



PRDP coffee enterprises join 1st Philippine Coffee Expo

Thirteen coffee enterprises under the Enterprise Development Component (I-REAP) of the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) participated in the first-ever Philippine Coffee Expo held in Davao City from September 14 to 15, 2022.

The two-day expo gathered coffee farmers, processors, traders, entrepreneurs, enthusiasts, government agencies and other institutions to exchange knowledge and good practices, forge new

linkages and feature the best coffee products from all over the country.

The DA-PRDP showcased its 13 coffee enterprises that support over 40 proponent groups (PGs) nationwide, namely: Matagaya Coffee Growers Producers Cooperative; Tiblac Langak Farmers Association (TLFA); Tuba Benguet Coffee Growers Association, Incorporated; Hojap Multipurpose Cooperative; Dupligan Farmers Multi-purpose Cooperative (DUFAMPCO); Sagada Arabica Coffee Growers and Processors

Organization (SACGPO); Aga Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Cafe Amadeo Development Cooperative; Guinayangan Coffee Growers Association and Farm Entrepreneurs (GCAFE), Inc.; Rural Improvement Club (RIC)-Federation of Kape Maramag, Inc.; Tupi Coffee Growers Association, Inc. (TUCOGAI); Masiag Farmers and Coffee Growers, Inc.; and Casiklan Wheels Farmers Association, Inc.

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PRDP enterprises join..(from Page 1)

The event officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by PhilCafe, the Philippine Coffee Guild, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the DA-PRDP, represented by the National Project Coordination Office I-REAP Alternate Component Head Leny Pecson.

A series of lectures marked the first day of the expo, starting with the presentation on The Outlook for the Philippine Coffee Sector. This was followed by presentations on Combating Climate Change by Unlocking the Potential of Coffee Varieties, Sharing Indonesia's Experience in Dealing with Climate Change, Coffee in the Latin American Context, Columbian Coffee Producers' Experience, Coffee Production and Crop Diversification, Fine Robusta

Production, and Financing in the Coffee Value Chain.

Coffee aficionados flocked the exhibit area where the DA-PRDP booth stood out covering the biggest floor area. The PGs offered a free taste of their coffee which was sold in several forms – green coffee beans, roasted, and ground.

The coffee expo also served as a venue for the PGs to meet prospective buyers through the business matching activity. Assisted by the I-REAP, they engaged in one-on-one dialogues with potential buyers, exchanging information about their products and the buyers' preferences.

On the second day, the PGs partook in a discussion on the current status of the coffee industry by the Operations Manager of Magellan

Commodities, Mario Macalalad, who has been in the roasting business for over 25 years. The PGs learned about production, pricing, and marketing strategies and exchanged contacts with Macalalad for potential business ventures and partnerships.

Several more presentations on the Philippine coffee industry were also conducted on the second day. The event concluded with awarding of certificates to the participants, sponsors and organizers of the expo. The DA-PRDP was represented in the awarding ceremony by PSO Mindanao Deputy Project Director Noel T. Provideo.

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The DA-PRDP I-REAP and DA-AMAS representatives share a preview of the DA-PRDP booth. Aside from the marketing of the PG coffee products, the booth also featured a networking area for on-the-spot business matching.



The plenary hall was jam-packed with coffee producers listening to different talks and seminars about the coffee industry of the country.



PSO Mindanao Deputy project Director Noel T. Provideo represented the DA-PRDP during the awarding of certificates ceremony.

PRDP enterprises join..(from Page 2)



A learning experience

The coffee expo was an inspiring and humbling experience for the PGs, being able to learn from industry leaders and showcasing their products amongst the country's best. They also expressed their excitement over the booming coffee industry in the Philippines. At the same time, this also challenged them to continually improve their own coffee enterprises to keep up with the growth of the industry.

After selling all the products he brought from Sagada, Mountain Province, SACGPO Manager Vincent Andawi admitted that even though they have been in the business for several years, they still have a lot to learn to catch up with the growing demand for high-quality coffee in the country.

"Marami pa talagang dapat na i-improve kasi mas tumaas na

ang expectations [ng mga tao] sa finished product. Although mabenta ang Sagada Gold, dapat marami pang i-improve sa roasting tsaka sa lahat ng aspeto. Bago ma-roast ang kape, sa harvesting at sorting pa lang dapat walang shortcut. Dapat sundin ang process flow hanggang sa i-display [ang product] sa expo at market," Andawi said.

CAWFAl, on the other hand, sold a sack of green coffee beans during the expo. Teodoro Pasquito, vice-chairman of CAWFAl, thanked the PRDP for inviting them to the first Philippine Coffee Expo.

