



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

SPECIAL EDITION

*Opportunities Unzipped: Transcending Sustainable Innovations
towards Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya!*



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CAGAYAN VALLEY



About the Cover

In the heart of Cagayan Valley lies a landscape ripe with potential, where fertile fields stretch as far as the eye can see. Each day, as the sun rises, farmers and fisherfolk, supported by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 02, work diligently to revolutionize farming practices by intertwining tradition with modernity.

By breaking the barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we have begun to unzip and uncover a wealth of opportunities. Each sustainable innovation adopted has moved us closer to the vision of *"Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya"*.

Together, stakeholders have embraced this journey, driven by a shared commitment to unlocking the region's full agricultural potential and building a sustainable future filled with abundance and prosperity for generations to come.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Centered on the theme "Unzipped Opportunities: Transcending Sustainable Innovations para sa Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya," we welcome you to the Annual Report Special Edition of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA RFO 02) for the transformative year of 2023.

The unprecedented appointment of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture marked a unique leadership in the department's history. Hence, through this special report, we invite you to explore how DA RFO 02 has fulfilled its mandate in accordance with the vision laid by our President, and reinforced further by Secretary Francisco P. Laurel, Jr. when he assumed office in November 2023.

This report not only details the department's accomplishments for the year, but it also provides insights into the adjustments and initiatives undertaken in response to the national agenda of modernizing agriculture and agribusiness. In particular, the preliminary pages offer an overview of the overarching policies and frameworks that guide our plans, programs, and activities in strengthening the agricultural sector.

As we continue to navigate the complexities of modern agriculture, collaboration and partnership have emerged as invaluable assets. "Unzipped opportunities" signifies our commitment to uncovering and harnessing the boundless potential within the valley. Hence, we express our heartfelt appreciation to our stakeholders, partners, and farm and fishery communities for their steadfast support and collaboration. Thank you for your continued trust in the Department of Agriculture Cagayan Valley. We invite you to explore this report, celebrate our achievements, and join us in our journey towards a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.

The entire Editorial Board ensured meticulous attention to detail, and dedicated unwavering passion to bring our organization's story to life. This powerful narrative celebrates not just our successes, but also the valuable lessons along the way. With this report, we aim to delve deeper and gain even more insights for our continued growth.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD
2023 Annual Report Special Edition



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Mandate

The Department is the 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.

In the fulfillment of this mandate, it shall be the primary concern of the Department to improve farm income and to generate work opportunities for farmers, fishermen, and other rural workers. It shall encourage people's participation in agricultural development through sectoral representation in agricultural policy-making bodies so that the policies, plans, and programs of the Department are formulated and executed to satisfy their needs.

It shall also use a bottom-up self-reliant farm system approach that will emphasize social justice, equity, productivity, and sustainability in the use of agricultural resources.

Vision

Cagayan Valley as modernized and industrialized consolidation hub for quality pre-processed and processed foods-feeds farm products through Regenerative Agriculture. **Dedicated Agency-Delivering Outstanding Services Ayos!**

DA-DOS AYOS!

Mission

To collectively empower farmers and fisherfolk and the private sector to increase agricultural productivity and profitability, taking into account sustainability and resilience.

FOREWORD

As we reflect on the journey of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 02 throughout 2023, I am humbled and deeply grateful for the unwavering support and cooperation of our farming communities. Together, we have navigated the challenges of our agricultural landscape, standing united in our mission to combat food scarcity and nourish a population of more than 3.7 million.

Under the visionary leadership of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., we have embraced innovation as the engine of progress. From adopting modified planting calendars to utilizing drones for precision farming, we have eagerly welcomed modernization, recognizing its potential in increasing production and advancing the entire value chain.

However, our work transcends beyond fields and spreadsheets. Therefore, amidst our pursuit of technological advancement, let us never lose sight of the human element—the hardworking farmers laboring under the sun, the families sustained by their blood, sweat, and tears, and the nation uplifted by their resilience. We must lead and serve them with integrity, because our success is not solely measured by the outcomes we achieve but also by the manner in which we achieve them.

To our leaders and stakeholders, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your invaluable guidance and collaboration. Together, through our coordinated efforts and strong connections, we have achieved remarkable progress, empowering farmers and bolstering their self-sufficiency.

We acknowledge our partners from the National Government Agencies (NGAs) that initiate various strategies and develop policies for agricultural advancement in their areas of concern, contributing to the vision laid by the current administration.

We highly recognize the relentless support of the Local Government Units (LGUs) as our primary partners in agricultural development. Their crucial role in program and project implementations is invaluable.

We salute the Farmer Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs), the women sector, and our young farmers for their commitment to boosting the agricultural sector, utilizing their available resources alongside the Department's provisions.



In closing, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you, the unsung heroes of our agricultural landscape: the farmers, fisherfolk, and livestock raisers. Your dedication, passion, and commitment are the driving forces behind our success.

Building on a holistic engagement, we aim to ensure that the region remains at the forefront of agricultural innovation and sustainability. As we chart our course for the future, let us carry forward the lessons and the achievements. Let us strive to become competent public servants dedicated to leaving a lasting impact, and ensure that our plans and programs align with the aspirations of our administration and the needs of our farmers.

Together, let us continue to unzip and unearth the boundless opportunities that lie ahead in this valley, as we journey towards achieving Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya.

Mabalo! Tunay ngang sa DA-DOS, ayos!

DR. ROSE MARY G. AQUINO
Regional Executive Director

Food is not just a trade commodity.

Without it, people weaken and die; societies come apart.

It is more than a livelihood; it is an existential imperative and a moral one.

- PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.

during his inauguration at the National Museum of the Philippines, June 30, 2022

Our country greatly depends on agriculture. With this, President Marcos' vision for the agriculture sector is to increase the yield of the country's main staple and provide support to those in need of agricultural interventions.

Assuming the presidency as the 17th leader of the nation, President Ferdinand "Bong-Bong" Romualdez Marcos Jr. took the unprecedented step of assuming leadership of the Department of Agriculture in response to the looming global food crisis. In his inaugural message on June 30, 2022, the President noted that the country's agriculture sector "cries for urgent attention" after years of neglect and misdirection. This decision to lead the sector underscores a heightened priority to proactively respond to both local and global challenges facing agriculture.

As the country's Chief Executive, PBBM brought renewed hope and a sense of urgency needed to actualize the visions of agricultural innovation, efficiency, and inclusive economic growth. With food security in mind, the Agriculture sector was allocated Php 184.1 billion with a budgetary boost of 39.2 percent from its 2022 budget of Php 132.2 billion.

During his tenure, spanning June 2022 to November 2023, President Marcos Jr. embarked on an ambitious agenda to improve and expedite agricultural programs, revitalize the value chain of the department, and restructure agency operations. At the core of his initiatives laid the ultimate goal of ensuring food security and nutrition for the Filipino people, with a particular emphasis on affordability and accessibility for the masses.

At the forefront is the resurgence of KADIWA stores, reconnecting farmers and consumers while fostering economic opportunities. President Marcos's strategies of consolidation, modernization, mechanization, and enhancement of agricultural value chains have spurred a 2.2 percent sector growth in just three months. Science and sustainability guided his approach, with investments in bio-fertilizers and revisions to the Fisheries Code. Empowering farmers through clustering and infrastructure, President Marcos cultivated resilience against challenges like El Niño and smuggling.

Under President Marcos' leadership, DA RFO 02 has witnessed a rise of transformative initiatives aimed at revolutionizing farming practices and uplifting rural communities. Through collaborative partnerships with stakeholders and the private sector, innovative research and development efforts, and targeted investment in infrastructure, President Marcos helped pave the way for a future where “Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya” was not merely a vision but a tangible reality. Together, under his leadership, DA RFO 02 stood poised to achieve remarkable milestones in increasing food production and profitability, sustainable development, and empowering our rural sector.

While we reflect on the accomplishments and strides made during President Marcos Jr.'s service as National Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, we acknowledge the significance of his leadership in driving positive change and advancing the agricultural agenda of our nation, and of the Cagayan Valley region in particular. In President Marcos Jr.'s vision, agriculture is more than just cultivation—it is a pathway to prosperity, sustainability, and a brighter future for all Filipinos.

As we continue our journey towards a food-secure and resilient region with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk, let us continue to build upon the foundations laid during this pivotal period, rallying behind President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., and guided by the principles of social justice, equity, and sustainability.

Source: Bongbong Marcos Facebook



BLUEPRINT FOR GROWTH:

UNDERSTANDING THE POLICY FOUNDATIONS OF DA'S INITIATIVES

As the agricultural arm of the region, DA RFO 02 relies on a strategic framework outlined in legislative policies and national development plans. By aligning its programs and projects with national priorities and leveraging synergies across sectors, DA RFO 02 ensures a harmonized and impactful approach to agricultural development. Moreover, these documents enable the department to navigate through challenges and inevitable changes while staying steadfast in its commitment to promoting agricultural growth in the Cagayan Valley region.

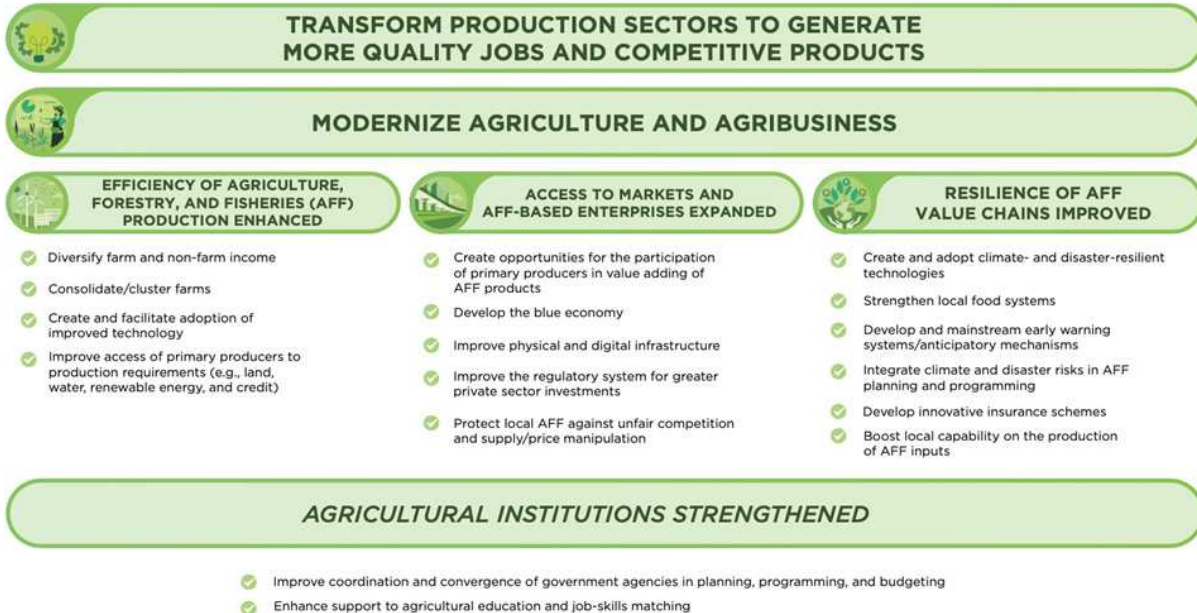
THE 8-POINT SOCIOECONOMIC AGENDA

Under the current administration, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda aims to address immediate challenges and foster long-term resilience. Rooted in principles of prosperity and inclusivity, this agenda provides a framework for navigating economic barriers and unlocking the full potential of the agricultural sector as a driver of national development and the main source of our food security (DBM 2023).



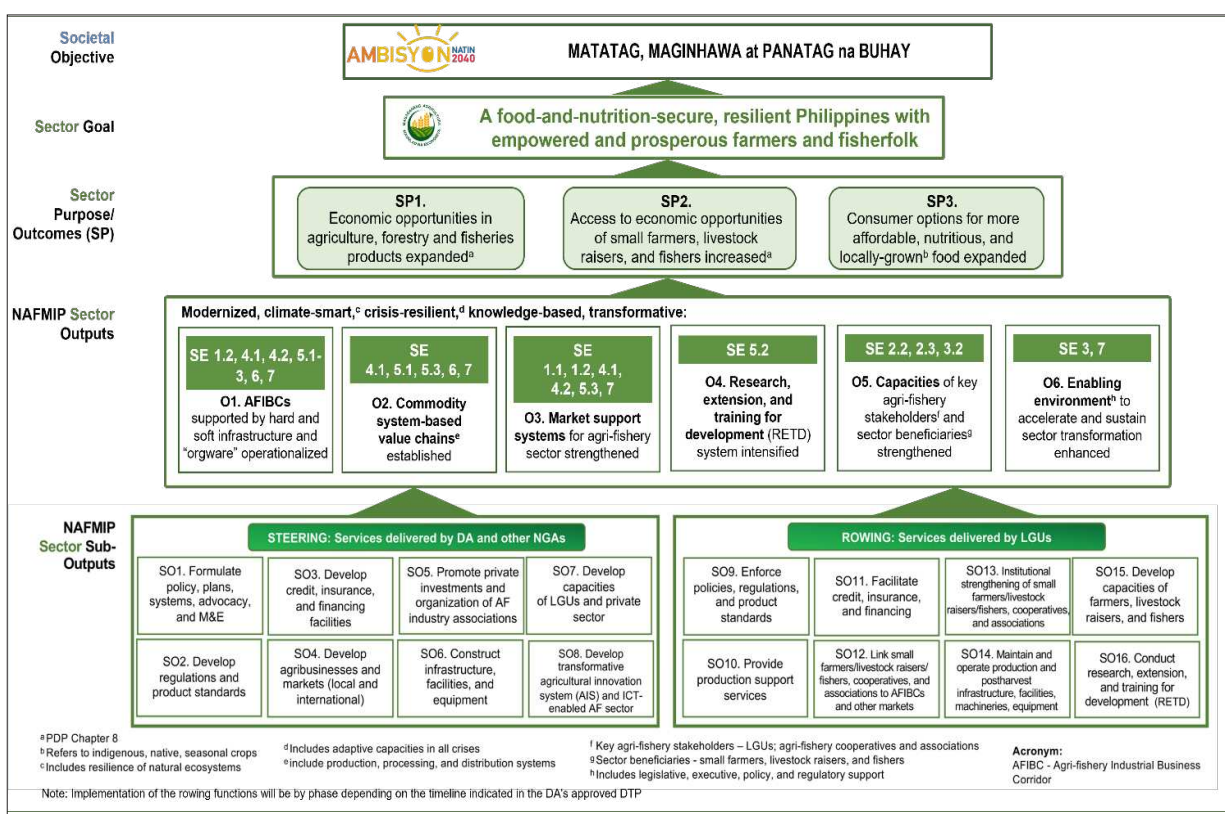
PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF 2023-2028

This plan, stemming from the 8 Socioeconomic Agenda, serves as a blueprint for deep nationwide economic and social transformations. Progress in the agriculture, forestry, and fishery (AFF) sector is particularly indispensable for fostering inclusive growth, reducing poverty, and meeting the objectives outlined in the Millenium Development Goals. Hence, Chapter 5 of the PDP outlines the proposed strategies and policies for the modernization of agriculture and agribusiness.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION PLAN (NAFMIP) 2021-2030

Spanning a decade, NAFMIP represents a collective vision for sector-wide growth using a policy-driven approach. It serves as a roadmap for enhancing commodity system industry development and bolstering agricultural infrastructure to realize objectives of food sovereignty and inclusive growth.



Thrusts & Strategic Agenda

To operationalize these strategic directives, DA RFO 02 has articulated clear thrusts and strategic agenda, serving as the guiding principles that underpin its initiatives. From boosting local production and strengthening value chains to attaining food security and institutionalizing policy reforms, these thrusts reflect a commitment to modernization, inclusivity, and resilience in the agricultural sector.

BOOSTING LOCAL PRODUCTION AND RAISING THE FARMERS' AND FISHERFOLK'S INCOME



Improving access to production requirements through:

- Distribution of inputs to small farmers and fishers;
- Provision of easy, affordable and adequate credit programs, as well as expansion of the program's reach; and
- Provision of sustainable and climate-smart irrigation facilities.

Reducing production cost through:

- Expediting the distribution of fertilizer vouchers and fuel discount cards;
- Provision of farm machinery and equipment with corresponding training;
- Intensified promotion and adoption of balanced fertilization, precision farming, and other input reducing techniques
- Strengthening local agri-fishery input sources;

Ensuring sufficient buffer stocks and faster implementation of response, rehabilitation and recovery programs during and after disasters and calamities; and

Intensifying clustering and consolidation of farmers and fisherfolk into small and medium groups to take advantage of economies of scale and fast track the completion of cluster development plans.

DEVELOPING STRONG, MODERNIZED, AND CLIMATE RESILIENT VALUE CHAINS THROUGH THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY SERVICES



- Strengthening research, development and commercialization of new and modern agriculture technologies;
- Deploying and adopting sustainable, climate- and disaster-resilient technologies and support services;
- Adopting needs-based capacity development programs for small farmers and fisherfolk, as well as MSMEs;
- Promoting diversification strategy and value-adding activities;
- Strengthening linkage of farmers and fisherfolk to agribusiness and export market;
- Intensifying enterprise development among farmers and fisherfolk;
- Scaling-up mechanization and infrastructure support to include strategic and catalytic large-scale projects; and
- Pursuing digital transformation in agriculture through increasing investments in modern infrastructure and logistic systems.

ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY TO AFFORDABLE, SAFE, AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD THAT BENEFITS ALL



Enhancing food logistics and mobilization, and implementing other related interventions to improve delivery of goods through:

- Continuous implementation of KADIWA selling activities;
- Establishment of trading centers and ensure operationalization of existing ones;
- Logistics support in terms of provision of cold storages, reefer vans, freezers, chillers, etc. in strategic location/fish ports; and
- Completion of the national FMR network.



Ensuring food safety and product quality through:

- Compliance with local and international food safety guidelines and development of quality standards;
- Provision of food laboratory support services;
- Strengthening border control measures to prevent the entry of transboundary plant and animal diseases; and
- Establishment and upgrading of regulatory and quarantine facilities, and laboratories.

Intensifying anti-smuggling operations and other enforcement activities against anti-competitive practices and price manipulation; and

Ensuring adequate support for government supplemental feeding programs and establishment of school/community gardens.

