



PRDP-supported cacao enterprises join 2022 National Cacao Congress

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) showcased its cacao enterprise proponent groups (PGs) during the 2022 National Cacao Congress held at the SMX Convention Center in SM Lanang Premiere, Davao City on November 24-25, 2022.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Agriculture Senior

Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban together with the Philippine Cacao Industry Association and local chief executives of Davao City.

During the opening program, Sr. Usec. Panganiban delivered Philippine President and Agriculture Secretary Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.’s keynote message.

“Let us honor our cacao farmers for being the backbone of this industry. We also urge you, our farmers, to partner with stakeholders to exchange best practices. We must take advantage of the regional, national, and global demand for cacao.”

[Read more on p. 2](#) 

PRDP-supported cacao enterprises join..(from Page 1)

National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla presented the DA-PRDP's background and accomplishments with respect to the cacao industry development support programs.

"We are pleased to tell you all that the Project has approved 23 cacao enterprise subprojects amounting to 205.2 million pesos which benefitted 63 farmer groups or 4,577 individual cacao farmers. We also have a total of Php2.14 billion in infrastructure support to the industry through the construction of farm-to-market roads along the cacao value chain."

The presentation was applauded, especially by the local

government units who have been in partnership with the Project since its Mindanao Rural Development Program phases.

Simultaneously, the smell of sweet chocolate filled the exhibition hall, where several cacao industry players displayed their best products ranging from dried cacao beans, chocolate bars, cacao tea, and hot chocolate.

Eleven of the above-mentioned 63 farmer groups participated and represented the DA-PRDP. They were the Canjulao League of Women from Bohol, Sindangan FACOMA Community Multipurpose Cooperative and Piñan Multipurpose Cooperative from Zamboanga del

Norte, Balaoro Farmers Association, Incorporated from Bukidnon, Paglaum Multi-purpose Cooperative from Misamis Occidental, Biao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative and Tawan-tawan Multi-purpose Cooperative from Davao del Sur, Rehoboth Agriculture Cooperative from Davao del Norte, San Isidro Cacao Producers Cooperative from Davao Oriental, Maragusan Multi-Purpose Cooperative from Compostela Valley, Household Multi Purpose Cooperative from North Cotabato, and Tibud Sa Katibawasan Multi-Purpose Cooperative from South Cotabato.

[Read more on p. 3](#) 

Agriculture Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the National Cacao Congress 2022 alongside local chief executives of Davao City.



DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla presents the DA-PRDP's accomplishments and support for the local cacao industry.





PRDP-supported cacao enterprises join..(from Page 2)

The PGs met with potential partners during a market matching session scheduled and organized by the PRDP Enterprise Development Component (I-REAP) teams of the NPCO and PSO Mindanao.

One PRDP PG struck gold after booking over Php300,000 worth of cacao beans during the first day of the congress.

Julius Macarili of the Maragusan Multipurpose Cooperative (MAMPCO), who has worked as a cacao consolidator before being employed in the cooperative as its processing supervisor, differentiated the experience of participating in the National Cacao Congress from other trade shows and expositions.

“I’ve attended many cacao

expositions and trade fairs since my involvement in the cacao industry in 2014. The difference with this congress is that there are many buyers here who are also participants; unlike in mall trade shows where the only buyers are mall-goers. Here, we have seminars participated in by cacao farmers and cacao industry players from different provinces all over the Philippines.

After attending the seminars, they come here to the exhibition hall to buy chocolate products or cacao beans that are not available in their area or are new to them so they can try and experiment with them for their own production; so this congress really stands out.”

MAMPCO is the recipient of the “Tablea Processing and Marketing

Enterprise” subproject worth Php2.51 million from the PRDP which was completed three years ago.

The PRDP provided the cooperative a tablea processing building, roaster, cracker, grinder, stainless molding equipment, chiller, vacuum sealer, air conditioning unit, and other inputs for tablea processing.

“On behalf of the cooperative, we are very thankful to the PRDP for inviting us to this congress out of all the Project’s cacao proponent groups who wouldn’t even fit in this booth.”

The two-day event is the culminating face-to-face leg of the National Cacao Congress after holding three virtual cacao island consultative congresses this year. (Ana Victoria C. Margallo, NPCO InfoACE) ■





DA-PRDP begins mainstreaming IESSF to DA offices

In line with its mainstreaming initiatives, the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), led by the Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) Unit, conducted the Training on Integrated Environmental and Social Safeguards Mainstreaming on November 14-16, 2022, in Quezon City.

