

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Regional Field Office No. 02

Mandate

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is a government agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export- oriented business enterprises.

Vision

A modernized smallholder agriculture and fisheries; a diversified rural economy that is dynamic, technologically advanced and internationally competitive. Its transformation is guided by the sound practices of resource sustainability, the principles of social justice, and a strong private sector participation.

Mission

To help and empower the farming and fishing communities and the private sector to produce enough, accessible and affordable food for every Filipino and a decent income for all.





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Message from the Regional Executive Director

It is with great pride that I present and share this overview and highlight of the many accomplishments that we celebrate in the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office No. 02 for CY 2016.

It has been rewarding for me and for the entire DA-RFO 02 Family to witness how we have worked hard and triumphantly delivered our Battlecry: Transforming Agriculture in Cagayan Valley from “Marun–runut” to “Green”, and embrace a new Battlecry: Cagayan Valley Towards Agri-preneurship which is another brave attempt to further move forward eyeing for a stronger agri-fishery sector.

This past year is the culmination of our quest to transform the agriculture from low-income farmers due to low adoption of technology and high vulnerability to climate change, uncompetitive agri-products, weak, dilapidated facilities, mediocre staff & management systems into globally competitive farmers, clients, employees, staff and climate-resilient and modernized villages and facilities.

Building on our strengths developed over the years, we performed above what was expected of us. Our farmer-beneficiaries were the living proof of our performance as they emerged to become consistent awardees to various searches such as National Gawad-Saka, National Organic Agriculture, National Rice Achievers, National Quality Corn Achievers and even the Region’s Agriculture and Fishery Council Chairperson was adjudged as the National Most Outstanding RAFC.

The region’s contribution to the agriculture sector was overwhelming as we maintained first rank as national contributor to Philippine’s Rice Sufficiency achieving about 1.6 Million MT palay surplus annually and second rank palay producer in the country. Unbeatably, still first rank as corn producer nationwide contributing about 25% to national production annually. Despite a number of challenges where we learned good and great lessons, these accomplishments and successes were not coincidence, but the result of careful planning and contribution of our entire dedicated and energetic team with the unwavering support of our Secretary and other Key Officials from our Central Office.

As we embark ahead we will continue to make a difference and improve on areas where we found to have performed low. It is also important to consider the 10-point agenda of our President as we address the possible risks ahead and enhance opportunities that come our way, most importantly on the promotion of rural and value chain development. The 10 Basic Foundations of a Sound Agriculture and Fisheries Programs by our Secretary will be our roadmap for development.

We have developed impressive networks over the years and we anticipate being active in this respect over the coming year. We will stay focused on the key elements that have been essential to our success: our partnerships with private sector actors; the support of public actors such as the Local Government Units (LGUs), Financing Institutions and Donors; and the participation of farming communities, civil society and other stakeholders at the forefront of our efforts.

Let’s continue to work exceeding every expectation and set the trend above customary standards.




LUCRECIO R. ALVIAR JR., CESO III
Regional Executive Director

CY 2016 is the culmination of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA-RFO 02)
Battlecry: Transformation of the Agriculture from “Marun to Green”,



a move to modernize Cagayan Valley's Agriculture from its old form. On same year, the region also welcomed the new leadership with its brave attempt to further move forward eyeing for a stronger agri-fishery sector.

Our MARC (MFO Accountability Report Card)

The CY 2016 Accomplishment highlights the notable achievements and major developments of the DA-RFO 02 in terms of the delivery of services to various clients and stakeholders of the agriculture sector in the region covering the period January to December of said year. In compliance to the general provisions of the General Appropriations Act (GAA), CY 2016, there were targets and commitments set toward achieving the Major Final Outputs (MFOs).

DELIVERY OF GOODS AND SERVICES

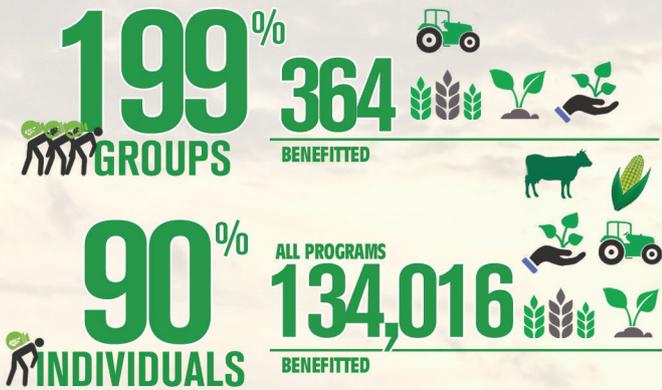
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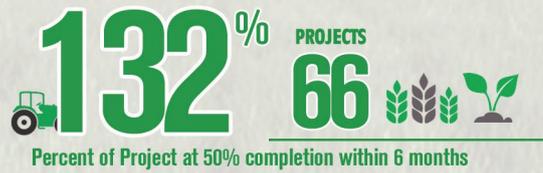


MFO 2 Technical Support Services



Beneficiaries of Specific Goods & Services

MFO 3 Irrigation Network Services



MFO 4 Farm-to-Market Road Network Services



MFO 5 Agriculture & Fisheries Equipment & Facilities Support Services



OUR BEST PRACTICES

IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DA-RFO 02'S COMMITMENTS FOR CY 2016, FACILITATING FACTORS AND STRATEGIES WERE PRACTICED AND ADOPTED:

One Battlecry.

The DA-Region 02 as a family is bent on a common battlecry all working towards the transformation of Agriculture in Cagayan Valley from "Marun-runut" to "Green" meaning recreating or migrating from the worn-out, dilapidated and deteriorating stage.

Working on a common goal created a comprehensive and strong team, powerful leaders, resourceful and self-driven staff.

Presence of Development Plans for the Establishment of Climate-Resilient and State of Art Structures and Facilities.

To carry out the battlecry, DA-Region 02 outlined its strategy, carefully designed its plans and compiled them into an intricate Master Development Plan. This has become the map for development of Regional Office and Research Centers and Experiment Stations.

Through extensive fund sourcing from public funding institutions complemented by generated savings from the judicious implementation of various programs/projects, climate-resilient and state of the art structures and facilities, all equipped with modern and sophisticated equipment were established in the region. With improved facilities and workplace, better and faster services were extended to various clients and stakeholders of the Department of Agriculture. The staff/personnel were also very comfortable and dignified with the improved set-up and are inspired to work beyond mediocrity.

Outsourcing.

If there is one strength that could be attributed to DA-Region 02 it is in outsourcing of funds. As regular funds are intended for various programs and projects, each personnel was required to conceptualize and submit proposals for external funding. Both contract of service and permanent employees were tasked to submit at least one proposal for endorsement of the Regional Executive Director to financing institutions. Approved funded project became the source of development and most importantly, it augmented the requirement for additional staff through the project-based hiring.

Seed System Strategy.

One of the very important components of sustainability and success in the production is the availability and access to quality planting materials and seeds for the farmers and other stakeholders. The various banner programs made sure that planting materials and seeds were available at any given time through the different Research Centers and Experiment Stations in every province including the accredited seed growers/producers in the region.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

One of the important interventions implemented in the region is the provision of high quality seeds of recommended and most preferred varieties together with yield boosting technologies to different ecosystem in the region with the objective to increase yield and income of farmers. Most importantly, the provision and maintenance of buffer stocks for seeds/planting materials proved to be a pro-active measure during occurrence of calamities and natural disasters. The DA-RFO 02 was able to respond timely and efficiently to the rehabilitation of typhoon-affected and other calamity stricken areas regionwide and even outside the region because of buffer stocks on quality seeds and other planting materials. The intervention on the provision of farm machinery pool for quick response brigade especially during calamities has been in place in the region.

Strong Linkage with Partner Local Government Agencies and Stakeholders.

The Local Government Units in the region both at the Provincial and Municipal Levels are vital components of service delivery in the agriculture sector. With very strong tie-ups and close coordination with the LGUs, the agency was able to reach more to the farmer-beneficiaries with quality and timely service delivery as manifested by the 100% beneficiaries rating the goods or services delivered to be at least satisfactory and have been delivered at the appropriate time based on Client Satisfaction Feedback submitted.





Rice Program

“CAGAYAN VALLEY AS THE NEW RICE BOWL OF THE COUNTRY”

264%
Sufficiency Level 

13.23% (17,627,244.82 MT)
National Rice Production 

2nd Rank
Cagayan Valley as Rice Producer in the Philippines 

Table 1. Production by Province

CAGAYAN VALLEY	2,332,654.04
Batanes	13.04
Cagayan	764,303
Isabela	1,212,725
Nueva Vizcaya	269,824
Quirino	85,789

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 2. Production by Region

Philippines	17,627,244.82
CAR	382,848.00
ILOCOS REGION	1,805,126.00
CAGAYAN VALLEY	2,332,654.04
CENTRAL LUZON	3,342,883.12
CALABARZON	407,124.00
MIMAROPA	1,080,408.00
BICOL REGION	1,275,492.00
WESTERN VISAYAS	1,443,648.00
CENTRAL VISAYAS	176,238.00
EASTERN VISAYAS	954,844.36
ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA	581,110.90
NORTHERN MINDANAO	711,284.00
DAVAO REGION	417,948.00
SOCCKSARGEN	1,200,642.00
CARAGA	462,182.00
ARMM	544,486.40
NEGROS ISLAND REGION	508,326.00

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority





The goal of the **Rice Program** is for Region 02 to be the major producer and supplier of quality rice in Luzon. In the realization of this goal, for CY 2016, significant accomplishments were attained to wit:

1 Production support for High Yielding Technology Adoption (HYTA) Program with 198,018 kilograms of hybrid seeds and 3,625,580 kilograms of certified seeds were distributed respectively. It included the rehabilitation of areas damaged by typhoons Ineng, Lando and Nona and eased the impending effect of El Niño. About 60,054 farmers benefitted from the seed distribution. Under the soil ameliorants about 186,572 kilograms were also distributed to 9,569 farmers.



2 High quality seeds assistance to adverse ecosystem aimed to increase production and yield through adoption of multi-stress rice varieties with appropriate technology package and increase farmers profit. A total of one hundred twenty thousand (120,000) kilograms distributed to 2,050 farmer-beneficiaries in Region 02 primarily to support the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) of the department.



3 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Region 02 is mostly affected by calamities like typhoons and drought. In order to respond to the needs/ losses of farmers during adverse conditions, disaster response activities were undertaken such as buffer seed stocking of at least 10% of the seed requirement of the total area harvested. In the region 35,000 kilograms of registered seeds, 2,468,120 kilograms certified seeds, 369,280 kilograms of Green Super Rice (GSR) and 1,500 kilograms of traditional rice varieties were procured for bufferstock.



Accomplishment shows that 22,200 kilograms of Registered Seeds were distributed to 379 farmer-beneficiaries, 2,265,560 kilograms of Certified Seeds, 164,080 kilograms of GSR to 48,164 beneficiaries and 780 kilograms of traditional seeds to 164 beneficiaries to six (6) beneficiaries respectively. The farmer-beneficiaries were affected by El Niño and Typhoon Nona.



Likewise, procurement of four (4) units Four-Wheel Drive tractors with the following attachments Trailing Harrow, Disc Plow, Backhoe Tractor Mounted, Front Loader Tractor Mounted, Front Dozer, Laser Guided Leveller and Power Harrow, the said machineries were distributed to Research Centers as Farm Machinery Pool for Quick Response during calamities and for the development of rice production area and research project area within the DA-Research Centers.

4 Soil Nutrient and Soil Fertility Mapping. In order to help farmers identify the right amount and kind of fertilizer DA-RFO 02 collected 3,185 soil samples covering 31,391 hectares and Regional Soils Laboratory had analysed 4,727 soil samples or 236.35% covering of 46,190.45 hectares and 2,645 farmer beneficiaries.



Likewise, thirty-three (33) soil fertility maps were delineated/ updated. This will serve as quick guide for nutrient management of farmers and provide ready data to manage any adverse effects of calamities by the LGUs.

5 Distribution of Soil Ameliorant and Compost Fungus Activator (CFA). DA-RFO-02 Rice Program distributed 186,572 kilograms of soil ameliorant (Biozome) to 9,569 farmers. This helps rejuvenate farm soil's micro-nutrient elements by enhancing the proliferation and activities of beneficial soil microbes that improve soil texture and fertility potential.

Furthermore, in order to promote the utilization and accelerate the decomposition of rice straws in the field there were 2,154.52 kilograms of CFA produced and distributed to 1,375 farmer beneficiaries.

6 Pest and Disease Management and Control. Bio-control agents Production and Distribution- To conserve beneficial insects in the field, there were 9,047.30 kilograms produced and distributed to 1,709 (148.61%) farmer beneficiaries, 116,541 trichocards for trichogramma to 1,283 farmer beneficiaries, and 2,501 kilograms (100.40%) were distributed to 278 farmer beneficiaries

Chemical Bufferstocking and Procurement of equipment for pest control management- Procurement of Insecticides (400 kilograms), Fungicides (350 kilograms), Rodenticides (320 kilograms) and Bactericide (200 kilograms) as chemicals buffer stock was done in case of occurrence or outbreak of pest and disease.

Ten (10) units Insect Light traps and ten (10) units flame throwers were also procured to support the pest control management.

7 Support to Agricultural and Fishery Machinery, Equipment, and Facilities. In support to the this program DA had procured of three (3) units walk-behind transplanter, three (3) units multi- purpose track-type tractor, two (2) units riding type direct palay seeder and also three (3) units hauling truck for use in the DA-Research Centers for the development of rice production areas. There were also seventy seven (77) units of MPDP constructed to different farmers association/cooperatives and four (4) units Reversible Airflow Bin Dryer constructed.

8 Newly constructed five (5) Small Water Impounding Projects (SWIP) and ten (10) Diversion Dams (DD) and two (2) units SWIP rehabilitated.

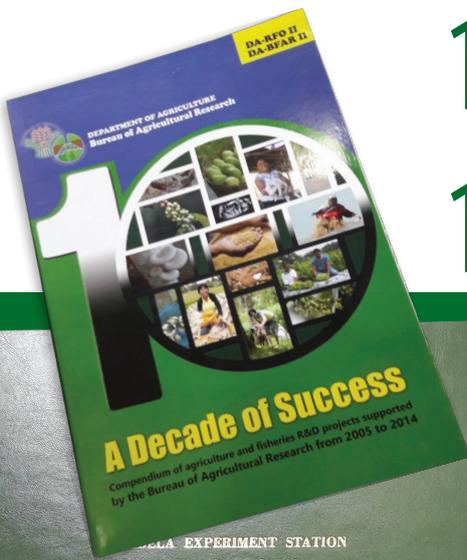
9 DA-RFO 02 Rice Program successfully conducted the following in support to extension, education and training services:

1. Three (3) Farmers Field Day (FDDs) participated in by 3,220 farmers, Agricultural Extension Workers and DA staff.
2. Enhanced Training of Trainers (TOT) on pest management and Retooling was also conducted;
3. Retooling/Capability Enhancement of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs)
4. Strengthening of Women Sector;
5. Strengthening of Farmers Associations in Region 02;

6. Capability Building Trainings for Members of Farm Service Providers Associations.
7. Establishment of Technology demonstrations and model farms in the following areas:
 - Stress tolerant varieties/ lines;
 - Mechanized Rice Production in Region 02;
 - Participatory techno demo/participatory action research (PTD/PAR) of Local Farmer Technician /Farmer Led-Extensionist in the different ecosystems;
 - Irrigated Lowland Model Farm On-Station and On-Farm;
 - Rainfed Lowland Model Farms;
 - Upland Rice Development Program

10 Developed a 10-year Master Development Plan of the different Research Centers/Experiment Stations under the Rice R&D Support to Facilities.