INSTITUTIONALIZING POLICY REFORMS AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTION TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND ACCELERATE THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SECTOR



- Digitalizing and integrating government systems by upgrading the IT infrastructure and services;
- Integrating and utilizing science-based tools in planning for the AF sector;
- Restructuring and reorganizing DA to enable a more efficient implementation of A&F plans and programs at the national and local levels;
- Improving agricultural training and extension system and NG-LGU partnerships;
- Conducting impact assessments on a regular basis;
- Operationalizing effective results-based monitoring and evaluation (RBME) in agri-fishery programs;
- Strengthening policies towards food security;
- Strengthening price and supply monitoring of food commodities;
- Fast-tracking the completion and implementation of the DA Devolution Transition Plan;
- Strengthening collaboration through strategic communication and convergence initiatives with other relevant stakeholders; and
- Pursuing legislative agenda supporting sector development.



Source: www.da.gov.ph

A Glimpse Into Our New DA Secretary

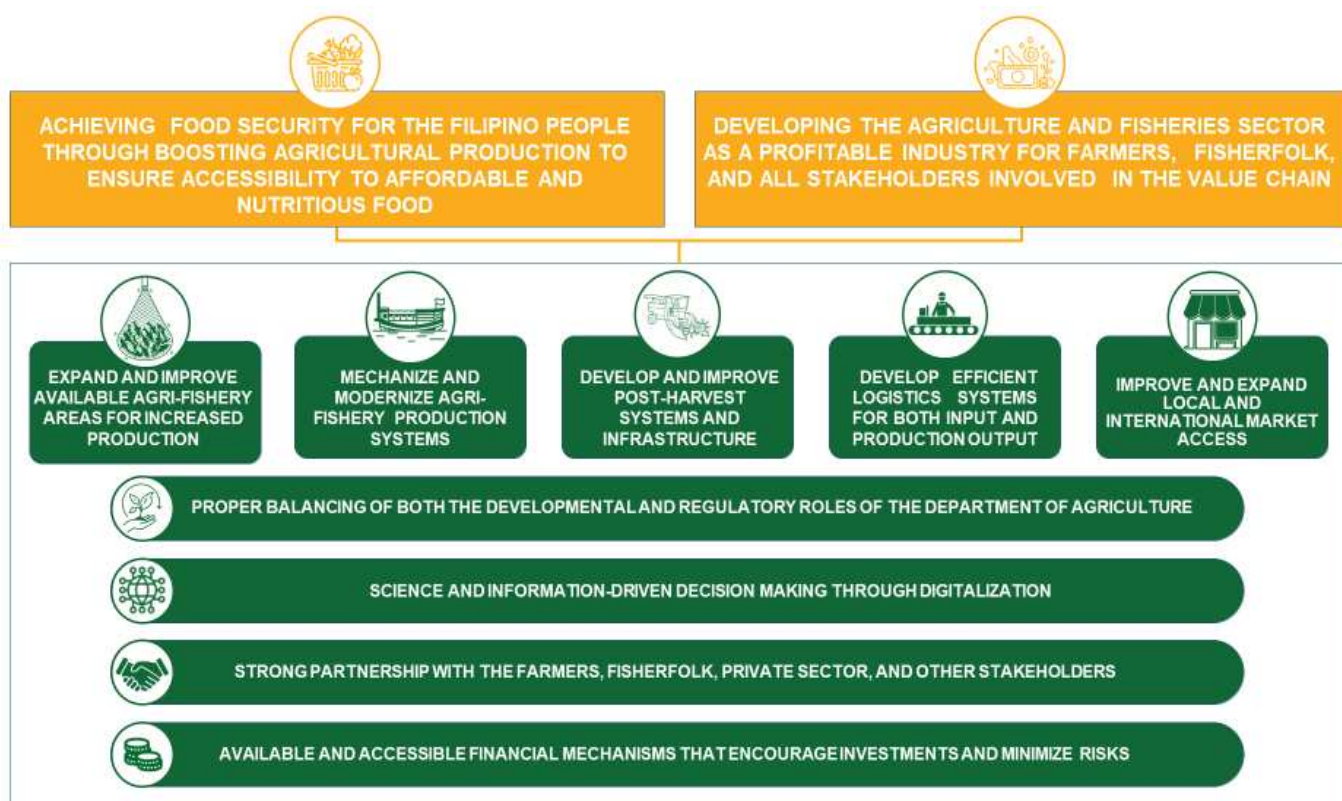
Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

On November 3, 2023, his Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. appointed Francisco "Kiko" P. Tiu Laurel Jr. as the new Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Under his leadership, the department is poised to embrace a science-driven approach to rice farming, with a focus on improving yield and establishing a sustainable rice value chain.

Prior to his appointment, Secretary Laurel held leadership positions in several agricultural and fishery organizations, including the Confederation of the Philippine Tuna Industry, Inc., Processing Sector – Bangus Council of the Philippines, World Tuna Purse Seine Organization, and the Inter-Island Deep Sea Fishing Organization. He also served as President of the Agusan Power Corporation and spearheaded the operations of the family-owned Frabelle Fishing Corporation, renowned for its deep-sea fishing endeavors across the Asia-Pacific region.

Secretary Laurel is steadfast in his commitment to accelerating the modernization and mechanization of farming practices, bolstering agricultural infrastructure, and integrating cutting-edge technologies to optimize rice production. These efforts are encapsulated in the New DA Thrusts and Strategies *Para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas*. Aligned with the overarching vision of the Philippine Development Plan, DA RFO 02 shall strategically tailor its initiatives to this strategic blueprint, signaling a bold step towards a more robust and sustainable agricultural sector under his leadership.

Plan and Programs Para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas



Source: www.da.gov.ph



Executive Summary

In the quest for excellent public service in the valley, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02 continuously provides quality, sufficient, and smart agricultural interventions in a timely manner, guided with its twin goal of **“Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya”**.

DA RFO 02 plays a crucial role in managing and implementing various projects funded by local, national, and international sources. In 2023, it achieved 80% of its congress-approved performance targets, or 8 out of its 10 key performance indicators. Under the **Technical and Support Services (TSS) Program**, DA RFO 02 received high satisfaction ratings from beneficiaries, underscoring the quality and success of its production support services and market-related interventions. These efforts were bolstered by efficient coordination with local government units, ensuring timely service delivery to maximize productivity and minimize losses.

Production Support Services (PSS) were multifaceted, encompassing initiatives that ensured seamless access to vital inputs like seeds, planting materials, and fertilizers, in close coordination with the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) Program. By promoting climate-resilient practices such as modified planting calendars, crop diversification, and promoting high-yield inbred rice varieties, DA RFO 02 not only enhanced resilience and sustainability, but it also diversified the income opportunities of farming communities.

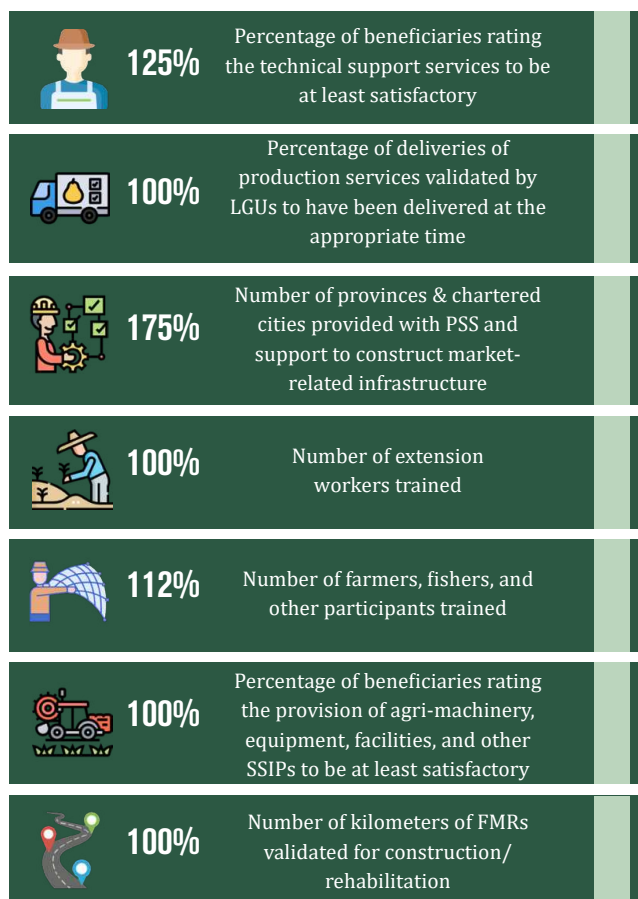
The *expansion of market access and enterprises* was another focal point, with initiatives like the KADIWA ng Pangulo (KNP) and KADIWA Trade Fairs directly connecting farmers with consumers. Additionally, market development services were extended to numerous beneficiaries across provinces and cities, reducing reliance on intermediaries and enhancing income prospects.

Comprehensive initiatives under *Extension, Support, Education, and Training (ESETS)* underscored DA RFO 02's commitment to human capital development, empowering agriculture extension workers, farmers, and fishers with the necessary knowledge and skills for innovation and adaptation.

Improving agricultural productivity also relies on adequate infrastructure and farm machinery. While DA RFO 02 achieved commendable success, certain initiatives in the department's **Agricultural Machinery, Equipment, Facilities, and Infrastructure Program (AMEFIP)** encountered obstacles that hindered their timely completion.

Despite our best efforts, delays in procurement and implementation occurred due to revisions in engineering designs and program plans, resulting in setbacks in various production and post-harvest facility projects. Additionally, logistical challenges, such as limited water sources and bureaucratic hurdles, contributed to the unmet targets under the AMEFIP.

Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC) Accountability Report Card CY 2023



However, these challenges have not deterred our resolve. Through proactive measures, including close coordination with relevant divisions and stakeholders, and streamlining management processes, we are working to address the root causes of these delays.

Moving forward, we are committed to leveraging technology, fostering strategic partnerships, and implementing corrective measures to ensure that our ongoing and future projects are completed promptly and successfully. We remain steadfast in our dedication to advancing agricultural and economic development in our region.

The achievements of 2023 reflect DA RFO 02's commitment to driving transformative change in Cagayan Valley. By prioritizing resilience, innovation, and collaboration, DA RFO 02 continues to contribute in reducing poverty and enhancing the quality of life of every individual and family in the region.

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT BY PROGRAM & PROJECT



Lush green fields of Diffun, Quirino. (September 6, 2023)

RICE PROGRAM

TRANSFORMING CAGAYAN VALLEY INTO
A RICE-INDUSTRIALIZED REGION



City of Ilagan, Isabela - February 21, 2023: DA-PhilMech hands over Php 240M worth of farm machinery to 75 FCAs in Isabela under RCEF Mechanization Program.

CAGAYAN VALLEY AS 2ND TOP PRODUCER IN THE PHILIPPINES

3.34% 

97,921.92 MT

INCREASE IN PRODUCTION

The Rice Program in Cagayan Valley stands as a beacon of agricultural innovation, propelling the region towards rice-industrialization through comprehensive support services. By providing quality seeds and other agricultural inputs, promoting education, expanding irrigation networks, and enhancing agricultural infrastructure, the program empowers farmers and fosters sustainable growth. With its multifaceted approach, the Rice Program not only boosts production but also cultivates resilience and prosperity, positioning Cagayan Valley as a leading force in rice cultivation and economic development.



REGION 02
RICE PRODUCTION



CY 2023

3,026,087.62
metric tons



CY 2022

2,928,165.70
metric tons

PRODUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES (PSS)

As the country's staple, rice is among the priority commodities for increasing local food production. Hence, production support services are given to farmers to combat high farm input costs through seed and fertilizer provisions and subsidies. Additionally, crop diversification and crop-livestock integration such as Rice+Mushroom and Rice-Rice+Duck help augment the income of farmers.

Distributed 292,515 bags of hybrid seed varieties to 232,948 farmers covering 292,515 hectares of farmland

Dispensed 33,211 bags out of the 36,451 bags procured seed reserves to rehabilitate areas affected by tropical cyclones Lorita, Karding, Maymay, and Paeng

Granted fertilizer discount vouchers to 453,931 farmers for the wet season to address the increase of fertilizer price in the region, amounting to Php 6,000 for hybrid and Php 1,131 for inbred per hectare, all in all covering 546,912 hectares

Utilized 200 liters of insecticide, 110 liters of bactericide, 160 kg of rodenticide, and 175 kg of fungicide to treat pest and disease affected areas



EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES (ESETS)



Generated 50,000 Rice Crop Manager (RCM) recommendations. RCM, co-developed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) with funding from the Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA), blends digital technology and robust scientific research to generate a nutrient and crop management recommendation specific to a farmer's field that, if followed, will boost yields and incomes



Conducted four (4) batches of various campaigns on Rice Information, Promoting Good Agricultural Practices, Operation and Maintenance of Farm Machineries and Equipment, nine (9) batches of Agri-based Livelihood Trainings, and 11 SWISA / IA Institutional Development trainings



Established nine (9) sites of Rice Model Farm Clusters

Aired 40 radio programs, produced and distributed 40 audio-visual presentations, and disseminated 15,000 copies of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials

Provided incentives to 717 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW), recognizing their efforts in facilitating the implementation of the Rice Program



Cauayan City - June 27-28, 2023: Cagayan Valley hosts the Luzonwide Cluster Rice Technology Transfer Workshop, "Rice Tektok" in Isabela Convention Center.

IRRIGATION NETWORK SERVICES (INS)

One (1) Solar Powered Irrigation System with eight (8) hectare service area in San Francisco, Benito Soliven, Isabela completed

One (1) Diversion Dam in Casambalangan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan out of two DDs with 181 hectare service area constructed

One (1) unit of Small Water Impounding Project in Quezon, Isabela, out of seven SWIPs with 510 hectare service area constructed

DA RFO 02, through its Regional Agricultural Engineering Division, introduced rainwater harvesting systems as innovative intervention in Small-Scale Irrigation Projects (SSIPs) to address water shortages, boost rice productivity, and provide irrigation security during droughts, significantly benefiting farmers in the region.



Casambalangan, Sta. Ana, Cagayan - July 21, 2023:
Turn-over Ceremony of San Juan Diversion Dam,
benefiting 30 farmers.

PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (PAEF)



11 units hauling truck to 11 FCAs disbursed

Six (6) units recirculating dryers in six (6) Farmers Cooperative Association (FCAs) installed

Two (2) units of the Rice Processing Center III nearing completion

Nine (9) units conveyor to nine (9) Farmers Cooperative Association (FCAs) granted



Naguilian, Isabela - July 14, 2023: Officials from DA RFO 02, Providers Multipurpose Cooperative, and PhilMech break ground for the RPC III project.

CORN & CASSAVA PROGRAM

ENVISIONING CAGAYAN VALLEY AS THE COUNTRY'S
PREMIER EXPORTER OF PROCESSED CORN AND
BY-PRODUCTS



**TOP CORN PRODUCER
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

 **3.67%**
73,148.50 MT
INCREASE IN PRODUCTION

The Corn and Cassava Program in Cagayan Valley has demonstrated significant progress towards its goal of becoming the Philippines' foremost exporter of processed corn and related products through robust production, extensive training and education, innovative research, and strategic infrastructure development.



REGION 02
CORN PRODUCTION



 **CY 2023**
2,033,256.92
metric tons

 **CY 2022**
1,960,108.60
metric tons



PRODUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES (PSS)

Established seven (7) hectares of on-station quality registered and certified open-pollinated varieties (OPV) white flint and glutinous corn, yielding 14,100 kilograms benefitting 812 farmer beneficiaries

Distributed 115,672 bags of GM hybrid yellow corn seeds and 115,672 bags of inorganic fertilizers to 83,234 farmer-beneficiaries under the Corn Production Enhancement Project (CPEP)

Distributed 100,000 packs of Bio-N fertilizers to 22,934 farmer beneficiaries

Expanded cassava seed piece availability by distributing 1,755,000 high-quality pieces to 190 farmer-beneficiaries, utilizing location-specific and market-preferred varieties through on-station and on-farm production methods

Procured and distributed various corn seed varieties, including 528 bags of white flint and glutinous, 250 bags of OPV yellow, and 6,432 bags of GM hybrid yellow corn seeds, totaling 6,432 bags, to rehabilitate corn areas affected by Super Typhoon "Egay"

Procured 1,428 liters of organic insecticide acquired to control and mitigate Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestation

EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES (ESETS)

Established nine-hectare Sorghum and Soybean Techno Demo in Solana, Cagayan; City of Ilagan, Isabela; Aneg, Delfin Albano, Isabela; Paniki, Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya; and Aglipay, Quirino

Enhanced the technical expertise of corn growers and farmer associations, empowering them to cultivate high-yield, high-quality corn and cassava through 10 Bantay Peste Brigade, four Cassava Production, and eight (8) Cluster Development trainings, benefiting a total of 717 participants

Distributed 19,650 pieces of IEC materials on improved technologies and information about improved technologies and new information on corn production to farmers and stakeholders

Extended incentives to support related services or undertakings for four (4) provincial corn coordinators, 11 municipal agriculturists, and 138 agricultural extension workers from provincial and municipal local government units, facilitating the submission of necessary reports on project field implementation and monitoring

Produced and aired nine radio plugs over four commercial radio stations in the region, disseminating agri-fishery information to a wider audience covering subject areas such as "Double-Row Planting Technology", "Practicability and profitability of Corn-Soybean Integration", "Corn Silage: A Better Source of Feed for Livestock Animals", "Feed Formulation Technology Adaptation", "White Corn Utilization (corn processed by-products)", "Sorghum as Animal Feed", "Go! Yellow Corn!", "DA RFO 02 Corn briefer", and "SCOPSA"



RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT (R4D)

Established three continuing studies under production-related themes through the different Research Centers and Experiment Stations

“Development and Improvement of OPV Corn Varieties in Region 02”

Study 1. Population Improvement

Study 2. Variety Maintenance and Improvement

Study 3. Preliminary Yield Trial-On Station and On-Farm

Results of the study

1. Inbred line development of 80 selected native accessions progressing to season six (S6) to achieve homozygosity until season seven (S7)
2. Regeneration of 34 CIMMYT inbred lines for infusion into population development
3. Simultaneous regeneration and seed production of 191 native germplasm collections
4. 21 yellow flint entries, 16 white flint entries, and 6 glutinous entries undergone preliminary yield trials
5. Continuous variety maintenance of selected approved varieties
6. Continuous population improvement of 325 entries yellow flint, 370 entries white flint, and 315 entries glutinous corn.

Established one new research study under production-related titled: “Balance Fertilization and Pesticide Use Strategy of Yellow Corn in the Riverflood Plains in Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino”

Result of the study:

The yield indicates that crops subjected to interventions based on Recommended Soil Laboratory yield higher at 7.27 MT/ha compared to the farmer's practice, which yields 6.74 MT/ha.

