



Usec. Navarro bares vision for agri sector, PRDP Scale-Up to World Bank

Quezon City – Department of Agriculture's Undersecretary for Operations and Officer-in-charge of the Office of the National Project Director - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Scale-Up Roger V. Navarro said that the Department is eyeing to

invest in big-ticket projects for post-harvest thru the DA PRDP Scale-up during a dialogue with the World Bank team on January 24, 2024, at the DA Central Office.

"I think the PRDP will play a bigger role in helping us develop infrastructure and capacitate our

farmers," Usec. Navarro said as he shared his priorities and plans for the project and the agri-fisheries sector with the World Bank team.

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Usec. Navarro bares vision..(from page 1)

Following Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr.'s direction as Agri Chief, Usec. Navarro highlighted post-production, logistics, and digitalization as his top priorities. He acknowledged that the issues besetting the sector stem from inefficiencies and inadequacies in post-production and logistics, citing that the country's losses on post-harvest is at 15%.

Usec. Navarro also underscored the importance of having accessible, accurate, and unified agri data to be able to make appropriate decisions for the development of agriculture. Through digitalization, he hopes to improve the DA's connectivity with the farmers which would then translate to purposeful interventions for them.

"So that by way of having these numbers, we would be able to have an accurate and more or less efficient decision-making for the farmers and agriculture. This

is the transformation we wanted, what the president also wanted," Usec. Navarro said.

Usec. Navarro also discussed other concerns such as connectivity to farmers in far-flung areas, farmer cooperatives' capacity for equity contribution, high transportation costs, and inadequate supply of fertilizers for farmers.

In response to these plans and priorities, World Bank Task Team Leader Mio Takada emphasized that the Bank appreciates the productive and longstanding partnership with the DA and is ready to support the priorities of the new administration. She expressed her concurrence with Usec. Navarro's vision and direction for the sector and assured that the Bank is ready to support his agenda.

The Bank's team paid a visit to Usec. Navarro to officially introduce their team and discuss the implementation of the DA-PRDP

Scale-up.

"Our comparative advantage is that our presence and investment here, along with our strong partnership, we would be able to respond to your vision with speed," she emphasized.

Takada, in response to the issues raised by Usec. Navarro reiterated that the Bank, through the PRDP Scale-Up, can provide support on all fronts. She also shared that the Bank is already working with the Project on several digitalization initiatives and is ready to provide technical support on the RSBSA (Registry Systems for Basic Sectors in Agriculture) and engage with the European Satellite Agency for the Department's data needs.

Also present during the meeting were newly appointed OIC-National Deputy Project Director Angelita D. Martir and the component and unit heads of the DA-PRDP Scale-Up. (Jan Kyle R. Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE) ■





I-BUILD Component conducts CY 2023 assessment, sets 2024 targets

Mambajao, Camiguin — Camiguin Governor Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo through Mambajao Sangguniang Bayan (SB) Board Member Peter Dan C. Romualdo underscored the contributions of the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) in helping the province develop its agri sector. He emphasized that “the PRDP is not just a policy on paper, it is a blueprint for a collective aspiration for progress towards our future and growth of our once sleepy towns.”

SB Board Member Romualdo relayed Governor Romualdo’s message in his welcome remarks during the I-BUILD Component CY 2023 National Technical Workshop and Year-End Assessment on January 23-26, 2024 to assess and evaluate the status reports of the Component and comply with the agreed actions during the 16th

World Bank Implementation Support Mission.

The activity was spearheaded by the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) and was attended by participants from the Project’s four Project Support Offices (PSOs) of North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, the 16 Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs), and representatives from the DA’s Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE).

NPCO I-BUILD Component Head and BAFE Director Engr. Ariodear C. Rico highlighted the accomplishments of the I-BUILD Component.

“As of December 31, 2023, we have already approved 603 infrastructure subprojects worth Php41.99 billion (B), 457 of which are already completed,” he said.

NPCO I-BUILD Alternate Component Head Engr. Roy Abaya

presented the overall progress of the Component for CY 2023 and acknowledged the commitments of the different clusters for 2024.

“Looking back on our 2023 targets, we have accomplished a lot. Now that we have collected all your proposals and commitments for 2024, we can see that it is quite a high number to target but I am confident that we will hit them despite the many challenges that we keep facing every year,” he said.

“Let us continue to properly allocate, execute, and implement these ongoing and pipelined subprojects that have been recently approved by the Regional Project Advisory Boards (RPAB). I look forward to the realization of all your targets in your regions,” Abaya added.

