



DA-PRDP generates knowledge management products

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) thru the Information, Advocacy, Communication, and Education (InfoACE) Unit and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit from the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), Project Support

Offices (PSOs), and Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs) gathered in Pasay City from February 20 to 24, 2023 for the Knowledge Products Planning and Development Workshop. The said workshop was a follow-up to the Knowledge Management Workshop held last October

2022 where the InfoACE Unit in coordination with the M&E Unit identified the lessons learned and good practices from the PRDP tools, processes, and activities.

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The teams were welcomed by National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla with a message that highlighted the importance of producing knowledge products, especially with the ongoing preparation of the PRDP Scale-Up. “If you have been with the PRDP from the original loan and the first and second additional financing, then you are the bearers of institutional knowledge. It is important to capture and translate them into knowledge products that will benefit the Project and the DA itself so as to apply and instill what has been learned throughout the years of implementation of the PRDP,” Hubilla said.

The week-long workshop resulted in the production of 13 fact sheets about the different tools, innovations, and processes of the PRDP that were captured during the previous Knowledge Management Workshop. The following fact sheets will cater to the project’s stakeholders and the general public who want to learn and replicate its good practices and innovations:

Inter-agency Convergence Harmonizes and Increases Funds

for Provincial Priority Commodity Investments. It highlights the benefits of conducting inter-agency convergence activities and dialogues with pertinent offices on priority concerns during the implementation of the PCIP.

Integration of Provincial Commodity Investment Plan to the DA PMED’s Operation. It features the lessons learned by the DA Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (DA PMED) from its integration of the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP) into its operations in 2021.

Lessons Learned during the implementation of RAEB to DA-PRDP subprojects. It provides an account of the project’s experiences throughout the conduct of the Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits (RAEB) which can help others identify strategies, lessons learned, and solutions to effectively utilize this innovation.

Ongoing Harmonization of the DA-PRDP and DA Operations Manual for Efficient Implementation of the Agricultural and Fisheries Infrastructure Projects. It details the experiences and lessons learned

by the DA Bureau of Agricultural and Fishery Engineering (BAFE) in mainstreaming the Operations Manual for Infrastructure Support in partnership with LGUs.

Lessons Learned in the Utilization and Implementation of the DA-PRDP Business Planning Innovation. It presents a summary of the process, lessons learned, and good practices in implementing the business planning innovation of the PRDP which paved the way for proponent groups (PGs) to establish enterprises that contribute to strengthening the agriculture and fisheries sector in the country.

Experiences and Lessons Learned in Adopting the DA-PRDP Business Planning Innovation in the DA AMAS Regular Operations. It enumerates the lessons learned from the adoption of the DA-PRDP Business Planning innovation acquired from the DA Regional Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) staff.

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Experiences and Lessons Learned on the Conduct of Operation and Maintenance Audit System (OMAS). This highlights the benefits of conducting the OMAS after subproject completion, as well as the lessons learned during its implementation.

LGUs' Experiences and Lessons Learned in the implementation of Enterprise Development Subprojects in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). This is a collection of experiences of I-REAP (enterprise) Focal Persons from the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Units (PPMIUs) of Ifugao and Mountain Province and from the Municipal Project Management and Implementing Units (MPMIUs) of La Trinidad in Benguet and Sagada and Barlig

in Mountain Province in the implementation of their enterprise subprojects.

Experiences and Lessons Learned in Highland Vegetables and White Potato Sectors in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). It highlights the good practices of three PGs in CAR during the subproject implementation and operationalization of their enterprises from 2020/2022 to the present.

Experiences and Lessons Learned in the implementation of Coffee Enterprise Subprojects in CAR. This is a compilation of lessons learned drawn from the experiences of three PGs involved in coffee production in CAR during subproject planning, implementation, and operations.

Experiences and Lessons

Learned in the implementation of Swine Enterprise Subprojects in CAR. It features the lessons learned from three PGs with operational swine micro enterprises.

Experiences and Lessons Learned in the implementation of Heirloom Rice Enterprise Subprojects in CAR. It provides key successes, challenges and solutions to problems undertaken, lessons learned, and good practices, during the subproject implementation and operationalization of the enterprises of three PGs under the Heirloom Rice Priority Commodity.

The said fact sheets will serve as easy-read documents for its target audiences in support to PRDP's mainstreaming efforts of its tools, processes, and innovations to the DA. (Jan Kyle Carrillo and Ana Victoria Margallo, NPCO InfoACE) ■



Benefits of PRDP FMR in Aurora felt by farmers, locals

The improvement of the Nonong Sr. – L. Pimentel farm-to-market Road (FMR) subproject in San Luis, Aurora was completed on February 2020 with a total of 5.85 kilometers which traverses a large patch of land planted with coconut trees, rice, and vegetable farming. After two years, the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) 3, led by the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, assessed its impact on the lives of the farmers and other locals through the conduct of the Rapid Appraisal of Emerging Benefits (RAEB).