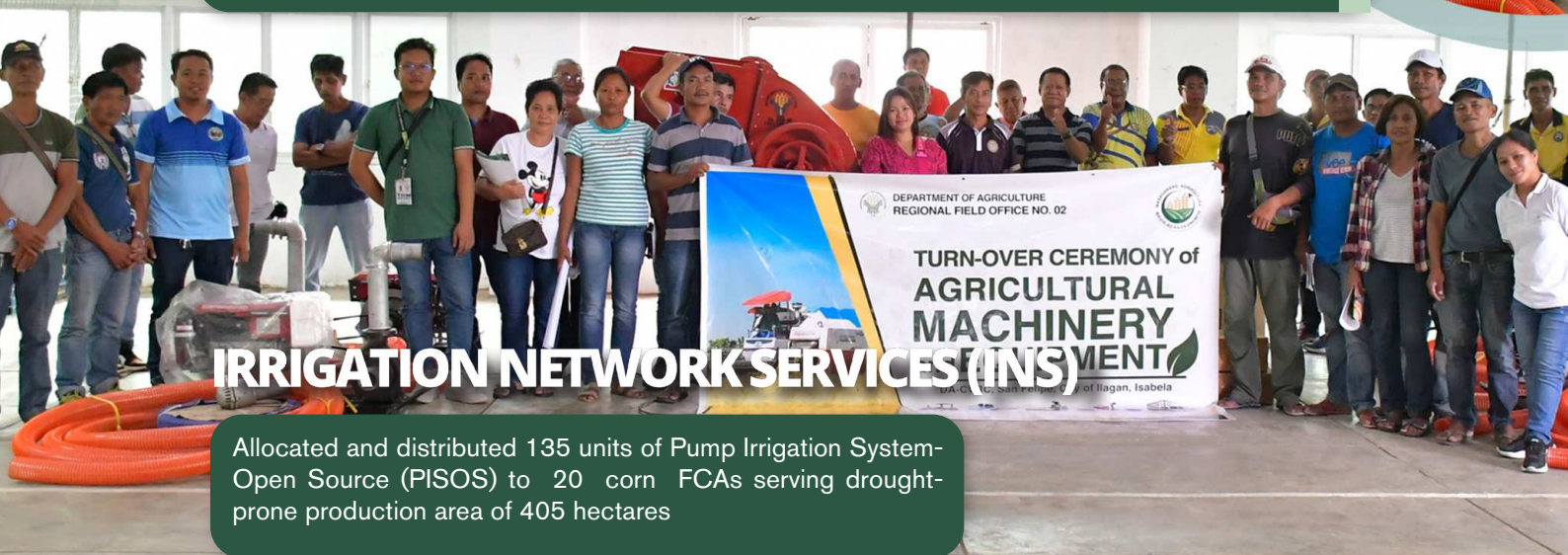
Established one new research study under production-related titled: “Balance Fertilization and Pesticide Use Strategy of Yellow Corn in the Riverflood Plains in Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino”

Result of the study:

Across all development zones, fertilizer constituted the largest percentage (34%) of the total cost of production per hectare during the dry season, followed by seeds (13%), and fertilizer application (8%). Similarly, during the wet season, fertilizer costs accounted for 36% of the total production cost per hectare, seeds for 14%, and harvesting expenses and labor in fertilizer application for 6%.

IRRIGATION NETWORK SERVICES (INS)

Allocated and distributed 135 units of Pump Irrigation System-Open Source (PISOS) to 20 corn FCAs serving drought-prone production area of 405 hectares



PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (PAEF)

Bolstered mechanization throughout the farming cycle, from land preparation and planting to harvesting and post-harvest processing, aimed at significantly lowering production costs through the strategic allocation of essential equipment and facilities

Name of Project	FCA Recipient	Address
Four Wheel Drive Tractor for Corn and Cassava	Carupian Tulong Tulong Amin a Pagsayaatan Inc.	Carupian, Baggao, Cagayan
	Sunrise Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Capissayan Sur, Gattaran, Cagayan
	Malamin Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Malummin, Tuao, Cagayan
	Asosasyon ng mga Ama-Syudad ng Ilagan	San Vicente, City of Ilagan, Isabela
	Northern Tumauni Cereal and Dairy Farmers Cooperative	San Mateo, Tumauni, Isabela
	Villa TJ Upland Farmers Association	Carmencita, Delfin Albano, Isabela
	San Mariano Diversified Producers Cooperati	Alibadabad, San Mariano, Isabela
	Abrasa Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Andres Bonifacio, Diffun, Quirino
Combine Harvester	Salamin Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Malummin, Tuao, Cagayan
	Villa Luna Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Villa Luna, Cauayan City, Isabela
	Maddela Integrated Farmers Savings Development Cooperative	Dumabato Norte, Maddela, Quirino
Cassava Granulator	Binalan Agriculture Cooperative	Binalan, Aparri, Cagayan
	San Mariano Diversified Producers Cooperative	Alibadabad, San Mariano, Isabela
	Blue Circle Grains Trading Agriculture Cooperative	Aromin, Echague, Isabela
	Amballo Pineapple Growers Association	Baretbet, Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya
	Banuar Upland Farmers Association	Banuar, Cabarroguis, Quirino
Solar Bubble Dryer	Binalan Agriculture Cooperative	Binalan, Aparri, Cagayan
	San Lorenzo Farmers Cooperative Association	San Lorenzo, Buguey, Cagayan
	Bannawing Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Bannawag, Jones, Isabela
	Blue Circle Grains Trading Agriculture Cooperative	Aromin, Echague, Isabela
	Amballo Pineapple Growers Association	Baretbet, Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya
	Banuar Upland Farmers Association	Banuar, Cabarroguis, Quirino
Recirculating Dryer	Villa Luna Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Villa Luna, Cauayan City, Isabela
Multi-Crop Drying Pavement	Rang-ay Ti Pussian Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Pussian, Alcala, Cagayan
	Asosasyon ng mga Ama-Syudad ng Ilagan	San Vicente, City of Ilagan, Isabela

HIGH VALUE CROP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A FOOD-SECURE & RESILIENT CAGAYAN VALLEY WITH
PROSPEROUS HIGH VALUE CROPS FARMERS



Abuyo, Alfonso Castañeda - October 2, 2023:
Arthur Mantile, a proud onion farmer showcases
the fruits of Outsourcing of off-season Onion
Production in rice-based areas in Nueva Vizcaya.

The High Value Crops Development Program has propelled the cultivation of various high-value crops, including mungbean, peanut, onion, garlic, lowland and highland vegetables, mango, banana, pineapple, coffee, cacao, and citrus fruits through targeted interventions such as crop diversification, distribution initiative, technological advancements and market partnerships. The program has bolstered the production, productivity, and marketability of these crops, paving the way for long-term food security and economic prosperity within the region.



Aerial view of a cabbage farm in Brgy. New Gumiad, Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya (photo by RAFIS, 2021).



PRODUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES (PSS)

Mungbean Industry

29.34%
contribution to the country's
domestic crop supply



Shift Towards Crop Diversification

To enhance agricultural practices, crop diversification within rice-based strategies was advocated to augment farmers' income and to restore soil health in the region.

Promotion of Appropriate Mungbean Varieties in Expansion Areas

Six (6) FCAs in Isabela received 10,500 kilograms of mungbean, cultivating it on 525 hectares and achieving a bountiful harvest of 787.5 metric tons. Simultaneously, Cagayan province received 2,500 kilograms, with four FCAs covering 125 hectares, and 3,333 liters of liquid fertilizer or carrageenan.

Beneficial Application of Carrageenan

A technical briefing on March 14, 2023 highlighted the positive impact of carrageenan application, as revealed by the Research Center and Experiment Station (RCES). The study demonstrated a remarkable 59% increase, equivalent to 500 kilograms per hectare, in yield under rice-based areas, translating to an additional profit of P24,065.00.

Feeding Program Support

The Flow of Pariir Agriculture Cooperative, spearheading the F2C2 program in the mungbean sector, is a primary provider of processed mungbean goods for feeding initiatives by the DOE, DSWD, and LGUs of Isabela. The cooperative is also actively pursuing avenues to export their premium mungbean seeds, demonstrating a dedication to ongoing advancement and expansion.





Peanut Industry

Distribution Initiative

Provided 7,500 kg of high-quality peanut seeds and 50 kg of boron inorganic fertilizer to four (4) FCAs

Technological Advancement

Introducing boron foliar fertilizer in Enrile, Cagayan, significantly boosted peanut productivity, resulting in a remarkable **yield increase of 0.8 mt/ha and an additional P34,400.00 per hectare in net income**

Region 2's peanut industry serves as a cornerstone of the local economy, thriving due to favorable climate and soil conditions. Evolving practices focus on sustainability and technology, fostering cooperative efforts among farmers to enhance productivity



Vast peanut farms in Enrile Cagayan promoting Boron Fertilization Technology

A member of the Bagabag High Value Crops Producers Association proudly displays his onions grown using the new off-season production technology. (Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya - December 19, 2022)



Onion Industry

Diversification Strategy

Onion cultivation after rice or corn, particularly in Nueva Vizcaya, has expanded to approximately 20 hectares in municipalities of Isabela and Cagayan, significantly boosting farmers' income.

Distribution Initiative

2,360 kilograms of onions distributed to nine FCAs in Nueva Vizcaya aimed to plant onions on 590 hectares, projecting a substantial yield of around 7,375 metric tons and additional income of P238,100.00

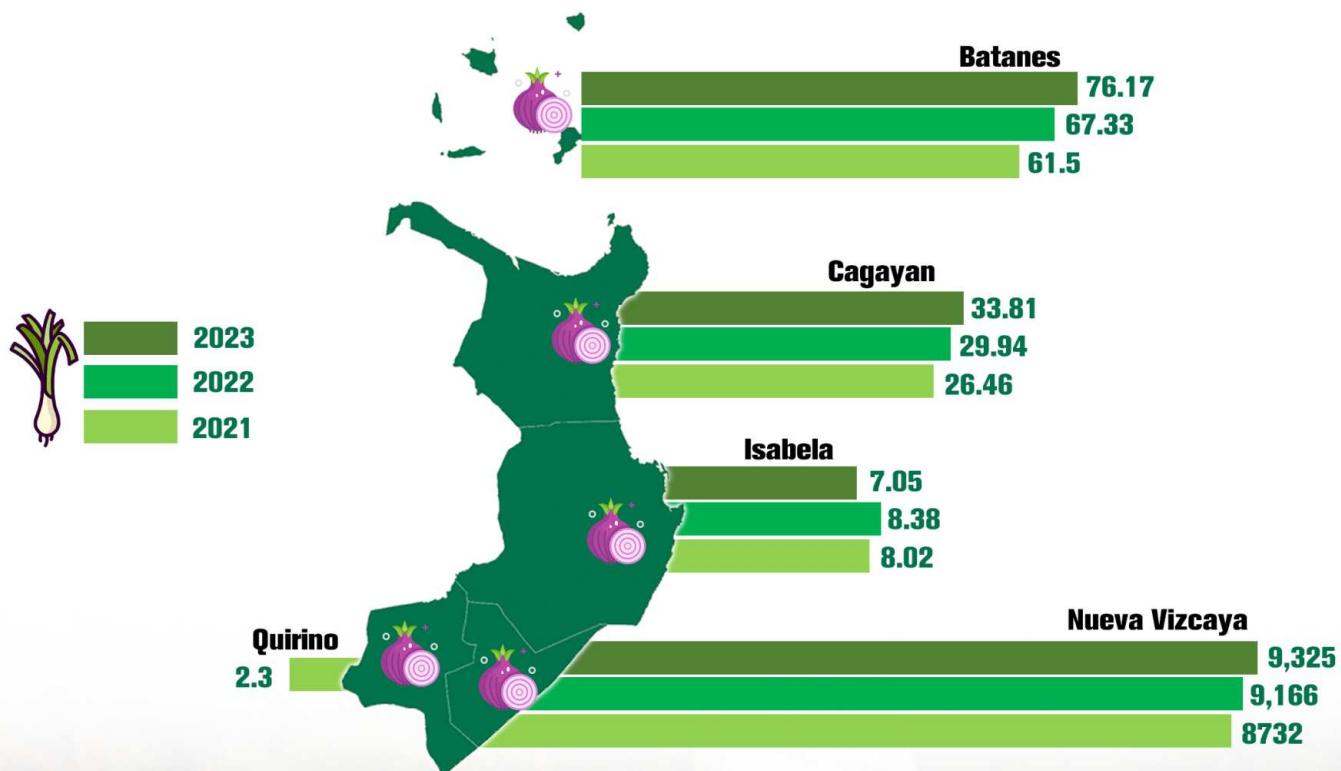
Rainshelter Acquisition

The agricultural industry received 26 units of Rainshelter under the (AMEFIP), providing crucial support to farmers for consistent onion cultivation, especially during lean months.

Resilience and Productivity

This proactive intervention safeguards against seasonal challenges. Fostered year-round cultivation ensures sustained and increased production, fortifying the onion industry in the region.

Onion Production in Cagayan Valley 2021-2023





Garlic Industry

Distribution Initiative

22,157 kilogram of garlic planting materials and 77 kilograms of organic fertilizer distributed to five FCAs in Batanes and Nueva Vizcaya

Strategic Collaboration with the Philippine Navy ensured efficient hauling and transport services, facilitating the successful marketing of 18,125 metric tons of garlic, valued at P1,950,000.00, cultivated by the Itbayat Garlic Farmers Producers Association and purchased by Fresh Buys Ph of Baguio City.

Comprehensive Support

The involvement of National Agencies and provincial Local Government Units reflects a holistic approach to support the garlic industry, fostering socioeconomic development and prosperity in local communities.



Strong at sea, strong for farmers: Philippine Navy crew delivers Batanes garlic to Saul Seaport, Pangasinan. (June 12, 2023)



Lowland Vegetables

274.5% sufficiency level in lowland vegetables, primarily grown in low-lying areas of Isabela, Cagayan, Quirino, and Nueva Vizcaya

Distribution Initiative

511.9 kilograms of lowland vegetable seeds and 600 kilograms of organic fertilizer distributed to six (6) FCAs in Cagayan, Isabela, and Quirino, covering a total production area of 102.38 hectares and yielding 2,047.6 metric tons

Technology Support

Grants of six (6) units of Spring Development, three (3) units of Solar-Powered Irrigation System, and seven (7) units of Rainshelter under the AMEFIP significantly improved water accessibility for farmers, ensuring reliable water supply for their crops



Highland Vegetables

Nueva Vizcaya leads in highland vegetable production, boasting a 276% sufficiency rate.

Distribution Initiative

836.6 kg of highland vegetable seeds and 700 kg of organic fertilizer were distributed to seven (7) FCAs, planted on 167.2 hectares with a production total of 4,180 metric tons.

Technology Support

37 units of Rainshelter, one (1) unit of Solar-Powered Irrigation System, and seven (7) units of Spring Development granted to continue vegetable production during lean months, ensuring year-round cultivation.



Isabela farmers gather for a Field Day on Mango Production technology organized by DA RFO 02-CVRC at Doña Concina, Roxas, Isabela. (May 3, 2023)



Mango Industry

8.13% (57,920.44 MT)
share in national production, with
5mt/ha average regional yield

Export Potential Cagayan Valley positions mango as the third most significant fruit crop for export, with established domestic and promising international markets.

Support Initiative Through the Technology Demonstration General, six FCAs received support in the form of 250 plastic crates, 6,000 kilograms of fertilizers, and bagging materials, resulting in the successful marketing of 57,920.94 metric tons of mango.



Banana Industry

Technology Demonstrations

Five (5) banana Technology Demonstrations were established in the provinces of Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino

Support Initiatives

Five (5) FCAs of banana growers received interventions under the Technology Demonstration General, including 12,500 kilograms of organic fertilizers, 600 plastic crates, and a technical briefing.

Market Reach

Banana farmers marketed 283.5 metric tons, known as “Balangon banana,” through Altertrade Philippines Incorporated, exporting to Japan and Korea

Market Stability

Export prices remain stable, providing market options for growers amidst fluctuating local prices



Pineapple Industry

1.55% (45,072.6 MT)

contribution to the national pineapple production, with an average regional yield of 20 metric tons per hectare

Support Initiative

Through the Technology Demonstration General, pineapple growers received 10,000 fertilizers and 500 plastic crates, and market linkage activities through the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division.

Market Reach

Pineapple farmers in the region successfully marketed their produce, totaling 53,981 kilograms, to Agrinurture, Incorporation (ANI) in Bulacan and HI-LAS Marketing Corporation in Taguig City.



Cacao Industry

Despite a two percent sufficiency level, Cagayan Valley strives to compete in international cacao markets.

Support Initiatives: Technical briefings, fertilization programs, and tool provisions contribute to increased cacao production, positioning the region as a potential chocolate hub.

Expected production: 48,500 trees across seven (7) sites, aiming for 238 metric tons, with an average yield of five to seven kilograms of cacao fresh beans per tree



Coffee Industry

contributes 7% to the country's coffee production supply

Operational Coffee Processing Facilities: Cagayan Valley hosts six (6) operational village type community coffee processing facilities, catering to the region's coffee production.

Fertilization Program: The Rehabilitation of Coffee trees through the Fertilization Program improved yield per cropping, with 87,500 trees fertilized, resulting in a production of 217.7 metric tons.

Project Interventions: Fertilizers were provided as capital inputs to rejuvenate coffee trees, resulting in increased productivity. Technical briefings and monitoring of bean productivity were conducted to ensure project sustainability.

Increased Yield: The average yield per tree receiving fertilizer increased from two kilograms to five kilograms of fresh berries. A total of 87,500 trees were fertilized, resulting in a production of 217.7 metric tons.

Adaption of Mechanized Crop Establishment: Farmers are gradually adopting mechanized crop establishment practices due to these interventions, enhancing efficiency in coffee cultivation.



Citrus Industry

1,642.90 MT

planted and produced in 4,033.75 ha total land area

Leading Producer: Nueva Vizcaya is a leading citrus producer, recognized as the “Citrus Capital of Luzon,” with 529 hectares planted with calamandarin, oranges, mandarin (satsuma and ponkan), and pomelos, constituting the majority of the total average production volume per harvest season.

Mandarin is considered one of the economically important fruit crops in Region 2, as it contributes almost 50% of the total volume of production in the Philippines; and Nueva Vizcaya consistently the largest producer of Mandarin with 70 to 80% volume of production in the region.