11 R&D Program Management Support Services Knowledge Management Information Services, printed & distributed Book of Abstracts of Completed Research Projects 2005-2014).



LA EXPERIMENT STATION
 Upi, Gamu, Isabela
 MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN
 September, 2012
 Prepared by:
 J.A. CRUZ & Partners
 Architects Engineers Planners



12 Successfully implemented Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) Projects in the region in coordination with the LGUs and other partner agencies like PhilRice, PhilMech and others.

13 Established and validated a total of 58,351.86 hectares of potential rainfed areas for conversion to irrigated areas aimed primarily at contributing higher yield in rice areas benefitting a total of 47,830 farmer beneficiaries. Potential type of SSIP both for short term and medium term period was determined.



An instrumental in the transformation of some of his barriomates into an avid hybrid user is no other than Mr. Franklin G. Cortez, this year's nominee for the Most Outstanding Hybrid Rice Farmer.

Franklin, 43 years old, lives at the heart of Isabela Province, in its capital, City of Ilagan, specifically in Barangay Cabecera 14-16 also known as Casilagan, where he is the Barangay Captain.

He started tilling in 1997 with his wife a 0.5 hectare fully irrigated rice land which he inherited from his parents. Due to lack of farming capital, he worked as tractor canvasser or agent where he earned Php 50.00 per hectare.

Two years later, he acquired 1.0 hectare corn land and an additional 1.0 hectare rice land. However, owing to the lack of knowledge on farm production technologies and occurrence of calamities, he was not able to achieve good harvest.

The situation challenged him and made him sought the assistance of the Municipal Agriculture Office for appropriate technologies, which could enhance his productivity. From thereon and as advised, he started attending seminars and trainings not only rice crop production technologies but also on vegetable and livestock conducted by the Department of Agriculture-Region 02, its attached agencies, and the Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units.

He also enriched his knowledge through reading IEC materials, listening to agriculture programs especially on radio. He continuously coordinates his farming endeavors with Agriculture Extension Workers of DA and LGUs.



FRANKLIN G. CORTEZ
Casilagan, City of Ilagan, Isabela



RICE FARMER

Adopting Integrated Rice Based Farming System

In 2005, he started his demo on hybrid rice production led by a private hybrid rice Seed Company. After which, he tried planting on his own a one (1) hectare hybrid rice variety, thinking that through this, he can increase his yield. Impressed by the good performance of his first attempt on hybrid rice production, Franklin was encouraged to expand this into four (4) hectares.

The same year he acquired a transport vehicle (ELF) and one hand tractor for personal use. After two (2) years, he acquired again one unit thresher and additional one hand tractor. Five years later, he acquired another hand tractor, ELF, multi-purpose thresher, Mitsubishi Pajero and constructed an elegant house.

Employing all the technologies he learned on hybrid rice production, he was able to harvest six (6) t/ha using Mestizo one (1) variety. From thereon, he started convincing his barriomates to adopt hybrid rice production.

With his initiatives and dedication, his succeeding farming operations were successful because of the increasing harvests, which reached up to 9.9 t/ha. His success spurred other farmers in the community to adopt the hybrid rice technology.

With the remarkable earnings from hybrid rice production, he was able to put up a sari-sari store, mini rice mill, solar dryer, and a warehouse where he kept a buffer stock of the 50% of his produce. The said buffer stock will be milled and sold to his barriomates and neighboring barangays at a discounted price. He also provided jobs because he employed five full time laborers aside from emergency laborers in his farm.

Aside from farming, Franklin is also an active Barangay Leader. He was a Barangay Kagawad for thirteen years before elected as Barangay Captain which he won overwhelmingly during the last 2010 barangay elections.

He was also an auditor of an Irrigators Association and cluster leader where he was instrumental in the improved collection of irrigation fee from 70 to 98 percent. His barangay was also adjudged as the Champion in Blood Olympics program by donating 5,660 cc of blood in the City of Ilagan, Isabela.

The farm of Kap Franklin is a show window for farmers, students and other enthusiasts who would like to venture in farming.

Kap Franklin, is not only a farmer innovator and a good leader but also a God loving family man who believes "God has given us opportunity to live and lead, and in return, we let others to live with our means".





Corn Program

“CAGAYAN VALLEY AS THE MAJOR PRODUCER & USER OF WORLD CLASS CORN FOR FOODS, FEEDS AND INDUSTRIAL USES”

95.75% (White)

Sufficiency Level



23.26% (7,218,817 MT)

of National Corn Production



1st Rank

as Corn Producer in the Philippines



Table 1. Production by Province

CAGAYAN VALLEY	1,678,812.77
Batanes	177.77
Cagayan	405,570
Isabela	1,043,743
Nueva Vizcaya	67,275
Quirino	162,047

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 2. Production by Region

Philippines	7,218.816.77
CAR	199,355.00
ILOCOS REGION	508,024.00
CAGAYAN VALLEY	1,678,812.77
CENTRAL LUZON	259,546.28
CALABARZON	96,821.00
MIMAROPA	114,604.00
BICOL REGION	259,375.00
WESTERN VISAYAS	153,504.45
CENTRAL VISAYAS	100,879.00
EASTERN VISAYAS	81,603.00
ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA	258,951.24
NORTHERN MINDANAO	1,223,116.09
DAVAO REGION	219,089.00
SOCCKSARGEN	1,144,010.00
CARAGA	144,528.86
ARMM	590,579.86
NEGROS ISLAND REGION	186,017.00

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority





1 Established 55 hectares on-station corn production. Out of the 51,670 kg Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) production for the year a total of 50,470 kg registered seeds were distributed covering 2,524 ha and served 2,584 farmer beneficiaries. Produce from these seeds can be recycled by farmers for planting on the next cropping season.

2 Procured 40,000 kg certified OPV white corn seeds which were distributed to corn farmers whose areas were affected by calamities caused by drought, Typhoon “Karen” and Super Typhoon “Lawin” covering 2,500 hectares.

The following interventions were implemented to answer the goals and objectives of the program
Increase in Productivity from 4.23 MT/Ha. to 4.80 MT/Ha. and increase quality of production and reduce postharvest losses.

These activities were based on two major strategies:

- 1. Value chain analysis development and**
 - 2. Climate change adaptation.**
-

3 Planted 30 hectares cassava production areas on-station and on-farm sites and were able to produce and distribute 1,247,510 pieces of quality planting materials covering 499 hectares with 351 farmer-beneficiaries.





4 Produced and distributed 33,474 packs Bio N to Corn Farmer-Led Extensionists (FLE) and corn farmer-enrollees in the corn techno demo areas covering 5,579 ha with 5,556 farmer beneficiaries.

5 Analyzed 3,012 soil samples covering 15,202 hectares of corn areas with 10,347 clients from Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino. Developed 10 base maps, 10 fertility maps and 10 pH maps.

6 Production and distribution of biocontrol agents, as follows: 588,280 trichogramma cards for corn borer control and distributed 533,700 cards for 5,336 hectares benefiting 5,384 corn farmers planting conventional hybrid and improved OPV corn; 5,875 colonies of earwig and distributed 4,641 colonies for 2,286 hectares with 1,683 beneficiaries; and 7,460 packs of metarhizium for 242 ha with 242 beneficiaries.



- 7 Coordinated with PLGUs, MLGUs and other stakeholders and supervised pest and disease surveillance in 53,037 hectares corn areas in the region and provided technical assistance/ recommendations to farmers regarding pest control.
- 8 Conducted two (2) market matching activities in the provinces of Quirino and Isabela.
- 9 Conducted and established 217 sites FLE techno demo, 10 sites for Tipid Abono and 27 sites Corn techno demo for Sustainable Corn production on Sloping Areas (SCoPSA) with 6,350 farmer-enrollees, attaining yield of 8-14 MT/ha. One Hundred Seventy Eight (178) Field days were conducted covering 12,906 participants.
- 10 Conducted and established 13 sites Cassava Techno Demo with 13 farmer-cooperators. Nine (9) field days were conducted covering 475 participants.
- 11 Conducted 32 Bantay Peste Brigade trainings/ Institutional Development Activities/ Consultations/ Meetings/ Briefings participated by 1,273 participants (Corn Farmer-Led Extensionist, Task Force Mais members/ DA Staff, and AEWs).
- 12 Conducted 17 Cassava Livelihood Trainings/Production Technology/ Information Briefings participated by 879 participants from Local Government Units and Rural Improvement Club (RICs).
- 13 Extended support to 200 Agricultural Extension Workers from the Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units.
- 14 Printed seven (7) titles namely; “Palag-anen ti panagkoman, paadduen ti apit, agaramat ti Jabber Planter”, “Aflatoxin ti nalimed a sabidong nga aggapu iti binuot a Mais”, “New Corn Open Pollinated Varieties in Region 2”, “Panagusar ti Apog (Agricultural Lime)”, “Para iti ad-adu nga apit agusar ti Bio-N para ti Mais”, “Panagtarawidwid ti Nabangkirig a Daga (Contour Farming)”, “Region 02 Corn Technoguide” and distributed 5,362 pieces IEC materials/flyers to corn farmers in Region 02.





15 Printed two (2) titles namely; Cassava Recipes and Cassava Production Guide and distributed 4,738 booklets.



16 Conducted six (6) studies on corn entitled “Development and Improvement of OPV Corn Varieties and Fertilization and Soil Amelioration with Gypsum and Potassium Nitrate: An Integrated Nutrient Management Approach to Corn Growing Areas of Region 02”. Development of two (2) OPV White Flint corn varieties (CVRC15-10 and CVRC 12-12) are undergoing National Cooperative Testing (NCT).

17 Implemented Farmers’ Participatory Technology Development Projects and monitored 16 studies/ researches (on-station/on-farm).

18 Conducted two (2) researches on cassava, namely; Development of Pruning Techniques for Rapid Multiplication of Cassava HYV (cv 35) in Region 02 and Yield Intensification of Cassava through 60 Tons Technology in Region 02.

19 Allocated and distributed the following for corn and cassava areas: 13 units four wheel drive tractor, 3 units corn planter, 6 units combined harvester, 12 units cassava digger, 5 units corn grit mill, 10 units mechanical sheller, 12 units cassava grater with presser, 8 units cassava pulverizer and 23 units cassava granulator.





Outstanding Corn Farmer
CORN FARMER

EDGAR M. DE LUNA, SR.
Villa Luna, Cauayan City, Isabela

SUCCESS STORY

Mr. Edgar M. De Luna is the entry for Most Outstanding Corn Farmer in Region 02 in CY 2016. He was born in Cauayan City, Isabela on September 20, 1960 and the eldest in the family. Mr. De Luna graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation at the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy in Manila.

After finishing the course, he tried his luck as a seaman. But with the passion he has for farming, he decided to find his way back in his hometown as a farmer. Mr. De Luna started as the operator of their family owned four-wheeled tractor. At the same time, he was also the driver of their passenger jeepney.

Few years later, he got married to a midwife who was then assigned at Barangay Villa Luna and they were blessed with two children.

Edgar started to cultivate his farm with an area of 0.5 hectare. He was able to transform this marginal zone into a productive land by applying new technologies on corn production through attending seminars sponsored by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other private institutions.

Mr. De Luna spent his free time in reading magazines, agriculture books, pamphlets and other materials related to farming. Also, he regularly visits the Municipal Agriculture Office to consult and interact with the agricultural extension workers regarding corn production. To enrich his knowledge, he looked forward in listening to agriculture programs over the radio and television.

As years passed by, the couple were able to acquire a total land area of five hectares through their farm income.

Mr. De Luna never stopped in exploring new techniques and farm practices to improve his farm. In fact, he developed his area by the application of carbonized rice hull and the use of organic fertilizer which he also imparted to his farmer constituents.

To expand his project, he attended seminars and trainings on crops and livestock production. Mr. De Luna then ventured in rice, vegetable, fish, livestock, poultry and swine production. His adoption of technologies coupled with innovativeness in farming resulted to significant increase of his farm income and produce.

With all the accomplishments and contributions to the corn industry in the region, Mr. De Luna was adjudged as the National Gawad-Saka Winner in 2005 as the Most Outstanding Corn Farmer. During that time, Mr. De Luna yielded an average of 8.5 metric tons per hectare, but he continued to discover other farm methods to boost his harvest and earnings.

In 2014, he was able to increase his average yield per hectare to 12 metric tons during wet season. As a result, he got a net income of P492, 720.00 on his 4-hectare corn farm with 372.32 % return of investment (ROI). From then on, the average yield per season increases

due to adaption of technologies.

In 2015, Mr. De Luna obtained the highest produce for wet season with an average of 12.025 metric tons per hectare, a net income of P493, 860.00 and 375.73% ROI.

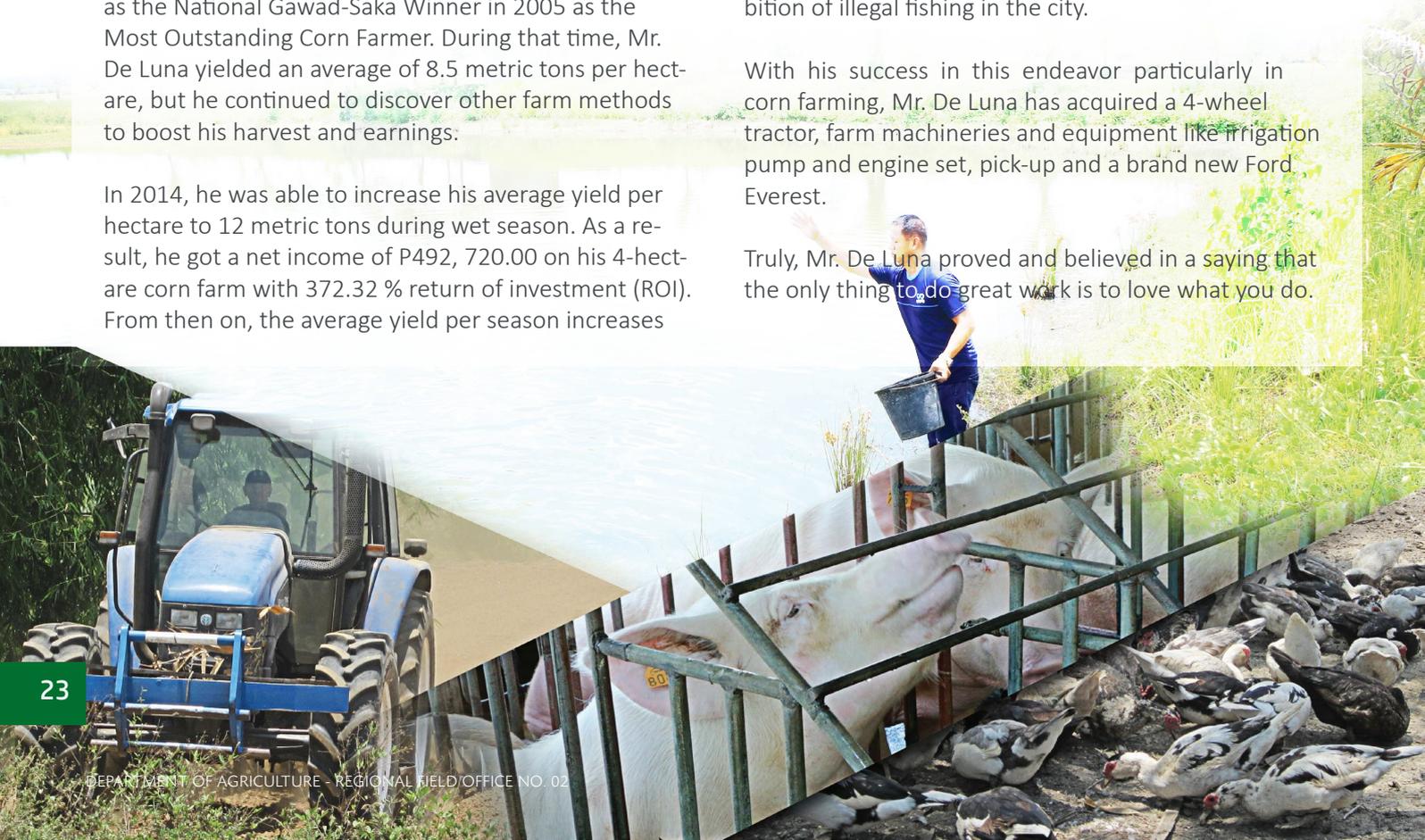
At present, his farm serves as a show window to fellow farmers, students and enthusiasts whom he is more than willing to share his best practices as one of the successful farmers in the region. Actually, Mr. De Luna is already a GAP certified corn farmer in Cauyan City, Isabela.