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I-BUILD Component conducts..(from page 2)

Engr. Arnel Tenorio of DA-BAFE also gave updates on the collaboration between the PRDP and the Bureau. “The PRDP and the BAFE have already collaborated in many different ways, especially on the expansion of the iROAD to the GeoAgri application that we now use for convergence not only with DA offices and bureaus but also with other national government agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways Department of Agrarian Reform,” he explained.

“We’re also working with the tourism sector now to plot the possible connections of agricultural roads to tourism destinations. These convergence activities serve as venues to determine the common platforms where all our farm-to-market roads meet to avoid duplication and to properly allocate the budget given to us,” he added.

The assessment and workshop concluded with the presentation of the 2023 accomplishments and 2024 targets under the DA-PRDP

Scale-Up. The Component targets a total of 326 infrastructure subprojects worth Php34.28-B covering 1,174 kilometers of FMRs, 1,962 linear meters of bridges, 64,512 household beneficiaries from potable water systems, 2,518 hectares of irrigation systems and facilities, and 62 units of other value chain infrastructure support such as warehouses, cold storages, solar dryers, abattoirs, hatcheries, and trading centers, among others. (Ana Victoria C. Margallo, NPCO InfoACE) ■

Aklan native chicken enterprise cruises to 6th year of operation



More than five years into its operation, the Native Chicken Restocking/Production and Marketing Enterprise in Madalag, Aklan is now one of the province’s most successful and sustainable enterprise subprojects despite the many challenges it faced over the years.

Funded under the Original Loan of the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), the Php6.18-million (M) native chicken enterprise is the pioneer enterprise development (I-REAP) subproject in the Municipality of Madalag and the third in Aklan. It

was proposed by the provincial local government unit (LGU) in 2014, with the Madalag Livestock Poultry Farmers Association (MALPFA) identified as the main proponent group that will manage the enterprise.

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Aklan native chicken enterprise..(from page 4)



MALPFA President Saturnino Nazareta and MALPFA Business Manager Dorena Sumaoang proudly showcases their native chickens and chicken house. (Photos by Jan Kyle R. Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE)

Three years in the making, MALPFA, led by its President Saturnino Nazareta, persevered despite the long and tedious process. In 2017, their subproject was finally approved.

“Sobrang kalipay namon nga nag-abot eon du project matapos tanan namong mga efforts,” he said. [We were overjoyed when the project finally arrived after all our efforts.]

He also shared that he kept other members of MALPFA unaware of the hardships and sacrifices he and other association officials had to endure and make to prevent members from losing hope.

“Siyempre, du ibang mga members ta run hay owa ta sanda kasayod sa mga ging sacrifice namon,” he said. [Some members were unaware of what we sacrificed to get approved.]

In November 2017, MALPFA received the first tranche of its PhP6.18-M fund for the provision of a truck and mobile transport cage, two (2) generator sets, four (4) incubators, three (3) weighing scales, 15 foldable pens, knitted nets, egg trays, baskets, veterinary medicines, feeds, and 990 head of breeder stocks which were distributed to the members.

The second and third tranches downloaded to MALPFA in 2018 and 2019, respectively, were utilized for the purchase of additional feeds, veterinary medicines, admin equipment, and another 990 head of breeder stocks.

These interventions kickstarted the operations of the enterprise and by October 2018, MALPFA made its first sale. In its first three months of operation, the association sold 268 head of native chicken amounting to PhP60,190. The following year sales increased to PhP440,115, equivalent to 2,042 native chickens.

MALPFA only claims PhP20 for each native chicken sold while the rest of the profit goes directly to the individual members. A total of 60 members from four barangays in Madalag and two barangays in the neighboring municipality of Banga contribute to the production of native chickens for the enterprise. Each member rears and breeds their chickens in their backyard from the provisions of the enterprise.

Dorena Sumaoang, MALPFA Business Manager, is in charge of monitoring the members' saleable chicken twice a month which she then logs into their monitoring sheet. When a customer orders from the enterprise, Sumaoang checks the

monitoring sheet for their available supply and goes to the members to collect the chickens which will then be delivered to the customer.

The income that the enterprise generates has helped members like Sumaoang fund her children's education and other basic needs. “Pag-abot ku daya ngarang native chicken enterprise, maskin paano hay nakadugang man it extra income kamon. Du allowance sa akong mga unga kato ko nabu'oe,” she said. [This native chicken enterprise provides us with extra income which I use for my children's school allowance.]

