



## DA-PRDP coffee enterprise beneficiaries join Philippine Coffee Expo for the 2nd time

**Pasay City** – The Department of Agriculture- Philippine Rural Development Project's (DA-PRDP) 18 funded coffee enterprises from Luzon and Mindanao joined and showcased their products for the second time at the Philippine Expo 2023 held at the World Trade

Center in Pasay City on June 1-4, 2023.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Philippine Coffee: Brewing the Future," is dubbed the largest event for the coffee industry to celebrate and promote Philippine coffee. It also served as a venue

for coffee producers and buyers to build linkages and networks to meet the country's best coffee producers and brewers.

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## DA-PRDP coffee enterprise...(from Page 1)



Agriculture Sr. Usec. Domingo F. Panganiban with PRDP National Project Director Asec. Arnel V. De Mesa, PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla, and Asec. Kristine Evangelista grace the opening ceremony of the PCE 2023 together with the organizers and sponsors from PhilCAFE, Philippine Coffee Guild, and DTI.

NPCO I-REAP Alternate Component Head Leny Pecson discusses government support to coffee farmers during the plenary session of the PCE 2023.

Throughout the three-day event, various topics at the expo's plenary session featuring Philippine and international speakers who discussed coffee industry trends, updates from world coffee research, business opportunities and challenges, coffee quality, marketing, and the growing demand for Philippine coffee, among others.

The DA-PRDP, through its I-REAP (Enterprise Development) Component, showcased its funded-coffee enterprises to promote their products to the coffee industry and buyers. It targets to increase and expand the consumers' knowledge and awareness of different coffee products to open more opportunities and be recognized in the local and international markets.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture (DA) also graced the event led by Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban, DA Assistant Secretary for Operations Arnel De Mesa, Assistant Secretary

for Consumer Affairs Kristine Evangelista, Bureau of Plant Industry and High-Value Crops. Development Program Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban and PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy Hubilla.

During the plenary discussion, Leny G. Pecson, DA-PRDP's I-REAP Alternate Component Head, discussed that PRDP uses Value Chain Analysis (VCA) to identify our strategic intervention, such as in the coffee industry for PRDP. She added that the project provided input to production, machinery, planting materials, nurseries, post-harvest facilities, housing, dryers, and trading centers.

"We provided our Proponent Groups (PGs) with facilities and infrastructures. We also capacitate in managing the infrastructure, and facilities, helping them on the Operations and Maintenance and teaching them how to apply it and providing the skills in managing

enterprises so that all our farmers will also acquire entrepreneurial skills," Pecson shared.

Mario Tayaban, one of the beneficiaries of DA-PRDP, expressed that the three-day event has helped him promote their coffee and that he learned a lot from the experts on improving their products regarding packaging and promotion.

*"Masaya ako at nagkaroon ako ng pagkakataon na makalahok sa ganitong event para matuto makakita rin ng iba't ibang produkto ng kape sa iba't ibang panig ng Pilipinas (I am happy that I had the opportunity to participate in this event to learn and see different coffee products in other parts of the Philippines),"* Tayaban shared.

Aside from the Department of Agriculture (DA), the PCE 2023 is also supported by the Departments of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the PhilCAFE Project. *(Julie Ace Brandon R. Barao, NPCO InfoACE)* ■







# DA-PRDP firms up Scale-Up Operations Manual

**Cebu City** – The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) conducted the back-to-back PRDP Management Committee (ManComm) Meeting, Validation Workshop on the PRDP Scale-Up Project Operations Manual (POM), and iPEP-ARS Online System and PERC Guidelines Training/Workshop from June 13 to 16, 2023.

The PRDP Management Committee Meeting was attended by Project Directors and Deputy Project Directors, as well as

Component and Unit Heads and Alternate Heads from the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) and Project Support Offices (PSO) to discuss notable project updates, especially on the PRDP Scale-Up, and other pertinent administrative matters.

“Our exercises today and tomorrow are very critical for us to finalize already the Project Operations Manual. This was asked during the technical discussions (with NEDA), and we confirmed that we will be submitting it on or before

the Loan Negotiation. Our exercise today and tomorrow will eventually help us meet that deadline,” DA Assistant Secretary and PRDP National Project Director Asec. Arnel V. De Mesa emphasized.

The Management Committee Meeting was followed by the Validation Workshop on the PRDP Scale-Up POM to finalize the Operations Manual (OM) of all components and units of the project.

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PRDP National Project Director Asec. Arnel V. De Mesa, NPCO I-PLAN Component Head Usec. Agnes Catherine T. Miranda, and PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla chair the validation workshop of the PRDP Scale-Up operations manual.



The World Bank Task Team to the PRDP, led by Mio Takada, presents points to be considered in the updating of the PRDP components' and units' operations manuals.



Representatives from the components and units present the salient points of changes in their respective operations manual from the original PRDP.

### DA-PRDP firms up...(from Page 3)

Before the start of the workshop, Asec. De Mesa reminded the PRDP staff to incorporate new innovations and technologies to drive the “scale-up” aspect of the project. “As the project implies, we also need to scale up all our efforts and activities to ensure that we meet the huge expectations of all stakeholders of the project,” he said.