His busy life devoted to farming activities was never a hindrance in his active involvement to community services. He was elected as City Councilor for three terms and eventually appointed as Acting Vice-Mayor on March 2016. At present, he was re-elected as the no. 1 City Councilor of Cauayan. Mr. De Luna is also the manager of Villa Luna Multi-Purpose Cooperative which was declared the National Winner for Most Outstanding Corn Cluster in 2015.

As a farmer and a public servant, he initiated and co-authored city ordinances and various projects in line with agriculture such as the construction of multi-purpose drying pavements (MPDP), improvement of farm to market roads (FMR) and putting-up a village type rice mill. Mr. De Luna also spearheaded other (bottom-up budgeting) BUB projects on swine breeding, egg layer production and Clean and Green project. Likewise, he supported a city ordinance on the “No Burning Crops Residues” in response to Climate Change and the prohibition of illegal fishing in the city.

With his success in this endeavor particularly in corn farming, Mr. De Luna has acquired a 4-wheel tractor, farm machineries and equipment like irrigation pump and engine set, pick-up and a brand new Ford Everest.

Truly, Mr. De Luna proved and believed in a saying that the only thing to do great work is to love what you do.



High Value Crops Program

OUR VISION IS TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE FARMING COMMUNITY.



The **High Value Crops Program** goal is to increase production, income and livelihood opportunities among small producers and access to affordable, safe & healthy food.



1 Pro-active approach using the seed system strategy in the provision of seeds wherein seeds are planted in the different DA Research and Development Centers/Experiment Stations and other Private Seed Producers during the wet season and produced seeds were distributed to intended beneficiaries during the dry season and off-season production. This strategy has been very helpful when the winning bidder for the procured seeds requested for the cancellation of Purchase Order due to damages brought about by Typhoon Lando and Nona that resulted to insufficient supply of seeds particularly on peanut.



2 Distributed 114,679.86 kilograms of seeds and planting materials and provided technical assistance to 134 Farmer-Group Beneficiaries covering a total of 3,140.98 hectares planted.

Commodity	Target	Distributed (kg)	Area Planted (ha)	No. of FBs (Group)
Mungbean	25,925.0	27,107.00	1,099.6	49
Peanut	44,940.0	21,997.50	223.04	15
Garlic	54,288.0	54,499.00	112.67	5
Yellow Onion	546.0	546.16	136.6	29
Ginger	10,000.0	10,017.50	1,069.08	8
Lowland Vegetables	369.0	369.00	362.7	20
Upland Vegetables	142.0	143.70	137.29	8
TOTAL	136,210	114,679.86	3,140.98	134



Expansion Area (2016)

3 The program was able to respond immediately to the needs of the farmers for rehabilitation due to the buffer stock maintained/distributed of about 15,081.5 kilogram seeds and 1,887,916 pieces of planting materials benefitting 136 group farmer-beneficiaries.

Commodity	Target	Produced (kgs)	No. of FBs (Group)
Lowland Vegetables	3,620	3,512.5	
Upland Vegetables	2,500	1,349	
Black Pepper	60,000	23,740	1
Indigenous vegetables	10,000	10,220	4
Total	76,120	38,821	5

Production Volume (2016)

Commodity	Target	Produced (pieces)	No. of FBs (Group)
Citrus	20,000	20,000	21
Guyabano	10,000	26,373	24
Coffee	575,000	544,778	45
Cacao	100,000	100,000	23
Sweet Potato	10,000	1,093,215	4
Yam	28,560	38,360	7
Banana	70,000	65,190	7
TOTAL	813,560	1,887,916	131



In support to seeds/planting materials production, three (3) clonal gardens are maintained, three (3) new nurseries were constructed for coffee and 3 bud wood gardens established for cacao within the year aside from two (2) units of tissue culture laboratories intended for the production of banana planting materials.



4 Water which is an indispensable requirement of crop growth needs to be addressed. Considering the difficulties on irrigation in the production sites of both lowland and upland vegetables, 21 spring development projects and 88 shallow tube wells were installed with a total of 109 group beneficiaries.



5 For easier transportation or hauling of produce from production sites to nearest farm to market roads, three (3) agricultural tramline systems were constructed with three (3) group beneficiaries of said project.





6 In support to the Roxas Agri-Pinoy Trading Center at Roxas, Isabela, a market research was conducted with focus on profiling of producers and traders to identify volume of production determine the different factors affecting supply and demand of vegetables.



Massive pest and disease monitoring were also conducted in the province of Isabela covering 306 hectares, distributed Biological Control Agents (BCAs) such as 6,350 packs of *Metarizium anisoplae*, 9,800 cards of *Trichogramma chilonis* and 5,105 packs of *Trichoderma* to ensure successful production of low-land vegetables. Seven batches of pest and disease management technical briefings were also conducted regionwide.



Outstanding High Value Crops Farmer



MODESTO O. VALDEZ
Villaflares, Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya

SUCCESS STORY

Envisioned to be a potential contributor towards the flourishing of fruit and vegetable production and spice-based industries, the CY 2016 Nominee for Most Outstanding High Value Crops farmer is now making a name in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya.

Mr. Modesto Valdez is a resident of Bliss, Villaflares, Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya. At the age of seven, he started farming from the time his father died and continued tilling the farms until his high school days.

After graduation, he needed to work hard since her mother could hardly send him to college. He then decided to enroll and apply as a working student at the Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet. After four years of perseverance, Mr. Valdez sacrifices paid off as he graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1982.

While seeking for a job, he came over to Villaflores, Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya where he met Carmelita, the woman he married. To start their living, Mr. Valdez planted several kinds of vegetables, fruit trees and other crops as sources of income.

From 1983 to 1989, he was hired as a Field Extensionist at the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) under the RP German Fruit Tree Project (RPGFTP) based in Baguio City. Being one of the recipients of the project, Mr. Valdez and his wife established a lychee foundation grove in their farm. He then participated to seminars and trainings conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DA). Through the agency's assistance in marketing and linkage, he was able to meet more prospective buyers.

After five years, ten (10) lychee trees were fully grown and bore fruits. Mang Modesto started to propagate his lychee seedlings and planted them in his orchard. He, likewise, started selling marcotted seedlings to the delight of his customers. Aside from selling seedlings, he also earned from the sale of his lychee fruits during the months of May and June.

Discovering his potential as a plant propagator, he was contracted by the Central Cordillera for Agricultural Development Program (CECAP), a special program of DA and funded by the European Union amounting to P300, 000 to produce lychee seedlings. He utilized this money to improve and expand his projects such as purchasing one unit of

elf for transporting his products, agricultural inputs and for hire when available.

Realizing profits from his lychee farm, Mang Modesto's neighbors, friends and co-employees were encouraged to plant lychee. He assisted them in the technical aspects aside from offering a plant-now-pay later scheme to his fellow farmers.

Out of his farm proceeds, he was able to support the schooling of his four children who are now professionals in their own fields.

In 2010, he planted another 200 lychee seedlings which are expected to bear fruits this 2016-2017 harvest season. Also, Mr. Valdez regularly propagated 1000 seedlings for sale especially during the rainy season.

Aside from lychee, Mr. Valdez also ventured to planting other crops to include guyabano, mango, banana, citrus, rambutan, mangosteen, durian, lansones, passion fruit, pine apple and corn. With his income from his crops, he was able to acquire one unit delivery truck for hauling his inputs. He also hired laborers on his farm to be more productive while creating jobs as well.

Mr. Modesto Valdez is a model farmer who inspired everyone's heart. According to him, dreams won't work unless you work for them, and believing in one's self is the first key to success.



Livestock Program

CAGAYAN VALLEY AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.





The **Livestock Program** through the Region's Livestock Task Force focused its efforts and resources in transforming the smallhold livestock and poultry raisers into climate-resilient and productive market-oriented entrepreneurs through:

- adoption of appropriate technologies
- product development
- market access
- improved support services thru infrastructural development

1 The only region with established, well-developed and fully operational nucleus farms that enabled the production of 51 genetically superior meat goats, 111 dairy goats and 29 elite sheep within the year. From previous stocks produced, 82 goats, 131 sheep, 20 cattle were distributed to farmer-beneficiaries for the year.

Through the nucleus farm, 15.5 kgs of forage seeds and 1,212,000 pieces of planting materials were distributed to 823 clients for pasture development.



2 Operationalized the Liquid Nitrogen Plant Facility located at SCRC – Cagayan Breeding Station, Solana, Cagayan that was able to produce 4,101 liters of liquid nitrogen and distributed 2,832 liters to support the artificial insemination program implemented by the LGUs.



3 With the UNAIP, 23,230 semen straws semens distributed, inseminated 12,603 animals with 1,901 offsprings produced from previous year's insemination, serving 7,984 farmers.

4 With the operationalization and management of the Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Laboratory (CVIAL), a state of the art facility, most complete and productive Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic and Feed Chemical Analysis Laboratories in the Philippines, the following were attained:

- 5,979 samples were analyzed by the RDDL with 358 clients benefitted.
- 144,113 doses of drugs and biologics were administered with 90,258 raiser-beneficiaries served.
- Geo-mapped the Anthrax and Rabies endemic areas in the region using Philippine Animal Health Information System (PHILAHIS), a GIS-based surveillance and monitoring system.
- All priority diseases including Anthrax and Fasciolosis were contained.
- Biodewormer developed with Intellectual Property Office (IPO) certification and mass produced for Small Ruminants.
- Analytical tests conducted on feed samples were crude protein, crude fat, crude fiber, moisture and ash determination.

VIAL



Integrated Laboratory Services:

- Regional Soils Laboratory
- Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
- Regional Crop Protection Center
- Regional Feed Chemical Analysis and Plant Health Laboratory
- Cagayan Valley Food Technology Development and Incubation Center





“Molecular Detection & Mapping of Common Ruminant GIT Parasites in Region 02” now approved by DA BIOTECH (3.3M).



5 Implemented five (5) livestock Research and Development projects and one (1) proposal funded under BioTech.

- Development of Small Ruminant Dairy Production Project in Region 02.
- Hemosept Disease Mapping in Region 02.
- Increasing pre-weaning goat survival thru novel kid health strategies (PCAARRD project).
- Nutrition Variability Assessment of Forages grown across different Agro-Climatic areas in Region 02.
- Characterization of Native Swine ,Chicken, Goat Project (PCAARRD & ORGANIC AGRI).

SUCCESS STORY

In the Philippines, cattle raising is being recognized as a key element which contributes to rural income and to the efficient use of available resources in the rural sector. The raising of cattle is still in a small scale basis since it is intimately tied-in with farmers' activities and way of life.

With our country's scenario, Engr. Florencio A. Balagso, Jr. now contributed in uplifting the livestock industry being the Outstanding Large Animal Raiser Adopting Integrated Farming in Region 02. Engr. Balagso is a native of Brgy. Tapel, Gonzaga, Cagayan. He is the seventh among the eleven children in the family. Just like any other, his parents dream is to see them successful in life. He finished Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1984. But with the passion he has for engineering works, he also pursued Bachelor of Science in Geodetic Engineering in 2000 and Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering in 2002. While taking these two courses, he also enrolled some units in MS Engineering.

As an engineer, he worked to different private construction firms from 1984 to 1988. After finishing his con-

ENGR. FLORENCIO A. BALAGSO, JR.
Tapel, Gonzaga, Cagayaan

OUTSTANDING LARGE ANIMAL RAISER

tract, he was hired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as a Community Organizer. He was then assigned to different areas of Sierra Madre Mountain. Being far from his family and due his work's nature, he resigned and developed the landholdings he acquired through installment basis and be with his family.

The land is a five-hectare area having flat and rolling terrain suitable for various farming enterprises. Because of the area's characteristics, he tried cattle production.

In 2000, Engr. Balagso started with just three heads of cattle which included one bull and two heifers. Gradually, the number increased because he did not sell the female offspring instead he made them breeders.

As a farmer with positive foresight, he aspired and planned on how to increase his production and earnings. He wanted to prove himself that his decision to resign from government service won't be wasted.

Engr. Balagso was able to see the opportunity and importance of having an irrigation system that would be required for his crops and animals. He designed and spearheaded the construction of irrigation system and waterways that came from a small spring and diverted it to his land area. Other farmers were also benefitted because the irrigation water was given free to them provided that they will help in the cleanliness and maintenance of canals. This served as his legacy to his locality and fellow farmers.

Although he is not technically prepared for the cattle business, he took the courage to seek pieces of advice and expertise of skilled raisers and technical experts from DA-LGU, PVET, DA-RFO 02 and even cattle ranchers from Masbate, Palawan, Isabela and

Nueva Vizcaya.

To improve his awareness about cattle raising, Engr. Balagso attended seminars on large ruminants production. He learned the importance of nutritious feeds, management of forage, proper health, cultural, housing and paddocks management.

His area in cattle production is only limited. The forage planted and native grasses were not enough for his animals so he sourced out possible feeds to nearby farms like corn stalks, rice straws, peanut and bean hay that could satisfy the animals. These roughages were being sprayed with sea water as a substitute for salt. Rice bran and corn grits were given to animals as concentrate. The fattened animals were being sold to Ilocos Region and nearby places at a premium price.

From the proceeds he gained from cattle, he was able to acquire a mini tractor, farm implements, motorcycle and elf truck. Also, he rented a 30-hectare land which he planted with corn.

With regard to his crop production, Engr. Balagso used organic fertilizer for basal application mixed with Ammonium Phosphate and urea for the top dress for rice and side dress for corn. In fact, his farm was utilized as a demonstration farm of different companies. Applying the technologies he learned from different agricultural companies and through the support of DA, his crop production improved. At present, his cattle production has already a total number of 53 heads consist of 19 cows, 10 heifers, 3 bulls, 9 yearlings and 12 calves.

Indeed, Engr. Balagso's fortitude in life made him successful. Receptiveness in new and proven technologies coupled with fervent prayers and faith in God were his best weapon.



Organic Agriculture Program

A PREMIER ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE REGION
IN THE COUNTRY.



The goal of the Organic Agriculture Program in the region is to be a premiere organic agriculture region in the country sustaining market supply of certified organically grown/prepared food, feeds and other agricultural input products.



1 DA-NVES at Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya was third party certified as organic vegetables/seed and organic OPV corn seeds producer by the Organic Certification Center of the Philippine (OCCP).



2 Issued certification of organic biodewormer under the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) Philippines and mass production of the product was undertaken to control the parasitic infection in the small ruminant in the region.





