



PRDP welcomes new World Bank Task Team Leader, introduces the Project and offices

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) held a turnover meeting with the new World Bank Task Team Leader to the DA-PRDP, Mio Takada, on July 13, 2022.

“We look forward to this new chapter—one that will be defined by your own brand of leadership that you will bring to this Project. We stand ready to work and collaborate with you to ensure the continued success [of this Project] and a seamless transition,” National Deputy Project

Director Shandy M. Hubilla said as he formally welcomed Ms. Takada to the PRDP family.

[Read more on p. 2](#)



PRDP welcomes new World Bank Task team Leader...(from Page 1)

Hubilla also expressed the appreciation of the PRDP family for outgoing Task Team Leader Eli Weiss for his excellent work ethic and invaluable contributions to the Project.

“Let me express our collective and sincerest gratitude for your exemplary work and contributions to the DA-PRDP. We only wish you the best with your future endeavors,” Hubilla shared.

During the event, Weiss introduced Ms. Takada and officially concluded his stint with the PRDP. He thanked the PRDP for the experiences he has gained with the Project since his designation in 2019.

“I really enjoyed all these years and how much I have learned from

you, and I will really bring this kind of experience hopefully wherever I go. As I promised during the Mission, I will come back with the new TTL and I’m very, very happy to introduce you to Mio Takada. I will always cheer for PRDP and know that you will have the best impact possible,” Weiss expressed.

After her introduction, Ms. Takada gave her first message as the new World Bank Task Team Leader to the DA-PRDP.

“It’s my first time in the Philippines and I’ve been hearing a lot of great success of PRDP. I have learned some good models for my projects in Myanmar so I was very keen on coming to this position. I want

to make sure that I do my best to keep all the good work,” Takada said.

The turnover meeting continued with a presentation on the overview of the Project by National Deputy Project Director Hubilla. He also introduced the staff of the DA-PRDP NPCO, Project Support Offices (PSOs), and Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs) to Ms. Takada.

The hybrid meeting was attended by the components and units of the NPCO, the PSOs of North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, all RPCOs of the 16 regions, and representatives from the World Bank and the European Union. (*Jan Kyle R. Carrillo and Kristine Victoria L. Bistoyong, NPCO InfoACE*) ■



The new World Bank Task Team Leader to the DA-PRDP, Mio Takada is welcomed at the DA-PRDP NPCO’s office in Quezon City.



Eli Weiss introduces Mio Takada as his successor in leading the World Bank Task Team to the DA-PRDP as he has been assigned to the World Bank’s rural projects in Latin America.



DA-PRDP conducts 2nd NPCO-PSOs Planning Workshop & Assessment for CY 2022

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) and the Project Support Offices (PSOs) of North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao convened for the 2nd PRDP NPCO-PSOs Planning Workshop and Assessment for CY 2022 in Davao City from July 26 to 28, 2022.

The three-day activity served as a venue to assess the progress and accomplishments of the Project for the first semester and to set targets for the second semester.

In his message, National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla congratulated everyone on the Satisfactory rating given by the World Bank to the DA-PRDP during the recently concluded 14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission (WB-ISM).

“The Satisfactory rating given by the World Bank is a result of your passion and dedication to pursue excellence in

your work. You have once again proven that you can have any challenge stacked against you and still come out victorious,” Hubilla said.

Likewise, he also challenged the participants to continue innovating and committing to the standards set by the Project to amplify the positive change it has created in the countryside.

Hubilla also shared the Project updates and the results from the 14th WB-ISM. He further emphasized the need to focus on closing the Original Loan and First Additional Financing and increasing the utilization of the Second Additional Financing with E.U. Grant (AF2-EU) by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, PRDP-NPCO GGU Alternate Unit Head Joseph Pacon presented the updates on the PRDP iPEP-ARS and Performance Evaluation Review Committee. In his presentation, Pacon highlighted the improvements in the iPEP-ARS website since the last planning workshop.

The PSOs also presented their accomplishments for the first semester, followed by breakout sessions where the components and clusters deliberated on their targets for the second semester.

During the workshop, National Deputy Project Director Hubilla advised the PSOs to revisit their targets in order for them to contribute to the Project’s overall performance. He also reminded the clusters of their commitments given the limited amount of time left before the year’s end.

“*Wag po tayong gumalaw na marami pang natitirang buwan sa taon. Gumalaw tayo weekly, daily,*” Hubilla expressed.