DA-PRDP staff from RPCO 3 and Project Support Office (PSO) North Luzon conducted household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews to establish evidence and gather testimonies from the beneficiaries, key players, and local officials.

These are used to determine if the intended benefits are actually emerging or taking place.

Based on the initial results, travel time was reduced from 30 minutes to at least 10 minutes which is aligned with one of the subproject's objectives to reduce travel time by at least 50%. Local officials shared that assistance for the two barangays during calamities can now be easily delivered in affected areas. Farmers also revealed that hauling costs are also reduced since more vehicles can now access the road.

"Ngayon mas maganda na dahil noong araw nga 'yong kaunting niyogan namin diyan, kinokopra lang dahil nga wala pa namang bumabiyahen dito katulad ng mga magbubukong iyan. Ngayon, buko pa lang, nagiging pera na namin. Kumbaga, mas mabilis na ngayon 'yong produkto dahil nakakapasok na 'yong mga

mangangalakal dito sa amin," Edilberto Olivar Jr., a farmer from Brgy. Nonong Sr. said.

The RAEB is an evaluation tool of the PRDP that focuses on assessing the success of a subproject and its alignment and relevance to the project's development objectives. The result of this activity will serve as a feedback mechanism from the beneficiaries to the PRDP management on whether the desired outcomes of the project are likely or unlikely to be achieved.

The Governance and Geomapping Unit also conducted geotagging to document the current condition of the FMR and the beneficiaries while the Information, Advocacy, Communication, and Education Unit took spot interviews from other locals to record their testimonies and experiences from the FMR. *(Ram Bautista, RPCO 3 InfoACE)* ■

DA-PRDP GEF Unit holds Coordination Meeting



The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF-NRM) Unit held a Coordination Meeting on February 6-10, 2023 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan to prepare for the project's closing in May 2023.

Specifically, the activity served as a venue for the GEF-NRM Unit to review and evaluate the final status of various subprojects and activities, create an initial action plan with timelines for the remaining months, assess the financial status and discuss the closing of books, ensure the completion of the terminal report, and discuss the preparation

for the upcoming 15th World Bank Implementation Support Mission.

In his opening message, GEF-NRM Unit Head Ulysses Triambulo said that he is proud of the Unit's achievements over the past years. "I am confident that we've helped many people on the ground. Actually, the people are really happy with our projects and interventions," he added.

Meanwhile, Finance Management Service OIC-Director Telma Tolentino reminded the GEF-NRM Units at the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) and Project Support Offices (PSOs) of South Luzon and Visayas of their remaining financial

obligations as the project draws to a close.

DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla also urged the GEF-NRM staff from the NPCO and PSOs to work closely together to meet all their pending commitments. He assured the PSOs that they will get the support they need from the NPCO to carry out their remaining activities.

The coordination meeting was attended by DA-PRDP staff from the GEF-NRM, Finance, Budget, Accounting, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Governance and Geomapping Units at the NPCO and PSOs South Luzon and Visayas. ■

Complementation and harmonization for WB-funded DA projects



A two-part meeting and workshop were conducted on February 6 and 20, 2023 to develop the Complementation Framework for the World Bank (WB) pipelined projects in the Department of Agriculture (DA), namely, the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) Scale-Up, Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project (MIADP), and the Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency (FishCoRe) Project.

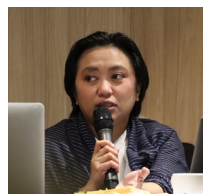
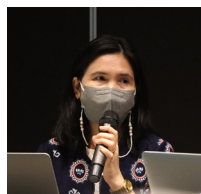
PRDP National Deputy Project

Director and MIADP Transition Co-Team Leader Shandy M. Hubilla emphasized the importance of harmonizing the three projects to avoid sowing confusion to the projects' stakeholders. "We want to see maximum complementation, if not collaboration, among the three to maximize our impact on the ground," Hubilla said.

Representatives from the three projects discussed and defined the complementation of interventions that would enrich the

outcomes and outputs of the projects' implementation. Complementation areas were identified to optimize resources committed to delivering similar or related services and interventions while strengthening the DA's efficiency in its local, regional, and national operations. The complementation framework also seeks to ease the duplication of interventions and beneficiaries, thereby, increasing the efficiency and reach of the three projects. ■

Preparing the PRDP Scale-Up POM



On February 13, 2023, the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office, led by National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla, held a meeting

with its components and units and representatives from the Mindanao cluster to discuss the Project Operations Manual (POM) of the proposed PRDP Scale-Up in preparation for the harmonized POM of the DA projects in

the World Bank pipeline.

The I-PLAN, I-BUILD, I-REAP, and I-SUPPORT Components presented the proposed salient changes in their Operations Manual (OM) from the PRDP Phase 1. ■

North Luzon

New DA-PRDP road project inaugurated in Tadian

Farmers and residents from all the barangays of Besao, seven barangays of Tadian, Mountain Province, and one barangay of Quirino, Ilocos Sur are now directly benefitting from the 4.154-kilometer (km) improved second segment of the Besao-Nacawang and Tadian Mabalite Farm-to-Market Road (FMR). The said FMR is a completed road project under the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) implemented by the Provincial Government of Mountain Province.

