



DA-PRDP recognizes PSOs for exemplary performance

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) awarded the Project Support Offices (PSOs) for their outstanding performance in project implementation during the NPCO-

PSOs First Quarter Coordination Meeting on March 20-24, 2023, in Talisay, Batangas.

The recognition, through the initiative of the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), aimed to acknowledge the excellent

implementation of Project Support Offices (PSOs) based on their performance from the Fiscal Year 2022.

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The meeting was highlighted by the awarding of recognition, which is the result of the shared efforts of all the PSOs and RPCOs in working with partner stakeholders. It focused in a holistic and collaborative approach for executing, monitoring and

sustaining strategic initiatives aimed at helping the project fulfill its vision and continuous pursuit for quality public service delivery.

DA Assistant Secretary and DA-PRDP National Project Director Arnel V. De Mesa and

National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla, together with the component and unit heads, presented the awards of the top-performing clusters.

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I-PLAN Component



South Luzon Cluster

Best in Facilitating VCA and Development in FY 2022

Best in Facilitating I-PLAN SC 1.2 Activities in Value Chain Development for Planning and Research

Best in Financial Accomplishment for Investment Planning in WFP FY2022

Most Active in Mainstreaming PRDP Innovations for Investment Planning



Visayas Cluster

Best in Conducting Value Chain Assessment



Mindanao Cluster

Highest Non-PRDP Investments Leveraged from PCIP Implementation

I-BUILD Component



South Luzon Cluster

Most Efficient in Facilitation of Subproject Approval for I-BUILD Under AF2

Best in Financial Accomplishment for Infrastructure Development in WFP FY2022



South Luzon Cluster

Most Efficient in Facilitation of Subproject Procurement for I-BUILD Under AF2



Mindanao Cluster

Highest Rating in I-BUILD Subprojects with Operation and Maintenance Audit System

Most Active in Mainstreaming PRDP Innovations for Infrastructure Development



North Luzon Cluster

Highest Rating with Completed I-BUILD Subprojects Under OL and AF1

I-REAP Component



North Luzon Cluster

Highest Rating with Complete I-REAP Subprojects Under OL

Highest Amount of I-REAP Subprojects Approved Under AF2



South Luzon Cluster

Highest Percentage of Proponents Group Access to Insurance

Highest Percentage of Proponents Group Access to Credit



Visayas Cluster

Most Efficient in Facilitation of Subproject Approval for I-REAP Under AF2

Highest Percentage of Proponents Group Access to Market



Mindanao Cluster

Best in Financial Accomplishment for Enterprise Development in WFP FY2022

I-SUPPORT Component



Most Active in Mainstreaming PRDP Innovations for Geomapping and Governance



Mindanao Cluster

Best in Developing and Sharing PRDP IEC Materials



Most Active in Mainstreaming PRDP Innovations for Social Safeguards



North Luzon Cluster Outstanding Knowledge Management Contributor



South Luzon Cluster Best in Conducting RAEB and Developing RAEB Reports for CY 2022



South Luzon Cluster Best Performing Cluster

DA-PRDP recognizes PSOs...(from Page 2)

The South Luzon Cluster bagged the most awards including the highest distinction as Best Performing Cluster.

“We shall continue to improve our implementation to the sectors we are mandated to serve, together with groups and individuals who have selflessly devoted their time and resources to realize our shared goals,” Asec. de Mesa stated.

Besides recognizing the PSOs for their performance, the coordination meeting also served as a venue for the presentation of their accomplishments and updates for the first quarter of 2023.

Asec. De Mesa urged the clusters to focus on the physical progress and financial disbursement of subprojects, especially from the Second Additional Financing (AF2). This

is vital for the approval of the proposed PRDP Scale-Up by the ICC Board since the Project is requesting additional funding from the World Bank.

The coordination meeting concluded with the PSOs' presenting their targets for FY 2023, taking into account the concerns raised during the discussions. (*Jan Kyle Carrillo and Julie Ace Brandon Barao, NPCO InfoACE Unit*) ■



DA-PRDP holds I-VCA mobilization meeting, module preparation workshop

The Department of Agriculture through the Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) I-PLAN component convened its representatives from the Regional Project Coordination Offices and the Project Support Offices for the I-VCA Mobilization Meeting and Module Preparation Workshop on March 27-31, 2023.

The workshop conducted by the I-PLAN National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) aims to facilitate the preparation of the training/learning module in conducting I-VCA orientation for partner stakeholders.

The VCA, a science-based tool adopted by DA-PRDP, provides

farmer-entrepreneurs the relevant inputs in identifying and developing the linkages and interrelationships between activities that create value, profitability, and competitive advantage of a specific commodity along the segments of the value chain.