3 Conducted/participated in four (4) local fairs, namely: Farmer to Consumer (F2C) at Quezon City, Madrid Fusion at SMX Convention, Mega Field Day at Batanes, and Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) at CVIAL, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.



NUEVA VIZCAYA EXPERIMENT STATION
Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya



ISABELA EXPERIMENT STATION
Gamu, Isabela



CAGAYAN VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER
City of Ilagan, Isabela



SOUTHERN CAGAYAN EXPERIMENT STATION
Iguig, Cagayan



NORTHERN CAGAYAN EXPERIMENT STATION
Abulug, Cagayan



CAGAYAN BREEDING STATION
Solana, Cagayan



QUIRINO EXPERIMENT STATION
Aglipay, Quirino

4 Established and maintained technology demonstration farms on integrated organic agriculture production system at the seven (7) R&D Centers/Experiment Stations as learning centers/sites to farmers, students and other organic agriculture stakeholders and enthusiasts.



Ms. Marina A. Acebedo, OA Focal Person of DA-RFO 02, receives her award as National Outstanding Coordinator from Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol. With her are RTD Robert B. Olinares (2nd from left), Governor Imee Marcos of Ilocos Norte (right), USEC Bernadette Romulo-Puyat (1st from left).

5 Outstanding Organic Agriculture Stakeholders were awarded plaques and cash prizes in recognition of their contribution and unwavering support in the implementation of the goals of the organic agriculture program.

6 The DA-RFO 02 Organic Agriculture Program Focal Person, Ms. Marina A. Acebedo was awarded Most Outstanding Regional Organic Agriculture Focal Person during the 13th National Organic Agriculture Congress held at Plaza Del Norte, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. This is in recognition to her exemplary accomplishments and involvements in the organic agriculture.



7 Extended technical assistance, incentive scheme and subsidy to five (5) organic input producers compliant to Philippine National Standards (PNS) in the region through for their third party certification.

ESTRELLA RIC

Estrella, San Mateo, Isabela

SUCCESS STORY

Barangay ESTRELLA is one of the 33 Barangays of the Municipality of San Mateo, Isabela, the “Munggo Capital of the Philippines.”

Rice is the major crop grown and farming is the major source of livelihood of its people.

Organization’s Profile

The barangay is home of this year’s National Most Outstanding Rural Improvement Club (RIC).

Estrella RIC took its name from its barangay “Estrella” which is Spanish term for “star”.

This organization started as a women’s club in 1962 with an initial member of 25 led by Ms. Nemecia G. Lachica a.k.a Nana Choleng.

According to “Nana Choleng”, it was hard to lead women during those times because of differences in personalities. She owed it to their punong barangay who usually inspired her to patiently lead the members for their own benefit. With her dedication, she was then able to lead the group through those long years.

Majority of the members were plain housewives and were only confined to household chores. They lacked entrepreneurial skills.

Through the aid of extension workers from the Department of Agriculture (DA) known as Home Management Technicians (HMTs), they were taught how to make processed meat such as tapa, longganisa and tocino.

They also learned how to process and preserve food, fruits and vegetables like santol, camias, squash, tamarind, mango, munggo and banana into candies and fritters and displayed such products during fiestas and other related events in the municipality.

The organization also conducted projects such as vegetable and ornamental gardening, poultry and swine raising, other livelihood projects, beautification and cleanliness of the community.

As part of their social obligations, they entertained visitors through a dance number during said special events.

To promote unity and solidarity and to hold loyalty of members

to the organization, a mutual aid benefit was implemented by giving minimal financial assistance to every bereaved family of an RIC. As the years went by, this mutual aid contribution increased until it was separated and made to stand on its own as a program for the whole barangay.

In 1992, Mrs. Myrna L. Bartolome, took over for one term.

Afterwhich, Mrs. Jesusa V. Rarangol, Outstanding Rural Woman Achiever in the National Level (3rd runner-up) which she holds to date. Under her leadership, Estrella RIC has existed as an organization that upholds its goal of “Better Homes and Community Life through Better Living”.

To date, the Estrella RIC has a total of 331 members.

The club was a venue for a closer relationship and camaraderie among the women in the community through the leadership of Mrs. Rarangol. She initiated major improvements in the organization and sought for the amendments of the Club’s Constitution and By-Laws.



They also initiated measures that promoted transparency, equity, unity and harmony among the members of the organization.

At first, getting the members' loyalty and faith in the organization was not easy for her. But she was able to admonish the members with the help of officers and barangay officials to revive the organization in the true purpose that it is designed to pursue.

Economic Activities

With much eagerness to excel in promoting women and family welfare in the area, the club thought of programs and projects to be carried out effectively and efficiently.

The following were the projects that the organization and its members undertake:

1. Special lending project;
2. Vermi-worm dispersal;
3. Vermi-composting;
4. Rental of table, chairs and kitchen utensils;
5. Swine fattening and pig dispersal project;
6. Organic fertilizer production thru vermiculture and
7. Mushroom Production

They are engaged in munggo production as their individual project and as a source of reliable seeds. Other individual projects include:

1. Milk, tomato and bignay processing ;
2. Backyard onion, kutsay and other herbal plants production;
3. Munggo processing (coffee and noodles);
4. Micro lending;
5. Organic fertilizer production;
6. Banana and vegetable production;
7. Bugnay Juice, Bugnay Jam, Bugnay wine, Tomato Sauce and Tomato jam;
8. Milk Processing;

9. Dragon Fruit Production and Calamansi Production

Through the assistance of their political leaders, the club was able to construct a building of their own in a lot donated by the barangay council.

Community Development

The RIC building has been very effective not only in the conduct of RIC activities but also served as the venue in the delivery of health and other related services in the community.

The Estrella RIC existed not only for the sake of community development, but also the individual members as potential leaders of the community and their respective homes which paved way for the progress of barangay Estrella.

The economic activities that it carried out did not revolve only on food processing, handicrafts, tailoring and dress making but also backyard poultry and swine raising, vegetable and organic fertilizer production through vermiculture.

They also played an important role in San Mateo's declaration as "Munggo Capital of the Philippines" through their involvement in munggo production where it was declared a "Galing Pook" Awardee in 2007.

Munggo processing into various food delicacies such as moriecos, butchi, guinataan, noodle and coffee has been a trade in barangay Estrella.

Likewise, munggo farm wastes such as pods were used as substrate for mushroom and vermi compost production.

Estrella RIC was also recognized by the community for its role in the beautification, cleanliness and

orderliness of the community by conducting tree planting and other civic activities.

The Club also helped educate its colleagues thru seminars and trainings, and led the community in the implementation of RA 9003, known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

They also assisted in the conduct of nutrition programs during the celebration of nutrition month in July and supports child friendly activities.

The Barangay Council also authorized the Estrella RIC to monitor and implement the RA 9003 in the community particularly in the protection and preservation of the environment.

The Club also promoted the "no burning" of farm and household wastes policy through their vermiculture project aside from involving all family members in this worthwhile economic endeavour.

Thus, they promoted organic agriculture farming among stakeholders.

The organization was not only devoted to generate income but it also exhibits sympathy and concern by extending mortuary assistance to family members.

The implementation of the aforementioned interventions turned the women in Barangay Estrella as effective and productive partners of the government in community development.

The "ESTRELLA RIC" is a successful organization of empowered women, foreseen to be instrumental in bringing out more development and change for the best, now and in the future.

Various Support Services



ISU ECHAGUE CAGAYAN VALLEY CACAO DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Title: PROMOTION OF CACAO GENERATED TECHNOLOGIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS TOWARD IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD

Agribusiness and Marketing

Under the Various Support Services- Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (VSS-AMAD), significant accomplishments were attained.

1 Market Promotion and Development.

Successfully funded/participated/assisted product promotion and trade fairs.



2 Investment and Enterprise Development. The Regional Cacao Industry Promotion and Investment Forum was successfully conducted last July 22, 2016 at CVIAL, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan attended by a total of 157 participants. As a highlight of the Forum, a Regional Cacao Industry Council was created.

Investment Forum for Small Ruminant was also conducted last September 8, 2016 at CVIAL, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City with 100 participants attended. Creation of the Regional Small Ruminant Development Council was also approved.

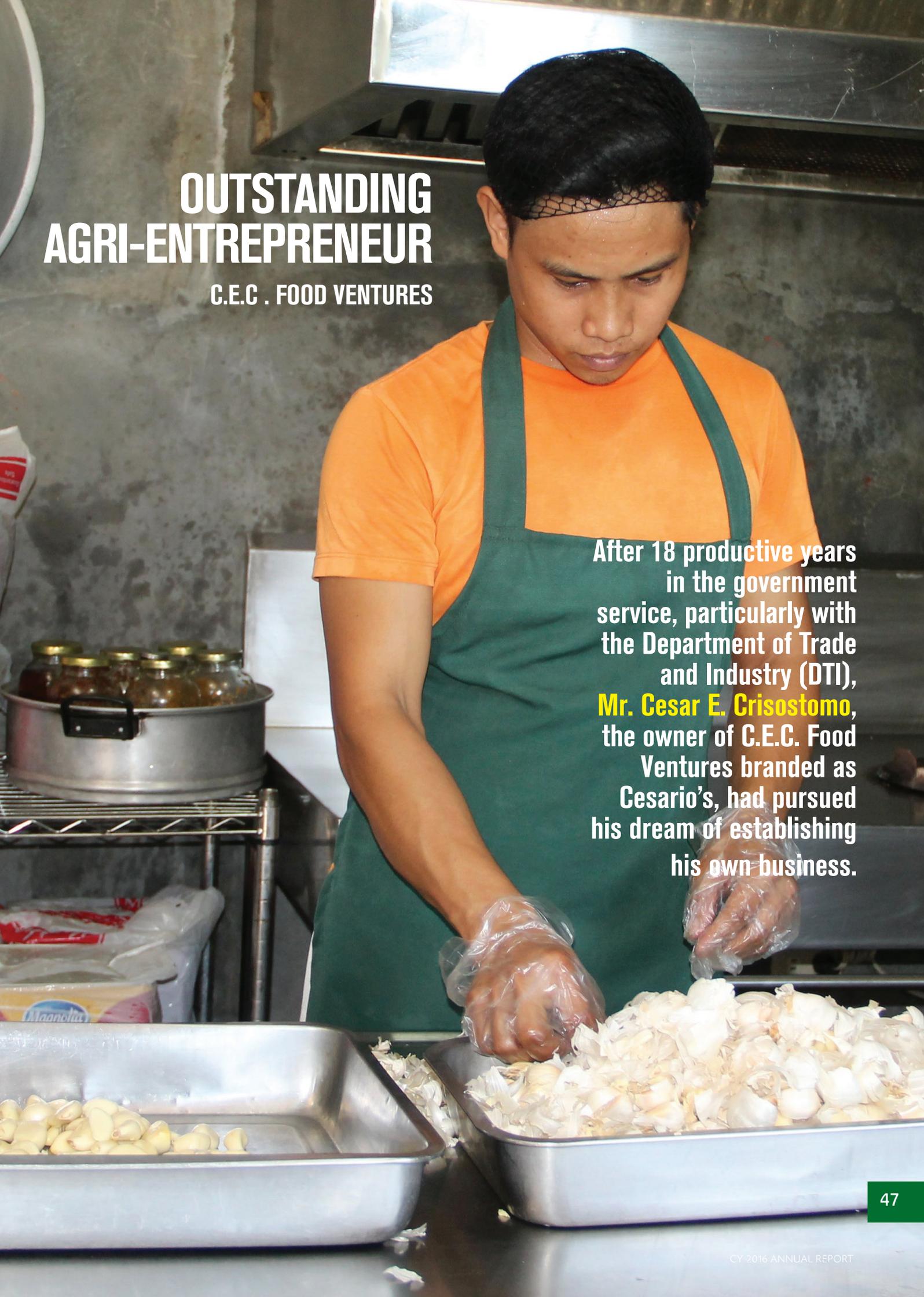
Orientation on Local/International Product Standard was held at Highlander Hotel, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya last March 31, 2016 and at CVIAL Tuguegarao City last June 16, 2016 with a total of 120 individual producers and vegetable, fruits and other crops organizations participated.

3 Creation and operation of the Regional Bantay Presyo Management Team (RBPMT).



OUTSTANDING AGRI-ENTREPRENEUR

C.E.C . FOOD VENTURES



After 18 productive years in the government service, particularly with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), **Mr. Cesar E. Crisostomo**, the owner of C.E.C. Food Ventures branded as Cesario's, had pursued his dream of establishing his own business.

SUCCESS STORY

As a former Senior Trade and Industry Development Specialist, he saw the big potential of food products that were locally manufactured.

With strong determination and being innovative, Mr. Crisostomo came up with products that required local raw materials which are manufactured with high standards and with worldwide market potentials.

The company started very small with a modest capital of P 7,000.00. This amount was only enough though to start with a few kilos of “siling labuyo” and garlic, and a few bottles of a good jar for the finished product. The first bottles were initially offered to friends and relatives who were gracious enough to promote it to their acquaintances and family.

After a couple of years of doing business, he decided to venture in non-manufacturing business. He put up a local barbershop and named it “BOSS Barber-shop”, to project to the public the best service for the comfort, convenience and satisfaction of its target customers. The barbershop is not merely what it is called, since it is strategically located along a busy commercial area, he also put up in said shop a mini “pasalubong corner”, where Cesario’s products together with other locally manufactured products were made available.

Just recently he ventured into trade business that was quite related to his first business line. He noted that one perennial problem and issue raised among his clients was the unavailability of packaging materials and equipment for their products, the same problem was encountered by him when he started Cesario’s. For a small businessman who has just started, it is so costly and inconvenient to be traveling to Metro Manila and other provinces to purchase their small quantity of packaging needs.

For this pressing concern, he was strongly motivated to establish a business that would cater various packaging materials and basic manufacturing and packaging equipment. Mr. Crisostomo suitably named it RITEPAK PACKAGING SOLUTIONS, the first

ever business of its kind in the region. Again, to maximize said store, a pasalubong corner was established to continuously promote his products and others as well.

His valuable experience in the food sector has provided him with great insights in transforming simple products that were locally manufactured into excellent and marketable goods that would not be left out when placed with other long established and branded products. He was motivated to offer packaging materials and equipment in his business enterprise to cater for the needs of prospective food processors, SMEs, and current manufacturers in Region 02, because he believes that higher income could be realized through value-adding the commodity produced by them.

In business, Mr. Crisostomo realized that one cannot be complacent. He continuously worked hard towards expanding and promoting his businesses and products, creating new ideas and continuously improving his current manufacturing processes and to provide better working environment for his workers.

Mr. Crisostomo was now building his own little production center in order to adequately meet the safety standards prescribed by the government and in compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices. He is optimistic that by having his own production center, he can produce more, and develop other products. He believes that a key to the sustainability and success of a business is persistence, hard work and sharing your knowledge and experiences to others in order to help them grow too.

Although the company was still considered as a small enterprise, the demand for his products has already reached other countries like, United States, Europe and the Middle East, as evidenced by pictures, reviews and feedbacks from buyers and consumers.

The potential of the C.E.C. Food Ventures deserved praiseworthy recognition for the innovative efforts that could increase value of farmers produce.





Batanes

Grand Field Day

April 22-23, 2016



Research and Development

The conduct of Research and Development funded under Various R&D Support Services for CY 2016 has been realized with seven (7) projects implemented. From the seven researches conducted, two (2) researches focused on corn, two (2) on Livestock and three (3) on High Value Crops.