World Bank Task Team Leader to the PRDP Mio Takada also shared two key points to keep in mind during the discussions on the POM. “First, what will be done differently in Scale-Up? And second, which parts in the POM can be simplified and streamlined?”

Taking all these into account, the representatives from each Component and Unit convened to discuss and finalize their OM which they then presented to the body for further comments and suggestions. The deadline for the final versions of the OM and the POM is on June 29, 2023.

After the POM Workshop, the Administrative Unit and Geomapping and Governance Unit (GGU) led the Training/Workshop on the iPEP-ARS Online System and PERC Guidelines to acclimate the PRDP staff to the new work management system that will be implemented this year.

DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla thanked everyone for their contributions to the preparations for the PRDP Scale-Up while also reminding them to stay focused on delivering the current targets of the project.

“Inasmuch as everyone is looking forward to the implementation of Scale-Up, we should not lose sight of our AF2-EU. This is an ongoing project under the current administration so the expectation is really there for us to deliver, not just for Scale-Up but for the current project,” Hubilla shared. (Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE) ■





# 1st financial assessment for CY 2023 conducted

**Talisay, Batangas** – To ensure the project's fund utilization and disbursement efficiency, the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) convened its finance analysts in CY 2023 1st quarter financial assessment from June 20-23, 2023.

Conducted every semester, the financial assessment aimed to check the DA-PRDP Project Support Offices' (PSOs) performance and the timeliness of the financial disbursements and transactions. Also, it targets to check if the PSO's fund utilization conforms to the project's policies and disbursement procedures.

The four (4)-day activity is also a venue where lessons learned, applicable principles, concepts, and processes, and determining issues and concerns of financial management and utilization in different clusters are collectively

shared and discussed.

According to OIC - Office of the FMS Director and DA-PRDP NPCO Finance head, Telma C. Tolentino, the assessment is a regular exercise to assess the performance of finance units in different clusters to improve whatever there is to improve.

"Since we are gearing up for the Scale-up of the DA-PRDP, we must show that the PRDP changes the landscape of agriculture in the country, and we in finance should ensure that the project's grant allocation is efficiently utilized, monitored, and implemented," Dir. Tolentino emphasized.

The representatives per cluster discussed the budget utilization accomplishments. The activity also enabled the participants to prepare and review evidence of fund utilization according to completeness, accuracy, and validity. The issues

pending the utilization in the PSO vis-à-vis physical completion were determined.

The NPCO also provided technical assistance in monitoring the financial performance and performance checkpoints.

Part of the activity was the presentation and discussion of the Project Information Management System (PIMS) by the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) unit, which also solicited inputs from the PSOs to efficiently implement the system across the regions.

The PIMS was developed to ensure the project's integrity by providing data transparency at all levels. Using the system, DA-PRDP implementers will be able to better track the project's progress, allowing them to respond better to issues and concerns that any implementers may flag. *(Julie Ace Brandon R. Barao, NPCO InfoACE)* ■



## North Luzon

### PGs trained on potato tuber management

Enterprise Proponent Groups (PGs) under the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) were trained on potato tuber management from July 8 to 9 in Baguio City.

The trainees were representatives from PGs with completed and operational enterprise subprojects on the production of potato tubers such as SRT La Trinidad Cooperative of Benguet and Sadsadan Vegetable Producers, Inc. Some members of the Bosigan Multipurpose Cooperative and Man-akbong Farmers Association in Mankayan, Benguet also participated in the training.

Resource Speakers from the Benguet State University - Northern Philippine Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCRTC) led by Director Cynthia Kiswa focused their discussions on understanding the importance of potato crop and cycle; pest and disease management; soil, crop, and water management; good postharvest practices; tuber production methods; and quality control and records keeping.

As part of the training, they visited the greenhouse facilities at NPRCRTC in La Trinidad, Benguet wherein brief lectures and demonstrations were also conducted.

Liby Ngaseo of Bosigan MPC said that the training was very interesting and informative. “More farmers should be informed [on the topics discussed] to be able to preserve the richness of our soil here in the Cordillera. I learned [through this training] the importance of managing and maintaining the richness of the soil. Our soil also requires proper care and maintenance because we use plenty of chemicals and fertilizers that are not needed by the soil,” she said.

As part of DA-PRDP interventions, technology and skills training, monitoring activities and enterprise assessments are being conducted to further support the PGs in operating and sustaining their enterprises. (*Elvy T. Estacio, RPCO-CAR InfoACE*)

## South Luzon

### Unang coffee processing facility sa Santa Maria, Laguna, itatayo na

Itatayo na ngayong taon ang unang coffee processing facility sa Santa Maria, Laguna na bahagi ng proyektong Coffee Processing and Marketing na pinondohan ng DA-PRDP at ng Juan Santiago Agriculture Cooperative (JSACOP), isang grupo ng mga magsasaka ng kape.