The enhancement of the VCA integrates climate tools with a risk assessment that identifies relevant hazards and violent conflicts in the value chain segment. It evaluates and recommends risk management features to aid these identified risks.

PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla emphasized in his message

the relevance of the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP) as it has become a reference and basis of investments and projects for PRDP and other foreign-funded projects, the LGUs, and NGAs, among others.

“We need to review the PCIPs and conduct the necessary updating not only to include new commodities with VCAs but also to ensure that the data is updated and relevant,” Director Hubilla emphasized.

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Undersecretary for Admin and Finance and NPCO I-PLAN Component Head Agnes Catherine T. Miranda welcomes the participants during the I-VCA Mobilization Meeting and Module Preparation Workshop.



PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla applauds the I-PLAN Component for the conduct of the activity that will further contribute to the development of VCAs and PCIPs that are leveraged for investment planning.



(from left to right) NPCO I-PLAN Alternate Component Head Acquilyn Morillo, Planning Specialist Lovely Sablay, Planning Officers Paulliene Laine Masungsong, Pinky Villegas, and Kristina Kay Relleve present the recommended processes for a climate resilient and agro-industry oriented value chain analysis.

DA-PRDP holds I-VCA...(from Page 4)

Moreover, the I-PLAN NPCO discussed the concepts, expected outputs, and proposed exercises. They also solicited inputs and recommendations on the procedures, strategies, and approaches in conducting VCAs by the different regions and clusters.

“We are confident in your commitment to take part in the multi-phase roll-out fully, and we hope that these Capacity Development activities will better equip everyone

in the implementation of I-PLAN activities and corresponding mainstreaming efforts,” said DA Undersecretary for Administration and Finance and DA-PRDP NPCO I-PLAN Component Head, Agnes Catherine T. Miranda.

The creation of the module is set to be drafted and finalized in the following months by the capacity development team of the I-PLAN component across all offices.

Furthermore, the activity

served as a venue for the awarding of certificates to several planners for completing the DA-PRDP I-PLAN Online Course Work on Investment Planning Tools (Rapid Market Appraisal Tool, Commodity Prioritization Tool, and the Expanded Vulnerability and Suitability Assessment Tool) which was accomplished via Google classroom. (Julie Ace Brandon Barao and Ana Victoria Margallo, NPCO InfoACE) ■



Paving the road to a food-secure Bangsamoro

Road connectivity in the Province of Sulu has been a longstanding issue for rural communities. For years, farmers and fisherfolk in these areas struggled to transport their products to markets due to the lack of accessible roads. This is about to change with the construction of the first farm-to-market road (FMR) in the Municipality of Lugus.

On April 23, 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform - Philippine Rural Development Project (MAFAR-PRDP) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Lugus embarked on the “Concreting of Barangay Parian Kayawan – Pait – Rugasan - Kutah Parang - Mantan FMR” subproject as part of their efforts to improve infrastructure towards a food-secure Bangsamoro.

The 8.36-kilometer FMR connects the Barangays of Parian Kayawan, Pait, Rugusan-Kutah Parang and Mantan and costs

PhP138.9 million. It was completed on December 15, 2022, and handed over to the Sulu LGU on March 16, 2023.

Lugus Mayor Hadar M. Hajiri, Al-Hadj emphasized the impact of the FMR on boosting economic growth in their community, saying that the road brings massive changes, especially to their farmers.

“This project is a first for our community. We thank MAFAR-PRDP, the World Bank, and the Bangsamoro Government for this project. On our part, we will assure you that we will take care of this project,” Hajiri said.

Hussin A. Jumah, a farmer resident, said the FMR will make a big difference in their community.

“Before, we had to cross the sea using a pump boat to deliver our products to the market and sometimes we use a handcart to deliver our products. It was challenging, especially during the rainy season. Now, we can transport our crops more efficiently, which

will help us earn more income,” he said.

The FMR has also opened new opportunities for farmers in the area who can grow diverse crops and expand their businesses with easier market access. Some traders have even started buying the farmers’ products because they are now able to reach them.

The road has also improved the lives of many other residents in the region as people now have access to health services and education. It has also spurred the growth of small businesses in the area.

Overall, the FMR has significantly influenced the economic growth of farmers and fisherfolk in the Bangsamoro region, especially since the Province of Sulu is one of the top contributors to fisheries production, making BARMM the region with the highest volume of fisheries production in 2022. (*Naimel, Mamisel, RPCO BARMM InfoACE*) ■

North Luzon

43K Cordi households reap gains under DA-PRDP infra dev component

Over 43,000 households in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) are now reaping the benefits from 48 completed agri-infrastructure subprojects (SPs) implemented under the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

With eight years of implementation, the DA-PRDP has completed the construction and improvement of 126 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, nine irrigation systems servicing 212 hectares, 19 other agri-infrastructure (warehouse, tramlines, etc.), and has provided several communities with access to potable water.