One of the significant accomplishments under VSS R&D is the conduct of Technology Forum in Batanes Experiment Station (BES), Basco, Batanes during the Station's Grand Field Day. The technologies disseminated and promoted were on sweet potato, ginger and vegetables. The Techno Forum was attended by 70 participants comprising of farmers and agricultural technicians/technologists coming from the six (6) municipalities of Batanes, researchers and students.

Strengthening of the research facilities to better serve the farmers and other stakeholders were also undertaken such as establishment of nurseries for forage, vegetables and plantation crops at Isabela Experiment Station (IES), Southern Cagayan Research Center (SCRC) and Quirino Experiment Station (QES).

DOH LICENSE ISSUED TO DA-CVRC AS FOOD MANUFACTURER



FDA-20164PFOH991J3VARY04

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

FDA
Food and Drug Administration
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Opening
LTO NO. CFRR-RII-FM-1432

LICENSE TO OPERATE
as a
FOOD MANUFACTURER

Pursuant to Republic Act No 3720, as amended by Republic Act No. 9711, otherwise known as the Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009, other allied laws and their implementing rules and regulations, this license is hereby issued in favor of:

Name of Establishment : DA-CVRC FOOD PRODUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Business Address : San Felipe, Ilagan City, Isabela
Owner : DA-CVRC FOOD PRODUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

to operate a food and food products manufacturing and processing establishment, specifically **as a manufacturer of cereal and vegetable products** having complied with the Rules and Regulations on Technical Requirements.

This License also grants the privilege of importing food products exclusively for its own use.

This License shall be valid until **07 July 2018** subject to renewal and continuing compliance of the licensee of the above-mentioned laws, other allied laws, rules and regulations issued thereunder. This license must be displayed at all times in a conspicuous place within the premises of the establishment.

Notwithstanding the issuance of this License, the same can be suspended or revoked anytime upon order from the proper authority should a violation of any provision of FDA implemented laws, rules and regulations be committed by the licensee.

Products must be registered with FDA prior to manufacturing, commercial distribution, sale, offer for sale, or transfer, and/or advertisement and promotion of the above licensee, as the case may be.

WITNESS MY HAND and the Seal of this Office, this **7th** day of **July 2016**.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

Pilar Marilyn M. Pagayunan
PILAR MARILYN M. PAGAYUNAN
Director IV, Center for Food Regulation and Research

Official Receipt No.: 624419
Date Issued: 12 April 2016
Amount: Php 4,040.00 (2016-2017)
Product: Pinoy Goumix (Cereal & Vegetable Mix)
DTN: 20160550124256

FDA-0121984

The DA-Cagayan Valley Research Center (CVRC) is now a Licensed Food Manufacturer actively involved in food products research and development and help encourage farming communities to engage in food products processing and manufacturing as livelihoods. This came about after the Department of Health – Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FAD) has issued a License to Operate (LTO) to CVRC. This move was also in support to the DA's program objectives of making foods affordable and accessible to every Filipino thereby increasing farmers' income through raw materials processing into primary and secondary products.



With the successful commercialization of the Peanut MAGIC and Pinoy GOURmix products developed by CVRC, the management realized the need to be recognized in line with product food safety and quality thus its application for BFAD registration. After complying with all the DOH-FDA requirements including actual processing center evaluation, the license was released to DA-CVRC as FOOD MANUFACTURER starting July 2016 up to July 2018.

According to Ms. Rose Mary G. Aquino, the said LTO was eligibly considered as major pre-requisite of the marketing and trade mark license agreement on Pinoy GOURmix executed recently between DA-RFO 02 and Jevita Sales Marketing. Aquino said that this also serves as Research and Development/ Extension milestones on food products processing in 2016.

Regulation Services

The DA-RFO 02 is promoting the adoption of Food Safety Standards in Rice, Corn, High Value Crops and Animal production in compliance with the Food Safety Act of 2013 and in preparation for the ASEAN integration. In CY 2016, there were several activities conducted in the region funded under the Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Services with notable accomplishments to wit:

1 To promote the importance of food quality and safety “from farm to table,” there were seventeen (17) briefings and trainings on Good Agricultural Practices and Good Husbandry Practices successfully conducted on the different crops participated by 600 farmers and Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and 225 animal raisers and AEWs, respectively in the whole region.

2 To supplement the promotion of food safety, 2,950 copies of the Philippine National Standards (PNS) were reproduced and distributed to farmers and AEWs.

3 There were four (4) Research Centers/Experiment Stations that are GAP-certified namely: Nueva Vizcaya Experiment Station (NVES) at Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya; Northern Cagayan Experiment Station (NCES) at Abulug, Cagayan; Southern Cagayan Research Center (SCRC) at Iguig, Cagayan; and Cagayan Valley Research Center (CVRC) at Ilagan, Isabela. Assistance was also extended to ATI-RTC 02 in San Mateo, Isabela for GAP certification of its demonstration farm. There were 51 individual farms that are already GAP certified and 49 individual farmer applicants for GAP certification endorsed.



4 In compliance to RA No. 1556 known as the Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act or the Feed Control Law, 428 feed retailers, 11 feed manufacturers, 12 feed distributors, 90 VDAP establishments, 162 livestock handlers and 65 transport carriers in the region were registered.

5 In support to plant pests and animal diseases surveillance and early warning system, there were 1,510 blood samples for FMD, 1,564 blood samples, fecal swabs and tracheal swabs for Bird Flu collected and analyzed at the Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL), CVIAL, Tuguegarao City.

6 Monitoring was done regularly and results showed negative in all provinces in the region in terms of FMD and bird flu incidence with 2,701 barangays monitored and 4,021 reports submitted.

However, as a result of close monitoring and disease surveillance, there were new blood parasites/diseases discovered such as Anaplasma, Babesia, Theileria and Bovine leucosis virus on dairy animals and given immediate preventive action and control protocol procedures.



Dr. Robert C. Busania, Regional Livestock Coordinator and Regional GAHP Inspector speaks during Regional GAHP Training Workshop held at DA-Southern Cagayan Research Center (SCRC), Iguig, Cagayan.

DA-RFO 02 INTENSIFIES PROMOTION OF GAHP IN CAGAYAN VALLEY

The Department of Agriculture- Regional Field Office 02 (DA-RFO 02) has been persistent in providing support particularly on ways of improving animal performance, systems of rearing, and the whole of the value chain through the conduct of various trainings on Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP).

According to Dr. Roberto C. Busania, Regional Livestock Coordinator and Regional GAHP Inspector, the field office, through its Integrated Agricultural Laboratory and Regulatory Divisions, is intensifying the promotion of GAHP in the entire region.

“Year 2016 has been a fruitful year disseminating and instilling these good practices to our various farmer cooperatives,” he said.

“The upcoming year will enable us to proceed to Phase 2 of the GAHP program here in Cagayan Valley as we will be closely monitoring these associations to help them achieve this certification.”

The GAHP is a certification given to animal raisers, be it an individual or group enterprise, government, and private farm cooperators. It is a system anchored towards ensuring food safety and quality in the whole of the production management system, simply speaking from farm to fork or from grass to glass.

The importance of GAHP can be realized when critical control points in the production system can be identified, and make necessary action-plans to come up and adhere with a right system.

The tapped resource persons from the DA-RFO2 Livestock Program and Regulatory Division served as speakers during the training at different locations across Region 02.

Some of the associations catered this 2016 include the Isabela Small Ruminants Raisers Association Inc. (ISRRA), Isabela Large Ruminants Raisers Association Inc. (ILRRA), Small Ruminants

Raisers Association of Cagayan (SRRAC), Samahang Magbabaka ng Cagayan, Animal Lovers and Growers Association of Quirino (ALAGA Q), and the Vizcayano Cattle Raisers Association (VCRA).

Among the topics discussed include the overview of the GAHP certification and the requirements needed to be eligible for the said accreditation, Practical Feeding Strategies which can be adapted by the farmers such as the Silage and Urea-Treated Rice Straw (UTRS) Technology, importance of good nutrition to livestock animals and ways on how to improve performance through proper feeding management was given emphasis, waste management, importance of health management and disease prevention to ensure maximum performance of animals.

GAHP: From Farm to Fork Nowadays, the livestock industry has been focused not just towards business profitability but also on the sustainability of production. With the increasing population and demand on basic commodities primarily food, the pressure for the Agriculture sector to increase its supply has led to some unfavorable implications in our environment.

These did not only pose depressing consequences on the livestock industry but on the whole food chain link. Animal production performance had significantly improved since science and technology paved its way to discoveries on improving production efficiency, animal livability, and overall performance. To alleviate this, the breakthrough of using substances to hasten production became a growing trend. The use of additives to speed up production and meet the demands of the market has also become an inclination for some producers. Costs were reduced as a result of shorter production periods, but negative impacts were not that evident to notice.

There has been a worldwide concern on various practices adapted by livestock raisers and its detrimental effects on human health and safety were highlighted. Such would include the emergence of new and hard to treat diseases, particularly the zoonotic types which are more fatal. Researches proposing solutions to the existing predicament of the situation came into. The use of non-antibiotic products and/or additives was recommended to meet the objective of sustaining animal production efficiency and profitability without having too much impact on

the environment.

The global trend of livestock raisers shifting to healthier and safer solutions in animal production had led to the vast and significant developments in the field of animal nutrition, health, and biotechnology. Cheaper costs of competing synthetic products had also become a hindrance in the promotion of the use of these safer options.

Imparting the core concepts of GAHP will surely pave the way to a healthier and safer produce from the agriculture sector.

Ways of improving efficiency and cost of these to meet international standards have proven to be an immense opportunity in the field of animal production, health, nutrition, and welfare.

Moreover, the agriculture sector will truly uphold its virtue on sustainability and wellbeing of the people. With such holistic approach in management, the potential of the livestock sector in Region 02 can be achieved. GAHP adaptation is just one of the many facets to consider. Small as it may seem, GAHP can be a viable tool to achieve sustainability not just in the production per se, but most importantly to ensure continuous support for the livelihood of our local livestock raisers.

With these scenarios, the importance of implementing Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) in production systems must be considered.

Farm-to-Market Road Projects

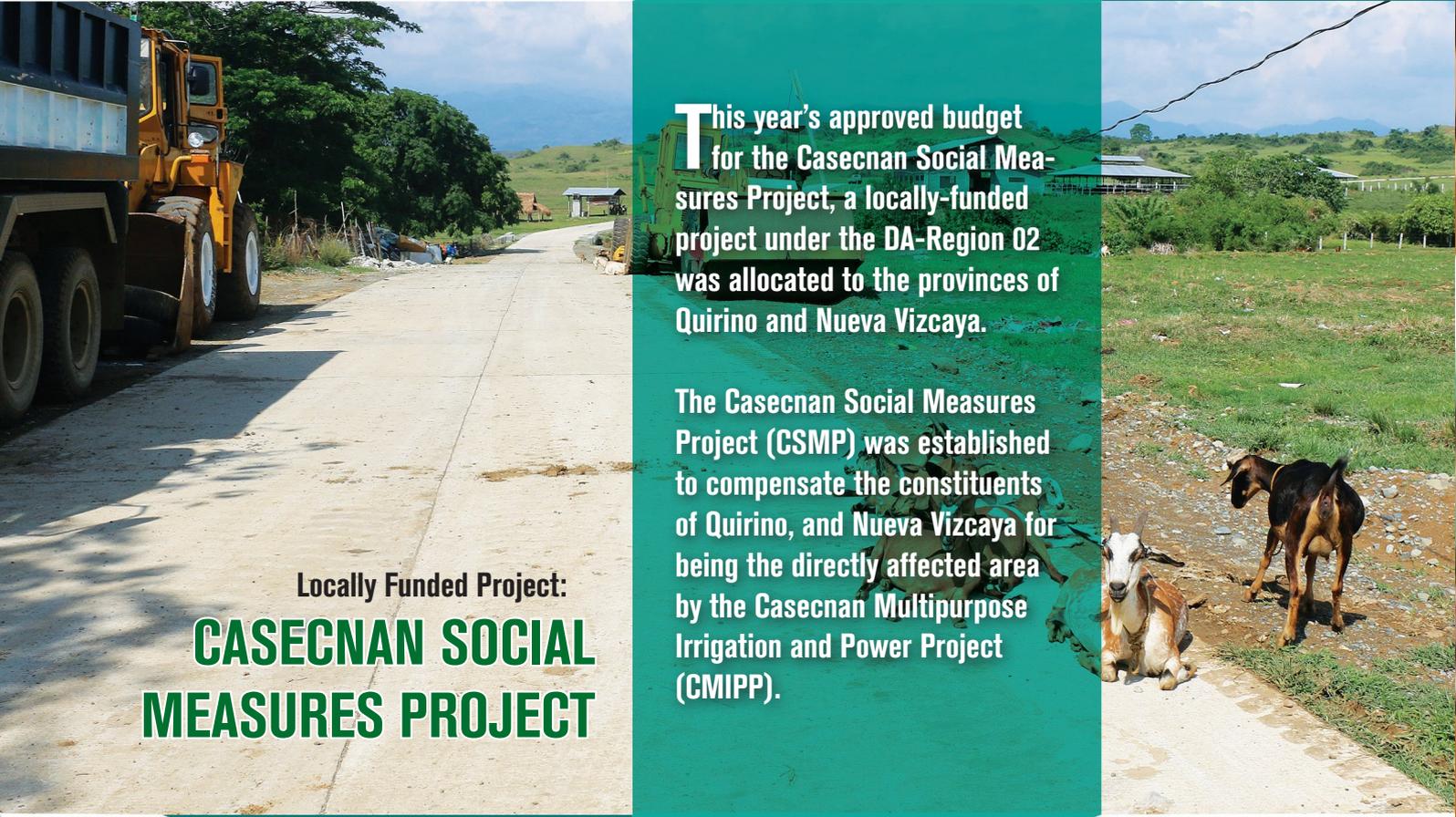
The Department of Agriculture released the FY 2014, 2015 and 2016 GAA to DPWH amounting to Five Hundred Sixty Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 568,500,000.00), Three Hundred Ninety Million Pesos (Php 390,000,000.00) and Four Hundred Seventy Million Pesos (Php 470,000,000.00) respectively for the Farm-to-Market Roads/Bridges Development Program intended for the improvement/rehabilitation of priority Farm to Market Road projects identified by Farmer's Association and Local Government Units (LGUs) validated by DA- RAED staff following the Philippine Agricultural Engineering Standards (PAES).

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office No. 2 is responsible in the Review of plans, design and cost estimates of proposed Farm to Market Road (FTMR) and Farm Bridges, Site Validation, Road Tracking and Geo-Tagging and supervision/monitoring of projects implementation.



A total of 76.94 km. 102 projects/sites are targeted regionwide for CY 2014, 51.966 kilometres (120 projects/sites) for CY 2015 and 59.325 kilometres (117 projects/sites) for FY 2016 to be improved and rehabilitated and will benefit more or less 194,460.00 farmers. For CY 2014, 102 projects/sites were all completed, for FY- 2015 it consisted of 120 projects/sites were 50.763 or 97.69% ongoing/completed and for CY 2016, it consists of 117 projects/sites distributed to the different Provinces, 18 projects from Batanes, 13 from Cagayan, 23 from Isabela, 19 from Nueva Vizcaya and 13 from Quirino. Out of the project total target, a total of 59.325 km. or 79.740% has been constructed/completed. Various issues and constraints were experienced during the implementation of the projects and to name a few, these were:

- 1.) Inadequate construction materials to be sourced out in the locality (Batanes),
- 2.) Un-predicted weather condition that cause project site not accessible/workable and
- 3.) Presence of Right-of-Way problems (ROW).



