



DA-PRDP concludes 15th WB-ISM

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) capped off a successful 15th World Bank - European Union Implementation Support Mission (WB-EU ISM) to the PRDP during the Wrap-up Meeting on May 2,

2023, at the DA Conference Room in Quezon City.

DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban expressed his gratitude to the World Bank for remaining a strong ally of the DA in transforming the agriculture and fisheries sector. He also assured

the Bank that the DA will continue to sustain the gains of the original PRDP as the project enters its new era of scaling up.

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DA-PRDP scores...(from Page 1)

“The stakes are now bigger and the outcomes that we aspire for will definitely leave a mark on the history of agriculture and fishery-based rural development in the Philippines,” Usec. Panganiban emphasized.

WB Practice Manager Dina Umali-Deininger congratulated the PRDP for the successful completion of the 15th WB-EU ISM and thanked its staff for all their hard work. She also reiterated the Bank’s pledge to ensure the success of its projects in the DA.

“I would really like to celebrate and thank the DA for the excellent partnership, especially Sr. Usec. Panganiban, Asec. Arnel, Dir. Shandy and the whole PRDP. I especially thank you for your dedication and commitment, trust and kindness to me and the whole team. You are really here to support the farmers and fisherfolk of the Philippines so that they can

have a better life and that no one is left behind,” Umali-Deininger expressed.

WB Operations Manager Achim Fock added that it truly is an honor to work with the DA and PRDP in realizing the objectives of the project. “I think that PRDP in itself has shown a lot of really good results on the ground. Of course, there are issues but given the size and vision of the project, I think it’s a really great program,” he said.

Meanwhile, Minister Counselor and Head of Cooperation at the European Union Christoph Wagner thanked the DA and PRDP staff in Mindanao for their hospitality during the site visits in Davao. According to Wagner, the site visits were instrumental in helping him have a complete understanding of what the PRDP is all about.

From April 11 to 21, 2023,

the DA-PRDP, WB Task Team and EU conducted site visits to select subprojects in North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, marking the first time all four clusters were visited during the ISM. The I-REAP Component held a Special Mission from April 11-14 to visit enterprise subprojects in Tarlac, Aklan, Antique and South Cotabato while the Global Environment Facility - Natural Resource Management (GEF-NRM) Unit visited three GEF-covered sites in Bohol and Sorsogon from April 17-21. Meanwhile, the main site visits of this 15th WB-EU ISM were conducted in Davao Region from April 17-19, 2023.

The next ISM is tentatively scheduled on October 2023 which comes right after the projected approval of the PRDP Scale-Up in the third quarter of this year. *(Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE)* ■



WB, PRDP I-REAP conduct Special Mission to enterprise subprojects

The I-REAP Component of the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) led by the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) I-REAP Alternate Component Head Leny Pecson, together with World Bank (WB) Agriculture Policy Planning

and Business Specialist Agnès Deshormes, conducted a Special Mission from April 11 to 14, 2023 to visit enterprise subprojects in Tarlac, Aklan, Antique and South Cotabato during the 15th Implementation Support Mission to the PRDP.

The Special Mission aimed

to look into the progress of select subprojects funded under the Original Loan (OL) and to gather information on the Proponent Groups' (PGs) experiences and best practices in sustaining their enterprises that will enrich the I-REAP Component's implementation in the upcoming PRDP Scale-Up.

April 11, 2023



The WB and I-REAP first visited two enterprise subprojects in the municipalities of Moncada and La Paz in the province of Tarlac on April 11, 2023.

In Moncada, they visited the Provision of Custom Service and Establishment of Processing Center and Storage Facility for Sweetpotato in the Province of Tarlac subproject operated by the Sapang Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMPC). The subproject was established to increase the income of sweet potato farmers by increasing the production of dried sweet potato chips supplied to San

Miguel Food Inc., the cooperative's primary market for processed chips.

Afterward, they inspected the Establishment of Mungbean Trading Post with Custom Service Facilities in the Province of Tarlac subproject in Moncada owned by the Caut Farmers Field School Marketing Cooperative (CFFSMC) which aims to increase the production of mungbean in the province.

Ms. Deshormes thanked the SMPC and CFFSMC for their active participation in the activity as she was able to gather information on the progress and impact of the

subprojects. She also recognized their continued efforts to ensure that the subprojects funded by the World Bank would continue to prosper to benefit more farmers.

Meanwhile, the PGs also expressed their gratitude to the WB and the DA-PRDP for providing support to their businesses and uplifting the lives of more farmers in the province of Tarlac. *(Ericson Guiao, PSO North Luzon)* ■

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April 12, 2023



The Visayas leg of the Special Mission kicked off in the province of Aklan on April 12, 2023, with a visit to the Abaca Fiber Production, Consolidation and Trading Enterprise (AFPCTE) in the municipality of Libacao.