By the end of the planning workshop, the NPCO and PSOs have agreed to fast-track all subprojects under the AF2-EU to be approved and have their No Objection Letters (NOL) issued no later than September 2022. (Jan Kyle R. Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE) ■



I-REAP Component holds 20th National Coordination Meeting



To further examine and assess the findings and recommendations during the 14th World Bank Implementation Support Mission (WB ISM) and to hone the I-REAP process, the Enterprise Development Component (I-REAP) of the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), together with their regional and cluster counterparts, conducted the 20th National I-REAP Coordination meeting in Western Visayas from June 27 to July 1, 2022.

Western Visayas Regional Executive Director and DA-PRDP Project Support Office (PSO) Visayas Project Director Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter thanked the I-REAP Component for choosing to conduct their activity in Region 6.

“We’re very happy to host this national event as this is a huge help to the region, especially since the islands suffered from the lockdowns and recent typhoons. The accumulated damage to the agri-fisheries sector from typhoons Odette and Agaton is around PhP10 billion,” Recoter expressed.

Recoter also highlighted the potential of the ongoing PRDP farm-to-market road (FMR) in Libacao, Aklan. “When the PRDP’s FMR in Libacao opens, it will bring opportunities for highland vegetable production, which is at a very low sufficiency level right now,” she added.

NPCO I-REAP Alternate Component Head Leny Pecson presented the overall I-REAP implementation updates and the status of the ongoing enterprise subprojects. A total of 544 enterprise subprojects have already been completed as of June 25, 2022.

Pierre Carlo Curay, CEO of Insight Supply Chain Solutions (InsightSCS), talked about the possible collaborations with the I-REAP component by directly connecting with the proponent group’s buyers through their mobile delivery application called DeliverE, other private companies like Grab and Sodexo, and with the Department of Trade and Industry.

On the other hand, Senior Institutional Development Specialist Renato Manantan presented the mainstreaming plan for the PRDP

Innovations. He suggested the crafting of capacity development plans for the mainstreaming of the I-REAP innovations to the DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service and the training of regular staff who will be using the innovations.

DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy Hubilla further emphasized the need to make the business plans future-proof and to consider venturing into different opportunities in agriculture and reiterate the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) since it’s the only way to make the sector competitive.

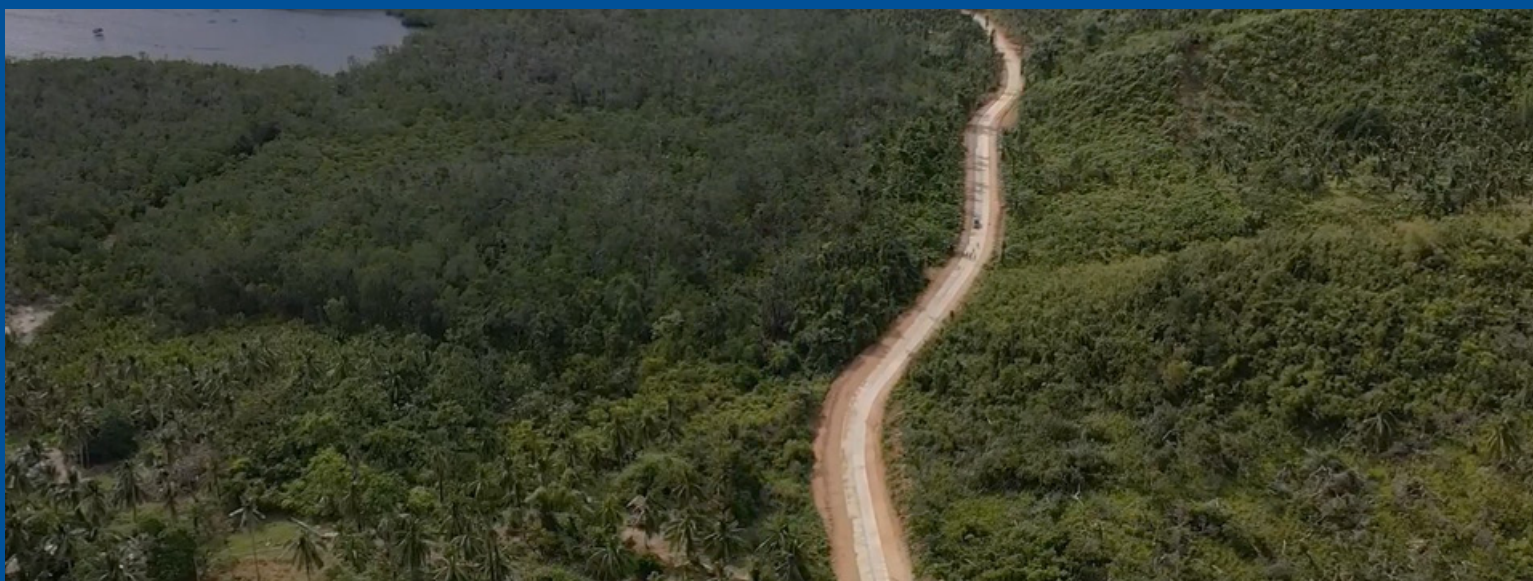
NPCO I-REAP Component Head Director Bernadette F. San Juan concluded the activity with a call to action. “Let us help each other in approving the subprojects in line and reaching our disbursement target to ensure the livelihood of our farmers and fisherfolk. The AF2-EU opens more opportunities for us to help our beneficiaries. Let us utilize the funding well so nothing goes to waste,” San Juan said. *(Ana Victoria Margallo and Kristine Bistoyong PRDP NPCO InfoACE)* ■