Senior DA Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban visits a citrus plantation in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. (August 31, 2023)

Program: The Rehabilitation of Citrus Trees through the Fertilization Program rejuvenated 30,000 citrus trees in three (3) sites, improved productivity, and supported market connections.

Market Partnerships: Pasig-based company, Mama Sita's, has been a major buyer of fresh calamansi since 2018, and Aurora Citrus Growers is now the main supplier of calamansi for processing after the establishment of the processing facility in Brgy. Bagnos, Aurora, Isabela.



Nueva Vizcaya; Ribbon-cutting ceremony opens Kasibu Citrus Festival's Agro Trade Fair. (August 17, 2023)

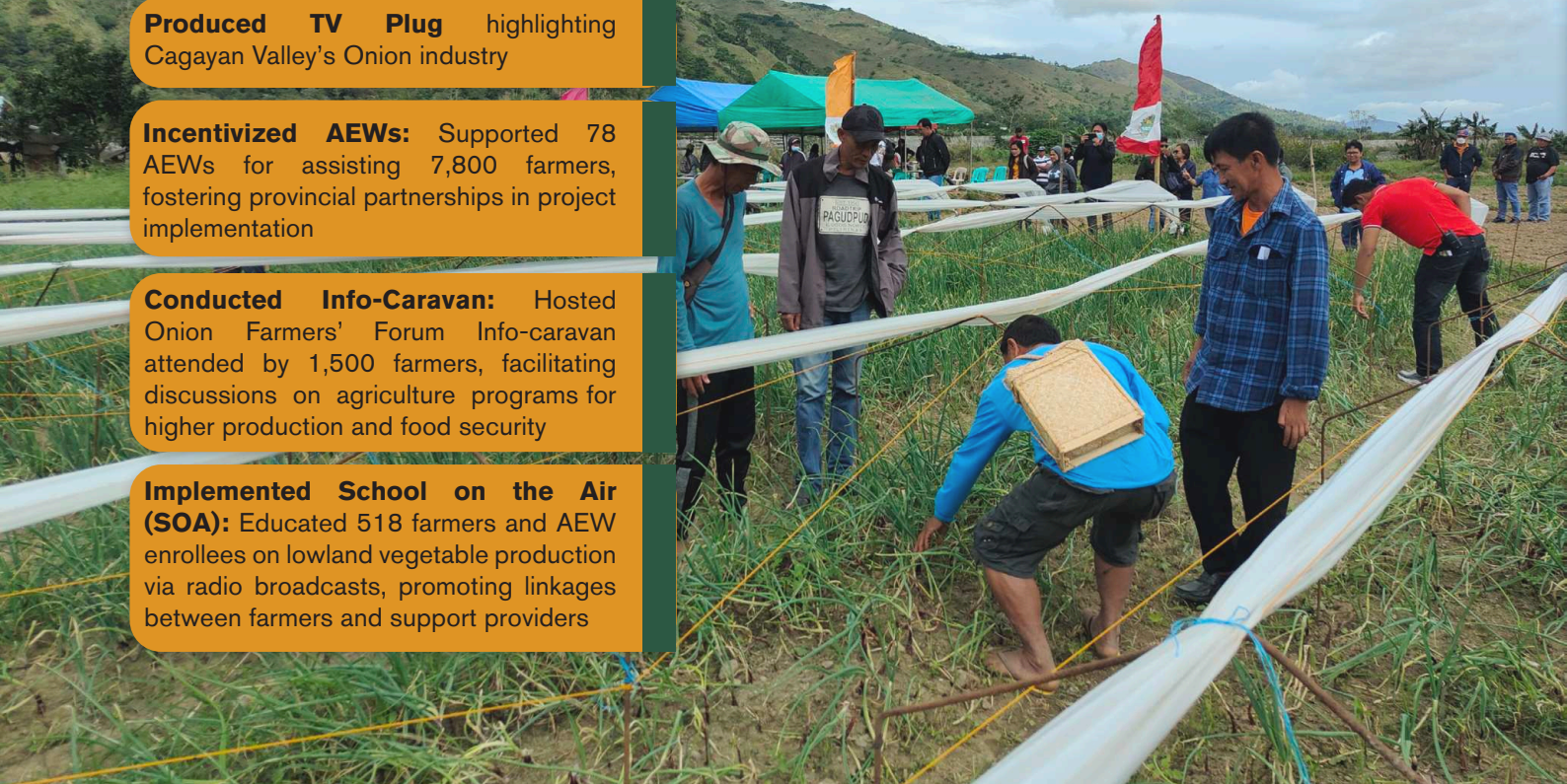
EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES (ESETS)

Produced TV Plug highlighting Cagayan Valley's Onion industry

Incentivized AEWs: Supported 78 AEWs for assisting 7,800 farmers, fostering provincial partnerships in project implementation

Conducted Info-Caravan: Hosted Onion Farmers' Forum Info-caravan attended by 1,500 farmers, facilitating discussions on agriculture programs for higher production and food security

Implemented School on the Air (SOA): Educated 518 farmers and AEW enrollees on lowland vegetable production via radio broadcasts, promoting linkages between farmers and support providers



IRRIGATION NETWORK SERVICES (INS)

A **solar-powered irrigation system** was installed in Bannagao, Aurora, Isabela, covering a service area of **4 ha** for the benefit of the **Aurora Vegetable Growers Association**. This project, initiated on June 2, 2023, aimed to ensure consistent water supply for vegetable cultivation, thereby increasing crop yields and supporting the livelihoods of local farmers. Additionally, spring development and rainshelter projects were undertaken to further augment irrigation infrastructure and promote sustainable farming practices in the region.



DA RFO 02 Compound. Acacia Highland Farmers Association receives hauling trucks, fertilizers, vegetable seeds, and plastic crates. (May 5, 2023)

PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (PAEF)

Production Facilities Maintenance

Maintained Greenhouses: Ensured climate-resilient seed germination with nine (9) greenhouses producing 216,000 seedlings annually, benefiting farmers and government agencies

Continued Nursery Operations: Addressed crop variability and low yield by producing quality planting materials like cacao, coffee, citrus, longan, and rambutan in three (3) sites

Sustained Tissue Culture Labs: Enhanced agriculture efficiency with two (2) laboratories producing 8,000 tissue-cultured bananas, ensuring uniform growth and year-round produce

Preserved Seed Viability: Maintained three (3) seed storage units, producing 213.3kg of lowland vegetable seeds and 160kg of highland vegetable seeds, ensuring genetic integrity and higher crop yields

Supported Scion Groves: Cultivated 5,643 fruit-bearing tree seedlings across three foundation scion groves, four clonal gardens, and one budwood garden, enriching fruit tree sources in the region



NATIONAL URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (NUPAP)



NUPAP 2023 Year in Review

Financial

100%

Cagayan Valley

P 21.9M



9



Abulug
Tuao
Solana
Tumauini
Echague
Luna
Aritao
Bayombong
Nagtipunan



Households assisted
for the Green Growing
Garden Backyard
Gardening Project in
Quirino Province

300

10

MOA



PSS
100%



ESETS
100%



AMEFS
99%

**3 Edible
Gardens**



**1 Package of
Technology
Training
&
8 Technical
Briefing**



**EVSA
Training**

**1st Urban
Agriculture
Summit**



Niche
Market

Farm to
Table/
Restaurants



NUPAP Produce



Households

Individuals

National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP)

Program Objectives and Strategies

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES
Increase food production in Region 2	Boost local production and raising farmers' income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish at least 2,500-square meter demo farm in each of the nine municipalities to initiate agriculture-related livelihood activities Increase food production in these municipalities through innovative agricultural practices
Increase accessibility to food and address inflation	Ensure accessibility to affordable, safe, and nutritious food that benefits all Filipinos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage household food production to provide for their daily nutritional needs Serve as a model for scaled-up food production and a source of seedlings that can be used in the expansion of urban farms in respective communities
Increase resilience of urban communities	Develop strong, modernized, and climate-resilient value chains through the delivery of quality services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation by planting climate-resilient crops and using appropriate technologies such as greenhouse production technology Create spaces for recreation, rehabilitation and cultural cohesion through establishment of community farms and edible gardens
Collaborate and build strong partnerships among LGUs, CSOs, and other public and private institutions	Institutionalize policy reforms and strengthen institutions to enhance efficiency and accelerate the modernization of the sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen collaboration with partner LGUs through strategic communication and convergence initiatives

NUPAP is the latest addition to the banner programs implemented by the Department of Agriculture. It was established through Administrative Order No. 03, Series of 2022, and received its first funding in CY 2023.

The Cagayan Valley Region was allocated a total of Php 23,896,000.00, including Php 2M for operational support. Nine municipalities were identified as pilot recipients for the program, with Local Government Units (LGUs) serving as the implementing unit. The nine groups served through NUPAP are as follows:

- Quirino Libertad Farmers Irrigators Association in Abulug, Cagayan
- Banwar Irrigators Association in Tuao, Cagayan
- Damortis Womens' Association in Solana, Cagayan
- Northern Tumauni Cereal and Dairy Farmers Cooperative in Tumauni, Isabela
- The Farmers of Luna Agriculture Cooperative in Luna, Isabela
- Mengal Women Organization, Inc. in Echague, Isabela
- Federation of Vista Hills, Kalongkong and Kakilingan Upland Farmers Organization Inc. in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
- Cutar Vegetable Growers in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya
- Municipal Government of Nagtipunan, Quirino

Each group received technical assistance and funding support amounting to **Php 1,439,777.78** for the establishment of at least a **2,500 sq.m urban farm**, which will serve as a **model and demonstration site** to increase adoption. Furthermore, each site will showcase mushroom and livestock integration to provide a diverse source of income to farmer beneficiaries.



Best Practices

During the evaluation period, several best practices were identified that contributed significantly to the successful implementation of agricultural projects:

- **Capacity Building:** Conducted a comprehensive five-day technology training program in February 20-25 2023, aiding Local Government Units (LGUs) in developing plans, designs, and sustainability strategies for agricultural projects
- **Flexible Funding:** Funds were transferred to LGUs, allowing them flexibility in project planning and addressing varying construction costs based on locality, thus ensuring efficient resource allocation.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** Regularly held coordination and consultative meetings to monitor project progress, identify implementation challenges, and provide recommendations for improvement
- **Early Procurement:** Early procurement activities were undertaken to ensure timely delivery of project interventions, preventing delays and ensuring smooth implementation
- **Collaboration:** Maintained close coordination with counterparts from research centers and experiment stations, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing for enhanced project outcomes
- **Financial Coordination:** Effective collaboration with finance counterparts facilitated the timely payment of procured interventions, ensuring the smooth flow of project operations.

Future Directions

Moving forward, several key strategies have been identified to sustain and further improve agricultural development efforts:

- Provide ongoing technical assistance to support the sustainability of projects and ensure the continued success of agricultural initiatives.
- Conduct regular monitoring of established project sites
- Encourage recipients to apply for PhilGAP Certification, enhancing the quality and marketability of agricultural products
- Prioritize beneficiaries from previous years for postharvest interventions in 2025, such as packinghouses and hauling trucks, to improve product handling and market access
- Establish market linkages with prominent buyers like SM Supermalls and other institutional buyers, expanding market opportunities for agricultural products
- Starting on 2024, interested beneficiaries shall be required to submit comprehensive project proposals with detailed business plans, ensuring transparency and accountability in project selection and implementation.
- Ensure the timely submission of documentary requirements for fund transfer, streamlining administrative processes and preventing delays
- Strengthen information campaigns in collaboration with DA RAFIS and increase social media presence



DA RFO 02 and DA CVRC assists Mengal Women Organization, Inc. in the establishment of their urban garden in Echague, Isabela. (November 21, 2023)



DA RFO 02 representatives award inputs and multi-cultivator to program beneficiaries. (May 31, 2023)

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

CAGAYAN VALLEY AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF QUALITY STOCKS OF CATTLE, GOAT, AND SHEEP





The Livestock Program in Cagayan Valley has significantly improved the region's position as a key source of high-quality cattle, goats, and sheep. With initiatives spearheaded by the Unified National Artificial Insemination Program (UNAIP) and the Philippine Native Animal Development (PNAD), genetic diversity has been enhanced, leading to increased productivity. Furthermore, the development of nucleus farms, distribution of feeds and planting materials, and swine repopulation programs have further boosted livestock production.





PRODUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES (PSS)



Unified National Artificial Insemination Program (UNAIP)

Aimed at enhancing breed quality of livestock and poultry in Region 2, the UNAIP prioritized the cattle and goat industry to improve genetic diversity in the region's breeding stock.

Distributed 5,948 units of cattle and goat semen to improve genetic diversity

Provided artificial insemination services for 4,540 heads cattle and goats, resulting in 950 calves and kids born



Philippine Native Animal Development (PNAD) Program

The PNAD Center was established in the Province of Isabela, to support native animal commodities and to foster agricultural businesses. Equipped with technical experts such as veterinarians, agriculturists, and biotechnologists, the center aimed to boost productivity and to earn profit while addressing climate change challenges.

With a fully obligated and disbursed budget of 1.5 million pesos, investments were made in facility construction, equipment procurement, and maintenance to ensure the success of the PNAD Center.

The program aimed to produce eight piglets, 36 sheep, 1,000 chicks, and 1,000 ducklings in the upcoming quarters, with plans to distribute 26 pigs, 1,000 chickens, and 600 ducks to 21 individual farmers, contributing to the growth and sustainability of the native animal industry in the region.



Government Stock Farm Program

This program is designed to provide genetically superior breeder stock for goat, cattle, and sheep. It also includes the establishment, maintenance, and upgrading of four (4) Nucleus Farms that serve as learning centers for breeders.

With a total budget of P23,875,000.00, these farms provide interested farmers with access to various breeder commodities including purebred sheep (St. Croix, Dorper, Katahdin), Beef Cattle (Brahman), Dairy Type Goat (Anglo-Nubian), and Meat Type Goat (Boer).



The nucleus farms include:

DA-Nueva Vizcaya Experiment Station (NVES) in Villaros, Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, specializing in dairy-type goats

DA-Quirino Experiment Station (QES) in Dungo, Aglipay, Quirino, focusing on Brahman Cattle

Isabela Experiment Station in Upi, Gamu, Isabela, dedicated to sheep breeding

Southern Cagayan Research Center-Annex (SCRC-Annex) in Maguirig, Solana, Cagayan, specializing in goat meat

72

stocks

29

recipients



GOAT

64

stocks

17

recipients



SHEEP

12

stocks

10

recipients



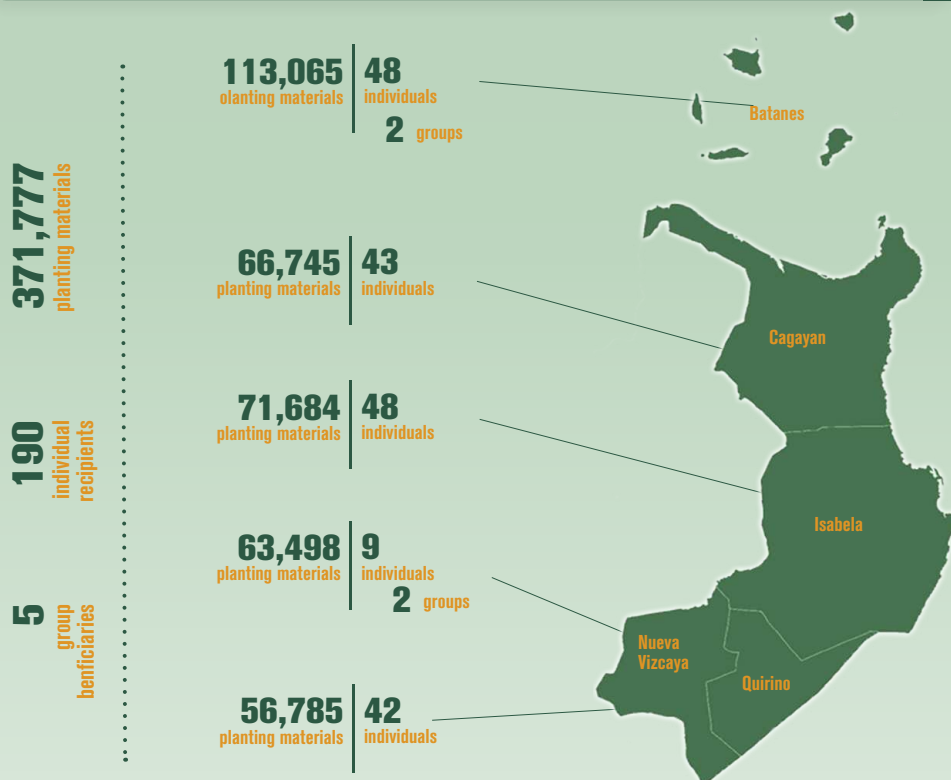
CATTLE



Feed and Feed-Development Program

Supported livestock production by distributing forage and pasture seeds and planting materials, benefiting both large and small ruminant breeders

Despite the absence of allocated funds, as of June 2023, 255,867 out of 215,200 planting materials were collected from various nucleus farms and distributed to two (2) FCAs and 149 individual beneficiaries.



Swine Sentinelling (INSPIRE Program)

This is a vital component of INSPIRE (Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion) program, aiming to revive the hog industry affected by African Swine Fever (ASF). It involves acquiring and distributing sentinel piglets and hog feeds to initiate repopulation efforts. The program fully obligated and disbursed its budget of 23,617,000.00 pesos for procuring and distributing 1,440 animals, feeds, medicine, and other essentials.



Isabela Goat Raisers Agriculture Cooperative, together with DA RFO 02, Office of Isabela District 4 representative, and MLGU Jones at the groundbreaking of bio-secured facility under INSPIRE. (May 31, 2023)

EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES (ESETS)

Incentivized 144 agricultural extension workers/livestock inspectors and 34 data collectors/meat inspectors across the region for their consistent assistance in provincial and municipal local government units (P/MLGUs) in implementing livestock-related programs, and projects

PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (PAEF)



Livestock Economic Enterprise Development (LEED) Program

Allocated a total budget of Php 8,000,000.00 for CY 2023 to establish production facilities, for qualified FCAs in the region in support of the F2C2 Project under the Livestock Economic Enterprise Development Project (LEED), with 100% obligation recorded

Livelihood Intervention	Beneficiary
Chicken Multiplier Farm (1)	Sto. Rosario Cassava Rice and Corn Credit Coop
Rabbit Multiplier Farm (1)	Nueva Vizcaya Rabbit Breeders Agriculture Coop
Sheep Multiplier Farm (2)	Small Ruminants & Rice Growers Association of Cagayan Carmencita Economic Vegetable & Marketing Association



Community-Based Swine Production & Expansion through Clustering and Consolidation

Launched the Bantay ASF sa Barangay or BaBay ASF program to complement efforts aimed at establishing biosecurity and infectious prevention measures, operating through strong collaboration between the division and its key stakeholders.