“Kapag manami matah imong alaga sa mga manok, kung imo gidang tutukan du mga manok nga manami matah nga wa it mga masakit, pag-abot nga harvestable imaw, abo matah imong mabaligya. Hay di mas sobra pa sa imong income man,” she added. [If you take good care of your chickens and they are healthy, when the time comes that they are ready to be harvested, you can sell a lot and earn even more.]

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Aklan native chicken enterprise..(from page 5)

The enterprise has continued to sustain itself over the years and has established a good relationship with customers who now order regularly. Even during the height of the pandemic when they were unable to sell outside of Madalag due to restrictions, the enterprise continued to make a profit although less than the previous years.

However, the biggest threat to poultry farmers like MALPFA is the regular occurrence of the Newcastle disease (NCD) which is fatal to chickens. The problem lies in the resistance of some of its members to vaccinate their chickens against NCD due to the misconception that vaccinating with the live virus will lead to an outbreak that will affect the unvaccinated chickens of their neighbors. To prevent discord, some members choose not to vaccinate their chickens which usually ends up in total loss when the NCD outbreak does occur.

The threat of natural calamities is also a constant problem for MALPFA. The majority

of the barangays where members reside are prone to flooding which poses a threat to their chickens and livelihood. Frequent power shortages in the province have also affected their incubators which led them to revert to the traditional method of using kerosene lamps instead.

Despite these persistent challenges, MALPFA has remained united and intact for over a decade and has even welcomed five new members. Sumaoang attributes their enterprise's continued operations to their unity as an association.

"Una pa kami tanan nga gatiebyog. Kumbaga sa walis hay sangka bugkos pa kami," she expressed. [We're all still together and united. If we were a broom, we're still one bundle.]

Apart from unity and cooperation, Nazareta emphasized the importance of taking great care of their main source of income: native chickens.

"Imo gidah mana imaw nga tutukan adlaw-adlaw umpisa sa pagpaitlog ag pagpaeomeom

bantayan mo imaw. Una ka mana kanda gamonitor adlaw adlaw. Agud dikato mo sanda mapaabo." he shared. [You really have to monitor them everyday, starting from when they lay eggs to when they hatch, because that's how you could increase their number.]

Now, going into their sixth year in operation, MALPFA is eyeing an expansion of their native chicken enterprise. Their goal is to have a common dressing plant and acquire a stall where they could sell chicken feeds to support their own demand for feeds. They also intend to sustain their good practices to ensure the long-term sustainability and profitability of their enterprise.

The association remains grateful to the DA-PRDP, as well as to the provincial and municipal LGUs, for the support they have received and continue to receive for the success of their enterprise.

"Thank you very much to PRDP. Napakalaking tulong sa amin itong pinagkaloob na subproject," Sumaoang said (*Jan Kyle R. Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE*) ■



North Luzon

DA-PRDP completes P2.73-B agri infra & enterprise subprojects in CAR

In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) has poured in a total of PhP2.73 billion (B), with 103 completed infrastructure and enterprise subprojects as of December 31, 2023.

The DA-PRDP has been instrumental in the construction and rehabilitation of 48 infrastructure subprojects throughout the Cordillera provinces. This constitutes 12 farm-to-market roads (FMRs); one (1) FMR with bridge; seven (7) potable water systems (level 2); nine (9) communal irrigation systems; and 19 other infrastructures (warehouses and tramlines).

In terms of enterprise development or I-REAP, the DA-PRDP was able to complete 55 subprojects with a total cost of PhP170 million, benefitting 74 proponent groups or farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs).

Meanwhile, under the planning component or I-PLAN, nine approved cluster and region-wide value chain analyses (VCAs) were crafted and updated, which resulted in six commodity investment plans (CIPs) used by local government units (LGUs) for the leveraging of their resources. These have resulted in PhP11.5-B worth of investments generated throughout the Cordillera in PRDP and non-PRDP-funded projects.

With the implementation of the PRDP Scale-Up, subproject appraisal and validation activities are continuously being held to ensure the feasibility of proposed subprojects.

One infrastructure subproject in Ifugao has already qualified for funding and another was recently endorsed by the Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) for approval. Several LGUs have also expressed their intent to participate in the PRDP Scale-Up with their submission of subproject proposals that are now under review. (*Elvy T. Estacio, RPCO CAR InfoACE*)

South Luzon

CamSur AA slaughterhouse to promote food security, food safety

Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Bicol Deputy Project Director Adelina Losa underscored the importance of food security and safety during the groundbreaking ceremony of the AA slaughterhouse in Calabanga, Camarines Sur held on January 18, 2024.

