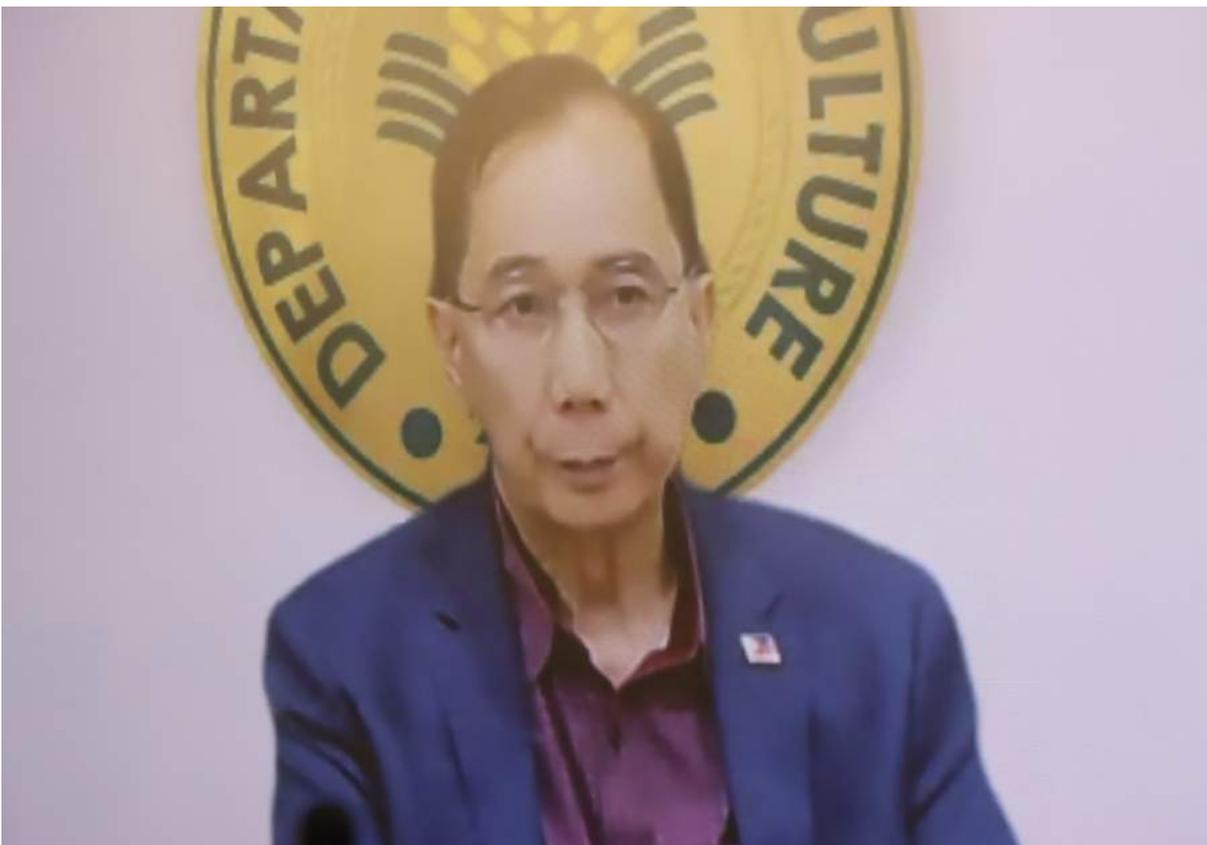
With the 14th WB-ISM as the last meeting under his administration, Secretary Dar expects the DA-PRDP to conduct a proper transition to the next government for continuation of the Project’s major objectives.

“The transition will be a huge undertaking, but I believe that agriculture and rural development will remain top priorities for the incoming government. I encourage everyone here, today to ensure that we provide the next administration with all the tools that it needs to continue the work we have begun together,” Secretary Dar added.

In response, Agriculture Practice Manager of WB East Asia and Pacific Region Dina Umali-Deininger echoed World Bank Team’s commendation to the DA-PRDP for raising the bar in all its activities and innovations and for its continuous and strong commitment to deliver its objectives despite the challenges of the pandemic.

DA-PRDP National Project Director Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanan also commended the PRDP family for working tirelessly and passionately together amid all the challenges of the pandemic. Eli Weiss, task team leader of World Bank presented the 14th mission objectives, followed by DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla’s presentation of progress and updates on the Agreed Action during the 13th WB-ISM.

[Read more on p. 3](#) 



Secretary William D. Dar expresses his gratitude towards the men and women of DA-PRDP for their efforts in the Project’s implementation, especially under his administration.

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DA-PRDP updates latest accomplishments

In his welcome remarks, Usec. Cayanan reported that the DA-PRDP has rolled out a total of 1,174 projects in 79 provinces, targeting 969,800 household beneficiaries nationwide.

