



## DA-PRDP conducts NPCO-PSO Planning & Assessment Workshop for CY 2022

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), together with the Project Support Offices (PSOs) from the North and South Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao clusters, formally conducted the Planning and Assessment Workshop for CY 2022

from April 26 - 29, 2022.

The four-day activity served as a venue for the discussion and finalization of targets for the second to fourth quarter of the year. Each cluster, component, and unit also presented their respective accomplishments, and brainstormed on several solutions to immediately address concerns in the overall

project implementation.

Likewise, the workshop served as an avenue for the preparation of the upcoming 14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission to the DA-PRDP.

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## DA-PRDP conducts NPCO-PSO Planning and Assessment...(from Page 1)

In his message, DA-PRDP National Project Director Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanan reminded everyone to exert their full effort in the workshop for the benefit of the Project's beneficiaries.

"Technically, this is our second Planning Workshop for the year, but I want everyone to treat it as if it was the first. Let us be proactive, and let us give more than 100% in whatever we do here at the PRDP. Sigurado ako kaya niyo 'yan, and more importantly, let us put in our hearts that our

main objective for this workshop is ultimately to give a better life for our farmer and fisherfolk kababayans," Usec. Cayanan said.

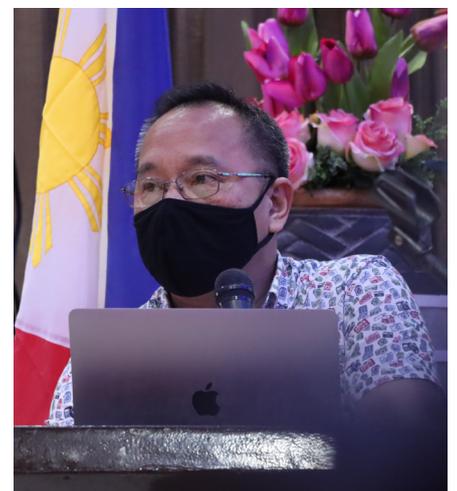
DA-RFO 4A Regional Executive Director and PSO South Luzon Cluster Director Assistant Secretary Arnel D. de Mesa believes that the DA-PRDP, lauded by the World Bank, will continue to meet its targets and objectives in a timely manner.

"Naniniwala ako na ang PRDP ay isa sa pinaka-best, if not the biggest project ng World

Bank, as it is always mentioned as a 'model' for so many other things, and we should live up to that standard," Asec. De Mesa expressed.

Present during the workshop are representatives from the various components and units under the DA-PRDP NPCO and PSO, as well as members from the Regional Project Coordination Offices that were connected virtually.

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DA-PRDP PSO South Luzon project Director Asec. Arnel de Mesa addresses and encourages the participants in maintaining the reputation of the PRDP as the model project of the World Bank.

(clockwise) National and PSO South Luzon Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla, PSO North Luzon Deputy Project Director Elma Mananes, PSO Visayas Deputy Project Director Engr. Jose Albert Barrogo, and PSO Mindanao Deputy Project Director Noel Provideo present the updates of their respective clusters during the first two days of the planning workshop. (Photos by Ana Victoria C. Margallo, NPCO InfoACE)

## DA-PRDP conducts NPCO-PSO Planning and Assessment...(from Page 2)

### Completion of OL and AF-1; AF-2 ongoing

During the workshop, DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla reiterated the importance of the meeting to carefully plan the targets for the second half of the year, with emphasis on the completion of subprojects under the Original Loan (OL) and the First Additional Financing (AF-1).

Director Hubilla expressed that with the Project's accomplishments during the first quarter of the year, the DA-PRDP will be able to meet its targets set for 2022 and beyond.