Implemented clustering, a key aspect of the INSPIRE Program, to control the disease and boost the pig industry affected by ASF, focusing on enhancing the swine stock and breeder base, with additional measures incorporating biosecurity plans to support repopulation efforts.

A man wearing a dark blue t-shirt and a black baseball cap with a white logo is smiling and holding a black plastic tray filled with young green seedlings. He is standing in a greenhouse with a translucent plastic covering. In the background, there are more trays of seedlings on a metal stand. The overall scene is bright and shows a healthy agricultural environment.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

CAGAYAN VALLEY AS A PREMIER PRODUCER OF ORGANIC RICE, OPV CORN, AND VEGETABLES IN THE COUNTRY, SUSTAINING A MARKET SUPPLY OF CERTIFIED ORGANICALLY GROWN / PREPARED FOOD, FEEDS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INPUT PRODUCTS



DA RFO 02 officials and National Organic Agriculture Program officers visit the greenhouse nursery at the DA-CVRC Annex, Baligatan, City of Ilagan, Isabela for the 6th Regional Organic Congress. (October 11, 2023)

The Organic Agriculture Program in Cagayan Valley has made remarkable progress, promoting sustainable farming practices and community engagement through seed distribution, facility upgrades, and solar-powered irrigation.

The program aims to (1) increase the total share of agriculture areas devoted to organic agriculture; (2) boost the number of organic practitioners; (3) increase volume of total organic production; and (4) expand distribution channels for organic produce and products. In 2023, DA RFO 02 aimed to increase organic rice, OPV corn, and vegetable production area from 1,886 hectares to 2,383 hectares, as well as increase organic rice, OPV corn, and vegetable production volume from 937 MT to 1,226 MT.





PRODUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES (PSS)



Feed and Feed-Development Program

To strengthen the organic agriculture sector, DA RFO 02 developed seed systems for organic vegetables, upland rice, and OPV corn across the region. These seeds, produced in two (2) research centers and four (4) experiment stations certified by OCCP-Inspection and Certification Services Inc., were distributed to farmers and farmers groups, benefitting a significant number of individuals and groups.

192 kg assorted organic vegetable seeds to 951 individuals and eight (8) farmers groups

6,340kg organic upland rice seeds to 173 individuals and seven (7) farmer groups

4,110kg organic OPV corn seeds to 222 individuals and seven (7) farmer groups



Production facilities upgraded

Eight (8) research centers and experiment stations underwent upgrades to develop cost-effective climate change mitigation technology supporting organic agriculture.



EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES (ESETS)

Information Caravan

DA RFO 02, in partnership with the DA-National Organic Agriculture Program (DA-NOAP) led by Director Bernadette F. San Juan, organized a series of information caravans on organic agriculture.

Held on June 13, 2023, in Batanes Province, and on June 29-30, 2023, in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya Provinces, these caravans aimed to raise awareness and to encourage local government units (LGUs) to implement organic agriculture ordinances in line with Republic Act (RA) 10068, also known as the Organic Agriculture Law.

The events gathered local chief executives, policymakers, members of provincial and municipal agricultural committees, municipal agriculture officials and employees, farmers' cooperatives and associations, and other stakeholders.

Organic Asia Congress (OAC)

DA RFO 02 participated in the 6th Organic Asia Congress (OAC) from June 4-10, 2023.

Themed "Building World Peace through Organic Agriculture: Food Security Vital to Peace Building," the congress attracted over 2,000 participants, including 251 foreign delegates from 35 countries, serving as a platform to showcase the trends and roles of organic agriculture in sustainable growth and development.

Hosted by the Municipality of Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, in collaboration with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, Cities, and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-Ph), the event focused on the impact of organic agriculture on peace building and sustainable development.

Regional Organic Agriculture Congress

DA RFO 02 conducted the 6th Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) - "Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK" on October 11-12, 2023, at CVRC Annex, Baligatan, City of Ilagan, Isabela. It provided stakeholders with updates on the organic agriculture in the region and promoted technologies.

Stakeholders pledged to uphold the principles of RA11511, committing to advance organic agriculture in the Philippines. Their dedication aims to enhance soil fertility, boost farm productivity and incomes, reduce pollution, protect natural resources, empower indigenous farmers, safeguard public health, and promote food self-sufficiency.

The congress featured trade fairs and organic mini-markets, showcasing top-quality organic and natural products from OA practitioners in the region, and was attended by Senator Cynthia Villar, Engr. Zamzamin L. Ampatuan, NOAP-NPCO Staff, NOAB Members, DA RFO 02 officials, representatives from PLGUs and MLGUs, organic practitioners, farmers cooperative and associations, and other stakeholders.



IRRIGATION NETWORK SERVICES (INS)



Solar Power Irrigation System

Efficient water management, including retention, harvesting, and storage, holds immense significance for organic farmers. Irrigation stands as a cornerstone in supporting vegetable and crop production, amplifying farmers' efficiency, particularly within organic farming practices.

Constructed three (3) Solar Pumps for Maddadala Farmers Cooperative, Sta. Maria, Isabela, Isabela State University - Roxas Campus, Roxas, Isabela, and Vizcaya Fresh! Organic Advocates Inc., Nueva Vizcaya farmer beneficiaries



PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (PAEF)



Provision of Organic Agriculture Livelihood Projects (OALP)

These projects are designed to act as business integrators for organic farms, serving as producers and suppliers of organic inputs, providers of farm services, and consolidators and marketers of organic produce and products.

Beneficiary	Interventions/Remarks
SAMBALAND Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative	one (1) unit organic fertilizer facility (19.16%) two (2) units greenhouses (42.33%)
Madadala Farmers Marketing Cooperative	one (1) unit organic fertilizer facility (19.83%) two (2) units greenhouses (32.27%)
Vizcaya Fresh! Organic Advocates Inc.	one (1) unit organic fertilizer facility (for mobilization) two (2) units greenhouses (for mobilization)
PGS- Kayapa Group	one (1) unit organic fertilizer facility (for mobilization) two (2) units greenhouses (for mobilization)



HALAL FOOD INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Halal Food Industry Development Program

Represents a commendable initiative that promotes economic development and cultural inclusivity. By empowering local farmers' cooperatives and associations to navigate the complexities of Halal certification, the program fosters a supportive environment for agricultural entrepreneurship while ensuring the production of high-quality, culturally appropriate products.

Conducted two (2) orientations/technical briefings in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry Regional Office 02, on topics of "Advance Training cum Production of Halal Farming System and DA-Assisted Halal Products"

Engaged 55 participants from Kasibu Coffee Growers Association and Tiblac Farmers Agriculture Cooperative of Kasibu, and Ambaguio, Nueva Vizcaya

Two (2) new coffee products certified

- Ambaguio Kapi (Robusta) of Tiblac Farmers Agriculture Cooperative
- Robusta and Arabica whole beans of Kasibu Coffee Growers Association

Monitored the renewal process for Halal Certificates of previously certified products

- DISADECO's DISADECO Coffee and Blends (Robusta Coffee, Drip Bag Coffee)
- Providers Multi-Purpose Cooperative's Enhanced Pinoy Gourmix
- Flow of Pariir Agriculture Cooperative's Mangbean Instant Ginisang Munggo and Mungbean Instant Noodles



Representatives from the Alliance for Halal Integrity in the Philippines Inc. (AHIP) conduct an inspection of DISADECO's processing facility in Diffun, Quirino, as part of the Halal Certification Audit and Assessment. (April 26, 2023)



MARKET DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**COMMITTED TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICES
TO AGRI-ENTREPRENEURS TO ENSURE AGRIBUSINESS
COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY.**

The Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD)

Through initiatives like market linkages, trade fairs, and KADIWA outlets, it facilitated business opportunities for 62 FCAs and agri-fishery enterprises, resulting in P11,083,882.00 worth of sales. Capacity enhancement programs and financial grants further empowered entrepreneurs. Going forward, AMAD remains committed to supporting agri-entrepreneurs and fostering economic growth in collaboration with various stakeholders.

Market Linkages

AMAD's mission is to aid local agri-product producers in accessing markets and expanding their reach. In 2023, AMAD organized **eight (8) market linkage events** with institutional buyers. These efforts facilitated the sale of **269.02 metric tons** of diverse agricultural goods, totaling **P11,083,882.00** in value.

Commodity	Producer/FCA	Buyer	Volume (kg)	Value (P)
Pineapple	Amballo South Pineapple Growers Association of Bagabag	Agri Nurture Inc.	9,274	348,430
	Sta. Ana Pineapple Growers Association of Sta. Ana, Cagayan	Hi-Las Marketing Corporation	20,701	434,737
Highland vegetables (cucumber, carrot, squash)	Caviteño Isabelino Agriculture Cooperative of Echague, Isabela	Agri Nurture Inc.	50,134	1,108,680
Mungbean	G-10 Council of Irrigators Association of Santiago City	Aratei Food Corporation	100	8,000
Rice	Good Samaritan Multi-Purpose Cooperative of San Mateo, Isabela	LGU Pateros	48,250	2,026,500
	Santiago Amos Credit Development Cooperative of Santiago City	KADIWA Store in NCR	10,000	390,000
	Nueva Vizcaya Alay Kapwa Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Solano, Nueva Vizcaya	Region 02 Rice Retailers	13,375	561,750
Dalandan	Nararagan United Farmers Association of Ballesteros, Cagayan	Weambard International Inc.	70,719	1,217,832
Other Agri-commodities	Agri-producers in Region 02	KADIWA FCA, partners and buyers in Region 02	46,467	4,987,953
TOTAL			269,020	11,083,882



Robinson's Place, Tuguegarao City - DA RFO 02 kicks off KADIWA Trade Fair with support from various partner agencies (November 9, 2023)

Trade Fairs and Exhibits

These events provided market opportunities for **28 Farmers Cooperative and Associations (FCAs)** and **16 agri-fishery enterprises** through two trade fairs. Held at the DA RFO 02 Grounds and at Robinsons mall on May 23-24, 2023, and November 9-12, 2023, they generated **Php1,724,840.00** in sales. Showcased products included items from various entities like DA RFO 02 Research Centers and Experiment Stations, Learning Sites, and Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) supported by different government agencies.

KADIWA Outlets

KADIWA outlets aim to support small farmers and fisherfolk economically while providing consumers with access to safe, fresh, and affordable agri-fishery products.

In 2023, **five (5) new outlets** were established across Region 02 through partnerships with FCAs, Research Centers and Experiment Stations, and LGUs, joining the 17 from the previous year. These outlets facilitated the sale of **170,948.05 kilograms** of goods, valued at **P20,513,767.00**.

Additionally, KADIWA-on-Wheels and KADIWA Pop-up Store generated P318,893.00 and P783,654.40 in sales, respectively, totaling **P21,616,314.40**. With these outlets, 43 local producers gained direct market access, creating **job opportunities for 39 individuals** who received daily incentives averaging P270.00 to P300.00.





The capacity enhancement/training provided by AMAD improved the business perspective of 10 entrepreneurs enrolled under the Agribusiness Support Promotion and Investment in Regional Enterprises (ASPIRE) for 2023.

These ASPIRE enrollees representing different FCAs had completed the series of trainings on agribusiness management provided by AMAD to enrich their knowledge and skills on business operation and competitiveness as well as to improve their product presentation.



Conducted sessions on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Registration and Certification procedures, Cost and Price Setting, and Product Packaging



Organized another batch of training for **11 FCAs under the F2C2 Program**, covering Business Plan Preparation and Agri-Entrepreneurship



To enhance marketing strategies, a workshop on Digital Marketing and Business Negotiation and Selling Skills was conducted, with **17 FCA beneficiaries** participating



Young Farmers Challenge Program (YFCP)

AMAD initiated a special project focusing on enterprising youth aged 18-30 years old with viable Business Model Canvas. The YFCP implemented three competition segments on August 24, 2023.

Start-up Category: Capital grants amounting to **P80,000.00** each in the Provincial Level were bestowed to 33 young entrepreneurs for their proposed business ventures. Among the provincial awardees, seven received P150,000.00 each at the regional level.

Province	Provincial Level		Regional Level Value (P)	
	Awardee	Amount (P)	Awardee	Amount (P)
Cagayan	8	640,000.00	5	750,000.00
Isabela	12	960,000.00	2	300,000.00
Nueva Vizcaya	9	720,000.00	-	-
Quirino	3	240,000.00	-	-
Batanes	1	80,000.00	-	-
TOTAL	33	2,640,000.00	7	1,050,000.00

Upscale Category (open to previous winners): Three (3) enterprises were granted P300,000.00 each.

Province	Provincial Level	Regional Level Value (P)
Cagayan	1	300,000.00
Isabela	2	600,000.00
Total	3	900,000.00

Intercollegiate Category (for state colleges and universities): Quirino State University emerged victorious, securing P150,000.00 during the YFCP Intercollegiate Competition - Regional Level. Regional champions advanced to the national competition automatically.





KADIWA Financial Grant Assistance Program

The KADIWA Financial Grant Assistance Program was created to capacitate the farmers and fishers to become sustainable food suppliers through Memorandum Circulars No. 16 and 36, Series of 2020, Memorandum Circular No. 13, Series of 2021 and No. 22, Series of 2023.

In 2023, 10 FCAs and six (6) LGUs were granted with financial grants totaling to **Php27,600,000.00 benefitting 6,484 farmer-members.**

Name of Recipient	Type of Grant	Amount (P)
Farmer and Fisherfolk Cooperative and Association (FCA)		
Buenavista Multi-Purpose Cooperative	delivery vehicle	1,200,000.00
Runruno Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative	delivery vehicle	1,800,000.00
Saint Damien Kabuhayan Alliance Inc	delivery vehicle	2,000,000.00
Sanguit Upland Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative	delivery vehicle	2,000,000.00
Happy Farmers Cooperative	working capital	2,000,000.00
Agrizkaya Cooperative Federation	working capital	500,000.00
Aurora Citrus Farmers Marketing Cooperative	working capital	500,000.00
Giayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative	working capital	500,000.00
Tapao Agriculture Cooperative	working capital	500,000.00
Local Government Unit (LGU)		
Alcala, Cagayan	delivery vehicle	2,000,000.00
Diffun, Quirino	delivery vehicle	2,000,000.00
Mallig, Isabela	delivery vehicle	2,000,000.00
Nagtipunan, Quirino	delivery vehicle	2,000,000.00
Solana, Cagayan	delivery vehicle working capital	2,000,000.00 3,000,000.00
Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya	delivery vehicle working capital	2,000,000.00 1,000,000.00

Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Information System Registration

Pursuant to the Sagip Saka Act (RA 11321), the FFEDIS, a web-based information system, was developed to assist the government in formulating plans and programs on enterprise development and enable the private sectors and other partner agencies (potential donors) to respond to the needs of the local and global markets.

A total of 134 agri-fishery enterprises, consisting of 37 cooperatives, 35 associations, one corporation, and one single proprietor enterprise, were registered in the FFEDIS.

Price Monitoring

Price Monitoring and Price Trend Analysis serve as decision-making aids, offering price insights to producers/processors, buyers, and consumers. Data gathering was conducted at least twice a week, particularly in 20 markets across the region. Prices of **35 agri-commodities** were monitored, consolidated, and transformed into infographics before submission to concerned entities. The updated prices were shared with various stakeholders through SMS Blasting.

INTEGRATED LABORATORY SERVICES



The Integrated Laboratory Services

Through its Regional Soil Laboratory, Regional Feed Chemical Analysis Laboratory, Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and Regional Crop Protection Center, DA RFO 02 has upheld food safety standards, promoted soil health, ensured feed and food safety, safeguarded animal health, and facilitated effective pest management strategies. These accomplishments reflect DA RFO 02's commitment to agricultural development, safety, and sustainability in Region 02.

Enhancing Agricultural Safety and Quality: Policy Formulation and Integration

In the dynamic landscape of agriculture, ensuring the safety and quality of agricultural products is paramount. The Integrated Laboratory Division at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA RFO 02) stands at the forefront of this endeavor, playing a pivotal role in upholding food safety and security standards in Region 02.

Policy Formulation and Integration

Driven by the mandate of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), the DA actively formulates policies to bolster operational efficiency and strengthen institutional capacities. This proactive approach extends to integrating the Research and Development/Extension (R&D/E) system with various laboratory services, aimed at fostering global competitiveness in producing high-quality and safe agricultural products.

Response to Challenges in Food Security

Challenges such as the escalating costs of inputs, notably inorganic fertilizers, have necessitated strategic responses. In light of this, the implementation of the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS) and technology demonstrations for Balanced Pesticide Use have been instrumental in mitigating these challenges, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

Role of the Integrated Laboratory Division

The Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Laboratory (CVIAL) serves as a cornerstone of food safety and security initiatives in Region 02. Operating as a comprehensive one-stop-shop laboratory, CVIAL offers a wide array of services tailored to the diverse needs of farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

Accreditation and Quality Assurance

A significant milestone for the Integrated Laboratory Division was the recent accreditation

renewal by the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) until May 30, 2027, under the PNS ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards. This accreditation underscores the division's commitment to adherence to rigorous quality standards in agricultural testing and analysis.

Expansion of Capabilities

Moreover, the division's capabilities have been further bolstered with the addition of new accredited scopes. Notably, the inclusion of Organic Matter in Soil Analysis and ASF testing, along with appointments of approved signatories for various analyses, reflects a dedication to continuous improvement and proficiency in agricultural testing.

In essence, the Integrated Laboratory Division at DA RFO 02 remains steadfast in its mission to uphold agricultural safety and quality standards. Through its unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation, it continues to be a cornerstone of agricultural development in Region 02, ensuring the welfare of farmers and consumers alike.



The Role of the Regional Soil Laboratory

Agricultural productivity hinges on the delicate balance of soil health and nutrient management. In Region 02, the Regional Soil Laboratory (RSL), in tandem with its satellite laboratory, the Ilagan Soil Laboratory (ISL), stands as a beacon of agricultural advancement. Their mission is to equip farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to cultivate thriving crops while preserving soil fertility.