The activity served as an orientation on the Integrated Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (IESSF) utilized by the SES Unit when assessing subprojects. The IESSF is one of the 10 PRDP innovations set for mainstreaming into the

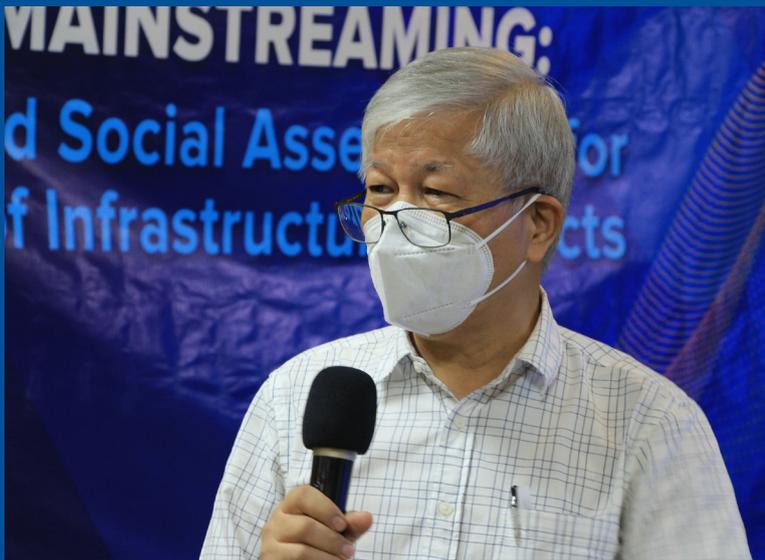
DA regular system. In particular, the training focused on the environmental assessment of infrastructure subprojects.

The participants of the training were from the DA offices, bureaus and attached agencies, namely, Field Operations Service (FOS), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Agricultural & Fisheries Engineering (BAFE), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) and National Banner Programs, as well as the DA Regional Offices, from the Field Operations Division (FOD) and Regional Agricultural Engineering Office (RAED).

Senior Institutional Development Specialist Engr. Renato Manantan welcomed the participants and explained to them the purpose of the training, emphasizing the importance of social and environmental safeguards in infrastructure projects.

“These environmental and social safeguards are essential in projects, especially for foreign-assisted projects like the PRDP. I can liken it to gender where it always has to be incorporated into any project or activity. For infrastructure projects, there always have to be environmental and social safeguards in place,” Engr. Manantan said.

Read more on p. 5 



DA-PRDP begins mainstreaming IESSF..(from Page 4)

DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla shared the same sentiments and also highlighted the significance of conducting the training especially since the PRDP is already in its eighth year of project implementation.

“This is the most opportune time to do this, to start discussing things. And we really want to learn from you in terms of your experiences on the ground and to be more practical about how you are going to implement it in your area of operation,” Hubilla shared. “More than this being a one-way learning activity, we also want

to hear your input. How are you going to apply the environmental and social assessment to your respective programs, projects and offices,” he added.

The SES Unit, led by NPCO SES Unit Head Angelita Martir, then discussed and presented the SES Mainstreaming Roadmap and the IESSF. The I-BUILD project cycle, SES roles and responsibilities in infrastructure projects, Environmental Screening, and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) were also discussed during the three-day training.

To further capacitate the

participants on the innovations and tools of SES, workshops were conducted on environmental screening and in the preparation of the ESMP. The activity concluded with a lively discussion on the integration of these SES innovations and tools into the DA regular program.

This training is the first of a series of mainstreaming activities that the SES Unit will conduct to mainstream the different aspects of the IESSF and other SES innovations such as the Grievance Redress Mechanism into their regular counterparts at the DA. *(Jan Kyle R. Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE)* ■

North Luzon

DA-PRDP greenlights new highland vegetable enterprise in Benguet

The Bosigan Multipurpose Cooperative in Mankayan, Benguet can now proceed with the procurement process for their proposed subproject on highland vegetable consolidation and marketing enterprise, after receiving the green light from the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

Through the DA-PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office - Cordillera Administrative Region (RPCO-CAR), the first No Objection Letter (NOL 1) was formally issued on November 17, 2022, allowing the Proponent Group (PG) of the enterprise subproject, to proceed with the bidding process.

Bosigan MPC Manager Wegina Lodias said that they are persistent in realizing their enterprise to cater more of their members' produce and increase their income to an average of at least 18.28% annually.

"We started our consolidation initiatives in 2015, but due to limited resources, we were only able to consolidate and sell more or less than 279 kilograms of assorted highland vegetables annually in the previous years, which is only about 20 to 25% of the cooperative members' total production," Lodias said.