"Sa lahat ng tumulong sa amin dito sa Philippine Coffee Expo, lalo na sa mga taga PRDP, maraming, maraming salamat po. Sana maka-attend pa kami sa mga susunod na expo," Pasquito expressed.

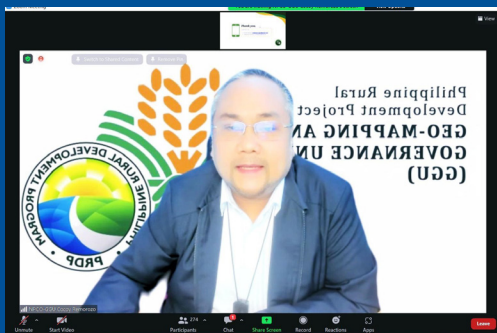
Brewing for two days and earning praise from customers, Hermilito Francisco of Kape Maramag

shared his takeaways from the expo, noting that he is excited for its second run next year.

"Marami po akong natutunan sa expo katulad ng how to explain your coffee to the customer, paano i-expand ang coffee production, at anong mga importanteng gawin sa produkto para lumabas ang best quality ng coffee," Francisco shared. "Very excited na rin po ako sa susunod na expo at paghahandaan na talaga namin iyon," he exclaimed further.

SACGPO, CAWFAl, and the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) - Federation of Kape Maramag, Inc are recipients of coffee processing centers from the DA-PRDP. The I-REAP component arranged the participation of the PGs in the coffee expo to expand their knowledge and connections in hopes that it will help them improve all aspects of their coffee enterprises. (Ana Victoria Margallo and Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE)

NPCO GGU and Admin Units Lead Training and Workshop on iPEP-ARS



A Training & Workshop on the Accomplishment Reporting System (ARS) Modules of the Work Management System (iPEP-ARS) was conducted by the Administrative Unit and the Geomapping and Governance Unit (GGU) of the Department of Agriculture -

Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) on September 5-9, 2022.

The five-day virtual training aimed to further enhance the digitization and automation processes in iPEP preparation, target

and timeline setting of deliverables, submission, monitoring, and evaluation of outputs or performances. It was attended by PRDP staff from the NPCO, Project Support Offices, and Regional Project Coordination Offices. (Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE) ■

DA-PRDP NPCO Meets with Sr. Usec. Panganiban for Project Briefing and Updates



The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) met with Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban on September 21, 2022, to provide him with updates on the Project and its accomplishments.

DA-PRDP Deputy Project Director Shandy Hubilla presented the overall context of the Project and its accomplishments, including

the total number of constructed farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation systems, and potable water systems worth PhP21 billion and the enhancement of the enterprise capacity of farmer groups through the 577 completed small, medium and micro-enterprise subprojects valued at PhP1.6 billion.

On the other hand, PRDP National Project Director and Assistant Secretary for Operations Arnel de Mesa shared that the

Project has been compliant with all environmental safeguard systems in place since it started in 2014 and reassured that all consultations with farmers and farmers' groups were done to guarantee their active participation in all aspects of the project implementation.

The meeting was attended by all component heads from the I-BUILD, I-REAP, I-PLAN and I-SUPPORT components. (Kristine Victoria Bistoyong, NPCO InfoACE) ■

North Luzon

PSO North Luzon, RPCO 2 enable citizens to monitor FMR construction in Isabela

Members of the Barangay Inspectorate Team (BIT), together with the contractor and the Provincial Project Management and Implementation Unit (PPMIU) of Quezon, Isabela, participated in the Citizens' Monitoring Training for the ongoing Rehabilitation/Improvement of San Juan-Barucob-Estrada-Dummon Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) on September 6-9, 2022.

The participants were oriented on their roles and responsibilities as members of the monitoring team for the implementation of the infrastructure subproject in their area. They were also capacitated on the use of some PRDP tools, such as Geotagging using the Geo-camera to take snapshots of the actual status of the construction, and the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that intends to help in proper reporting and handling of complaints on project activities and performance.

The training was facilitated by the technical team from the Project Support Office (PSO) North Luzon, including the I-BUILD Component, Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) Unit, Geomapping and Governance Unit (GGU), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit, and Economics Unit.

The road project, which spans 12.42-kilometers with a total cost of PhP140 million, is expected to benefit at least 1,698 households from the four barangays within its road influence area. In addition, it was proposed to support the development of the dairy industry in the municipality. (*Ericson Guiao, PSO North Luzon InfoACE*)

South Luzon

PRDP 4A delivers 50 pregnant dairy cows to BADACO to help increase milk production

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) CALABARZON delivered 50 pregnant dairy cows to the Batangas Dairy and Multipurpose Cooperative (BADACO) as part of the interventions under its Batangas Dairy Cattle Production enterprise subproject.