Serving as Pillars of Agricultural Advancement

The RSL and ISL serve as vital hubs in delivering technical insights, analyses, and recommendations regarding soil conditions and plant nutrient requirements. Their primary objective is to empower farmers in achieving optimal crop yields, reducing input costs, and sustaining soil health. They provide invaluable technical assistance, supporting research, development, and extension initiatives in the agriculture sector.

Advocates of Balanced Fertilization Strategy

The laboratories actively promote the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS), using soil analysis as the foundation for balanced fertilizer recommendations. They have consistently met annual targets for laboratory analyses, soil fertility map development, and provision of biofertilizers.

Since 2014, the laboratories have developed 152 soil fertility maps for rice, corn, and high-value crops. These maps have been disseminated to 94 municipalities and 53 Fertility Correction Areas (FCAs), empowering farmers with critical insights into soil health. Furthermore, the Mobile Soils Laboratory has been instrumental in serving 42 municipalities, with additional municipalities—Aparri, Ballesteros, and Abulug—benefiting from its services this year.

BIOFERTILIZERS	PACKS DISTRIBUTED	AREA COVERED
CFA	77,300 packs 17 FCAs, 21 LGUs	3,865 hectare
IBIO-N RICE	4,500 packs 9 FCAs	900 hectares
BIO-N CORN	4,500 packs 9 FCAs	13,027 hectares

The laboratory hosted the **Regional Soil Health Summit** on July 20, 2023, at DA-SCRC, Iguig, Cagayan, marked by the significant milestone of launching the Digital (Online) Soil Fertility Map.

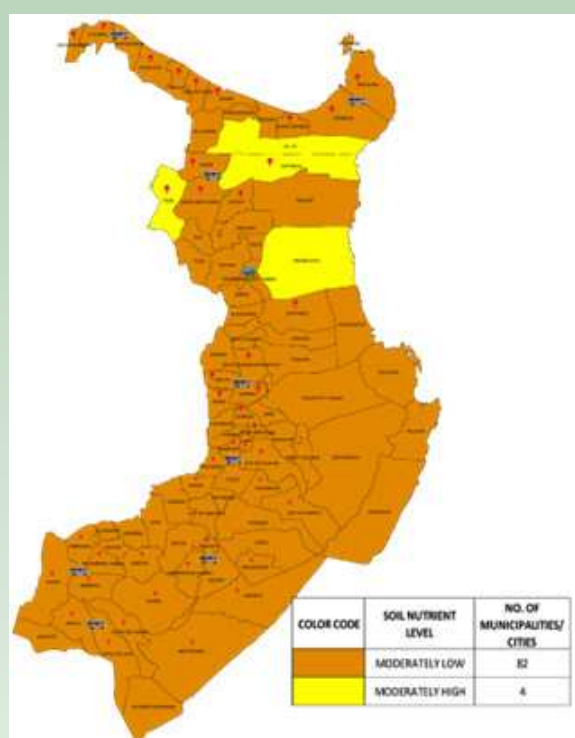
The **Digital (Online) Soil Fertility Map** is now conveniently accessible on the DA RFO 02 website, offering farmers the ability to check soil fertilizer recommendations for their specific areas at their fingertips. Approximately 200 participants attended the summit and launch event, which was honored by the presence of DA-BAR Director, Dir. Junel Soriano.

152 Soil Fertility Maps for Rice, Corn and High Value Crops updated

94 municipalities served

53 Farmers Cooperative and Associations (FCA) recipients

42 municipalities served by the Mobile Soils Laboratory since 2014



Regional Feed Chemical Analysis Laboratory (RFCAL) and Regional Food Technology Development & Incubation Center (RFTDIC)

RFCAL and its subunit, the RFTDIC, are essential components of DA RFO 02, offering crucial analytical, research, and development services to support agriculture and ensure food safety.

Mission and Personnel

RFCAL operates with a dedicated team of 17 personnel, including five individuals working within the RFTDIC subunit. It plays a vital role in supporting the One DA Reform Agenda Key Strategy on Food Safety and Regulations. By providing quality control services for feed production and monitoring, it ensures compliance with regulatory standards.

In CY 2023, RFCAL analyzed 1,773 feed samples from 163 establishments, with 71% found compliant with BAI Feed Nutrient Standards. An additional 277 samples from various clients were catered to, including feed manufacturers, researchers, and academic institutions.

Aflatoxin Analysis and Compliance

For aflatoxin analysis, RFCAL collected and analyzed 1,001 corn and peanut samples from 10 Farmers Cooperative and Associations (FCAs). Results showed that 87% of samples met Aflatoxin maximum Levels, ensuring the safety of these agricultural products.

Testing and Training Activities



RFCAL extends its services beyond feed analysis, catering to food sample testing and facilitating processes for nutritional facts, microbiological testing, and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) registration. Moreover, the center conducts training sessions on Meat Processing for various stakeholders, showcasing its commitment to capacity building and knowledge dissemination.

In a collaborative effort, RFTDIC transferred technology for improved packaging of Pawa Delicacy from Piat, Cagayan, to the local Piat Pawa Association. This initiative demonstrates the center's support for local enterprises and its role in fostering innovation within the agricultural sector.



Advancing Animal Health: The Role of the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL)

RADDL stands as a vital research and development facility dedicated to providing efficient animal disease diagnostic services and supporting livestock farmers in the region. With a vision to become a center of excellence in veterinary diagnostics, RADDL plays a crucial role in ensuring the health and safety of livestock.

Mission and Personnel

Driven by its mission to provide quality veterinary diagnostic services conforming to international standards, RADDL operates with a team of 11 personnel, comprising both technical and non-technical staff, who are committed to realizing the laboratory's objectives.



Supporting Food Security and Regulations

RADDL offers a range of laboratory diagnostic tests to support animal health monitoring, surveillance, and food safety. Through Parasitology, Pathology, Microbiology, Serology, Virology, and Molecular Biology, the laboratory contributes significantly to disease surveillance and control efforts.



Accomplishments and Achievements

In the past year, RADDL has exceeded its targets, analyzing a total of 18,334 samples, surpassing its annual target of 8,950 samples. Notably, the laboratory played a crucial role in avian influenza and African Swine Fever surveillance, with significant numbers of samples analyzed and positive cases identified.

Biodewormer Production

Aside from testing, RADDL is actively involved in non-testing activities such as Biodewormer production. With 100% of its annual physical target achieved, the laboratory produced 60,000 doses of Biodewormer, benefiting small ruminant farmers across various provinces.



Accreditation and Recognition

RADDL underwent assessment for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation, with three test parameters recommended for accreditation. Additionally, five laboratory personnel were recommended as signatories, showcasing the laboratory's commitment to quality and proficiency. Finally, on December 6, 2023, **RADDL was granted accreditation by the Philippine Accreditation Bureau**, solidifying its position as a trusted provider of veterinary diagnostic services.



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The Philippine Accreditation Bureau, Department of Trade and Industry, grants accreditation to

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE 02
INTEGRATED LABORATORY DIVISION**
Department of Agriculture – Cagayan Valley Integrated
Agricultural Laboratory
Enrile Boulevard, Regional Government Center, Carig Sur
Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

having been assessed and found conforming to the requirements of **PNS ISO/IEC 17025:2017** and the PAB conditions for laboratory accreditation in the field of **Biological testing** specified in the Scope of Accreditation.

Accreditation Number: LA-2022-394A
Scope Reference: ATEL-1223-394A
Accreditation Validity: May 30, 2027
Date Issued: December 06, 2023

Validity of accreditation and this certificate is effective subject to continuing conformity with the criteria and PAB conditions for accreditation.


JAMES E. EMPENO
Director IV
Philippine Accreditation Bureau


**PAB ACCREDITED
TESTING LABORATORY**
PNS ISO/IEC 17025:2017
LA-2022-394A

This accreditation demonstrates technical competence for the specified scope reference and operates generally in accordance with the principles of ISO 9001 (refer to part ISO-ILAC-IMP Communication).

REGIONAL CROP PROTECTION CENTER (RCPC): Strengthening Crop Protection for Sustainable Agriculture

RCPC stands as a pivotal institution in bolstering crop protection efforts within the region. Established in accordance with Letter of Instruction No. 987, the center serves as a vital arm of the DA RFO 02 dedicated to fortifying agricultural sustainability through innovative pest management strategies.

Founded in 1980, RCPC emerged as part of a strategic initiative to fortify crop protection endeavors in the region. Initially a component of the Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CVIARC), RCPC transitioned to its current iteration under the Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Laboratory (CVIAL) Division in 2014.

Mission and Vision

The RCPC's mission is clear: to empower farming communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to produce sufficient, affordable, and safe food for every Filipino. Anchored by a vision of effective, sustainable pest management, the center strives to safeguard the region's agricultural landscape against the threats posed by pests and diseases.

Objective

The RCPC's objectives are twofold: to develop innovative pest management strategies and to provide research-backed recommendations for pest and disease control. By conducting research for development and offering extension support, education, and training services, the center aims to equip farmers with the skills and resources needed to protect their crops effectively.

Major Activities

Research for Development

- Conducted six (6) research projects focused on enhancing pest management and crop protection strategies
- Projects include evaluations of carrageenan plant growth promoters, drone applications in rice production, and development of pest management strategies for rice fall armyworm

Extension Support, Education, and Training Services (ESETS)

- Provided training on integrated pest management, pesticide residue analysis, good agricultural practices, and mushroom production
- Held training for the Barangay Bantay Peste Brigade (BBPB), with 10 batches and 350 participants, aimed to help corn farmers manage pests and diseases

- Conducted training on mass production of various Biological Control Agents (BCAs) to support Executive Order 138 or the Mandanas Ruling, aiming to make BCAs more accessible to farmers for managing pests and diseases, with twenty-five participants from Cagayan State University (CSU), Isabela State University (ISU), Local Government Units (LGUs), and interested FCA members



- Conducted training sessions on mushroom production to enhance the knowledge and skills of non-government organizations and government agencies, including the Philippine National Police (PNP), with a total of 24 training batches

Production and Distribution of Biological Control Agents (BCAs)

Central to the RCPC's pest management strategy is the production and distribution of biological control agents. By providing farmers with access to entomopathogenic fungi, parasitoids, and predators, the center empowers them to combat pests effectively while minimizing environmental impact.



Entomopathogenic Fungi (EPF)

- Green Muscardine Fungus (*Metarhizium anisoplae*) and White Muscardine Fungus (*Beauveria bassiana*): 9,198 kilograms produced and 4,175 packs were distributed to 694 farmers covering an area of 897 hectares
- Pink Muscardine Fungus (*Isaria fumosorosea*): 1,589 kilograms produced and 736 packs were distributed to 139 farmers covering an area of 161 hectares
- *Trichoderma harzianum*: 3,308 kilograms produced and 2,477 packs distributed to 278 hectares for 304 farmers beneficiaries for composting and for soil-borne disease management

Parasitoids

- Trichogramma: 451,200 cards produced; 55,600 cards distributed to 533 individual farmer covering 830 hectares vegetable area

Predator

- Earwig (*Euborellia annulata* and *Euborellia annulipes*): 22,038,929 individual earwigs produced 1,985,00 distributed to the 125 farmers covering 214 hectares

Mass production of mushroom spawn

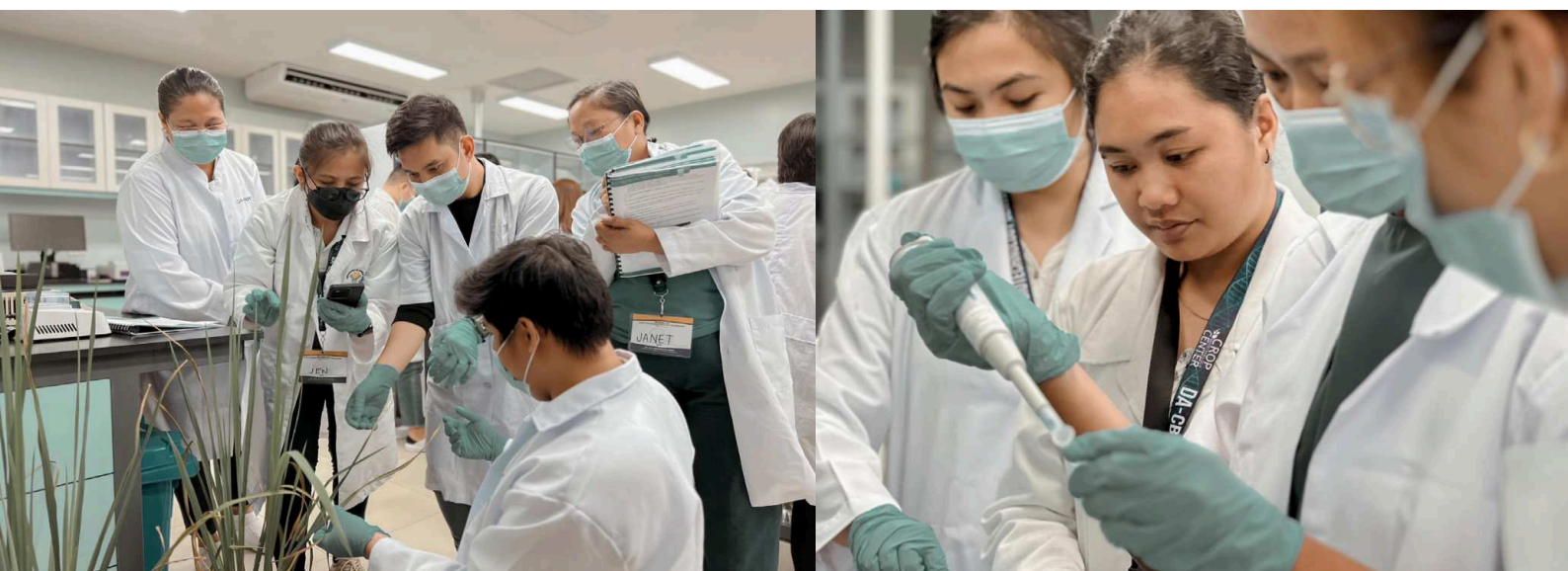
To promote mushroom cultivation among farmers, five FCAs in Isabela are linked to the center through the Mushroom Growers Associations. These include RIC, Masikap SLP and Mayabong, SLP Alicia, Barangay Green Ladies Organization, and 5S Mushroomery Nagbukel.

Altogether, the center produced and distributed various types of mushroom spawns:

- 5,651 straw mushroom spawns, with 3,119 distributed to 206 farmers;
- 650 oyster mother spawns, with 74 distributed to 15 farmers; and
- 2,586 oyster planting spawns, with 1,447 distributed to 132 farmers.

Other Milestones and Achievements

- **Diagnostic Capabilities:** RCPC-PHC operates two (2) essential laboratories: the Microbiology Laboratory and the Molecular Biology Laboratory, which play a crucial role in accurately diagnosing plant diseases, providing foundational data for research on pest and disease identification, and guiding proper management strategies.
- **Crop Diseases Identification:** The center has identified, maintained, and preserved over 25 pure cultures of emerging crop diseases across 15 crops in Region 02.
- **Contributions to Food Safety:** RCPC-PHC reinforces RA No. 10611, known as the "Food Safety Act of 2013," by monitoring pesticide residue levels in locally grown vegetables. Using advanced equipment like the Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer Machine and rapid test kits, the center screens and identifies specific organophosphate pesticides, contributing to the promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and food safety awareness.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** The center conducts capacity-building initiatives on pesticide residue analysis and GAP. Staff members undergo training sessions to enhance their skills and stay updated on laboratory methods, crucial for maintaining ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation.
- **Research for Development (R4D) projects** include the development of disease management strategies and PCR protocols for detecting disease-causing organisms in ginger and the assessment, evaluation, and development of in-house protocols for pesticide residue analysis on cereals and grains.



RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES








At the Annual In-House review of DA RFO 02, top researchers were awarded with plaques and cash prizes for their remarkable contributions in agricultural research. (July 21, 2023)

The Research for Development (R4D) Services

In Region 02, the Research for Development (R4D) Services have revolutionized agricultural innovation. Led by the Research Division, their integrated programs have yielded location-specific technologies, empowering stakeholders and boosting agribusiness profitability. Notable achievements include securing substantial funding, facilitating technology transfer, and garnering recognition at national and international levels. With ISO 9001:2015 certification and a focus on future priorities like technology scaling and capacity building, the division remains committed to driving sustainable agricultural development in the region.

Program Objectives and Strategies

Aligned with the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), the Research Division, formerly known as the Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Center (RIARC), plays a pivotal role in orchestrating and overseeing integrated research for development (R4D) programs in the region. By ensuring efficient resource allocation and fostering collaboration, it aims to generate location-specific technologies and information to bolster profitable agribusinesses and empower stakeholders.

	Php54,899,000.00 utilized from regular funds	HIGHLIGHTS
	102 R4D and Research Facilities Development (RFD) proposals endorsed, leading to the approval and funding of 18 projects by DA-BAR generating a total of Php59,613,780.10	
	4 Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) conducted in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya provinces, guiding research project proposals	
	4 capacity-building workshops on various topics including proposal writing, experimental design, and understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	
	2 out of the 3 trademark applications and 14 utility models submitted to IPOPHL were awarded with registration certificates	



Technology Identification

DA RFO 02 identified location-specific technologies from 30 regular and 18 externally funded projects.