"Food security must always come together with food safety. If the food we eat is unsafe, food security is meaningless. By establishing this slaughterhouse, we are addressing the concern on food safety," she said.

The PhP42.83 million-worth post-harvest facility in Brgy. San Lucas in Calabanga is the first AA slaughterhouse in the third district of Camarines Sur. Currently, the municipality has an existing slaughterhouse, however, it is limited to a locally registered meat establishment.

It features a 270-square-meter main building, a 240-square-meter (sqm) holding pen, and a 64sqm wastewater facility. The 7,578sqm facility also includes a 96sqm butcher's quarter, a 48sqm car park, an electrical and pump area, and a 12.25sqm elevated water tank.

Once fully operational, the AA slaughterhouse will have a capacity of 80 to 133 head of swine per day and 35 head of cattle per day. It is projected to cater slaughtering services to nearby municipalities of Bombon, Canaman, and Magarao in the third district of Camarines Sur, as well as Siruma and Tinambac in the 4th district of the province.

The AA slaughterhouse in Calabanga is funded under the DA-PRDP's second additional financing. It is the 7th slaughterhouse being implemented by the DA-PRDP in Bicol. (*Annielyn L. Baleza, RPCO V InfoACE/DA RAFIS V*)

Visayas

Operation rolls for Canlaon native chicken enterprise

The operational activities of the native chicken production facility in Canlaon City, Negros Oriental, funded by the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), continue despite delays in the release of chicks for fattening to the beneficiaries.

During a recent visit by the DA-PRDP team, the enterprise showed notable progress, with over 2,000 head native chickens currently housed in the facility. The Canlaon City Multipurpose Cooperative

(CCMPC) as the managing proponent group is closely monitoring the chickens to identify those that exhibit productivity in terms of egg laying.

Since its commencement in April 2023, egg production has generated an income of PhP70,000 while the hauling truck has contributed an income of PhP 100,000 allocated for improving the production facility.

CCMPC member and caretaker Jovito Caunga expressed optimism about starting egg incubation this year aiming to evaluate the technology and assess the fertility percentage of the native chickens during egg incubation.

"Hopefully by January, we can start incubating the eggs so we can assess the needed technology to be applied, whether we go with the 1:7 ratio of the chicken. This will also help us check the native chicken's fertility percentage as soon as egg incubation begins," said Caunga.

He emphasized that the training they received from DA-PRDP has been beneficial, enabling them to apply acquired knowledge and skills in facility maintenance and enhancing biosecurity measures, including the installation of food baths and disinfectants. The project is scheduled for turnover this year. (*Bexmae P. Jumao-as, RPCO 7 InfoACE*)

Mindanao

Mindanao preps for DA-PRDP Scale-Up

As an expanded version of the original project implemented in 2014, the focus for subprojects under the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Scale-Up now shifts from individual cooperatives to clustering and the development of regional commodity hubs.

With this shift in focus comes the rollout of a new basis for investment based on regional and interprovincial perspectives in planning.

In line with this, the Project Support Office (PSO) Mindanao, through their I-PLAN and I-REAP components, conducted a Mindanao-wide "Convergence Scoping on Regional Commodity Hub" in Davao City on January 15-19, 2024.

According to I-PLAN Planning Specialist Crishyl Ann P. Bilbao, the main purpose of the activity was to gather all the regions and identify top-priority commodities that have the potential of becoming a commodity hub under PRDP Scale-Up.

"Previously in PRDP, we only refer to provincial or city commodity investment plans," said Bilbao. "Under the PRDP Scale-Up, we will be referring also to the regional-wide perspective planning where we will have a regional agri-fishery investment portfolio with inter-regional and inter-provincial planning perspective so we can identify big and impactful projects region-wide."

PRDP Scale-Up will also utilize a new approach to agri-fisheries development to focus on clustering and consolidation strategies and promote a productive partnership with farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) clusters and the private sector for value-adding and increased market access, which will level up the former proponent group-specific approach. The project will also highlight climate resilience as a common feature across interventions and establish scaled-up enterprise investments to include small to large-scale enterprises as common service facilities.

I-REAP OIC Component Head Cherrilyn L. Baylon emphasized that the main focus of PRDP Scale-Up will be on big-ticket projects. "With PRDP Scale-Up, our strategy will be focused on clustering and consolidation," Baylon said. (*Joy Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao InfoACE*)

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