Locally Funded Project:
CASECNAN SOCIAL MEASURES PROJECT

This year's approved budget for the Casecnan Social Measures Project, a locally-funded project under the DA-Region 02 was allocated to the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

The Casecnan Social Measures Project (CSMP) was established to compensate the constituents of Quirino, and Nueva Vizcaya for being the directly affected area by the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP).

It aims to:

1. Provide assistance to farmers and farming households of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya;
2. Improve the access and mobility in the transport of goods and services;
3. Enhance farming systems and increase farm income through farming technologies, appropriate inputs and other support facilities;
4. Provide post-harvest facilities to promote good quality farm products.

To realize these objectives, the Casecnan Social Measures Project (CSMP) is being implemented through the following components:

Livelihood

1. Provide livelihood to Quirinians and Nueva Vizcayans through effective and efficient delivery of services by committed and dedicated workforce
2. Establish an Integrated System of Financing, Production, Processing, Packaging, Marketing & Distribution.

For CY 2016, there were 786 and 828 Livelihood Projects implemented for Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya, respectively; composed of the following sub-components:

1. Production of Livestock and Poultry, Aqua-culture, Crops and handicrafts
2. Processing and packaging of the products
3. Marketing and distribution of the products
4. IGPs of Rural Improvement Clubs, Irrigators' Associations, Cooperatives and Other Peoples Organizations

Upgrading/Concreting of Farm To Market Roads (FTMR)

For CY 2016, the a total of 19 FMR projects corresponding to 4.86 kilometers with 1,336 beneficiaries and six (6) FMR projects corresponding to 7.0 kilometers with 2,700 beneficiaries were to be accomplished for the for the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya, respectively.

The two project components were implemented by the Provincial Local Government Units of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya and closely monitored and assisted by Project Management Office at the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office No. 02 from the preparation of validation reports, certificate of no damage, notice to start construction and area monitoring reports, including validation, supervision, monitoring and geo-tagging of on-going construction of infrastructure projects and also beneficiaries of the livelihood projects.



Foreign Assisted Projects:
**Philippine Rural Development
Project (PRDP)**

The Regional Project Coordination Office (RPCO) 2 has accelerated its momentum in the implementation of PRDP assisted sub-projects in both I-BUILD and I-REAP sub-projects in close coordination with the Luzon A Cluster Project Support Office (PSO) and in partnership with the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Units (PPMIUs). As a result, a total 44 I-BUILD and 46 I-REAP sub-projects were recorded for the region.

Region 2 outpaced the 3 other regions in the Luzon A Cluster, it being the only region that had substantially completed the first two Farm-to-Market Road sub-projects in Isabela in July 2016. With the completion of these two sub-projects, the Rapid Appraisal for Emerging Benefits (RAEB) was piloted in the region last October 2016, to assess whether the desired outcomes of the FMR were likely or unlikely achieved and how these emerging benefits have contributed to the Project Development Objectives (PDOs).

As a pilot activity for the Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME), the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) and PSO- Luzon A Cluster demonstrated the actual conduct of REAB as a “Hands On Training” for RPCOs within the cluster together with representatives from the Visayas Cluster to equip them with the necessary skills on the methods and processes involved in rapid appraisal. Based on the RAEB results which were generated through random survey, focused group discussions and “on the spot interviews” which were conducted with the FMR beneficiaries, the composite team was able to generate data which showed reductions in travel time, hauling costs and transport losses. On the other hand increases in traffic count and expansion in production areas were observed.

Moreover, Region 2 is the first in the Luzon A Cluster to implement 10 out of 38 Small Livelihood Projects (SLPs) which were approved for funding by World Bank. Upon PSO transfer of funds to the respective Local Government Units of the Proponent Group (PG) beneficiaries, the set of farm machineries for land preparation in support to the Palay Production Enterprise were already procured and delivered by end of 2016. The set of farm machineries which include four-wheel drive tractor, rotavator, cage roller and trailer are now being used by the PGs for the first cropping season of 2017.



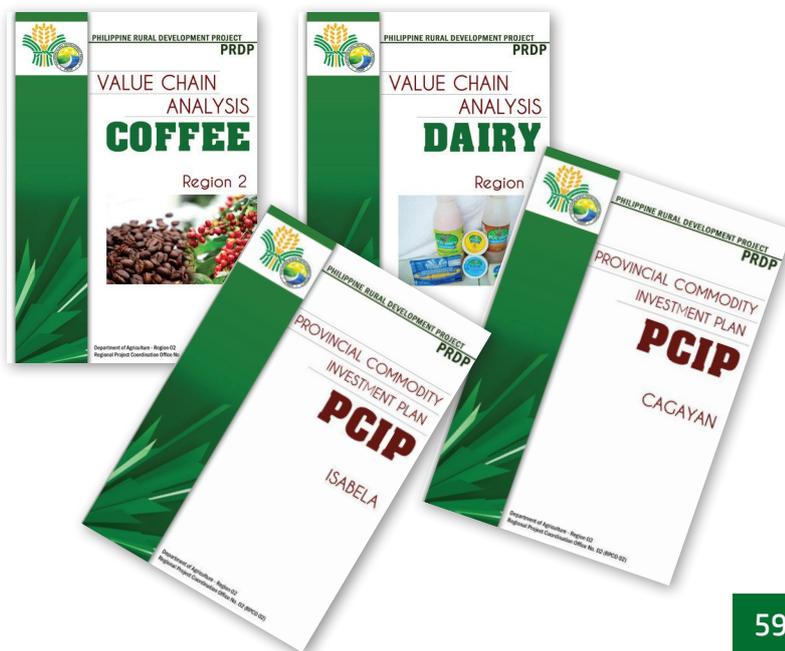


1 Investments in AFMP Planning at the Local and National levels (I-PLAN)

Workshops were conducted for the drafting of the Updated Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan covering the period 2018-2023. Alongside, the Regional Core Planning Team of DA-RFO2 was able to update the roadmaps for 24 banner commodities in Region 2 namely: rice; corn; cassava; cattle (beef and dairy) , goat (meat and dairy); sheep; chicken (organic and native); coffee; mungbean; garlic; onion; citrus; mango; vegetable (lowland and organic); organic garlic and organic white corn. These roadmaps shall be used as basic reference in the updating of the Regional AFMP and in the selection and prioritization of investments that shall be supported by PRDP.

Joint PSO-RPCO2 technical reviews for the VCAs of sweet potato, beef cattle, tomato, garlic, dairy, organic garlic, onion, mandarin, swine, seaweeds, coffee, banana, white corn and upland rice were conducted in 2016. Of these 14 VCAs, only the upland rice (Regionwide VCA), sweet potato, pigmented rice, upland rice and onion (Clusterwide VCA) were approved while the rest are still under review by NPCO.

The I-PLAN Component likewise extended technical assistance to the six (6) PPMIUs in the updating of their respective Provincial Commodity Investment Plan and the Vulnerability and Suitability Analysis.



2 Intensified Building-Up of Infrastructure and Logistics for Development (I-BUILD).

As of 2016, there are nine (9) on-going FMR sub-projects with a total cost of P654.5M. Of this number, five (5) are in Quirino with a sub-project cost of P403.4 M while the other four (4) are in Isabela with a sub-project cost of P251.1M.

A total of 24 sub-projects were endorsed by RPAB-2 to PSO for review and issuance of NOL1. These sub-projects consist of ten (10) Small Water Impounding Projects (Isabela-9 and Cagayan-1) ; eight (8) warehouses in Isabela and six (6) FMRs (Isabela-2 and Quirino-4). Of this number, 17 or 0.8 percent were issued NOL1. All the ten (10) endorsed SWIP sub-projects were issued NOL 1. Likewise, six (6) Civil Works which were endorsed in 2015 were already issued NOL1 thus bringing to a total of 19 sub-projects issued NOL 1 to include the re-issuance of NOL1 1 for the two (2) FMRs with Bridges for Cagayan after the first bidding was declared a failure by NPCO.



3 Investments for Rural Enterprises for Agricultural and Fisheries Productivity (I-REAP)

Site validations, focused group discussions and prioritization of Enterprises and Proponent Groups were the major activities under this component. Moreover, technical reviews of business plans for the seven (7) regular I-REAP subprojects and 38 Small Livelihood Projects were undertaken with the involvement of RPCO2 I-BUILD component and the I-SUPPORT Component/Units namely: Social and Environment Safeguards, Finance, Geo-mapping and Governance, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Of the 47 enrolled I-Reap sub-projects, 9 or 19% are regular enterprises with a total sub-project cost of P2.804 billion while 38 or 81% are classified as Small Livelihood Projects (SLPs) costing about P120 million. Of the 7 Enterprises which were issued NOL1, the Isabela Dairy Enterprise was able to comply with the documentary requirements for procurement, thus this is the first enterprise which was issued with NOL2. PPMIU-Isabela is now in the process of procuring the needed equipment and facilities for the enterprise. Likewise, procurement of farm machineries was perfected by 10 or 26 percent of the total number of Small Livelihood Projects which were issued NOL1.



Finance

The Finance Unit coordinated with the PPMIUs/CPMIUs/MPMIUs and extended technical guidance to ensure the compliance with the documentary requirements for the signing of the Implementation Management Agreement (IMA) between the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial/Municipal Local Government Units. The IMA for the 19 I-BUILD sub-projects and 6 regular I-REAP sub-projects which were issued NOL1 were already endorsed to PSO. Likewise the IMA for 33 out of the 38 or 86.84 of the Small Livelihood Projects were already endorsed to PSO.

With the strong collaboration among the organic and hired PRDP Staff in the Accounting, Budget and Finance Units, vouchers and obligations were processed for payments. Likewise, monthly reports were prepared namely: a.) Statements of Receipts and Expenditures b.) Statements of Expenditures c.) Post Review Reports d) Utilization Report e) Subsidiary Ledger f.) Bank Reconciliation, and g) Tax remittances. This Unit prepared the 2016 Annual Statement of Sources and Application of Funds. Moreover, it reviewed billings for I-BUILD and I-REAP sub-projects prior to endorsement to PSO for fund transfer.

Procurement

A total of 20 I-BUILD sub-projects composed of 10 Communal Irrigation Systems, six (6) Civil Works and four (4) FMRs with Bridges (to include two (2) sub-projects of Cagayan which were re- issued NOL1 for rebidding) had undergone procurement processes at different stages. With the technical assistance extended by the staff of RPCO2-Procurement Unit to the concerned PLGU-Bids and Awards Committee, the bidding process for one (1) Civil Works of Isabela Dairy Enterprise was completed and already issued NOL2. Likewise, the Bid Evaluation Report

of one (1) FMR with Bridge in Cagayan and one (1) FMR in Isabela were already forwarded to PSO for review and issuance of NOL2. Opening of Bids for another Civil Works in Isabela was completed and the preparation of the Bid Evaluation Report is currently being undertaken by the PLGU-BAC. Pre-procurement conferences and posting of advertisement to bid were completed for the other sub-projects which will be subjected to other procurement processes in 2017.

Technical assistance was also extended by RPCO2 for the conduct of the different procurement processes for seven I-REAP regular sub-projects and 38 SLPs. With the completion of the procurement processes and the submission of the documentary requirements, 1 out of the 7 regular I-REAP sub-projects was already issued NOL2 and evaluation of the Purchase Requests Action Slips are still on-going for the remaining 6 sub-projects. On the other hand, with the PSO transfer of funds for 10 out the 38 SLPs, the Proponent Groups were able to purchase the farm machineries. For the remaining 28 SLPs, RPCO2 is closely coordinating with the Proponent Groups for the compliance of other documentary requirements such as Procurement Plans, Purchase Requests, Canvass, Abstracts and Purchase Orders.

Social and Environment Safeguards (SES) Unit

This Unit provided technical support to the various activities of the I-BUILD and I-REAP Components and the Procurement Unit. For the year, a total of 18 Feasibility Studies of sub-projects under the I-BUILD Component, 7 regular I-REAP sub-projects and 38 Small Livelihood Projects were reviewed to ensure the compliance of all documentary requirements for Social and Environmental Safeguards. The SES Unit also participated in the conduct of Geo-tagging and Sub-project Appraisal Report (SPAR) for all I-BUILD and I-REAP sub-projects proposed for RPAB review and endorsement to PSO. Likewise, the Unit was represented during the conduct of Pre-bid Conferences, Opening of Bids and Pre-Construction Conferences for all sub-projects which were issued NOL1 and the conduct of Joint PSO-RPCO2-PPMIU Inspection and Monitoring of on-going I-BUILD sub-projects.

To prepare the Proponent Groups in the implementation of their respective enterprise, the SES Unit formulated the training designs and the facilitated the actual conduct of Social Preparation Seminar. Likewise, the Unit conducted and hosted the conduct of Symposium on Social and Environmental Laws Governing the Implementation of PRDP



sub-projects for RPCO2 and PPMIU Staff; and conducted training on Applied Advanced Geotagging Technology for RPCO2 Staff.

Geo-tagging and Governance Unit (GGU)

As one of the Support Units, geo-tagging activities were conducted during site validations and preparation of Sub-project Appraisal Report (SPAR) of all proposed sub-projects in partnership with the I-BUILD and I-REAP components and the SES Unit.

Geo-tagging activities were also conducted in on-going sub-projects being implemented and analyzed geotag photos form part of the monitoring reports and basis in the evaluation of the Statement of Work Accomplished (SWA) for billing and payment. In addition, the GGU geo-tagged the Road Influence Areas (RIAs) of the 2 completed FMRs which were subjected to Rapid Appraisal for Emerging Benefits (RAEB). GGU also geotagged the RIAs to serve as baseline data for the profile of farmer beneficiaries of the 7 I-REAP regular sub-projects and the 38 SLPs.

Administrative Unit

To assist the RPCO2 Project Director and the designated Focal Person, an Action Officer was designated to oversee the day to day RPCO2 operation. In order to strengthen coordination between and among the RPCO2 staff and to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of PRDP activities, monthly RPCO2 coordination meetings were conducted.

Likewise, monthly coordination and harmonization meetings were conducted by RPCO2 with the Provincial/City Project Management and Implementing Units (P/CPMIUs). During these meetings, each

PPMIU and CPMIU share updates on PRDP implementation as well as issues and concerns. Actions and recommendations to address implementation problems, issues and concerns were agreed on with the RPCO2 management, and components/units heads.

The Administrative Support Unit also provided general support services such personnel administration and supervision, cashiering, and supplies procurement and management.

As of 2016, RPCO2 had a staff complement of 31 organic staff and 40 hired staff. On the basis of the 2016 Approved Work and Financial Plan, each staff was required to prepare his/her respective Performance Evaluation Profile (PEP) for the first and second semesters. The PEP is an evaluation tool to assess the performance of each staff.

To improve the capabilities of RPCO2 Staff, 12 trainings were conducted along news and features writing, photography and audio-videography and geo-tagging and web-based Management Information System.

To strengthen coordinative mechanisms between the NPCO, PSO-Luzon A Cluster and RPCO, concerned staff participated in quarterly coordination meetings to discuss updates, issues and concerns to improve PRDP project management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This Unit continued to store data and updated the status and progress of implementation of the Value Chain Analysis for the 21 priority commodities in the region; the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan of the 5 provinces and the City of Santiago; 44 I-BUILD and 46 I-REAP sub-projects through the



web-based management information system.

Monthly joint monitoring activities by the RPCO2-components and units were conducted in on-going sub-projects. Monthly, quarterly and annual accomplishments and progress reports were prepared and submitted to the PSO-Luzon A Cluster, DA-Regional Field Office, Regional Development Council 2-Regional Project Monitoring Committee and the Commission on Audit.