The enterprise is managed by the lead Proponent Group (PG) LORRI Agrarian Reform Cooperative (LARC) together with its cluster members Madalag Development Cooperative (MADECO) and Kaisahan it mga Samahan it mga

Libacaonon para sa Kauswagan (KASALIKA).

As an enterprise, AFPCTE buys loose abaca fiber from the abaca farmers of Libacao for consolidation in the trading center. The consolidated fibers are then weighed, sorted, classified, and bailed for direct marketing to its major buyer, Chingbee.

The WB and I-REAP were warmly welcomed by members of LARC, MADECA, and KASALIKA led by Chairperson Dante Zubiaga

and General Manager Nelia Rome. They were toured around the trading facility and witnessed the process of abaca production from the stripping of the abaca fiber up to the final classification step.

The visit concluded with a dialogue with the members of the PG where they shared the challenges they faced in operating the enterprise and the best practices they developed in the process. *(Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE)* ■

April 13, 2023



The Visayas leg of the Special Mission continued to the neighboring province of Antique to visit the Lambaklad Livelihood Project in the municipality of Libertad.

The enterprise is managed by its proponent group, the Taboc Fisherfolk Association (TAFa), and was established to restore the livelihood of the fisherfolk of Barangay Taboc devastated by super typhoon Yolanda.

After the showcase of the project and dialogue with TAFa, Ms. Deshormes recognized the PG for its successful implementation of the subproject which has recorded steady growth in terms of profit since 2018. "I think from the little I have heard and seen, I can safely say you are a successful association," she said.

Also present was Libertad Municipal Mayor Mary Jean Te who thanked the Bank and the DA-

PRDP for their constant support to the fisherfolk of Taboc through the project and numerous capacity-building activities. According to Mayor Te, the Lambaklad Livelihood Project of TAFa has contributed to improving the poverty index of the municipality by raising the incomes of the fisherfolk not just in Barangay Taboc, but also for other fishers who employ the lambaklad method in the municipality. *(Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE)* ■

April 14, 2023



On the last day of the Special Mission, the WB and I-REAP headed to Mindanao to visit two subprojects in the municipality of Polomolok in the province of South Cotabato.

They visited the Cassava Granules Production and Marketing subproject in Barangay Polo and the Cacao Beans Enterprise in Barangay Cannery Site. These enterprises are managed by the Polo Samahang Nayon Multipurpose Cooperative and the Tibud sa Katibawasan

Multipurpose Cooperative, respectively.

The DA-PRDP funded the PhP39.3 million (M) worth of production and financing support for the fermented cacao beans of Barangay Cannery Site and PhP17.9-M for the cassava granules of Barangay Polo.

The cacao beans enterprise targets to increase job opportunities and foster strong alliances among cacao growers and organizations in South Cotabato through clustering

and networking while the cassava granules enterprise takes advantage of the high demand for cassava granules as animal feed in the province.

After the visit, Ms. Deshormes noted that they have gained sufficient technical knowledge and applied mechanisms introduced by the DA-PRDP which contributed to the successful implementation of the subprojects. *(Julie Ace Brandon Barao, NPCO InfoACE)* ■



DA-PRDP, WB, EU hold 15th ISM in Davao Region, acknowledge exceptional performance of PGs

The World Bank (WB) and European Union (EU) acknowledged the exceptional performance of the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural

Development Project (DA-PRDP) and its Proponent Groups (PGs) in effectively and efficiently delivering subprojects in targeted areas in Davao during the 15th World Bank

Implementation Support Mission on April 18, 2023.

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WB Task Team Leader to the DA-PRDP Mio Takada lauded the PGs' processes in maintaining the subprojects. "I'd like to commend the proponent group because their systems are in place. With this milestone, it is a challenge and a motivation to always go beyond the extra mile to further improve our mechanisms for better implementation of the PRDP Scale-Up," she said.

Takada also added that communities should put more effort into sustainability and remember the inclusion of climate concerns and how the PG integrates its

plans, should challenges arise as to climate concerns in the future.

Both WB and EU also acknowledged the PGs for actively identifying, implementing, and managing community subprojects, significantly improving the economic opportunities within their respective communities.

Head of Cooperation at EU Delegation to the Philippines Christoph Wagner underscored that the project allowed communities to build stronger partnerships with local officials, thus, enabling them to better their enterprises.

On the other hand, WB Lead

Urban Specialist Madhu Raghunath commended the established practices in implementing the subproject and recommended strengthening the mechanisms of Operation and Maintenance.