Under the I-PLAN Component,

there are 137 approved Value Chain Analysis, covering 78 commodities and product forms. For the I-BUILD Component, a total of more than 1,490 kilometers have been completed, along with more than 1,100 meters of bridges, 104 units of pre-and-post harvest facilities, potable water systems for at least 9,300 household beneficiaries, and

the provision of improved irrigation or drainage services to at least 2,800 hectares of agricultural land. Under I-REAP Component, the Project has completed more than 534 enterprise subprojects, assisting more than 704 Proponent Groups that equal to more than 109,318 household beneficiaries. *(Iconn Mel D. Cayabyab, NPCO InfoACE)* ■



DA-PRDP National Project Director Usec. Ariel Cayanan and National Deputy Project Director Shandy Hubills provides the latest updates in the project's implementation.



(clockwise) Virtually present during the kick-off meeting were World Bank Task Team Leaders Eli Weiss and Ma. Teresa Quiñones and Food and Agriculture Organization Natural Resources Management Officer Jim Hancock. In attendance at the DA office in Quezon City were the Project's component heads and their alternates. *(Photos by Ana Victoria Margallo, NPCO InfoACE)*

14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission to the DA-PRDP activities

After the successful kick-off meeting of the 14th WB-ISM, the DA-PRDP, together with the WB, E.U., NPCO, PSOs, and RPCOs, conducted a series of week-long activities with the components and units of the Project, to assess the latest updates and ways moving forward.

May 24, 2022



E.U. Discussion with Proponent Groups

Led by the PSO Mindanao Cluster, PGs from Region IX, X, XI, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the PGs presented their profiles to the WB and E.U., as well as its business proposals and overall plans for their proposed subprojects. Participating PGs



include the Dinas Small Coconut Farmers Federation and (Region IX), the Cadayunan Tribal Farmers Association (Region X), the Tibolo Farm Workers Association (Region XI), and the Kauran Christian Upland Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (BARMM).

Among the projects presented were coco-coir processing, Robusta Coffee production, goat raising and Abaca



fiber processing. When approved, these subprojects are envisioned to increase household income, generate jobs, and revitalize the socio-economic aspect of their PG members, as well as the communities where they belong. Post-harvest facilities, hauling equipment, enterprise development and marketing assistance were among the proposed DA-PRDP interventions.



GEF-NRM Presentation and Open Forum

The Global Environment Facility - National Resources Management (GEF-NRM) Presentation and



Open Forum was conducted to thoroughly discuss plans and strategies to ensure completion of all its subprojects, as well as establish positive commitment with its stakeholders - the sustainability



of the interventions provided, including that the remaining technology demonstrations are implemented and fully operational by December 2022 and beyond.

14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission.. (from Page 4)

May 25, 2022



Contractor's Meeting

A Contractor's Meeting was conducted to touch base with the contractors on the ground, reiterate their compliance to the Projects'



guidelines, and present the best practices in the implementation of subprojects.

Likewise, the contractors also provided the latest update on the progress of ongoing



subprojects. During the meeting, contractors were encouraged to actively consult in matters affecting the progress of the projects, specifically those concerning procurement.



I-PLAN Component

The Project's I-PLAN Component presented its innovations and mainstreaming of activities of the Value Chain Analysis, mainstreamed to the Provincial/City Commodity



Investment Plan (P/CCIP), PCIP Fund utilization, research, Capacity Building, and Coordination-related projects that will extend the positive impact of the Project to beneficiaries. The component also shared the status of its activities to capacitate the planners at all levels in formulating/



updating multi-risk resilient investment plans guided by the Enhanced Operations Manual. Moving forward, the I-PLAN Component will continue its collaborative undertaking to establish a modern, value chain-oriented and climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries sector.



14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission.. (from Page 5)

May 26, 2022



I-BUILD Component

For rural infrastructure development, the I-BUILD Component presented the overall physical and disbursement



progress of the component as it represents 70% of the Project, compliance issues during the 13th WB-ISM, and a report on subprojects affected by Typhoon Odette.



During the meeting, an emphasis was made on the re-calibration of subprojects to be completed this year, since the component represents the biggest chunk of the Project's targets.



I-REAP Component

Under enterprise development, the I-REAP Component showcased its initiatives and nationwide progress and status updates.



The discussion focused on the measures to help PGs utilize and maximize the Project's intervention through strengthening of market linkage activities and easier access to financial services. It was also

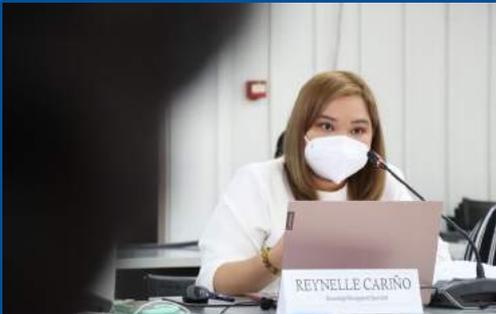


mentioned that market forums are conducted to invite buyers and initiate interaction among producers and potential buyers, and also gain assistance in the FDA accreditation of processing facilities.