NPCO Alternate Component Head Leny Pecson presents the I-REAP updates and agreed actions during the 14th WB-ISM.



National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla shares some pointers for the I-REAP Component to ensure the sustainability of the I-REAP subprojects.



The Construction and Upgrading of Junction Salban-Culasian-Magsaysay Farm-to-Market Road, which runs 17 kilometers long, has been completed in June 2022. (Photo by Juan Miguel David, DA-PRDP MIMAROPA RPCO GGU)

Dumaran FMR reaches 100% completion, provides faster, safer, and cheaper transport

“Sa hirap na aming dinanas noong mga unang panahon, lubos kaming nagpapasalamat dahil sa matagal na panahon, ngayon lang kami nagkaroon ng maayos na kalsada.”

Elpidio De Jesus was close to tears as he recalled the hardships they went through back when they only had a dirt road to access basic needs and services in the municipal proper of Dumaran, Palawan. For 69 years, De Jesus did not imagine that he’d live to see a road constructed in their community, most especially not during his term as barangay captain.

With the completion of Construction and Upgrading of Junction Salban-Culasian-Magsaysay Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) last June 2022, residents of Barangays Danleg, Culasian, and Magsaysay now enjoy lesser travel time, and cheaper transport and hauling costs.

“Minsan walang kalsada napunta kami sa Sta. Teresita inaabot ng dalawang oras, ngayon kalahating oras, minsan wala pa. ‘Yun ang kagandahan na nagkaroon kami ng maayos na kalsada,” De Jesus shared.

This claim was supported by William Articulo, a fish and scraps vendor residing in Brgy. Culasian. “Nakaka-save kami sa oras kasi balikan agad. Nakakapag-trabaho pa kami ng ibang trabaho sa bahay,” Articulo added.

More than the shortened transport time, Articulo was proud to share that the concrete road has changed the way they do business in the area. For one, they don’t have to haul scrap materials by boat anymore since the road can provide faster, safer, and cheaper hauling.

“Dati akong nagsa-scrap. Yung scrap na aming binibili, ibinabyahe namin sa dagat papunta dun sa Danleg kasi doon lang nakakadaan ang truck. Napakahirap, magastos, nag-aarkila pa kami ng sasakyan para lang makarating sa kabilang barangay sa Danleg,” Articulo narrated.

“Dati nga yung ginagawa ko, yung single lang na motor. Pero sabi ko since maganda naman yung kalsada, kumuha kami ng isa pang motor, nilagyan namin ng sidecar para marami ‘yung makarga ko kasi

noon limitado lang. Ngayon nakakarga kami ng 100-150 kilos na bakal, magaan na yung pabalik,” continued Articulo.

On the other hand, Danleg Barangay Captain Viernels Sayang emphasized the access to social services that the FMR has provided.

“Napakabilis ng komunikasyon, ng mga transaksyon, at nagle-less yung kanilang pamasaha. Naging accessible especially sa mga emergency cases na nangyayari mabilis na nakakapunta doon sa ospital ‘yung mga pasyente na galing sa napakalalayong lugar sa Magsaysay at sa Culasian,” Sayang said.

The Construction and Upgrading of Junction Salban-Culasian-Magsaysay Farm-to-Market Road is the fifth FMR completed in the Province of Palawan funded by the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP). This is the longest DA-PRDP FMR in the MIMAROPA region with a total length of 17 kilometers and a subproject cost of Php197.2 million. (Danica A. Brutas, DA-PRDP MIMAROPA RPCO InfoACE Unit) ■

North Luzon

PGs in CAR trained on geomapping and governance tools

Thirty members from different Proponent Groups (PGs) of new Enterprise Development (I-REAP) subprojects underwent training on the application of geomapping and governance tools from July 13 to 14, 2022 in Baguio City.

The trainees came from several farmer cooperatives and associations with new I-REAP subprojects proposed for funding under the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP). I-REAP Focal Persons from the concerned Provincial and Municipal Project Management and Implementing Units (P/MMPMIUs) also participated in the training.