Technical assistance was extended to I-REAP Component in the conduct of briefing and actual conduct of survey and baseline data gathering for the profile of the Proponent Group of 7 I-REAP regular and 18 SLPs. The baseline data generated for household income of sample respondents in the “On-farm, Non-Farm and Off-farm” were uploaded in the Profile of the Proponent Groups in the web-based information system. The Unit coordinated the conduct of the RAEB for 2 substantially completed FMRs in Isabela with the support of the RPCO2 management and the participation of the different Components and Units from NPCO, PSO and RPCOs within the Luzon A Cluster. RAEB Report was prepared and submitted to PSO and NPCO.

InfoAce

Advocacy and information dissemination was intensified with the publication of the PRDP-Dos, a monthly newsletter which features the major activities, updates and progress of PRDP implementation in Region 2. Twelve issues of newsletters were distributed to NPCO; PSO Cluster for Luzon A, Luzon B, Visayas and Mindanao, RPCOs, Regional Line Agencies, Local Government Units, Academe and the Private Sector.

Stories and audio-video documentations were prepared based on the interviews and testimonies of sample respondents during the conduct of the RAEB in the 2 substantially completed FMRs in Isabela. Likewise, an audio-video documentation of the testimonies of Gov. Junie E. Cua of Quirino was prepared. These audio-video documentations were presented during the conduct of the Third World Bank Support Mission held on November 14-16, 2016 at Tabuk City, Kalinga.



RPCO2 was also given a one-hour slot every week in the DWDA- a radio station managed and operated by the DA-RFO2, to intensify information dissemination on PRDP and inform the public on the status of implementation of PRDP assisted sub-projects in Region 2.

To encourage the Local Government Units to propose sub-project for PRDP funding, orientations and briefings were conducted in 10 municipalities of Cagayan namely: Baggao, Sta. Ana, Sta. Teresita, Gon-

BOTTOM-UP BUDGETING PROJECTS

Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) is a well thorough strategy to reduce poverty incidence in the country. The initiative makes planning and budgeting processes of both local and national government more participatory, empowering local organizations and communities through genuine involvement and strengthening the convergence mechanism of the delivery of national services in the community and aims to ensure the inclusion of funding requirement for the development of the needs of the poorest municipalities and cities in the program budgets of the NGA's.

For CY 2014. Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) Project a total of One Hundred Ninety-Four (194) projects were funded with total allocation of Two Hundred Forty-Nine Million Four Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Pesos (P 249,445,000.00). The projects were undertaken by forty-six (46) municipalities from the five (5) provinces of Region 02. Of the 194 projects, One Hundred Seventy-Five (175) or 90.21 percent were completed with a total disbursement of Two Hundred Forty-Six Million Ninety-Five Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Five Pesos and 76/100 (P 246,095,385.76) or 98.66 percent.

For CY 2015. A total of One Hundred Seventy-Nine (179) projects was allocated with Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Million Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Pesos (P 227,978,000.00). The projects were undertaken by Seventy-Four (74) municipalities from the five (5) provinces of Region 02. Of the 179 projects, One Hundred Twenty-Nine (129) or 72.07 percent were completed with a total disbursement of Two Hundred Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five Pesos (P 204,528,765.00) or 89.71 percent.

For CY 2016. A total of One Hundred Sixty-One (161) projects was allocated with Two Hundred Fifty-Five Million One Hundred Thousand Fifty-Three Pesos (P 255,100,053.00). The total budget allocation was 100% obligated with a total of One Hundred Seventy-Five Million Seven Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Seven Pesos (P 175,718,937.00) or 68.88 percent disbursement, however only Fifty-Two (52) or 32.3 percent was accomplished with Seventy-one (71) municipalities as recipients of the different projects in Region 02.



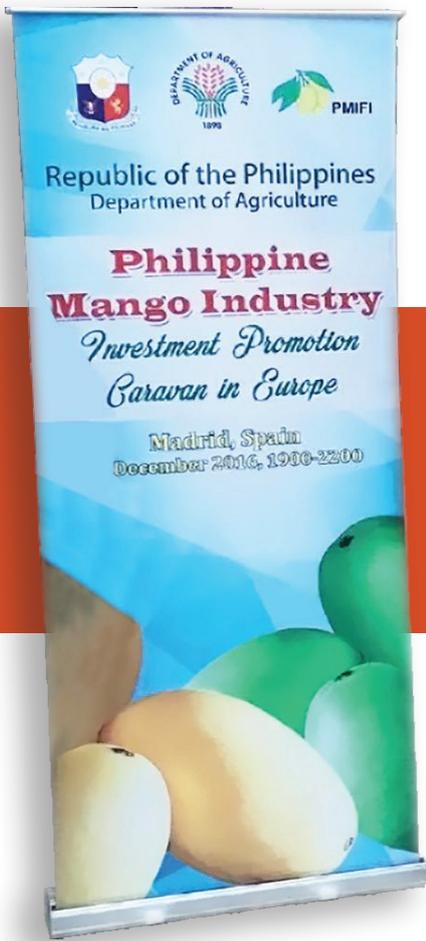


Other Notable Achievements





RED LUCRECIO R. ALVIAR JR. AND MS. KAY S. OLIVAS JOINED DA'S CONTINGENT FOR MANGO INVESTMENT PROMOTION CARAVAN IN EUROPE



Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. of the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA-RFO 02) was personally hand-picked by Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol to join the contingent for the Mango Investment Promotion Caravan in Europe, last November 25 to December 6, 2016.

November 25 to December 6, 2016. "I am humbled to be the Secretary's representative and lead the department's contingent in an official trip and promote our products abroad," Alviar said. The executive director said that the group had visited London, Vienna, Spain, Madrid, Austria and Belgium.

"I will be more than happy in reporting to the Office of the Secretary (OSEC) the lessons we learned in this trip. We hoped that from this travel, we were able to promote our mangoes in the world market," he said.

Alviar explained that the travel aimed to address the diminishing domestic investments on mango and to sustain efforts on developing the European Union (EU) as an alternative market.

"A total of 283 registered Filipino Community members attended the four (4) legs of the event who were interested to invest in the production, processing and distribution of mango in Europe."

First of its kind, the caravan was initiated by DA in collaboration with the Office of the Agricultural Attache (OAA), Philippine Embassy and Philippine Mango Industry Foundation, Inc. (PMIFI).

This was to promote promising investment opportunities in mango production, processing, importation/distribution of mangoes in the said countries.

The team went for market scanning Activity.

In the group's report, their first stop was Spitalfields Market, one of the biggest food wholesale hubs in London. It is catering to 80% of the Chinese markets and supermarkets in the country. Fruits and vegetables traded daily is 800,000 tons, of which 60% are imported and 40% are locally produced. The market occupied an expanse of 41 acres with 115 tenants.

Another was the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations, Vienna, Austria.

A presentation on Nuclear Applications in Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was given by the UN staff. The briefing focused on the advantages of nuclear techniques to agriculture, environmental protection and food safety.

Possible collaboration could be in the form of technical assistance, research, knowledge/technology transfer, disease and pest control through FAO representation in Manila with their FAO Programme Framework. Possible collaboration with the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) could lead through capability training on phytosanitary treatments to address quarantine pests

of mango and other technical assistance.

The delegation also visited the biggest wholesale hubs in Spain, Mercamadrid in Madrid. This market served as single-site, central trade-supply for the cities and their peripheral and catchment areas, specializing in fish, meat, fruits, vegetables and other food items.

Mercamadrid (La Capital de los Mercados) was considered as the "market of markets" having grown to be one of Europe's largest markets for perishable goods.

Established in 1982, a total of 800 companies operated within this 176-hectare facility.

In Belgium, the group also visited the European Center for Fruits and Vegetables, Brussels.

The center was established in 1991 by 23 companies that are into the import and export business of fruits and vegetables.

An average of 600,000 tons of fruits and vegetables coming from Spain, Italy, France and other EU countries are traded daily.

The whole center occupied a 25,000 square meters area: administration building, storage, and selling area with 64 stalls, gallery, cafeteria, and other offices. The ownership is 50% by the City government of Brussels and 50% by the shareholders (stall owners).

Still in Belgium, they also witnessed the operation of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chains. They were briefed on the role of Belgian Food Safety Agency in ensuring food safety and control of the whole food chain. Financing of the agency's activities was through the national federal budget.

The delegates were also given the opportunity to visit Zeebrugge Port, the hub and gateway for the EU market offering container handling, RORO facilities, logistics distribution and production activities, cold storage facilities, and other services for the distribution of food items and products in the EU markets.

The team led by Alviar was composed of Executive Directors Andrew B. Villacorta of RFO 03, Valentino C. Perdido of RFO 01 and Remelyn R. Recoter of RFO 06, Ms. Rowena S. Genete and Luzviminda F. Tolentino of DA-AMAS, Ms. Kristine Jeanne Yap of DA-IAD and Ms. Kay S. Olivas and Ms. Dori Joy Garcia, Chief Planning Officers of RFOs 2 and 1, respectively.

CAGAYAN VALLEY'S ACOSTA ADJUDGED AS COUNTRY'S MOST OUTSTANDING RAFC CHAIRPERSON



The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) had recently awarded Mr. Isidro Acosta Sr., Chair, Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC)-Cagayan Valley as the nation's 2016 Most Outstanding Chairperson.

The prestigious award was given to Mr. Acosta during the DA-PCAF's Volunteers' Day Celebration held at Pampanga. He bested other Chairpersons in the entire country.

Already in his 80's, Acosta was very active in the successful operation of various Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFC) in Region 02.

During his term, AFC's in Cagayan Valley had received numerous national awards particularly the Provincial and Municipal in the past years.

The region is known to be good implementer of agri-fishery programs and source of outstanding agricultural achievers, which the council has a big role.

Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. of DA – Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA-RFO 02) was very vocal and thankful for the support of AFC in the successful implementation of agricultural programs in the region.

“For DA’s project monitoring and evaluation, the council is very active. Their role is also critical in the planning and implementation of projects that will guide planners in coming up of good programs.” he said.

“For exemplifying strong leadership, deep sense of volunteerism and selfless service that contributed to the upliftment of the lives of farmers and fisherfolks of Cagayan Valley, we take our hats off to Mr. Acosta and to all the officials and members of AFC.”

In terms of Gawad Saka search for outstanding agri-fishery achievers, Alviar disclosed that AFC was instrumental when the region was awarded as Champion Advocate by producing the most number of awardees nationwide.

“Kung hindi dahil sa kanilang supporta, hindi sana natin nakuha ang mga napakaraming awards na iginawad sa atin,” Alviar equipped.

A successful integrated farmer who owns a farm in his town, Naguilian, Isabela, Acosta is a retired Assistant Branch Manager of Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). He also served as Presidential Assistant on Community Development

(PACD, now DILG) from 1957 to 1965.

After his retirement, he was elected as Chair of PAFC Isabela from 1995 to 2004. After which, he was elected as RAFC Chair and holding it to date.

He was a former Vice President of Philippine Maize Federation Inc. and now a member of the Board.

He headed the Provincial Technical Education and Skills Development Council, Vice President of ASEAN Farmers Regional Network (Phils) Inc. and appointed as Magsasaka Siyentista (Farmer Scientist) by DOST, PCARRD and CVARRD.

He was a good private sector representative of various national agencies' boards and advisory groups in local and national levels to include Regional Development Council (RDC).

Acosta is happily married to the former Evangeline Dumlao with whom they are blessed with six (6) children, all professionals. He is a very fulfilled man.



DA-REGION 02 STAKEHOLDERS ATTEND NOAC, COORDINATOR HAILED AS MOST OUTSTANDING REGIONAL FOCAL PERSON

Unfolding the theme “Organiko a Wagas: Tattao ken Aglawlaw Nadur-as”, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA-RFO 02) and stakeholders participated in the 13th National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) on November 22-25, 2016 at the Plaza del Norte, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

Cagayan Valley participants included farmer producers, processors, researchers from the different Local Government Units (LGU), State Universities and Colleges (SUC), government agencies and private sector.

The objectives of the congress were to further strengthen the advocacy and promotion of organic agriculture in the country; to update agriculture stakeholders on the recent organic agriculture best practices and technologies; to link organic producers to potential market and to recognize stakeholders having exemplary performance in the practice of Organic Agriculture.

The three-day affair was highlighted with product exhibition and trade fair where the stakeholders displayed their champion products in their booth for each region either fresh or processed. Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol of the Department of Agriculture was the Keynote Speaker. With him as special guests were Governor Imee Romualdez Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Dr. Valentino C. Perdido,

Regional Executive Director, DA-Regional Field Office No. 1 (DA-RFO 1), Director Christopher Morales, National Focal Person, Organic Agriculture, among others.

In his speech, Piñol said that organic agriculture is now a worldwide trend. “Organically-grown products were best for humans and the environment. It should be since everyone now is longing for safe foods for health and productivity reasons,” he uttered.

Likewise, the launching of the First Slow Food Philippines “Ark of Taste” was conducted. Slow Food is a global grass root organization founded in 1989 to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and conditions and to counteract the rise of fast life and combat peoples’ dwindling interest in the food they eat.

Slow Food philosophy is based on a concept of food that is defined in the three (3) principles: (1) Good: quality, flavorsome and healthy food; (2) Clean: production that does not harm environment; (3) Fair: accessible prices for consumers and fair conditions and pay for producers.

Recognition and awards were given to stakeholders with exemplary accomplishments in the field of organic farming as a manifestation in their dedication to practice agriculture in an organic way.

Cash awards as project grants were given to those who ranked number one (1) and plaque of appreciation to the shortlisted finalists.

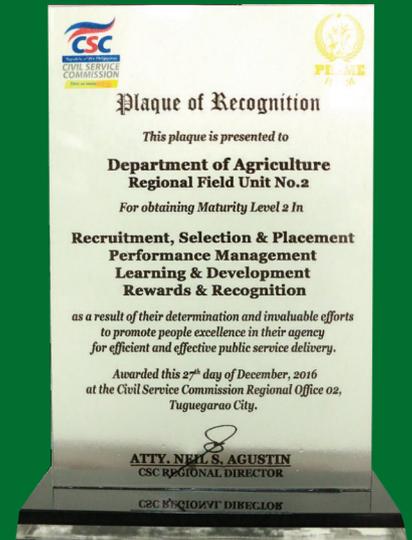
Meanwhile, DA Region 02, Regional Organic Agriculture Focal Person, Ms. Marina A. Acebedo was awarded Most Outstanding Organic Agriculture Focal Person in the country. She is the first awardee since the start of OA implementation in 2011.

Ms. Acebedo was adjudged as Most Outstanding Organic Agriculture Focal Person due to the consistent number one (1) performance of DA Region 02 in the implementation of the program.

Her being outstanding was due to the all-out support of DA management and the Organic Agriculture stakeholders and project leaders in their utmost cooperation in the implementation of projects in the region.

The month of November was declared as National Organic Agriculture month under Presidential Decree Proclamation No. 1030. To coincide with this proclamation is the conduct of NOAC.

DA-RFO 02 GAINED MATURITY LEVEL FROM CSC



The Civil Service Commission (CSC) awarded twenty four (24) Government Agencies that met Maturity Level 2 under Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) on December 27, 2016 at Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

The Department of Agriculture- Regional Field Office No. 02 was one of the Government Agencies which received the Maturity Level 2 in the recruitment, selection and placement, performance management, learning and development and awards and recognition. Maturity Level 2 is a prestigious award from the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

DA-RFO 02 was acknowledged by CSC because of its exemplary performance being one of the six (6) agencies which implements the four (4) core human resource management areas.

The program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) is a mechanism to empower government agencies by enhancing their human resource management competencies, systems and practices towards human resource management.

