



DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla discusses the DA-PRDP's breakthroughs, milestones, and ways forward with DA Deputy Spokesperson Dr. Rodolfo Estigoy during the 179th Virtual Presser IATF Task Group on Food Security. (Screen cap courtesy of Department of Agriculture - Philippines Facebook Page, March 22, 2022)

DA-PRDP continues to roll out infra, enterprise subprojects worth PhP40-B

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) has approved a total of at least PhP40 billion (B) worth of subprojects set to provide assistance to more than 900,000 beneficiaries nationwide.

In a virtual presser held on March 22, 2022, DA-PRDP Deputy Project Director Shandy

M. Hubilla reported that major developments for subprojects under the infrastructure and enterprise development components, I-BUILD and I-REAP, respectively, are completed and ongoing.

Under the I-BUILD Component, the DA-PRDP has approved a total of 519 subprojects amounting to PhP37.48-B, with

795,000 household beneficiaries. The approved subprojects are combined under the Project's Original Loan, First and Second Additional Financing.

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DA-PRDP continues to roll out...(from Page 1)

Under the approved subprojects, 386 had been completed, amounting to more than PhP19-B and with 456,300 beneficiaries. To date, there are currently 67 ongoing subprojects amounting to PhP9.16-B with 164,700 beneficiaries, while 66 subprojects amounting to PhP8.94-B are undergoing procurement, with 173,000 beneficiaries.

Of the overall subprojects under the I-BUILD Component, 74% make up Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs), amounting to almost PhP28-B.

For the I-REAP Component, there are 644 approved subprojects worth PhP2.74-B, with 1,009 Proponent Groups (PGs) and 146,473 household beneficiaries. Director Hubilla reported that by category, 68% of the said subprojects are micro-enterprises amounting to PhP457 million (M), followed by small enterprises at 26% amounting to PhP1.41-B, and medium enterprises at 6%, amounting to PhP871.02-M.

Director Hubilla expressed that through the efforts of the DA-PRDP, all subprojects are targeted for completion this year.

“We are assuring po, that as far as the Original Loan and First Additional Financing, we are very much confident that we will be able to complete all the subprojects before or by the end of the year,” Director Hubilla said.

He added that the approval of subprojects under the Second Additional Financing is ongoing, with hopes of the issuance of the No Objection Letter 1 by next month.

With the extension of the DA-PRDP, Director Hubilla added that ample time is given for the Project to complete all subprojects until 2024. *(Iconn Mel D. Cayabyab, NPCO InfoACE)* ■

DA-PRDP conducts GAD Training to enhance overall project implementation



In order to address gender issues encountered during project implementation, the DA-PRDP National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) formally conducted the Gender & Development (GAD) – Defining Gender Roles in Project

Development, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation activity from March 30 – April 1, 2022.

With several subprojects nationwide, the DA-PRDP saw the need for increased awareness and a better understanding towards

gender concerns, in order to fully recognize the needs of the beneficiaries.

Read more on p. 3



DA-PRDP conducts GAD Training... (from Page 2)

In her message, DA-PRDP Project Support Office (PSO) North Luzon Deputy Project Director Elma Mananes expressed appreciation for the conduct of the activity, and thanked the participants for attending and initiating the training. Independent Consultant for the National GAD Resource Program, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Lorena T. Yunque discussed the basic and foundational concepts in GAD, along with the objectives of tracing the roots of gender inequality and gender bias;

identifying gender issues that block the equal enjoyment of rights, opportunities and benefits from development efforts particularly by government; and building commitment towards gender sensitivity at the personal and organizational spheres.

Yunque noted that more than 60% of the participants have not attended any GAD training, to which she emphasized the need to start with the basic GAD concepts. After the initial assessment, participants were tasked with

analyzing various scenarios of gender-related issues and how to resolve the said situations.

A presentation on the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) was also conducted by Yunque, which was followed by the preparation and consultation for the 2022 DA-PRDP GAD Plans, Budget, and Targeting, led by DA GAD Head Secretariat Marites D. Bernardo.

[Read more on p. 4](#)



DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla and PSO North Luzon Deputy Project Director Elma Mananes emphasize the importance of aligning the project development objectives with the GAD concepts. (Photos by Ana Victoria C. Margallo, NPCO InfoACE)

DA-PRDP conducts GAD Training... (from Page 3)

In his closing message, DA-PRDP Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla commended everyone for their active participation, and stressed that the learnings should be replicated to PSOs and Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs) of the DA-PRDP.

“We have a very active GAD

focal team, plus the secretariat. Let’s continuously learn from each other, and share what we know now to our colleagues to the PSOs and RPCOs,” Director Hubilla said.