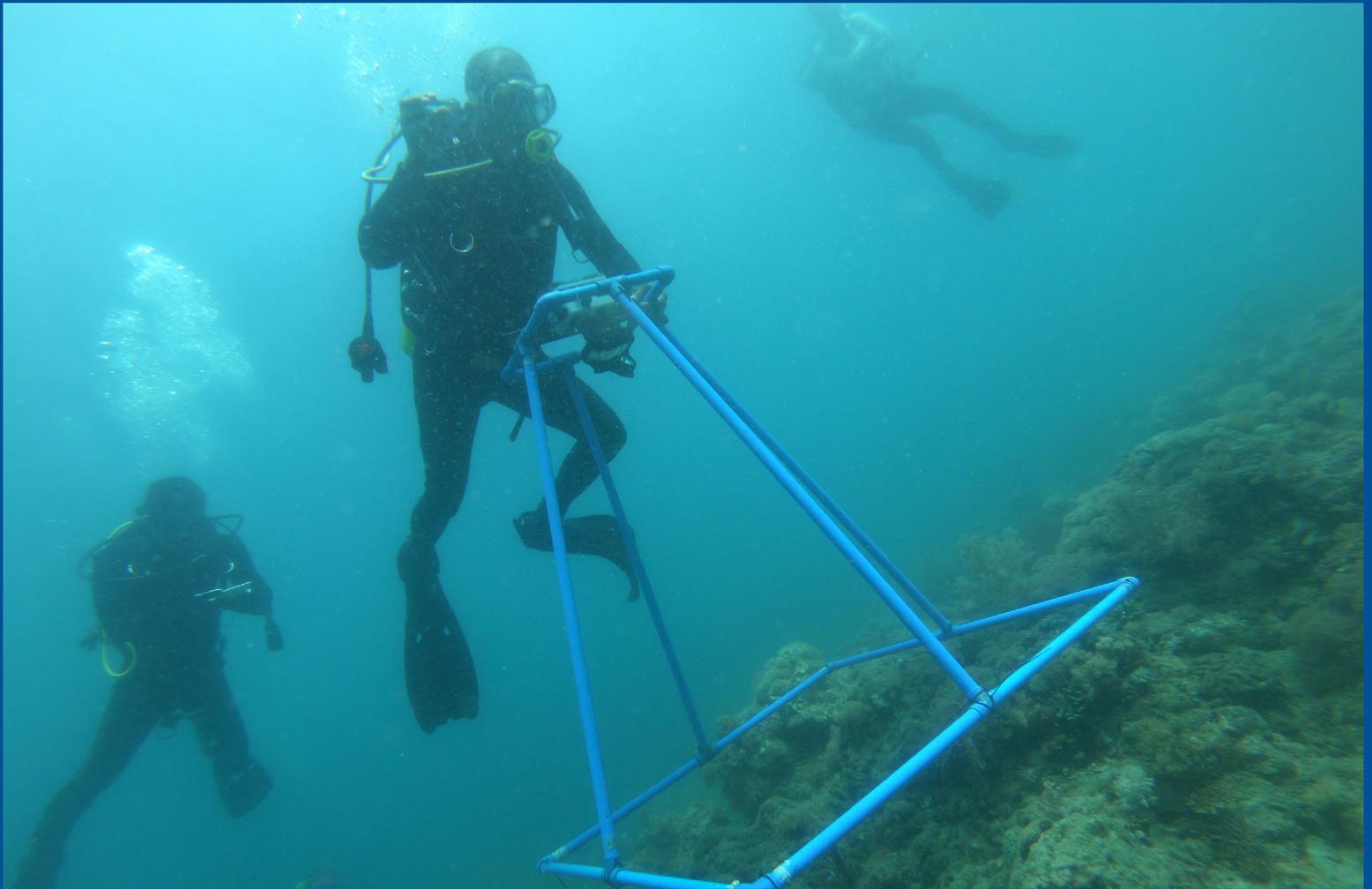
"More or less, I would say na 80 to 90%, may confidence level na po lahat, based on what has already been accomplished in the past three months. Ang projection po natin would be really for us to be able to plan out our second semester properly, that is our commitment," Director Hubilla said.

After the presentation of the latest accomplishments of the DA-PRDP, breakout sessions were introduced per cluster, where PSOs were able to convene with respective Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs), in order to ensure that targets and timelines for the second semester are aligned.

Moving forward, the DA-PRDP hopes to accomplish the following: inclusion of clustering and consolidation in I-REAP proposals, issuance of No Objection Letter (NOL1) for subprojects under the Second Additional Financing (AF-2) including the E.U., encourage Local Government Units (LGUs) to avail 15% of mobilization, continuous provision of technical assistance to PGs, monitor operations of approved enterprise subprojects, expedite the conduct of the Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits (RAEB), and ensure targets are met as reflected in the Individual Performance Evaluation Profile. (conn Mel D. Cayabyab, NPCO InfoACE) ■



(clockwise) DA-PRDP NPCO I-PLAN Component Head Asec. Agnes Catherine T. Miranda leads a small group discussion with Asec. Arnel de Mesa and Dir. Shandy Hubilla; Director Abel James I. Monteaquido addresses I-BUILD matters during the Mindanao cluster presentation; group photos of the cluster breakout session; Deputy Project Directors group photo; general breakout session photo (Photos by Ana Victoria C. Margallo, NPCO InfoACE)



## DA-PRDP GEF, BFAR enhance underwater biophysical monitoring skills of GEF project sites in South Luzon

Assessment on the status of coral reefs and fish stocks in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) covered by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project requires regular underwater survey and tracking. Repetitive monitoring of these resources provides the Local Government Unit (LGU) and community-based managers with ideas on the performance of these natural ecosystems, informing managers on the general impact of

their management activities to the benthic environment.