The training was intended to capacitate the PGs on geotagging and basic geomapping which they can use in developing their business plans. Discussions and hands-on workshops on taking geotagged photos using the PRDP Geocamera and processing it through the use of applications such as Google Earth and Geosetter were also held.

After the workshops, the participants presented their outputs and shared their experiences and their learnings from the two-day training.

Trainings on the tools and innovations of the PRDP are continuously being conducted for LGUs and PGs as part of the mainstreaming initiatives of the Project (*Elvy T. Estacio, RPCO-CAR InfoACE*)

South Luzon

DA-PRDP assesses rural enterprises in Quezon towards subprojects' sustainability

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) assessed its established enterprises in Quezon Province under its Enterprise Development component or I-REAP. This activity aims to provide recommendations and opportunities to the proponent groups (PGs) handling the enterprises towards the continuous operations of their livelihood endeavors and improvement of their income.

The DA-PRDP assessed three PGs managing seaweed production and marketing enterprises in Calauag and Perez, and one proponent group handling a marine cage culture enterprise in Padre Burgos. To evaluate their findings, the PRDP used its Enterprise Assessment Tool, which measures a PG's readiness to implement and sustain an enterprise.

All enterprises scored compliant with the standards set by the tool. The Yakap at Halik Multipurpose Cooperative has expanded its marine cage culture enterprise by increasing its fish cages and establishing fishponds. Meanwhile, the PGs managing the seaweed enterprises are planning to venture into alternative sources of income, such as offering trucking services and adding the “kulapo” seaweed variety to their plantations.

“Malaking tulong po pala ang mga ganitong assessment dahil mas napapagtuunan po namin ng pansin at napapag-usapan ang pagtugon sa aming mga problema at kakulangan pa sa aming samahan at pagsi-seaweeds,” shared Pederasyon ng mga Mangingisda sa Bayan ng Perez General Manager Momoy Regodon.

The DA-PRDP will use the findings of the enterprise assessment to develop a three-year Capacity Development Plan (CDP) to be used by the PGs assessed. By July, the DA-PRDP will turn over the CDPs to the PGs. (*Lea Caliuag, PSO South Luzon InfoACE*)

Mindanao

Support for co-op brings success to Kibalawan cacao farmers

It was a dream come true for Kibalawan Multipurpose Cooperative (KMPC) as they see their plans come to fruition. The KMPC had humble beginnings when it started way back in 1971 with 15 original cooperators and only PhP1,800 in capital. Fifty-one years later, the cooperative has grown to 3,600 permanent members where the majority are farmers with an additional 4,800 associate members and a net income of one million a year.

The group proposed the “Dried Fermented Cacao Beans Processing and Marketing” subproject under the enterprise development component of the Department of Agriculture Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) and sought the assistance of the Kibalawan Local Government Unit and the Province of Davao del Sur through the Office of Provincial Agriculture (OPAG).

The KMPC received PhP13 million for the subproject which includes the construction of a cacao fermentation plant consisting of 1 fermentation room and 7 solar dryers with access roads and pathways, a truck for hauling and delivery with 4,140 kilograms payload capacity, a hand truck or dolly, a 150 cubic capacity motorcycle, and the provision of other input materials.

KMPC Chairman of Board of Directors Hesus B. Heliane said that there was a big improvement after they received the solar dryers and fermenting facilities.

“There is really an improvement in price. When we started selling to Auro, our institutional buyer, several sacks of beans were rejected because they failed to meet their standards. With the new facilities received, we were able to produce tons of beans which passed the standards. In fact, Auro comes here to pick up the dried fermented beans,” she said.

Chairman Heliane added that one of their plans is to come up with their chocolate brand with Kibalawan and they are currently working on it with Auro which will hopefully put Kibalawan on the map as one of the producers of the best chocolate in the country. (*Joy M. Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao*)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief : Cheryl C. Suarez
Associate Editors : Adora D. Rodriguez, Jan Kyle Carrillo, and Kristine Bistoyong
Writers : NPCO, PSO, and RPCO InfoACE Units
Photographers : NPCO, PSO, and RPCO InfoACE Units
Lay-out Artist : Ana Victoria C. Margallo
Adviser : Shandy M. Hubilla, CESO IV, EnP.



PRDP in FOCUS is a monthly publication of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project National Project Coordination Office. We encourage reproduction of articles and photos with proper acknowledgment. For queries, comments or suggestions, email us at: prdpnpscinfoace@gmail.com or visit us at the PRDP Office, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.



Philippine Rural Development Project



DA_PRDP



da_prdp



prdp.da.gov.ph