Director Hubilla also reported that the DA-PRDP’s GAD initiatives are well-monitored and appreciated by the World Bank, and that moving forward, the Project

will further discuss its GAD plans and budgeting for 2022.

Participants during the three-day activity include staff from various components and units from the DA-PRDP NPCO, and representatives from the DA-GAD Secretariat. *(Iconn Mel D. Cayabyab, PRDP NPCO InfoACE)* ■

DA-PRDP honors outstanding female farmer-beneficiaries

With a target of 342,000 female farmer-beneficiaries by the end of the Project, the DA-PRDP is now at 73% with 250,169 currently involved in farming and enterprise operations.

In celebration of National Women’s Month, the DA-PRDP highlighted the stories of Hojap Multi-Purpose Cooperative Manager Shirley Tagtag, Batangas Seaweeds Farmers Association General Manager Flora Limoico, Anunang Gamut Fisherfolk Association Member Vilma Guinge, and Taboc Fisherfolks Association President Riza Sioco. [Click on their photos to know about their stories!](#)



(Illustrations by Ana Victoria C. Margallo, NPCO InfoACE)

North Luzon

Dar leads groundbreaking of PhP205-M worth FMR for Kasibu citrus farmers

DA Secretary William D. Dar led the groundbreaking ceremony of the PhP205,457,351.31 FMR funded under the PRDP set to boost the thriving citrus industry in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, on March 18, 2022.

Secretary Dar said the FMR is underway for construction because the industry needs support by providing quality infrastructure for the farmers.

"This will be a big boost because we will expand the High-Value Crops industry that includes citrus," Secretary Dar expressed.

The 12.07-kilometer FMR will cover some 1,850 hectares of farmlands that will provide easy transport access for agricultural products and inputs in the area. It will also reduce travel time, especially during the wet season, where transport is a challenge.

Kasibu Mayor Tayaban said the industry's success would bid assistance from the national government. He thanked Secretary Dar for the support amidst the discouragement of farmers due to the unstable prices of commodities.

"There will be more reasons that our farmers will further engage in citrus farming because of the infrastructure support that will bring positive impact in this highland town," Mayor Tayaban ended.

In her speech, Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos Padilla, represented by Provincial Administrator Maybelle Dumlaio-Sevillena, said the FMR would greatly support their constituents' livelihood through faster transporting of fresh and quality agricultural products to their commercial centers.

"Masapul ngarud ti napigsa ken agtutuloy a suportayo para iti nabiit a pannakasamento ken pannakapapintas dagiti dalan tapon nabibiit a dumanon dagiti produkto yo sadiay merkado," Sevillena added.

Minerva Pumihik, Binogawan citrus farmer, said the much-anticipated subproject had been a boost on the morale of the farmers as it showed the government's presence.

"Finally, the project is here. We have been waiting for this to be completed as farmers will surely benefit from the intervention," Pumihik expressed. (Mark Galibu, InfoACE RPCO2)

South Luzon

Bicol conducts FMR O&M reorientation to subproject stakeholders

The DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol conducted the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Reorientation for the Barangay Implementing Team (BIT) and other stakeholders of the Concreting of San Agustin to Tigbao FMR in Aroroy, Masbate on March 22 to 24, 2022.

The activity was among the recommendations cited by the DA-PRDP team, after the Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits (RAEB) conducted on the completed I-BUILD subproject from February 7 to 11, 2022.

According to DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Rhodelia Remot, the activity was a refresher course to the BIT, People's Organizations (PO), and other stakeholders within the subproject's road influence area (RIA) about their responsibilities and to address the RAEB findings and equip them for the semi-annual OMAS.

Likewise, it provides the participants with knowledge, skills and right attitude on O&M for their FMR subproject. Officials of all barangays located within the RIA, PO representatives, and members of the Municipal Project Management and Implementation Unit (MPMIU) attended the activity.

"Porke't natapos na po ang subproject, tapos na po tayo? Hindi po. Kasi nung nag-Citizens Monitoring Training (CMT) po tayo, nung nag-accept po kayo during the turn-over, sinabi po doon ng aming Director na hindi po doon nagtatapos ang project, babalikan po natin ang Implementation Management Agreement (IMA). Nakalahad po doon na sa loob ng sampung taon ay ia-audit po kayo ng Department of Agriculture para makita kung ang mga barangay po doon ay mini-maintain ang kalsada," Remot said.

DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol Rural Infrastructure Engineer (RIE) Eliseo Buella, Jr. discussed the importance of O&M for FMR, including its relevance in community and national development as well as the legal bases, roles and responsibilities of major stakeholders, LGUs and community organizations' linkages and attributes of the people in charge of FMR management after its turnover to the barangay.