Input-subsystem

1. Identified next generation rice varieties:

- Irrigated inbred
Dry Season (DS): NSIC Rc508, NSIC Rc512, NSIC Rc442
Wet Season (WS): NSIC Rc582, NSIC Rc508, NSIC Rc506
- Glutinous rice
Dry Season (DS): NSIC Rc31SR, NSIC Rc17, NSIC Rc15
Wet Season (WS): NSIC Rc19, NSIC Rc15, NSIC Rc21SR
- Aromatic rice
Dry Season (DS): NSIC Rc344SR
Wet Season (WS): NSIC Rc484SR
- Rainfed/drought prone
Dry Season (DS): NSIC Rc572, NSIC Rc568, NSIC Rc576, NSIC Rc578
Wet Season (WS): NSIC Rc572, NSIC Rc568, NSIC Rc576, NSIC Rc578
- Saline-prone
Dry Season (DS): NSIC Rc480, NSIC Rc534
Wet Season (WS): NSIC Rc480, NSIC Rc534

2. Use of NSIC Rc27 in the upland ecosystem

in Quirino Province and rainfed areas in Cagayan; NSIC Rc480 in saline area of Cagayan; multi stress-tolerant rice varieties suited for upland conditions (NSIC Rc480, NSIC Rc27 and NSIC Rc192) in Isabela; and high quality special purpose rice varieties in support to the sustainable production of rice flour for food product processing in Region 02 (NSIC Rc31SR, NSIC Rc17 and NSIC Rc19)

3. Identified the regional rice seed variety preferences of farmers

- Hybrid (DS) Irrigated: SL-8H, PHB 79, Longping 937, Bigante, Nk 5017
- Hybrid (DS) Rainfed: SL-8H, PHB 79, Bigante, NK 5017, Longping 937
- Hybrid (WS) Irrigated: PHB 79, SL-8H, Longping 937, NK 5017, Bigante
- Hybrid (WS) Rainfed: SL-8H, PHB 79, Bigante, NK 5017, Longping 937
- Inbred (DS) Irrigated: NSIC Rc222, PSB Rc18, NSIC Rc480, NSIC Rc402, NSIC Rc216
- Inbred (DS) Rainfed: NSIC Rc222, PSB Rc18, NSIC Rc402, NSIC Rc408, NSIC Rc216
- Inbred (WS) Irrigated: NSIC Rc222, NSIC Rc402, PSB Rc18, NSIC Rc408, NSIC

Rc216

- Inbred (WS) Rainfed: NSIC Rc222, PSB Rc18, NSIC Rc402, NSIC Rc408, NSIC Rc216

4. Identified the regional corn seed variety preferences of farmers

- Dry Season (DS) All Development Zones: Pioneer 3585YHR, NK6410, NK8840, Dekalb 6919s, Pioneer 3530YHR
- DS Hilly areas: NK8840, Pioneer 3585YHR, NK6410, Dekalb 6919s, Pioneer 3530YHR
- DS Riverflood Plains: Pioneer 3585YHR, NK6410, NK8840, Dekalb 6919s, Pioneer 3530YHR
- WS All Development Zones: Pioneer 3585YHR, NK6410, NK8840, Dekalb 6919s, Dekalb 8282s
- WS Hilly areas: NK8840, Pioneer 3585YHR, NK6410, Dekalb 6919s, Pioneer 3530YHR
- WS Riverflood Plains: Pioneer 3585YHR, NK6410, NK8840, Dekalb 6919s, Pioneer 3530YHR

5. Propagation of quality ginger planting material

- Mass production through the conventional seed rhizome technique
- Healthy mother rhizomes propagated in a semi-controlled environment under nursery conditions
- Use of soil sterilization and biological control agents (BCAs)

6. Propagation of strawberry planting materials

- Combination of 1:1 ratio garden soil and ready-mix media use as potting medium
- Use of 30cm x 25cm planting distance
- Use of plastic film as mulching material
- Recommended fertilizer of 1-2 kg of organic, 70 kg of complete fertilizer, and 8.5 kg of murate of potash in 500sqm

7. Saba variety whole corm macro-propagation and tissue culture

- Fertilization based on soil analysis
- De-leafing
- De-suckering
- Integrated pest management

8. Rapid propagation of quality banana planting materials through banana tissue culture and macro-propagation technology

9. Packaging of rice wash-based probiotics for small ruminants



Mallig, Isabela: Farmers observe a drone seeding demonstration as part of DA RFO 02's effort to scale up modified planting calendar, precision, and digital farming. (December 12, 2023)

10. Developed a **prototype water treatment system** incorporating oyster mushroom spent (Pleurotus sp.) for the removal of heavy metals Cadmium (Cd) and Arsenic (As) and bacteria from contaminated water of Magat dam reservoir
11. Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) **Corn Breeding Program and Genetic Improvement**
 - Developed and promoted NSIC Rc335 (CVRC Glut 21-16), newly registered corn variety with the following characteristics:
 - Early maturing (95-100 days after planting)
 - Soft and sweet pericarp
 - Long ears
 - Large seeded
12. **Drone application** on rice production through seeding, fertilizer broadcasting and pesticide or insecticide spraying
13. **Nutrient Management** using **balanced fertilization** for selected highland vegetables in Sto. Niño, Cagayan
7. **Corn silage production** for small ruminant (goat and sheep)
8. **Small Water Impounding Projects** as effective flood control measures
9. **Groundwater database and maps** as reference on areas with indicative abundant groundwater and aquifer depth for irrigation development
10. Using **Open Data Kit (ODK)**/digital application in surveillance, monitoring and data gathering for cassava production
11. Developed **Rice FAW Management Strategies**
12. **Sacalan Technology** for Mango Fertilization and Rejuvenation

Production-subsystem

1. **Rice Crop Manager** recommendation suited for saline areas and zinc deficient areas
2. **Sustainable Upland Rice Production in Sloping Areas (SURPISA)**
 - Hedgerows like banana and pineapple
 - Contour Farming
3. **Modified planting calendar** cum mechanization in water pump Irrigated rice areas using mechanical rice seeder and rice transplanter
4. **Rice-rice-mungbean cropping pattern** in Aglipay, Quirino
5. **Rice+duck integration** in open source pump irrigated areas
6. **Off-Season Onion Production** in the rice and corn-based areas
1. **Zero Energy Cooling Chamber (ZECC)** Technology storage for fruits and vegetables
2. Information on the market potential of **Siomaitik and Embutiduck** food products
3. Scaled **brown rice** food products (brown rice puff balls, cookies, rice flour, PandeRise)
4. **Full-Fated Soybean Protein**, also known as Texturized Vegetable Protein (TVP)
5. Product and Market Development of **MangBean Instant Ginisang Munggo** and Instant MangBean Noodles Food Products
6. Information on the performance and enhancement of locally fabricated multi-commodity **flour mill**
7. Agribusiness Developed Processed Products Technology Business Incubator (**ADePt-TBI**)

Inaugurated the **Technology Commercialization Center** as the regional hub for promoting technologies and products that have farm-level applications and the office for the Cagayan Valley Regional Research for Development and Extension Network (CVRRDEN)





IN FOCUS: DA RFO 02 BREAKTHROUGHS

Batanes Experiment Station (Basco, Batanes)

Recognized as the *first Small Ruminant Animal Facility Registered in Region 2*

Two (2) projects approved and funded by DA-BAR entitled "Technology Verification of Boron Fertilization in the Productivity of two sweet potato varieties in Batanes" (PHP500,000) and "Technology Verification of Boron Fertilization in the Productivity of Batanes Red and Itbayat Native Garlic Variety" (PHP747,232)

Northern Cagayan Experiment Station (Abulug, Cagayan)

Led the adoption of *Sweet Abulug Pomelo* technologies in the municipality through creation of ordinances, including verified pest management technologies such as BCA application, Carbosulfan insecticide application, insect trapping using Supernet insect sticker net, and fruit bagging technique

Panderise

SCRC - Cagayan Breeding Station (Solana, Cagayan)

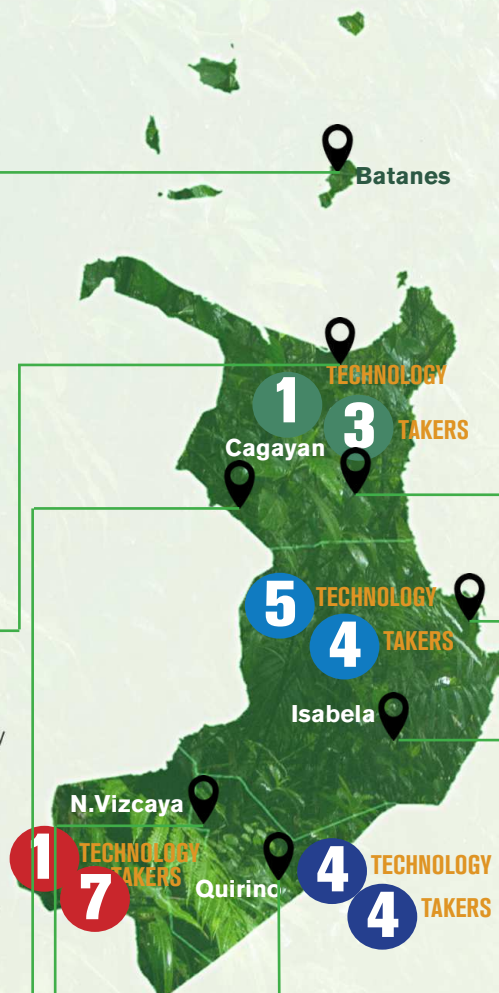
Maintained the *1st Liquid Nitrogen Plant AVR* in support of the UNAIP program, ensuring the vitality of sperm during transport and storage

Nueva Vizcaya Experiment Station (Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya)

Fermented Feeds for Duck transferred to 7 FCAs

Off-Season-Onion Production to Cabagan Green Integrated Farming and Tourism Society Agricultural Cooperative (Cabagan GIFTS)

Awarded *cacao productivity enhancement project* to two FCAS in Nueva Vizcaya



Quirino Experiment Station (Aglipay, Quirino)

Led the generation and commercialization of *Corn Double Row Planting with Balanced Fertilizer Use Strategy*

Sustainable Corn Production in Sloping Areas (SCoPSA) to Progreso Farmers' Association and GUNGLO Farmers' Association

Modified Planting Calendar Mechanization in Water Pump Irrigated Rice Areas of Quirino to Villagunda Irrigators Associations Inc.

Organic Fertilizer Production (Vermicomposting) to MLGU of Aglipay, Quirino and GUNGLO Farmers' Association

Southern Cagayan Research Center (Iguig, Cagayan)

Conducted and implemented 18 research projects focusing on various agricultural domains

Developed and awarded *Rice Mushroom Miki* to Foronda Integrated Farm

Distributed *lowland strawberry planting materials* (runners) in support to strawberry enterprise in Cagayan

Cagayan Valley Research Center (Ilagan, Isabela)

Upgraded Technology Transfer Efforts Through Sustainable Adoption and Commercialization with partner agencies

Adlay Production to EJ Contreras Food House

Cagayan Valley Ducken Delights: Siomaitik and Embutiduck to Pattung Muscovy Duck Production

Panderise to Saint Padre Pio Parish and Baro a Langa ti Mannalon

Nana Oryza Brown Rice Product to Baro a Langa ti Mannalon

Awarded the *PinoyGourmizx*, an instant gourmet food, to the Provider Multi-purpose Cooperative of Naguilian, Isabela

Isabela Experiment Station (Gamu, Isabela)

Implemented two (2) R4D projects; strengthening *corn silage production* in the region and verifying the performance of mungbean and cowpea as protein sources in swine and chicken diets, reducing the dependency on soybean



Participants in the Isabela Provincial Technology Forum at DA-CVRC Annex, Baligatan, City of Ilagan, Isabela. (November 16, 2023)

Successfully transferred 11 technologies to 18 takers / incubatees in Cagayan Valley, and one technology to seven (7) takers in the province of Siquijor

Conducted Technology Readiness Level (TRL) assessments to identify technology maturity and facilitate IP protection and transfer

Awarded Technology Transfer Certificates and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)

Capacitated takers on procedures, protocols, technical know-how, and profitability analysis

Endorsed 11 research results for possible publication in "Linker: The Journal of Emerging Research in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry"



Promoted technologies through various channels such as:

- Field days to engage municipalities and stakeholders. Municipalities expressed willingness to adopt Off-season Onion Production technology. PLGU-Nueva Vizcaya allocated Php1.6 million for Off-season Onion Production project. MLGU Ramon initiated onion production in barangays, offering financial incentives to farmers.
- Packaged Quarterly R4D digest, press releases, and audiovisual presentations showcasing various technologies including Banana propagation, Mushroom production, and Zero Energy Cooling Chamber
- Webinars and virtual platforms discussing double-row planting in corn and Off-season Onion Production technology
- Technology forums showcasing 42 technologies focused on climate change, digital agriculture, and soil health, engaging 502 participants including researchers, farmer cooperatives, and associations, and fostered youth involvement through a Mural Painting Contest



REGULATORY SERVICES

The Regulatory Services

The achievements and strategies of the Regulatory Division underscore its vital role in safeguarding food safety and regulatory compliance in the region. Through proactive initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and a commitment to excellence, the division remains at the forefront of ensuring the integrity of agricultural products and the well-being of consumers and livestock alike.

The Regulatory Division's objectives for CY 2023 were focused on ensuring compliance with quality and safety standards for crops, animal production, and by-products intended for human and animal consumption. Strategies included increasing awareness and compliance of farmers on food safety standards, preventing the spread of highly communicable diseases, controlling transboundary plant pests, and promoting compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

Major Accomplishments

The Regulatory Division made significant progress in promoting compliance with standards and certifications. One notable achievement was the promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the certification of farms for compliance. Efforts were also made to promote compliance with the Philippine National Standard Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practices (PNS GAHP), resulting in the certification of several farms as GAHP-compliant.

231 PhilGAP certified farms established



Efforts were made to safeguard interregional border control points and to monitor compliance with transport requirements for agricultural commodities. Intensive surveillance activities were conducted to detect and manage priority livestock and poultry diseases, including Avian Influenza and rabies. Collaboration with provincial veterinarians and municipalities contributed to the successful management of disease outbreaks and the implementation of rabies vaccination campaigns.

Registration and Licensing Initiatives

The division collaborated with regulatory agencies, LGUs, and academic institutions to enhance food safety advocacy efforts. Activities included orientations on relevant laws, consultations, and training events on various aspects of food safety and animal welfare. Additionally, the division facilitated the registration and licensing of feed establishments and provided technical support to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

Efforts to regulate and license feed establishments and animal facilities were integral to ensuring compliance with quality standards. Orientation seminars on relevant regulations, such as the Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act, were conducted to enhance industry knowledge and promote compliance. Registration drives and licensing procedures were streamlined to accommodate the growing number of establishments.

Best Practices and Future Directions

The Regulatory Division practices proactive information dissemination, technical support to field operations, and positive reinforcement of compliance. Looking ahead, the division aims to continue its efforts in promoting food safety and regulatory compliance through innovative approaches and enhanced collaboration with stakeholders.



FARM TO MARKET ROAD NETWORK SERVICES



Php 1,031,750,000 CY 2023



62 out of 80 projects completed



16,204 beneficiaries across 15,271 hectares



63.274 kilometers constructed
(in partnership with DPWH)

Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs) and Infrastructure Development

By implementing these strategies, the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) aims to build upon past successes and further advance agricultural development in the region, ultimately contributing to enhanced productivity, income, and resilience among local farmers.

Enhancing Irrigation Development

The objective is to augment the irrigation development area by 1,197 hectares in rainfed regions, aiming to intensify crop diversification, improve cropping systems, enhance productivity, bolster income, and enhance farmers' resilience to climate change.

Accelerated Adoption of Mechanization

By promoting the efficient and appropriate use of agricultural machinery, equipment, and facilities, the goal is to elevate the mechanization level in the region, targeting an increase of 0.01 horsepower per hectare across all commodities.

Establishment of Farm-to-Market Roads (FMR)

The strategy involves constructing Farm-to-Market Roads to reduce the hauling costs of agricultural inputs and products by at least 10% and to decrease farmers' travel time by at least 30% from production areas to the nearest weather roads.

Promotion and Adoption of Quality Control and Inspection (QCI) and Registration and Licensing (RL) for Public Private Partnership (PPP): This initiative focuses on advocating for and facilitating the implementation of quality control and inspection standards, as well as registration and licensing procedures for Public Private Partnership projects.

Farm-to-market roads (FMRs), defined in Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8435, serve as vital conduits linking agricultural and fisheries production sites, coastal landing points, and post-harvest facilities to marketplaces and key transportation arteries. These infrastructure assets are instrumental in reducing production costs and enhancing the market value of farmers' produce.

A total of 565 proposed FMR sites underwent meticulous validation, strategically distributed among the provinces: Batanes (29), Cagayan (101), Isabela (231), Nueva Vizcaya (158), and Quirino (46).

Recognizing the market as the primary destination for harvested produce, ensuring the preservation of product quality during transportation is paramount to maintaining market value.



Consequently, the construction and upkeep of FMR projects play a pivotal role in facilitating the efficient movement of goods from remote production areas to bustling markets and trading centers within the region.

Under the purview of the DA RFO 02, specifically through the diligent oversight of RAED, comprehensive management of FMR projects is ensured. This includes rigorous scrutiny of plans, designs, and cost estimates, coupled with meticulous supervision and monitoring of project implementation.

Furthermore, the FMR Development Program (FMRDP) encompasses the meticulous maintenance of the Geo Agri system, a pivotal tool facilitating the seamless uploading of proposed FMR project sites across municipalities.

FMRs significantly enhances accessibility and transportation efficiency for farmers, thereby catalyzing economic growth in rural areas. Additionally, ongoing construction efforts encompass 18 project sites spanning 21.252 kilometers, further exemplifying the commitment to bolstering regional connectivity and agricultural development.

OTHER PROGRAMS & SPECIAL PROJECTS



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION INITIATIVE IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



5 CC-AMIA villages sustained



10 expansion sites established



11 Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) sites through the introduction of various Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) technologies



At CC-AMIA DA RFO 02, our vision is to foster a resilient Philippine agri-fisheries sector that empowers local communities to manage climate risks while pursuing sustainable livelihoods. To achieve this, CC-AMIA focuses on developing and promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) through the implementation of technologies, institutional innovations, and climate-relevant support services.

To strengthen the implementation of the AMIA Program and its Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Measures, CC-AMIA identifies key climate risks and geographic targets across the country. This involves establishing community-level research and developing interventions to facilitate the introduction and upscaling of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) innovations.

2023 AMIA Villages and Expansion Areas

PILOT SITES		EXPANSION AREAS	
1.	Lucban, Benito Soliven, Isabela	1.	Maluno Norte, Benito Soliven, Isabela
2.	Sta. Victoria, City of Ilagan, Isabela	2.	Maluno Sur, Benito Soliven, Isabela
3.	Calamegatan, Buguey, Cagayan	3.	Yeban, Norte, Benito Soliven, Isabela
4.	Nararagan, Ballesteros Cagayan	4.	San Jose, San Mariano, Isabela
5.	Giayan, Nagtipunan, Quirino	5.	Mabini, Gamu, Isabela
		6.	Rizal, Santiago City
		7.	Mala Weste, Buguey, Cagayan
		8.	San Lorenzo, Buguey, Cagayan
		9.	Maddalero, Buguey, Cagayan
		10.	Masisit, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan

Expansion of CC-AMIA Villages

In our efforts to establish and sustain climate-resilient communities, the CC-AMIA Program focuses on providing Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) options, technologies, and sustainable livelihoods. This is achieved through the initiation phase, which includes:

1 Conducting Participatory Climate Resiliency and Vulnerability Appraisal

PCRVA sessions were conducted across expansion areas, including Maluno Norte & Sur, Benito Soliven, Mabini, Gamu, Isabela, Rizal Santiago City, and Masisit, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, to scale out the CC-AMIA Program.