The inauguration and turnover ceremonies of the PhP91.87 million (M) project were held on February 8, 2023 in Barangay Batayan, Tadian.

Present during the ceremonies were the barangay captains of the seven affected barangays of Besao, Philippine National Police personnel, other Tadian officials, residents of Brgy. Batayan, and representatives from the Provincial Government and the DA - CAR led by Director Cameron P. Odsey,

During the program, Dir. Odsey said that the completed project will reduce post-harvest losses of farmers due to the shortened transport time of perishable agricultural products. Also, he said that the FMR will support commodities of the influence areas, such as coffee, heirloom rice, cabbage, bell peppers, tomatoes, and fruits.

The FMR is now serving a total of 2,660 households or about 18,357 individuals. (*Erwin S. Batnag, PIO Mountain Province*)

South Luzon

DA-PRDP commences FMR construction in Tagkawayan

An FMR jointly implemented by the DA-PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) CALABARZON and the local government of Tagkawayan, Quezon has commenced construction. The FMR aims to improve the local virgin coconut oil industry and the quality of life of farmers and residents.

The 10-km FMR will traverse barangays Sta. Monica, Sto. Niño, and Manato Station and will connect these areas to Quirino and Maharlika highways, the major road networks of Tagkawayan. It will cater to 1,468 households and is expected to increase the income of farming families by at least 25%, decrease travel time from Brgy. Sta. Monica to Manato Station from 42 minutes to 15 minutes, and reduce transport losses by 2% and hauling costs by 30%.

During the pre-construction convention, RPCO CALABARZON Project Director Abelardo Bragas expressed his optimism on the impact of the road on the agriculture and fisheries sector. According to him, not only will the farmers have better access to markets, but will also have easier access to DA interventions and opportunities to further improve and enrich their production, and significantly contribute to the strengthening of food security in the country.

Miguel Bermas, a rice and coconut farmer, expressed his gratitude to RPCO CALABARZON and the LGU of Tagkawayan for the concreting of the road that will benefit them greatly, especially during the rainy season when the road gets extremely muddy, costly, and difficult to haul agri products.

The construction of the FMR is estimated to be finished by November 2024. The Tagkawayan LGU commits to ensuring the timely and efficient implementation of the project. (*Myrelle Joy Bejasa, RPCO 4A InfoACE*)

Visayas

Construction of Altavas oyster processing facility kicked off

Intended to reinforce the DA-PRDP I-REAP subproject "Oyster Production, Processing and Marketing Enterprise of the Altavas Small Fishermen's Association (ASFA) and Tinagong Dagat Fishermen's Association (TDFA)," the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Unit (PPMIU) of Aklan commenced the construction of the Oyster Processing Facility with a ceremonial groundbreaking at Brgy. Linayasan, Altavas, Aklan on February 2, 2023.

The PhP14.96-M project will be utilized to produce communal fresh oysters employing a raft module technology to lessen the environmental setback of siltation being one of the by-products of processing mollusks with silt residues.

Linayasan Punong Barangay Solito S. Tulio vowed to support the enterprise as he shares the same delight in the construction of the facility.

"This is a milestone for Barangay Linayasan. Not only of the barangay but also of the Municipality of Altavas. I am certain that this project will be of help to our fisherfolk. I am congratulating the ASFA for launching this project; we are well aware that this sector was quite forgotten but at this time it is now granted assistance by the Department of Agriculture, its proponent, and the provincial and municipal government," he said.

Moreover, ASFA President Clyde Duran affirms that the facility will greatly aid the members for additional livelihood and stable income. (*E.L. Gregorio, RPCO 6 InfoACE*)

Mindanao

Watch towers offer protection for Cortes coastal community

The DA-PRDP officially turned over the "Construction of Six (6) Units Watch Tower" subproject to the Municipality of Cortes, Surigao del Sur on February 10, 2023.

The six (6) three-story solar-powered watchtowers were constructed to help in the conservation and protection of the marine sanctuary of Cortes by housing the Bantay Dagat, and will also provide light for fisherfolk navigating at night. The solar-powered towers will be the first of their kind constructed by DA-PRDP.

The turnover ceremony of the PhP16.5-M subproject was led by RPCO 13 Deputy Project Director and Regional Executive director Engr. Ricardo M. Onate Jr. with the Municipality of Cortes mayor.

A total of 3,377 households will benefit from the watch towers located in the six barangays of Madrelino, Uba, Problacion, Tigak, Mabahin, and Matho. (*Joy M. Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao InfoACE*)

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Writers : NPCO, PSO, and RPCO InfoACE Units
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Lay-out Artist : Ana Victoria C. Margallo
Adviser : Shandy M. Hubilla, CESO IV, EnP.



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