The transformation we realized in the Department and the award we received are just manifestation that we need to pursue more and strengthen the workforce for the benefit of our clientele, Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr., said.

RED Alviar also thanked who encouraged all his co-public servants to continue the good management practices in pursuit of excellence.

DBM DECLARED DA-RFO 02 AS THE BEST PERFORMER; PBB IS AT STAKE



The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) adjudged the **Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office No. 02 as the Top Performer for CY 2015.**

As the best player, **DA-RFO 02** is hereby granted with **Performance-Based Bonus (PBB).**

Administrative Order No. 25, also known as Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring, Information and Reporting Systems states that DA-RFO 02 is one of the best implementers under the agriculture sector. The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) likewise received the same award. The two (2) agencies led in the attainment of targets for the year 2015 hence PBB is approved.

“Strategically, PBB greatly contributed to the organizational and employees’ performance”, Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr., said. He also added that PBB is one way to have concrete and continued public service for the farmers and fisherfolk.

“I am grateful for we are ahead among the regional offices nationwide, we maintain to be number 1. We could hardly meet this without your support and cooperation. We are now reaping the fruits of our unified efforts because of the various awards we received,” RED Alviar stated.

“This is a manifestation of our struggles to improve the life of our clientele and to continue extend efficient and effective public service”.

Not only popular as award winning Research Center of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the Philippines but now a crowd attraction in Cagayan Valley. After passing the rigid evaluation of Department of Tourism (DOT) Region 02 in the first quarter of 2016, the DA-Cagayan Valley Research Center (DA-CVRC) was finally and officially declared on May 23, 2016 as the 1st research station accredited in the country as AGRO-ECO TOURIST SITE. This is pursuant to Republic Act 10816-Farm Development Act of 2016 which intends to provide for the development and promotion of Farm Tourism in the Philippines and other purposes.

For tourists and visitors who love nature and want to experience a real farm-bam life, DA-CVRC attractions are open daily from 7:00 a.m to 5:00 pm (for field visits) with accommodation and function rooms flexibly open for transient visitors. Its main station is located at Barangay San Felipe while its annex-station can be found in Barangay Baligatan both in City of Ilagan, Isabela.

Allow me to tour you anyway to our latest unique farm attractions. As you enter, we appreciate your great smile in lieu of free entrance but do not miss taking selfie/groufie shots at our PINAKBET PARK and CORNPEANUT statutes. Ooops...don't run, you might break your camera because our beautiful edible landscape and botanical gardens are more exciting for photo-opts. Now, have a deep breath as you pass inside our long GARDEN TUNNEL but be sure your camera battery is still okay because you might regret not having selfies at the tunnel wowed corner solemnly praying and making wish.

Unwind more as you proceed to the CHILDREN'S GARDEN PARK but try to recall your Bahay Kubo Song lyrics while you are in reminiscence with the basics of gardening, planting with fun and playing. Don't worry of the mud and soil in your feet and hands, we have TILAPeUTIK Lagoon within organic rice areas for gentle cleaning and washing. Your tour is just at the middle, pack-up and get a basket from our tourists guide for garden shopping called PUBLIC PICK & PAY and don't be afraid to try eating some raw potatoes and leafy vegetables because they are grown organically anyway. Well, our plant breeders may opt to invite you to try actual emasculation and pollination of corn and peanut in our BREEDING PARK...at least educational this time but transfer the best plant genes please because we will keep and preserve it for you and future generations in our Plant Genetic Resources GENE BANK. Wehhh, wanted chicks-lover... please say hello to our NATIVE CHICKEN PARK (you might regret not taking photo there also). I guess you're now hungry (as I heard uggggg stomach sounds), our MANGI FOOD HAUZ (the biggest corn food house in the Philippines) is ready to serve unique but affordable cornbased foods for you and your company.

DA-CVRC

NOW AN ACCREDITED AGRO-ECO TOURIST DESTINATION IN THE COUNTRY

While inside the Food Hauz, you may open your wallet/purse for souvenirs shopping but I doubt if you will not request the food attendants to assist you bringing your foods in SWIP PARK where floating Kubo-Houses are waving you for dining, napping and above all the unending picture-taking. As you end your tour, we appreciate you saying "I will come back with more of our family members, relatives and friends", it is more than saying Thank You!!!





DA-RFO 02 Receives Major Awards during the 28th National Research Symposium

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA-RFO 02) garnered two (2) major awards and several citations during the conduct of the 28th National Research Symposium (NRS) held on October 26-27, 2016 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) in Quezon City. Hosted by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), the activity gave emphasis on this year's theme "Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity through Research and Development towards Food Sufficiency and Competitive Enterprises."

Director Nicomedes Eleazar of BAR expressed in his opening message the role of research and development in making food available and affordable to all Filipinos, increasing income of farmers and fishers as well as the resiliency of crops.

Paper Qualifiers on AFMA R&D were awarded during the first day. Said papers are those garnering a score of 80% and above during the initial screening. DA-RFO 02 garnered seven (7) AFMA Qualifiers out of the nine (9) entries submitted. Likewise, four (4) papers were awarded as finalists for the AFMA Best R&D Paper Awards under the Development, Socio-Economics, and Applied Research Technology Adaptation/Technology Verification Categories. A total of 84 qualifiers were recognized and 24 papers were qualified for presentation as finalists.

Meanwhile, entries of DA-RFO 02 in the Development and Socio-Economics Categories were adjudged as victors during the awarding ceremony held at BSWM in Quezon City. The research project of CVRC entitled, "Pinoy GOURmix Technology Commercialization in Region 02" under the Development-

Agriculture Category garnered the Gold award. It was presented by Ms. Rose Mary G. Aquino, Manager, CVRC and the lead researcher of the project. In addition, it was awarded with P100,000 cash prize, a plaque of recognition and 1 million peso research grant. Ms. Aquino tied with the DA-Regional Field Office 01 who was also a Gold awardee and also garnered the Bronze award.

The research project of the Research Division, DA-RFO 02 on "Evaluation Study on the Effectiveness & Sustainability of SWIP in Region 02" was hailed as Silver



Awardee with P75, 000 cash prize and a plaque of recognition. It was presented by Ms. Maria Victoria Gazmin, a contractual employee of the said division. She competed with Dr. Flordeliza Bordey of the Philippine Rice Institute who was declared as Gold awardee while Bronze award was given to Benguet State University (BSU).

Along with the celebration of 28th NRS are the Nationwide Book Launching of "A Decade of Success" and the Awarding of the Gawad Saka Finalists. The book is a compendium of agriculture and fisheries Research and Development projects supported by the Bureau of Agricultural Research from 2005-2014.

There were 43 projects along Research

and Development, Institutional Development Project Grants and Scientific Publication Grant that were published in the compendium of Region 02.

In the Awarding of Gawad Saka Finalists, qualifiers under the Outstanding Researcher and Outstanding Scientist were recognized and given awards. Ms. Rose Mary Aquino, Center Manager of the CVRC was one of the awardees for the Outstanding Researcher finalists. Along with her were Dr. Sailila Abdulla of Executive Director of PhilRice, Dr. Riza Abilgas-Ramos of PhilRice and Ms. Alicia Bulawan of DA-RFO 08. They were given certificate of recognition. Present in the awarding ceremony were researchers from DA-Regional Field Offices from the entire Philippines including their Regional Technical Directors and for Research and Regulatory and Research Managers as well as Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Research Managers. Also, researchers of State Universities and Colleges attended the event. BAR officials, Dr. Vic Gutierrez, Assistant Director for Livestock and Engr. Ariel Cayan, Undersecretary for Operations who represented the Agriculture Secretary graced the activity.

In his closing message, BAR Assistant Director Ted Solsoloy encouraged everyone to train younger batch of budding scientists who are compassionate in all endeavours most especially research. NRS is an annual activity conducted by BAR to promote R&D excellence and identify and disseminate new technologies and knowledge useful to agriculture and fisheries modernization. Likewise, it serves as an avenue to recognize researches whose works have resulted to new technologies/ product, information, process or systems that are beneficial to the agriculture and fisheries sector.



DWDA started full-blown Broadcast Operations

The educational radio station of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA-RFO 02), DWDA 105.3 MHz FM Radyo Pangkaunlaran, started its regular broadcast operations.

Being the first radio station owned and managed by a regional office of DA, DWDA operates from 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Monday to Saturday.

According to DA-RFO 02 Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr., the station serves as a ready venue for the agency's dissemination of various programs, projects, services, and other agriculture-related concerns.

"I was not spared to the broadcast operations of DWDA since I have my own schedule every Monday at 5:00 – 6:00 AM entitled Agri-ing Kayon Director's Hour," Alviar said.

He explained that banner programs, divisions, and research centers/experiment stations have their own time slots.

"This team effort is essential for the timely dissemination of the latest developments and information relative to agriculture. We owe this to our development partners, the farming communities, and the general public."

Meantime, the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) had already gone full blast on airwaves. The project is being discussed during the Agri-Espesyal Program every Friday, 6:00 to 7:00 AM.

"During one of its episodes, the PRDP National Deputy Project Director, Engr. Arnel V. de Mesa, served as the resource person," said Mr. Hector U. Tabbun, Regional



Information Officer of DA-RFO 02 and the new Head of the RPO2 InfoACE Unit.

"The Agri-Espesyal Program discusses DA's special concerns such as the PRDP, Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) and services offered by the Finance and Administrative Division (FAD) and the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED)."

Tabbun shared that the Regional Agricultural and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) will spearhead and ensure the smooth operation of DWDA in coordination with all the involved divisions/units and banner programs.

"Our farmcasters are the DA-RFO 02 employees who were trained to handle radio broadcasting. We are lucky to have them as broadcasters in addition to their current duties and responsibilities."

Tabbun encouraged the farmers and fisherfolk and the general public to tune in to DWDA for its daily programs.

"We assure the public that we will air topics concerning the needs of our clients. This facility will be the answer on problems of agriculture sector particularly the low adoption of technologies."

Radio remains an effective medium of information transfer even in this modern era. According to studies, farmers and fisherfolk still prefer radio as a source of information owing to its being handy and affordability.

DWDA Daily Program Schedules

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4:45 – 5:00				SIGN ON			
5:00 – 5:30	Agri-ing Kayon Directors' Hour (Mr. Domingo T. Fugaban)	Agri-Corn-Ture Corn (Ms. Vilma P. Soriano, Mr. Angelo Gaygay)	Madiskarteng Pagsasaka PhilRice SOA	Agri-Tayo Kay Dok Livestock (Dr. Butch Busanin, Dr. Manuel Galang, Mr. Demetrio Gumiran)	Agri-Gulayan at Prutasan High Value Crops Development Program (Ms. Kathy Balao, Ms. Carol Albay, Ms. Edna Valdez)	Gumil Hour Baru A Rupa Baru a Nammama (Mr. Arthur Urata)	OFF - AIR (Maintenance)
5:30 – 6:00			Agri-ing Kayon (Mr. Domingo T. Fugaban)				
6:00 – 7:00	Agri-Palayan Rice (Ms. Juliet Pedro, Ms. Jing Ubay, Ms. Eva Eslava, Mr. Jofel Macatay)	Agri-Organik Tayo Organic Agriculture (Mr. George Caday, Mr. Ramil Jose)	Agri- Pangkabuhayan AMAD (Ms. Vivien Delos Santos, Ms. Precious Pariblo, Ms. Rosario Pacarangan, Mr. Sherwin Marquín)	Agri-Search Research Division (Ms. Chona Pascoa, Ms. Liway Gazmen, Ms. Jonabel Infante)	Agri-Espesyal at Iba Pa BUB, PRDP, PMED, FAD (Mr. Gerone Butay, Ms. Alma Besa, Ms. Jen-Jen Balautan, Mr. Dicksteine Paeual, Ms. Gael Valerie Ramos, Ms. Feena Marie Aguinaldo, Ms. Betty Tamaray, Mr. Bernard Malazzab, Ms. Bernadette Galoso)		
7:00 – 8:00	Agri-Kapehan sa Kanayunan (Monday Edition) Dr. Rodrigo P. Sonico	Agri-Suriin Natin ILD (Dr. Judith Tattao, Ms. Julian Parato, Ms. Lawrence Gaspar, Ms. Dona Gudasen)	Agri-Inhinyero RAED (Engr. Monico Castro, Ms. Sally Jane Balbuena, Engr. Artemio Vergara)	Agri-Taktakan Mr. Jayson Soriano	Department of Education RAED Mr. Ferdinand Narciso DepEd Dos: InFocus	Agri-Kapehan sa Kanayunan (Saturday Edition) Dr. Rodrigo P. Sonico	
8:00 – 9:00	Agri-Gulasyon Regulatory (Ms. Shiela Orpilla, Mr. Marvin Luis, Joseph Banares, Ms. Percy Suyu)	Filler Music (TOB)	Agri-Sensadong Sakahan sa Kanayunan SCRC (Engr. Rodolfo Bayucan, Mr. Jaylord Bagasin, Ms. Cherrybel O. Cubero)	Filler Music (TOB)	Agri-Sakahan sa Amianan NCES (D. Marilou Agaid, Ms. Jennilyn Tayawa, Mr. Emmanuel Tipon)	QUEDANCOR	
9:00 – 10:00	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Open Slot	
10:00 – 11:00	Agri-Pantahanan Ms. Prisca Baquiran Ms. Anita Bulaguí	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Open Slot	SUNDAY
11:00 – 12:00	Agri-Kambingan at Iba Pa CBS (Ms. Charity Versosa, Dr. Brian Sibayan, Geronimo Grospe)	Agri-Henyon Sa Sakahan CVRC (Ms. Gemma G. Baguna, Ms. Irish Ramos)	Yes, Agri-Tayo sa IES IES (Dr. Jackie Gumiran, Mr. Cornelio Rollan)	Agri-Quest QES (Mr. Archieval Sabado, Ms. Loida Basug, Dr. Jake Casballido)	Agri - Sakahan Sa Kabundukan NVES (Mr. Salvador Bulda, Mr. Dexter Tapecc, Dr. Vincent Palor, Ms. Debby Dominguez)	Buhay Mandaragat BFAR	OFF - AIR (Maintenance)
12:00 – 1:00	Agri-Tayo Rehiyon Dos (Mr. Rogelio Matalang, Ms. Barby Lagajet)	Agri-Kasiyahan sa Tanghali (Ms. Gael Valerie Ramos, Mr. Rene Tallud)	Agri-Bida (Mr. Jaycee Capalungan, Mr. Julian Florague)	Agri-Kasiyahan sa Tanghali (Ms. Feena Marie Aguinaldo, Mr. Angelo Gaygay)	Agri-Tayo Rehiyon Dos (Dr. Rogelio Matalang, Ms. Barby Lagajet)	Agri-dam (Mr. Manases Lacambra)	
1:00 – 2:00	Agri-Tekno Con Turismo Ms. Catherine Jimenez	Agri-Siesta Mr. Jayson Soriano	Filler Music (TOB)	Agri-Siesta Mr. Jayson Soriano	Filler Music (TOB)	KKK CSU Volunteer Djs	
2:00 – 3:00	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Open Slot	
3:00 – 4:00	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	National Nutrition Council One Nutrition One Nation	Filler Music (TOB)	Filler Music (TOB)	Open Slot	
4:00 – 5:00	Agri-Fiesta Mr. Hector Tabbun & RAFIS staff	Filler Music (TOB)	Agri-Fiesta Mr. Jayson Soriano & RAFIS staff	Filler Music (TOB)	Agri-Fiesta Mr. Renato Tarun, Mr. Erwin Cachero, Mr. Kevin Natividad	Open Slot	
5:00 – 5:15				SIGN OFF			

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