The upgrading of Bosigan MPC's enterprise involves the establishment of a consolidation center with amenities; working capital; and a hauling and delivery vehicle as part of the consolidation services of the cooperative to ease out transport of the produce from farm gate to the consolidation center.

The proposed subproject is worth P18.03 million (M) including the 20% counterpart from the PG, in cash and in kind. (Elvy T. Estacio, RPCO-CAR InfoACE)

South Luzon

Plans underway for DA PRDP mainstreaming in Bicol

Planning for the mainstreaming of the best practices, tools, and innovations of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) to the Department of Agriculture-Bicol's banner programs is now in progress.

DA-Bicol Regional Executive Director (RED) and concurrently PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) Project Director Rodel Tornilla steered the mainstreaming activity during the meeting of the DA Banner Program Coordinators, Report Officers and PRDP RPCO V held at the DA Regional Field Office in Brgy. San Agustin, Camarines Sur.

RED Tornilla urged the participants to integrate PRDP's processes in the planning and implementation of DA's Rice, Corn, Livestock and High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) projects.

Among DAPRDP's science-based tools and innovations ready for mainstreaming are the Value Chain Adnalysis (VCA) and the updated Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP). The said tools will be used as the basis in the planning and budgeting of the Field Operations Division (FOD) particularly in translating the existing roadmaps for Bicol's flagship commodities into programs, projects, and activities (PPAs). In addition, FOD plans to adopt the VCA process in crafting a development plan for rice, corn and vegetables.

Component and unit heads as well as their representatives also presented their respective updates about their implementation status, activities and mainstreaming milestones during the said meeting. (Annielyn L. Balez, PRDP RPCO V InfoACE Unit)

Visayas

Eastern Visayas RPAB approves 3 enterprise development projects

Three proposed enterprise development subprojects under the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project's (DA-PRDP) I-REAP Component received

approval from the Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB).

The subprojects are the Seaweeds Production and Trading Enterprise of the Benabaye Primary Multipurpose Cooperative (BENAPRIMCO) in Merida, Leyte; Banana Production and Trading Enterprise of Brgy Utanan Farmers Association (BUFA) in Hilongos, Leyte; and Sogod Abaca Fiber Enterprise in Bontoc Multipurpose Cooperative in Bontoc, Southern Leyte.

Regional Project Coordination Office 8 (RPCO 8) Project Director Angel C. Enriquez congratulated the associations and challenged them to earn higher incomes with the help of the projects.

"I hope you realize how blessed you are to be given the opportunity because not everyone has been given the chance. Help yourselves so that you can be able to improve the lives of your members and you can probably expand," Director Enriquez said.

The Seaweeds Production and Trading Enterprise has a total project cost of Php14.96-M while the Banana Production and Trading Enterprise amounts to Php9.79-M and the Sogod Abaca Fiber Enterprise is worth Php11.83-M. These enterprises will benefit a total of 1,614 farmer-beneficiaries. (September Noon Macahilo, PSO Visayas InfoACE)

Mindanao

DA-PRDP 10 turns over P239.1-M FMRs to MisOcc

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Regional Project Coordination Office 10 (RPCO 10), together with the Provincial Local Government Unit of Misamis Occidental (PLGU MisOcc), turned over two Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs) worth Php239.10-M to the local government units (LGUs) of Baliangao and Plaridel on November 8, 2022.

Measuring a total of 17.67 kilometers (km), the project includes the 13-kilometer Zamora - Culpán - Balintonga - Sinampongán FMR in Aloran worth Php171.64-M and the 4.67 km Bato, Plaridel - Sinian, Baliangao FMR connecting Baliangao and Plaridel worth Php67.46-M.

Implemented under the PLGU MisOcc., Governor Atty. Henry S. Oaminal lauded the people and the local officials of Plaridel and Aloran for successfully completing the FMRs which will greatly have an impact the lives of the local farmers. He also extended his gratitude to DA-PRDP for helping the province's farmers and the residents through various agri-interventions.

DA-10 OIC-Regional Executive Director and DA-PRDP RPCO 10 Project Director Carlene C. Collado stressed that with the completed FMRs making transportation easier, there is no more reason why farmers cannot produce food.

"We need your cooperation for the care, operation, and maintenance of these roads. I would like to ask the officials of the barangays to make ordinances such as banning loaded trucks and vehicles with more than the weight capacity of the road to maintain its quality and help farmers in their endeavors," Director Collado added. (Joy M. Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao InfoACE)

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.

 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: prdpnpcoinfoace@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 |
|---|---|---|--|