The subprojects that the delegates visited were the PhP103 million (M) "Rehabilitation of Barangay Ibo-Pitu Farm to Market road (FMR)" in the Municipality of Malalag and the PhP18.2-M worth "Green Coffee Beans Processing and Marketing" in Barangay Tibolo, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

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The FMR seeks to address constraints in post-harvest and marketing segments of the value chain. Through the FMR, losses related to the transport of their products are expected to be reduced and envisioned to increase farmers' income. Also, the rehabilitation of the FMR will decrease travel time by 38.48% and reduce transport losses by 3%, from an average of 4% to 1%.

Meanwhile, the proposed Green Coffee Beans Processing and Marketing Enterprise is an upgrading project of the Tibolo

Farm Workers Association (TIFWA) which empowers the indigenous farmers of Sitio Basak, Barangay Tibolo through consolidated processing and marketing of robusta green coffee beans.

The team also visited the Chocolate Processing subproject of the Rehoboth Agriculture Cooperative (RACO) with a grant allocation worth PHP20-M in Panabo City. The subproject promotes and processes the cacao beans produced by the cacao farmers to provide better buying prices and ensure a reasonable and stable

market price of cacao beans.

During the end of the site visitations, the PGs committed to sustaining the project's achievements and hoped that these would be integrated into their local development process.

Joining the WB and EU at the site visits were representatives from the DA-PRDP National Project Coordination Office, Project Support Office Mindanao, Regional Project Coordination Office XI and the provincial and local government unit officials of Davao del Sur. *(Julie Ace Brandon Barao, NPCO InfoACE)* ■

DA-PRDP, WB visit GEF sites in Bohol, Sorsogon



The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project's (DA-PRDP) Global Environment Facility - Natural Resources Management (GEF-NRM) Unit, together with Food and Agriculture Organization Natural Resource Management Specialist Jim Hancock and World Bank (WB) Environmental Specialist Maya Villaluz, visited GEF-covered sites in Bohol and Sorsogon from

April 17 to 21, 2023 as part of the 15th Implementation Support Mission to the PRDP.

The site visits aimed to review the implementation progress of the GEF sites and ensure that the development objectives are being met, especially since GEF will be ending in May.

The WB and GEF-NRM Unit first visited the Aguining Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the

Sinandigan Marine Sanctuary in Bohol on April 17-19, 2023. In Aguining MPA, they inspected the fish cages and mangrove crab nursery/grow-out site. Afterward, they headed to Sinandigan Marine Sanctuary to check the guardhouse and fish cages funded under GEF.

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A dialogue with the Provincial Project Management Implementing Unit (PPMIU) Bohol, the Proponent Groups and the respective local government units was held during each visit. The Sinandigan Marine Sanctuary Management Council and Aguing MPA Governing Board shared their experiences with milkfish culture, MPA management

and implementation of other conservation-related projects. The team then headed to Sorsogon on April 20, 2023, to visit the Fish Sanctuary Rehabilitation (Community-Based Coastal Ecosystem Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) and Seaweeds Production Project and Grouper Culture Enterprise in Brgy.

Calintaan, Matnog, Sorsogon. A dialogue with the community was also conducted where issues and concerns, lessons learned, and plans for sustainability were discussed. (Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE, with reports from September Noon, PSO Visayas InfoACE, and Lea Caliuag, PSO South Luzon InfoACE) ■



DA-PRDP, InsightSCS ink deal to provide E-marketplace to farmers

The Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) through its Enterprise Development Component (I-REAP) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with InsightSCS (Insight-Supply Chain Solution) to support Filipino farmers and fisherfolk with their marketing efforts through the PRDP Marketplace on April 13, 2023.

The PRDP Marketplace aims to showcase the products of the Project's beneficiaries in an online platform and to integrate the PRDP enterprises into the digital commerce scene.

Present during the ceremonial signing were DA Assistant Secretary and PRDP National Project Director Arnel De

Mesa, DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla, InsightsSCS Chief Executive Officer Pierre Carlo Curay, and Chief Operating Officer Remi John Noman.

Assistant Secretary De Mesa expressed that this undertaking will collectively embark on efforts to increase farm productivity and income.

"PRDP is known as an innovator in the Department of Agriculture and its innovation is being used not only in the department but also in the entire bureaucracy. This forged partnership with InsightsSCS will expand the proponent groups' (PGs) market, and they will get the most out of their produce," Asec de Mesa

added.

The partnership aims to collectively venture collaborative efforts in a single platform and integrate the PRDP enterprises into a digital commerce scene.

InsightSCS is a USAID grant recipient (Deliver-E Project) and a software company specializing in logistics solutions supporting end-to-end supply chain visibility and marketplace solution to uplift the welfare of local farmers by providing them market visibility as well as a more efficient supply chain management system that allows them to retain a bigger portion of any agricultural produce's value chain. (Julie Ace Brandon Barao, NPCO InfoACE) ■



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