The dairy cows are expected to increase the cooperative's milk production by 400-500 liters a day and the number of its stock dairy animals by 25. To increase the likelihood of achieving these, the DA-PRDP, BADACO, local government units, experts, and other stakeholders inspected the animals before and after the delivery. All the delivered cows fit the specifications set by BADACO.

"Sa tulong ng additional dairy cows, mas magiging stable at dadami pa ang aming dairy production. Sisiguraduhin namin na maayos namin silang aalagaan upang magtuloy-tuloy ang aming production," Jose Alilio of BADACO shared.

The dairy farm enterprise of BADACO is among the ongoing subprojects of the DA-PRDP under its enterprise development component (I-REAP). It aims to improve the beneficiaries' production and income and the local dairy industry by helping them increase their milk production, build up a breeder-based dairy cattle population, improve nutrition management, and reduce production costs. By November, all interventions of the DA-PRDP for the enterprise are expected to be delivered to the cooperative. (*Myrelle Joy Bejasa, RPCO 4A InfoACE*)

Visayas

DA-PRDP officially turns over packaging house facility for mango enterprise in Guimaras

The woes of post-harvest losses of Guimaras mango farmers are now expected to be addressed as the official turnover and inauguration ceremony of the packing house facility of the Guimaras Mango Production, Consolidation, and Marketing Enterprise was conducted by the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Regional Project Coordination Office 6 (RPCO 6) with the Provincial Local Government Unit of Guimaras on September 8, 2022.

The facility, located in Sitio Talangban, Barangay Millan, Sibunag, Guimaras, will serve as the hub of the mango produce that is bound for consolidation and marketing. This will be managed by Guimaras Mango Growers and Producers Development Cooperative as its lead proponent group, along with the Jordan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Guimarasnon Processors and Producers Association as cluster members.

With a total project cost of PhP18.13 million, the project covers the establishment of the packing house, provision of production inputs and support, and other amenities relevant to implementing the mango enterprise subproject.

Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 6 Regional Executive Director Engr. Remelyn Recoter hopes that the facility will strengthen the quality of Guimaras mangoes that are exported internationally, deeming it as a prime commodity of the island province and serving as one of its major economic drivers.

"We are hoping that this project will strengthen the quality of Guimaras mangoes. As the cooperative envisions delivering the sweetest mangoes the province could offer, we hope that the group will take good care of the facility, serve more members, and nurture the trading capital that was granted to them," Recoter said. (*September Noon Macahilo, PSO Visayas InfoACE*)

Mindanao

Coffee key players seek LGU, legislative support

Support from the local government and the legislative department will be essential in promoting and ensuring the sustainability of Mindanao's coffee industry. This was one of the main points agreed upon during the Linking and Sharing for Mindanao Coffee Convergence activity spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development (DA-PRDP) Project Support Office (PSO) Mindanao last September 16, 2022, at Casa Leticia Hotel in Davao City.

The meeting of coffee stakeholders served as a means to bring Mindanao's coffee industry players in one venue to discuss the challenges and gaps in the coffee value chain and come up with strategies to address these. It also served as a culminating activity for the Philippine Coffee Expo 2022 held on September 14-15, 2022.

It was acknowledged by everyone during the meeting that there are existing gaps in the coffee industry that could be solved through legislation and the enactment of laws.

According to Davao Coffee Council Chair Joji Pantoja, she joined the Coffee Council in order to help the coffee farmers share their voices.

"Our dilemma here is between social and economic issues and both are needed to provide solutions to the country's problems," said Pantoja. "It is not just a matter of economics to sell and promote coffee but also connecting to suppliers, which if placed in a bigger ecosystem, involves policies and budget from the Government," she continued.

The role of inter-agency convergence comes into play as it links all the relevant line agencies while working closely with the main players in the industry: the coffee farmers.

"I think the solution is convergence. Somebody needs to focus on promoting our coffee, but the Council needs to support the farmers in terms of their needs and what policies should be pushed to the government in order to address their problems," Pantoja added. In the bigger picture, the Council hopes to be the protector and controlling body that will ensure that all sources of coffee beans should be properly credited and recognized.

As a way forward, the Council will be working on strengthening its function and starting more collaborations and partnerships with the other members of the coffee inter-agency convergence. (*Joy Montecalvo, PSO Min*)

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