Local Monitoring Teams (LMTs) composed of technical staff from the Provincial and Municipal LGUs and Bantay Dagat groups were formed by the DA-PRDP GEF in areas in Sorsogon, Masbate, Palawan, and Quezon. Capacity-building interventions to train personnel in scuba diving and underwater monitoring methodologies were also provided

by the Project, to enable them to conduct monitoring activities on their own, and allow them to build on the baseline data established by the GEF. These methods are standardized across different areas in order to make the data collected comparable across areas and over time.

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## DA-PRDP GEF, BFAR enhance... (from Page 4)

A more recently introduced tool to monitor coral reefs in the Philippines is the Coral Point Count with Excel extensions, or CPCe. Members of the LMTs from Sorsogon, Masbate, Palawan, and Quezon were invited to enhance their monitoring skills through the GEF Retooling and Refresher Course for MPA Operations and Monitoring held from March 14-19 2022.

CPCe is a tool and software used to make assessment and monitoring of coral reefs more efficient. This method calculates coral cover and identifies benthic life taxonomy through underwater photographs taken in the transects set in place by the monitoring team. A total of 250 still photos taken in 5 transects are uploaded in the program and processed, to which the program generates a total of 2,500 points for the manual identification of the surveyor.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Field Office V partnered with the DA-PRDP GEF Project Support Office (PSO) South Luzon Cluster to provide the LMTs with theoretical and practical knowledge and skills on the CPCe method. During the

activity, the groups underwent various lectures, simulation and actual underwater assessment.

According to BFAR RFO V Fishery Regulation Officer Noel Ombao, the tool is a huge help in monitoring overall coral status.

“Ito ‘yung isang method ng corals, ng assessment para malaman kung ano ba ang condition ng ating bahura at kung ano ang mga nakakaapekto sa kanya. Using CPCe or photo transect method, ito ang magbibigay sa atin ng ideya as we progress our monitoring, kung ano ang nangyayari, kung nagkakaroon ba ng impact ‘yung ating management activities on the status of the corals”, Ombao said.

During the training, 15 SCUBA divers each had the opportunity to carry out hands-on practice of the photo transect method using actual equipment. Resource persons also guided the LMTs during the processing of the data gathered. The skills training also served as an avenue for the diving teams of GEF covered LGUs to further refine and improve their underwater SCUBA diving skills and served as a refresher on benthic identification.

Agdangan Mayor Rhadam Aguilar welcomed the visiting teams, as he shared the experiences of the local LGU and the community in the management and protection of Agdangan municipal fisheries and coastal habitats. Good practices in MPA management were likewise shared between BFAR, PRDP and the LMTs.

Another important outcome from the methods enhancement training was the increased linkage between project implementing staff and trained SCUBA divers from the GEF South Luzon cluster sites in the four (4) provinces mentioned. Ombao added that the linkage helps in the sharing of best practices from other municipalities.

“Malaking tulong siya, kasi kung may mga linkage ka sa ibang munisipyo, pwede kasing maging basehan mo para ma-adopt mo ang mga positive traits ng kanilang management activities na ginagawadon sa kanilang LGU para ma-adopt mo dito, at vice versa, meron ka ding management programs na pwedeng ma-adopt nila na wala sa kanila,” Ombao added. *(written by Carm T. Novilla, NRM Officer, PRDP GEF; photos by Niña Buitizon, Fishery Regulation Management Section, BFAR Region 5)*



# DA-PRDP to hold 14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission in May

The DA-PRDP will formally hold the “14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission to the DA-PRDP” (WB-ISM) from May 23 to June 13, 2022.

On May 23, 2022, the DA-PRDP will kick-off the 14th WB-ISM to assess program status and projected timelines of deliverables, and conduct an overall evaluation on the nationwide success of the Project itself.

The 14th WB-ISM will be covered by a series of consultations and workshops, both virtual and with actual site visits on specified subprojects from the North and South Luzon Clusters.

On the second week of the mission, site visits and dialogue with PGs will be conducted in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan for the South Luzon Cluster, as well as in Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur for the North Luzon Cluster.

Ending the mission will be a technical discussion with the World Bank Team, together with the DA-PRDP National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), followed by the wrap-up meeting with DA Secretary William Dar, DA-PRDP National Project Director Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanan, and the World Bank.