May lawak na 150 square meters ang pasilidad at nagkakahalaga ito ng Php 5,596,973.33. Dito iproposeho ng JSACOP ang kanilang mga nakalap na bunga ng kape upang gawing roasted at ground coffee. Kasama ang mga processing equipment na mula din sa proyekto, inaasahang makakatulong ang pasilidad sa JSACOP na pataasin ang kanilang produksyon ng ground coffee hanggang 8,523 kilos at ng kanilang kita hanggang Php 2,886,239.

“Dahil magkakaroon na ng processing facility dito sa Santa Maria, maaaring dito na lamang ibenta ng mga lokal na magtatanim ang kanilang ani sa halip na ibenta ito sa labas ng Santa Maria. Mas makakasigurado na rin sila na may pagbebeentahan na sila ng kanilang produkto,” ani Manolo Diaz, pangulo ng JSACOP.

Itatayo ang nasabing pasilidad sa Brgy. Juan Santiago, sa likod ng tanggapan ng JSACOP. Patuloy namang nakikipag-ugnayan sa DA-PRDP ang JSACOP upang masiguradong papasa ang konstruksyon ng pasilidad sa mga pamantayan ng DA-PRDP.

Bukod sa nasabing pasilidad, nakipag-tulungan din ang DA-PRDP sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Santa Maria, Laguna sa proyektong Kayhacat-Bubucal-Inayapan-Calangay-Coralan-Bagumbayan farm-to-market road na katatapos lamang noong 2022. Bukod sa mga magsasaka at mamimili, makakatulong din ang 7.17 kilometrong kalsada sa JSACOP na mailabas ang kanilang produktong kape sa mas malawak na merkado. (*Myrelle Joy Bejasa, RPCO CALABARZON InfoACE*)

## Visayas

### Safe, clean water now accessible in Hilongos, Leyte thru PRDP

To curb the effects of the looming El Niño, the DA-PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office 8 (RPCO 8) provided aid to

farmers and their families in Hilongos, Leyte through a potable water system (PWS) subproject. On June 16, 2023, the ceremonial turnover of the Hilongos Barangay Water Supply Development Project to the local government unit of Hilongos was held.

Scheduled for 10 months of construction, this project marks another milestone for PRDP RPCO 8 and Hilongos LGU after it was completed eight months ahead of its original target completion date.

Hilongos Mayor Manuel R. Villahermosa expressed his warmest gratitude that they managed to finish the project ahead of its schedule despite the tedious process of approval.

“This is a big help to the people in their locality who need clean and safe water in their everyday lives. I am filled with so much gratitude to all those behind this project, also to the barangay officials and community members who cooperated during the construction,” he said.

The PWS is currently one of the biggest water development projects implemented under the DA-PRDP having a total project cost of Php125.94 million. This includes the construction of three units of intake box, one unit of infiltration gallery, 17 units of reservoir, 7.59-kilometer pipelines, and 490 sets of tap stands.

The PWS project is expected to help improve the farming activities in Hilongos which can lead to an increase in income of the families in the area. It benefits 14,988 individuals from 13 barangays, namely, Brgy. Baas; Brgy. Bung-aw; Brgy. Campina; Brgy. Concepcion; Brgy. Imelda; Brgy. Kanghaas; Brgy. Kang-iras; Brgy. Manaul; Brgy. Paa; Brgy. Tabunok; Brgy. Tambis; Brgy. Tejero, and Brgy. Sto. Niño. (*Jenina June Leira Lanza-Brosas, RPCO 8 InfoACE*)

## Mindanao

### Dav Sur coffee makes sweet impression with Japanese buyers

Following the successful showcase of their coffee at the Philippine Coffee Expo 2023 in Manila last June 2-5, 2023, the Tibolo Farm Workers Association (TIFWA) was visited by Mr. Masatsugu Fujimoto and Mr. Shigeru Chiba, President/CEO and Executive Manager, respectively, of Tokyo-based AJ-Sewing LCC to explore a market tie-up that would send the Davao del Sur grown coffee to Japan.

Fujimoto and Chiba were impressed with the distinct sweetness of TIFWA's arabica coffee which they said should be classified as specialty coffee, eligible for a premium price due to its unique flavor profile.

To meet the Japanese group's minimum annual supply requirement of 100 metric tons, Jeciry Antik and Rey Antik, TIFWA marketing manager and president, respectively, will meet with the Davao del Sur coffee council on June 23, 2023, to secure the volume of green coffee beans required by the Japanese group.

TIFWA is set to send initial samples of their green coffee beans to Japan for testing based on their required quality and standards by August or September following the coffee harvest season. This will also allow time to perfect their coffee process with the expected arrival and installation of PRDP's Php12.5 million Coffee Post Harvest Facility with Solar Dryer which is part of their interventions for the “Green Coffee Beans Processing and Marketing” enterprise subproject.

In anticipation of the success of this market-link up, Fujimoto and Chiba also asked for the production schedules of PRDP's other arabica-producing groups in Bukidnon, South Cotabato, and Maguindanao to explore similar arrangements in the future. (*Joseph John Palarca, PSO Mindanao InfoACE*)

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