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May 27, 2022



M&E, InfoACE, and Econ Units

Units under the I-SUPPORT Component, namely, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit, Information, Advocacy, Communication and Education (InfoACE) Unit, and the Economics Team presented its latest updates and accomplishments to the WB.

The M&E Unit presented its overall accomplishment, and assessed the results of the Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits (RAEB) in project areas.

The InfoACE Unit presented its information dissemination initiatives through traditional and digital media, together with several Knowledge Management

initiatives that will cater to different segmented audiences.

Finally, the Economics Team highlighted its I-BUILD and I-REAP subprojects cleared and approved for the issuance of No Objection Letter 1 (NOL1), as well as the ongoing conduct of RAEBs and other accomplishments. *(Conn Mel D. Cayabyab, NPCO InfoACE)* ■



“If there is a model project format for special projects, new ones, and even for regular programs and projects of the Department of Agriculture (DA), it is the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP).”

DA Secretary William D. Dar

“I really want to congratulate the PRDP team and the Department of Agriculture, under the leadership of Secretary Dar, who have kept the project moving, in spite of the challenges of COVID, and also for mobilizing the budget, which is very important for us to implement our activities this year, and to keep the great momentum that we have started in the implementation and achieving our targets.”

Dina Umali-Deininger
WB Agriculture and Food Practice Manager
for the East Asia and Pacific Region



“You have very well managed the implementation of the Project during the pandemic as we all know, and we are really glad to hear that the improvement of the COVID-19 situation has also positively contributed to the substantial physical accomplishment of the Project.”

Eli Weiss
WB Senior Agriculture Economist and Task Team Leader



“Thanks to the entire PRDP team and the DA team for again raising the bar in terms of the achievements that have been undertaken and accomplished since the last mission. If I would look at the PRDP’s accomplishments, I would not think that there is a pandemic – the pandemic’s still going on – you have continued to perform with a high level of commitment and extraordinary effort. Thank you for the hard work and the commitment.”

Maria Theresa Quiñones
WB Senior Rural Development Specialist and Co-Task Team Leader



“I would also like to add my congratulations for the achievements since the last mission. Indeed, it looks like there’s been no pandemic around – and the achievements, especially regarding the implementation of the AF-2 – E.U. grant are already quite impressive.”

Agnès Deshormes
WB Agriculture Policy, Planning and Business Specialist





DA-PRDP GEF conducts KM mapping, MEAT & METT assessment to Agdangan, Quezon stakeholders

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) National Resource Management (NRM), together with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit, conducted a Knowledge Management mapping and audit during the GEF Stakeholders Meeting and Assessment from May 3-4, 2022.

The said activity was conducted to document the practices and innovations of six

(6) Partner Group (PG) seaweed farmers in the Municipality of Agdangan, Quezon.

Present during the Stakeholders Meeting are members and representatives from the 6 PGs, namely, Balikatan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Kanlurang Calutan (BMMKC), Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Kanlurang Calutan (SAMAKATAN), Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Mangingisda ng Silangan Calutan (NMSC), Silayan Fishermen Association of Binagbag (SFAB), Lakas Bisig Mangingisda

ng Salvacion, (LBMS) and Bisig Mangingisda ng Sildora (BMS).

Among the information shared by the PGs to the group are specific practices applied in adapting to rising sea temperatures and flooding, and systemic constraints such as price fluctuations and lack of competition in the market for buyers.

[Read more on p. 10](#) 

DA-PRDP GEF conducts KM mapping... (from Page 9)

DA-PRDP M&E Unit Knowledge Management Specialist Reynelle Cariño shared that capturing these tacit practices enhances everyone's understanding of what works on the ground.

"As we looked over their shared knowledge needs and assets, knowledge gaps that exist, and where they are now, it's empowering to see how the community can identify the rooms to improve how they work to ensure production of high-quality seaweed produce while preserving the environment," Cariño said.

Taking off from the issues and recommendations raised during the KM mapping, the PGs formed an action plan to restart their seaweed operations this year, and prepare for the planting season starting November 2022.

The DA-PRDP GEF NRM team also conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of the Local Government Unit (LGU) and the PGs in managing and governing the Bahurang Silag Marine Protected Area (MPA) using the MEAT/METT assessment tools. The DA-PRDP's Global Environment Objective (GEO) is measured and

tracked through the results of the MEAT/METT assessments.

Based on the results, the Municipality gained a METT score of 116 in 2022, up from a score of 111 in 2021. Agdangan's METT score during the baseline setting in 2016 was 53. This shows that the municipality has significantly improved in the different aspects of marine resource protection. The maximum possible score for management effectiveness in METT is 140. *(written by Carm T. Novilla and photos by Alvin Santos, GEF-NRM Officer and Project Development Associate)* ■



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