The WB-ISM, held every six (6) months, is participated in by members from the World Bank, DA-PRDP NPCO, Project Support Offices, Regional Project Coordination Offices, DA Management, and oversight agencies. During the 13th WB ISM, the European Union (E.U.) formally joined the activity, as being part of the Second Additional Financing (AF-2) with E.U. co-financing grant. *(Iconn Mel D. Cayabyab, NPCO InfoACE)* ■



## North Luzon

### Dar leads groundbreaking ceremony for Php101-M CASIPA Bridge in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur

DA Secretary William Dar led the groundbreaking ceremony of the Cabaroan – Silag – Pacang (CASIPA) Bridge with Approaches in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur on April 29, 2022.

One of the most highly anticipated infrastructure subprojects under the DA-PRDP in the Province of Ilocos Sur, the subproject will connect six (6) barangays to the provincial road and provide better access to transportation, city services, and government interventions.

Aside from improved transportation and good business, the CASIPA bridge will pave the way for improved access to social services (i.e., access to schools and hospitals/health centers); reduced travel time, transport losses, hauling cost; and increased production for various agricultural commodities.

Secretary Dar highlighted the positive impact of the construction of bridge to the farmers and the entirety of the agriculture community during the ceremony.

At present, a pipe culvert serves as the bridge for barangays Cabaroan, Silag, Pacang, Langaoan, Ampuagan, and Lesseb. The existing bridge is easily submerged in floodwaters during rainy season, forcing some residents of Silag and Pacang to use balsa, an improvised boat made with wood scraps, for transportation.

The CASIPA Bridge, which has a total project cost of PhP101,766,095.00, is targeted to begin construction on June 01, 2022. The bridge to be constructed will measure 120.9 linear meters, have 5.6 carriage width, and 358.81 meters approaches having 6.1 carriage width.

## Visayas

### Lead Proponent Group receives hauling vehicle under the KADIWA ni Ani at Kita

With the growing membership and income of the lead PG of the Lambaklad Livelihood Project, one of the microenterprises supported by the DA-PRDP, the Taboc Fisherfolks Association (TAFa) received a hauling vehicle as Marketing Logistic Support for Inclusive Supply Chain Under Bayanihan Act II Fund Support of Market Development Services (MDS), during a ceremonial turnover held at Barangay Taboc, Libertad, Antique on April 19, 2022.

Considering the association's exemplary performance in managing the operations of the DA-PRDP subproject, led by its President Riza D. Sioco, together with its 131 members, the Lambaklad Project is now deemed as one of the sustainable implemented projects in the region. Additional support was granted to the association that complement the enterprise, as back in January, the TAFa was given a Food Terminal/Talipapa amounting to PhP300,000, and was recently granted with one (1) unit hauling vehicle amounting to PhP1,000,000 through the KADIWA program.

With the concerted efforts of the DA, provincial, municipal, and barangay LGUs, the turnover ceremony of the new intervention was held, led by DA-RFO6 Regional

Executive Director Remelyn R. Recoter together with DA-PRDP IREAP-RPCO 6 Component Head May Ann Grajo, Rhea Resol of DA-AMAD 6, and Business Development Officer Holwend Dale Berte of I-REAP 6. Likewise, key officials from Provincial Project Management and Implementing Unit (PPMIU) headed by Juliana Cepe, Provincial Planning Development Office (PPDO) Coordinator/ PPMIU Head, Nicolasito Calawag, Provincial Agriculturist/IREAP Component Head, Engr. Guillermo Clemente III-PPDO-SPD Head, and Ethelbert Deramas, PDO1 also graced the activity. *(April Grace Padilla, RPCO6 InfoACE)*

## Mindanao

### Tandubas Seaweed Farmers Step Up with PRDP Enterprise Support

To intensify support for seaweed farmers in BARMM, the DA-PRDP conducted a three-day workshop with seaweed stakeholders in Tandubas from March 18-20, 2022.

The activity, which was led by the I-REAP component, included an orientation on enterprise development, consultations with the Municipal Local Government Unit, PG Profiling, and a Business Planning Workshop for the Proposed Subprojects.

Among the PGs were the Kasambuhan Ma Kauman Tapian Sokah Cooperative, Parhimpunan Karandahan Kepeng Cooperative, Magdaraing Ma Barangay Kepeng Producers Cooperative, and Tongbangkaw Seaweeds Farmers and Fisherfolk Producers Cooperative who underwent validation for their respective subprojects.

Through the orientation, the PGs gained a clear understanding of the DA-PRDP programs, and how the seaweed farmers like them can step up in the realm of business enterprise.

They were also oriented on the Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) to ensure that the subprojects to be implemented are viable, environmentally and socially sound, and sustainable.

Geotagging of the proposed project site was also conducted to locate and ensure that the PGs have an existing farm site.

The activity of the DA-PRDP I-REAP Component will support the development of the implementation of sustainable agri-fishery based entrepreneurial activities in the Bangsamoro region. *(Naima Mamisel, RPCO BARMM InfoACE)*

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