As of December 31, 2022, the Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) CAR has completed 48 infrastructure SPs amounting to PhP2.56 billion, three (3) SPs amounting to PhP369.57 million (M) are ongoing and one SP with No Objection Letter 1 (NOL1).

The province of Ifugao has the highest number of completed infrastructure SPs with 17 SPs amounting to PhP583-M, followed by the province of Benguet with 11 SPs worth PhP533-M and Apayao with eight SPs worth PhP290-M. Meanwhile, the province of Kalinga has the highest cost of completed infrastructure SPs totaling PhP794-M with five SPs, followed by the province of Ifugao and Mountain Province with PhP327-M (6 SPs).

More than 20 infrastructure SPs are also undergoing the validation process at the RPCO CAR level. If found feasible, the implementing LGUs will then prepare the necessary documents and requirements to facilitate their implementation. *(Elvy T. Estacio, RPCO-CAR InfoACE)*

South Luzon

Bicol EDC endorses DA-PRDP Scale-Up to the RDC

The Bicol Economic Development Committee (EDC) endorsed the DA-PRDP Scale-Up to the Regional Development Council (RDC) for inclusion in the Regional Development Investment Program 2023 to 2028 recently.

In a Special EDC Meeting held via Zoom, PRDP Scale-Up was subsequently endorsed to the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) for approval. During the said meeting, DA-PRDP RPCO Bicol Deputy Project Director Adelina Losa discussed its background, project development objectives, target beneficiaries, components, project duration and financial requirements and regional pipeline for both infrastructure (I-BUILD) and enterprise (I-REAP) development.

Armylene Posada of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Project Development, Investment Programming, and Budgeting Division stated that based on her evaluation, the PRDP Scale-Up is aligned with the 2023 to 2028 Regional Development Plan, particularly on the modernization of agriculture and agribusiness and expansion and upgrading of infrastructure.

Thus, the Committee passed two resolutions endorsing PRDP Scale-Up subject to compliance with the EDC's findings and recommendations. *(Annielyn L. Baleza, PRDP RPCO V InfoACE)*

Visayas

DA-PRDP turns over five enterprise dev projects in Northern Samar

Five farmers' associations across Northern Samar finally received their certificate of project completion of the enterprise development or I-REAP interventions through the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

These five I-REAP subprojects include the Hog Fattening and Marketing Enterprise in Las Navas, Northern Samar with a total project cost of PhP1.28 million (M); HFA Hog Fattening and Trading in Catubig, Northern Samar amounting to PhP1.25-M; Vegetables Enterprise and Marketing in Laoang, Northern Samar amounting to PhP1.23-M; Siganid and Milkfish Fishpen Project with a project cost of PhP1.26-M; and Mallard Duck Egg Production and Marketing amounting to PhP1.23-M.

Other projects for Northern Samar are also expected to commence and be completed soon. Some of these are infrastructure projects that have undergone review recently and two I-REAP subprojects that are still waiting to be completed.

"The DA-PRDP will continue to assist the province as it launches the Scale-Up. This means that projects which were originally designed for six years can now be extended, and more interventions can be crafted for the improvement of the lives of the farmers," DA-PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) 8 Deputy Project Director Dr. Jenny Lyn R. Almeria shared. *(Jenina June Leira, RPCO 8 InfoACE)*

Mindanao

DA-PRDP turns over 144M FMR to Panaon, MisOr

New opportunities are now opening in Panaon, Misamis Oriental with the turnover of the Rehabilitated and Concreted 11.9-kilometer (km) farm-to-market road (FMR) connecting the barangays of Sumasap-Salimpono-Magsaysay-Bangko-San Juan to the Municipal Local Government Unit of Panaon (MLGU).

DA-PRDP RPCO 10 Project Director Carlene C. Collado congratulated the LGU for the completion of the subproject worth PhP144.19 million as it marks a new feat for the town.

"I want to personally congratulate MLGU Panaon for a job well done. Dubbed as a model LGU for DA-PRDP subprojects in Misamis Occidental for always abiding with the standards set by the World Bank is indeed a legacy of the municipality that is worth emulating," Dir. Collado said.

He added that with the completion of the project, the 11 km road will open more opportunities, especially for the farmers.

This new road is the second completed FMR in Panaon and has a road influence area of 2,919 hectares, serving farmers planting coconut, rice, and rubber. *(Isa Agawin, RPCO 10 InfoACE)*

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Editor-in-Chief : Cheryl C. Suarez
Associate Editors : Adora D. Rodríguez, Jan Kyle Carrillo
Writers : Julie Ace Brandon Barao, Jan Kyle Carrillo, Ana Victoria Margallo, and 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.



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