Additionally, DA-PRDP Bicol RIE Rodolfo Mirasol trained the participants on how to identify types of surfaced (concrete) pavement distresses like blow-ups, corner breaks, and cracks. He also discussed distress types and severity levels for unsurfaced roads, as well the DA-PRDP's Road Safety Guidelines and Road Safety Action Plan Framework.

"Road safety is our right, not a privilege. It is a must, kailangang gawin natin," Mirasol said.

Several barangay officials expressed their appreciation towards the activity, while sharing their commitment to ensure the O&M of the DA-PRDP funded FMR.

The DA-PRDP advocates O&M to promote consistent, proper and timely maintenance of its I-BUILD subprojects which connect agricultural producers and consumers. Based on the Project's guidelines, as stipulated in the O&M Plan and IMA, the LGU is responsible for the O&M of the completed subproject for at least 10 years. (Annielyn L. Balez, DA RAFIS V/PRDP RPCO V InfoACE Unit with reports from Rhodelia Remot, PRDP RPCO V M&E Unit)

Visayas

DA-PRDP officially hands in Batan FMR to Aklan

The blessing and official turnover of the 4.197-kilometer Rehabilitation/Improvement of the Lalab-Bay-ang-Magpag-ong FMR in Batan, Aklan was formally

held by the DA-PRDP RPCO 6, through the efforts of the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Unit (PPMIU) Aklan on March 3, 2022.

A total of 1,375 households within the road influence area is set to benefit from the PhP77,946,400.83-worth FMR subproject. It was first issued with a No Objection Letter 1 on December 3, 2018, and with the Notice of Award on November 28, 2019. The construction has started on December 21, 2019 and completed on November 22, 2021.

During her speech, DA Regional Executive Director Remelyn R. Recoter expressed her gratefulness to the farmers and fishers because despite the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, they continue to maintain food security not only in the Province of Aklan, but of the region and of the whole country.

"Based on the account of the Philippine Statistics Authority, the agriculture and fishery sector in Western Visayas has spurred a positive rate in the economy in the past year, thus served as a silver lining amidst its contraction among other aspects due to the pandemic. It is why we are thankful to you for your continuous dedication in ensuring that there is food in the table of every Filipino family," Director Recoter cited.

She also lauded the Aklan PPMIU, which facilitated the processing of the documentary requirements and the materialization of the DA-PRDP projects in the province.

"We commend the efforts of our PPMIU in the province and entrust at the same time the maintenance of the recently-turned over road among the barangay officials who are the beneficiaries of the project so this may be used by the next generations to come," she added.

Meanwhile, Aklan Governor Florencio T. Miraflores stressed that the agriculture is among the top priorities of the province as this serves as the major player to bolster the economy of the province.

"Our partnership with the DA will not cease as we have seen from the very beginning that our top priority is agricultural and tourism development. These are undoubtedly the key strategies towards the advancement of our province," Governor Miraflores said.

The FMR subproject aims to reduce travel time, improve access to basic necessities, reduce annual road maintenance, hauling cost, and post-harvest losses among its farmer beneficiaries, and as well as residents within the covered area. (April Grace Padilla, RPCO 6)

Mindanao

RPCO 12 awards 13-km FMR to Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat

The DA-PRDP, through its RPCO XII, recently turned over the 13.3-kilometer Concreting of Saliao-Daladap-Guimalia Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) subproject to the Local Government Unit-Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat.

Mayor Charles Ploteña and the local officials of the municipality received the turn over certificate in a ceremony from the RPCO 12, represented by I-BUILD Component Head Engineer Jocelyn Torres.

The said FMR is worth more than PhP159 million (M), with a PhP15-M counterpart from the LGU of Esperanza.

"I would like to thank the local concerted efforts of our local officials in preparing all the necessary documents for the implementation of the subproject," Mayor Ploteña said.

He added that even though the process was tedious and extensive, it was still worth the wait.

Engineer Jocelyn Torres encouraged the LGU officials to devise a plan to maintain the project sustainability.

"We are asking help from you. If we want to extend the life of this road project, let us find ways in order to sustain this and secure its quality for the long run," Torres noted.

She also asked the barangay officials and farmer groups to actively participate in monitoring the PRDP-funded road.

The said road is also an access road for five barangays of Esperanza where rice, corn and coconut production flourish and is already serving 4,150 farming communities in the said municipality for a year after its completion.

One of the farmers who blissfully shared his experience on the new road project was Jesus Ferrer, a rice and corn farmer tilling one and a half hectare of production area.

"With this concrete road, I can now save PhP5,000 to PhP7,000 for the transportation cost," Ferrer said. (Carl Ulysses Aguillon, RPCO 12)

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Photographers : NPCO, PSO, and RPCO InfoACE Units

Lay-out Artist : Ana Victoria C. Margallo

Adviser : Shandy M. Hubilla, CESO IV, EnP.



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