2 Capacitation of Farmers through Training and Technology Demonstration

Seminars and capacity-building sessions were held on two topics: (a) Good Animal Husbandry Practices in Giayan, Nagtipunan, Quirino on March 23, 2023, and (b) Climate-Resilient Technology for Asexual Plant Propagation and Orchard Management for the AMIA village in Giayan, Nagtipunan, Quirino at the DA-Nueva Vizcaya Experiment Station (DA-NVES).

3 Strengthening AMIA and BP2 Program Beneficiaries through Capacity Building on Business Planning

Training sessions were conducted on November 8-11, 2023, at the Department of Agriculture - Cagayan Valley Research Center (DA-CVRC), San Felipe, City of Ilagan, Isabela to enhance the business planning skills of program beneficiaries, promoting sustainability and resilience among AMIA Villages.



Mainstreaming Climate Resilient Agriculture (MCRA) to Regional Programs and Projects

Capacitation of Farmers through Training and Technology Demonstration

Training sessions were conducted on Good Animal Practices on Duck and Chicken Production and Mushroom Production, ensuring the sustainability of programs/projects in AMIA and BP2 Villages

Development of Sustainable Business Opportunities and Livelihood Programs

These initiatives were implemented to empower local communities, promote sustainable agriculture, and serve as additional livelihood income for the beneficiaries.

1. **Mushroom Production and Processing** in Nararagan United Farmers Association (NUFA), Calamegatan Farmers and Fisherfolks Association (CalFFA), Lucban SWISA Inc., AMIANan Farmers Entrepreneur Agriculture Cooperative (AFEAC)
2. **Commercial Piglets** - 20 CC-AMIA villagers in Giayan, Nagtipunan, Quirino
3. **Sheep Production** - AMIANan Farmers Entrepreneur Agriculture Cooperative (AFEAC) in Sta. Victoria, City of Ilagan, Isabela
4. **Upgraded Carabao** - Maluno Norte Farmers Association and San Jose Farmers Association of Maluno Norte, Benito Soliven, and San Jose, San Mariano, Isabela
5. **Native Chicken Production** - MIA & BP2 sites in Isabela
6. **Ready-to-Lay Chicken Production** - Mozzozzin Norte BP2 and Farmers Association.

Provisions of Climate-Resilient Facilities, Agricultural Equipment, and Machineries

1. **Rice/corn milling Machine-Corn Cracker** - AMIA village in Sta. Victoria, City of Ilagan; Mabini, Gamu; Maluno Norte, Benito Soliven; San Jose, San Mariano, Isabela
2. **Heavy-Duty Push Carts** - Maluno Norte Farmers Association, AMIANan Farmers Entrepreneur Agriculture Cooperative (AFEAC), Nararagan United Farmers Association (NUFA), Alay Kapwa sa Maluno Sur Farmers Association



3. **Stainless Steel Juice Extractor** - Nararagan United Farmers Association (NUFA) in Ballesteros, Cagayan
4. **Walking-Type Agricultural Tractor (Rotary Tilling Type)** - Giayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (GMPC) at DA-Quirino Experiment Station (DA-QES), Dungo, Aglipay, Quirino
5. **Water Pump Diesel Engine** - Alay Kapwa sa Maluno Sur Farmers Association in Maluno Sur, Benito Soliven, Isabela
6. **Four-Wheel Drive Tractor** - Nararagan United Farmers Association, Maluno Norte Farmers Association in Nararagan, Ballesteros, Cagayan and Maluno Norte, Benito Soliven, Isabela
7. **Mushroom House with Bagger Machine** - Mozzozzin Norte BP2 Farmers Association, Naguilian Norte BP2 association, Minanga San Mariano Farmers Cooperative

Climate Information Services

- Installation of **Automated Weather Station** at the roof deck of the newly constructed Municipal Agriculture Office of Nagtipunan, Quirino, on May 16, 2023, which aimed to provide crucial climate information to local stakeholders, aiding in informed decision-making





WELCOME
TO LAFFA GARDEN
A PILOT SAAD SITE

LIFE HURTS
GARDEN HEALS

A GARDEN IS NOT
A PLACE
IT'S A JOURNEY

SAADventures...

**SPECIAL AREA FOR
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT (SAAD)**

SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SAAD)

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Phase 2, a locally-funded initiative, focuses on enhancing agricultural and fishery activities in the poorest and most remote areas, aiming to uplift communities by providing economic opportunities and fostering operational community-based enterprises (CBEs). This phase follows the success of SAAD Phase 1 (FY 2017 – 2022), with its extension and expansion facilitated through House Resolutions 1421 and 1454 respectively, supported by the House Committee on Rural Development chaired by Congresswoman Elisa T. Kho in 2021.

Objectives

The primary objective of SAAD Program Phase 2 is to alleviate poverty by empowering poor farming and fishing sectors through targeted agricultural and fishery interventions.

Specifically, it aims to:

1. improve food production, household consumption, and commercial activities in areas of operation;
2. complement the Department of Agriculture's banner programs by reaching additional beneficiaries and offering supplementary interventions; and
3. assist beneficiaries in establishing community-based agriculture and fishery enterprises.

Components

SAAD Phase 2 is structured around four core components, each designed to address specific aspects of poverty reduction:

Program Management

Production & Livelihood Interventions

Social Preparation

Marketing & Enterprise Development

Performance of SAAD in Cagayan Valley

In Region 2, SAAD Phase 2 targets 13 municipalities classified as 5th and 6th-class areas for agricultural development. For its first year of implementation, DA RFO 02 concentrated its efforts on five (5) fifth-class municipalities, namely **Saguday, Quirino; Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya; Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan; San Isidro, Isabela; and Basco, Batanes.**

Components	Target	Accomplishment	Percent (%)
Social Preparation Training / Capability Development	5	6	120
FCA Beneficiaries	5	6	120
Member Beneficiaries	150	240	160
Livelihood Projects Provision of agricultural support	5	5	100
FCA Beneficiaries	5	5	100
Member Beneficiaries	150	188	120
Specialized Training	10	26	260
Individual Beneficiaries	150	240	160

Livelihood projects, including production of cattle, corn, mushrooms, and high-value crops production, were provided to farmer cooperatives and associations in these areas, benefitting a total of 188 members. These beneficiaries underwent profiling, and their data was uploaded to the SAAD Online Database Management System by the SAAD Regional Project Monitoring Office.



Sales Report

Recipient	FCA	Individual Members	Total (Php)
Cabaleng San Isidro Farmers Association located at Capacuan of Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan	9,550	2,150	11,700.00
Dur-as Farmers Association, of San Isidro, Isabela	6,135	5,225	11,360.00
La Paz Agriculture and Fishery Farmers Association of Saguday, Quirino	3,510	137,570	141,080.00
Nag-et Farmers Association located at Purok Nag-et of Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya	880	8,687	9,567.00
Kayvayvanan Umhakaw Nu Basco, Kayvaluganan of Basco, Batanes	1,150	2,850	4,000.00
Total	21,225	156,482	177,707.00

Note: July to December Sales Report from various produce.

During the initial phase of implementation, **sales totaling P177,707.00** were recorded from the livelihood projects, reflecting the program's impact on income generation within the community. Before project commencement, members underwent **comprehensive training sessions** covering various aspects such:

1. Organizational Development
2. Financial Management and Basic Bookkeeping
3. Cattle Production and Management
4. Sustainable Crop Production
5. Corn Production
6. Silage Production
7. Mushroom Production
8. Operation and Maintenance of Chopper Machine, Pump & Engine, Knapsack Sprayer

The successful initiation of SAAD Phase 2 in Cagayan Valley marks a promising step towards achieving the program's overarching goal of poverty reduction through targeted agricultural and fishery interventions by the year 2028. This comprehensive approach underscores the program's commitment to fostering sustainable socioeconomic development within marginalized communities.





KABUHAYAN AT KAUNLARAN NG KABABAYANG KATUTUBO (4K) PROJECT



The Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4K) Project

The Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4K) Project, a three-year initiative by the Department of Agriculture, responds to former President Duterte's directive to elevate Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (ICCs and IPs) out of poverty. Grounded in the Philippine Constitution and the Indigenous Peoples' Right Act, the project aims to protect ancestral lands and ensure the economic, social, and cultural welfare of Indigenous communities. Targeting IP farmers and fisherfolk recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the project focuses on capacity building, livelihood support, and linking IPs to essential services and resources while respecting Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP).

Objectives

The 4K Project seeks to:

- develop sustainable agricultural enterprises and increase income within the ancestral domains of ICCs/IPs while considering their customs, traditions, values, beliefs, and interests;
- capacitate ICCs/IPs through community participation, agricultural skills training, and workshops to enhance knowledge and productivity;
- increase the number of ICCs/IPs farmers and fishermen accessing Department of Agriculture assets and services;
- improve ICCs/IPs income through culturally responsive and environmentally sustainable livelihood activities; and
- provide various agri-fishery assistance, including inputs, tools, machinery, equipment, and production facilities, to enhance the economic condition of ICCs/IPs.

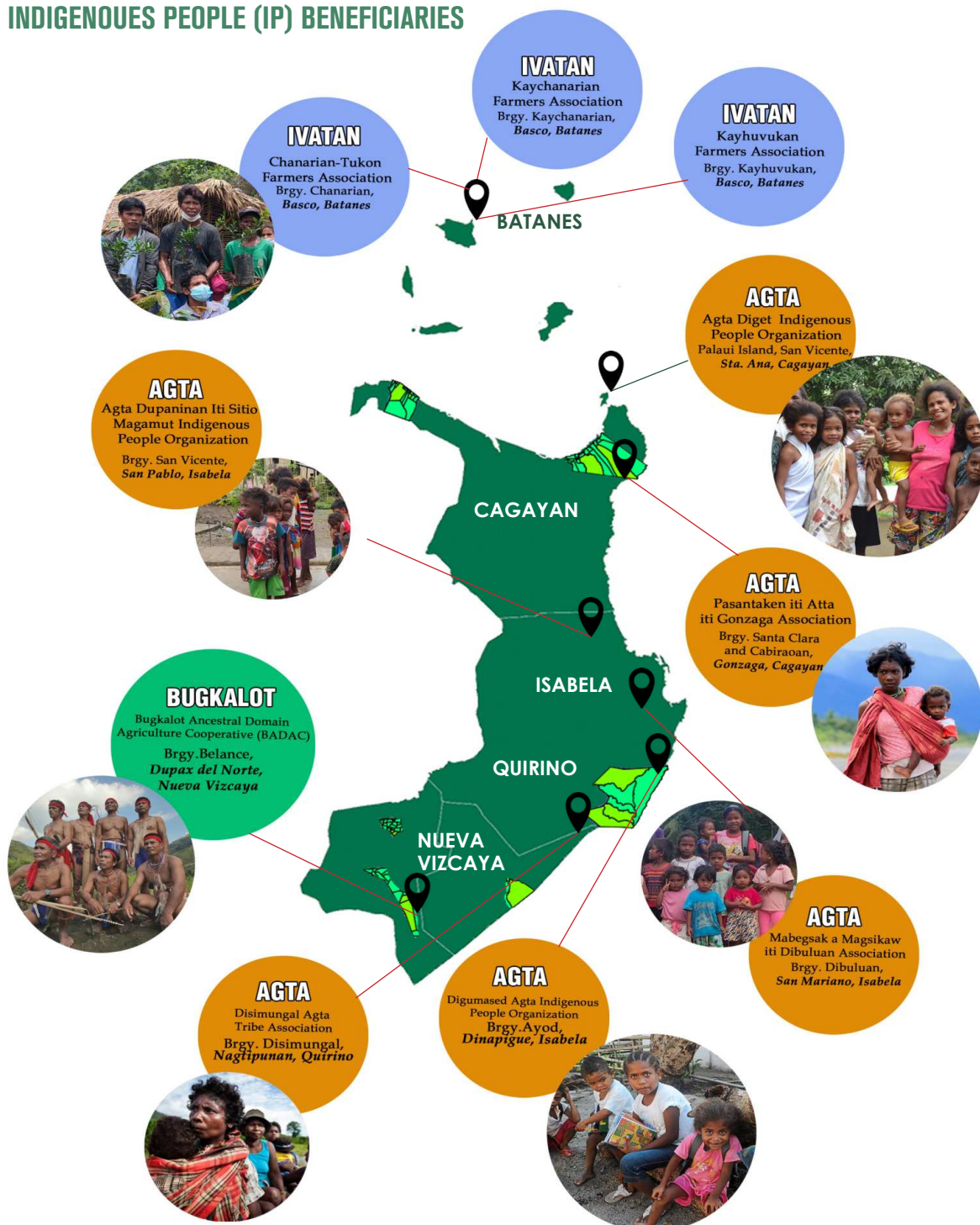
To achieve these objectives, the 4K Project implements strategies such as providing agricultural and fisheries-related livelihood investments and services for indigenous communities and conducting briefings, orientations, and training sessions to enhance the knowledge of IPs regarding agricultural and fisheries production.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

In 2023, the 4K Project of DA RFO 02 had assisted three (3) Indigenous Cultural Communities, namely the Ivatan, Agta, and Bugkalot communities, facilitating their access to vital resources and opportunities. Additionally, nine (9) Indigenous Peoples Organizations have received our support, enabling them to better serve their members and advocate for their rights.

Through capacity-building initiatives, we have empowered 300 Indigenous farmers, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to enhance their agricultural practices and livelihoods. Overall, our efforts have directly benefited a total of 1556 individuals within Indigenous populations, reflecting our commitment to inclusive and sustainable development for all members of our community.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES (ICC)/ INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (IP) BENEFICIARIES



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Social Preparation

- The project commenced with social preparation, including **orientation and consultation sessions** with the Indigenous Peoples' leaders and members of their organization, Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs), Provincial, Municipal and Barangay Local Government Units (PMBLGU), the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), and other concerned agencies.
- Prior to the distribution process, area coordinators from different communities conducted **community project immersion** to ensure the fulfillment of the necessary requirements and readiness of the area before the delivery of agricultural inputs.
- The DA-4K RPMSO 2 initiated a **community organizing initiative** with the Agta ICC in San Pablo, Isabela, successfully facilitating the completion of essential documentary requirements for DOLE registration. This hands-on approach, rooted in community organizing principles, ensured regulatory compliance and fostered long-term program sustainability.
- These engagements provided a valuable opportunity to integrate **gender equality perspectives** into training sessions, enriching the educational experience for all participants.
- **Values transformation and financial management training** were also provided to strengthen community cohesion and financial literacy.

Production and Livelihood Component

- Conducted **capability building in high-value crop production and organic farming**.
- **Distributed agricultural inputs and equipment** based on IPs' needs, such as GM hybrid corn seeds, fruit-bearing species, hand tractors, and a fiberglass boat. These interventions aimed to ensure food security, improve living standards, and support marketing efforts.

Program Management

- **Project monitoring and validation** were conducted to assess progress and address any issues.
- **IPO interviews** were done to assess IPO growth and effectiveness of interventions. This tool aims to assess the status of the IPO in terms of organizational maturity, farm productivity and income (FPI) basic social services (BSS), and gender and development; to classify and define IPOs based on assessed level of development and assess needs and define the appropriate interventions to enhance the level of development of IPO partner-beneficiaries.
- The **Annual Regional Indigenous People (IP) Summit 2023** was conducted to monitor project progress, addressed implementation issues, and plan for future activities.



**PHILIPPINE RURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(PRDP)**

The Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)

PRDP, assisted by the World Bank and implemented by the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with Local Government Units (LGUs) and the private sector, spans sixteen regions nationwide. This ambitious initiative strives to elevate farmers' income by enhancing their productivity, reducing their vulnerability through improved services, and providing diversified livelihood support, laying the groundwork for a modern, value-chain-oriented, climate-smart, and market-oriented agriculture and fisheries sector.

A core focus of the PRDP is the promotion of good governance, transparency, and accountability at every project cycle stage. It aims to create a local-level convergence platform involving key national agencies and stakeholders—including the private sector, civil society, and academia—to align programs and projects for broader farmer and fisherman benefits, fostering inclusive growth.

Project Development Objectives (PDOs)

The implementation of various project interventions is expected to increase rural incomes, enhance farm and fishery productivity in the targeted project areas, and achieve specific development objectives, including:



30% (at least 5% per year) increase in real household (HH) incomes of farmer and fisher folk beneficiaries



30% increase in real HH income of farmers involved in enterprise development



41% increase in the value of marketed output



600,000 farmers reached with agricultural assets or services



342,000 female farmers reached with agricultural assets or services

Physical Accomplishments

DA-PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office 02 (RPCO 02) - Cagayan Valley reported significant gains in 2023, preparing for the scale-up of PRDP in 2024.

The Value Chain Analysis (VCA) serves as a strategic tool within the PRDP, aiding in the identification of key interventions for commodity development. Utilizing VCA findings, the project develops Provincial/City Commodity Investment Plans (P/CCIPs), guiding the selection of eligible interventions for funding in PRDP's I-BUILD and I-REAP components.

Enhancements in the I-PLAN Operations Manual necessitate the strengthening of institutional capacities to effectively implement protocols and processes. The expansion of value chain analysis covers potential agro-industry investments in urban and peri-urban areas.

Integration of value chain analysis and risk assessment involve identifying hazards and conflicts, prioritizing them, and recommending risk management measures. Climate tools are integrated into value chain analysis, aligning with global best practices and reflected in Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIP).

By December 31, 2023, the North Luzon Cluster had **14 approved Cluster-wide VCAs**, while RPCO 02 had **eight (8) approved VCAs**. This facilitated the translation of **16 commodity Value Chains into PCIPs** across five provinces and one chartered city.

Additionally, the region reported **2.92 billion Philippine Pesos in non-PRDP investments** by value chain enablers as a result of PCIP leveraging, with the I-PLAN component driving these achievements.

PRDP Approved Subprojects (SPs) by Type and Component

Subproject Type	Under OL	Under AF1	Under AF2	Total
Farm to Market Road (FMR)	10	5	8	23
Farm to Market Road (FMR) w/ Bridge	3	-	1	4
Civil Works	7	1	-	8
Communal Irrigation System (CIS)	10	-	-	10
Warehouse with Solar Dryer	1	4	4	9
I-BUILD SPs	31	10	13	54
Start-up	6	-	1	7
Upgrading / Expansion	14	-	2	16
Restoration / Rehabilitation	37	-	-	37
I-REAP SPs	57	-	3	60
Overall Total	88	10	16	114

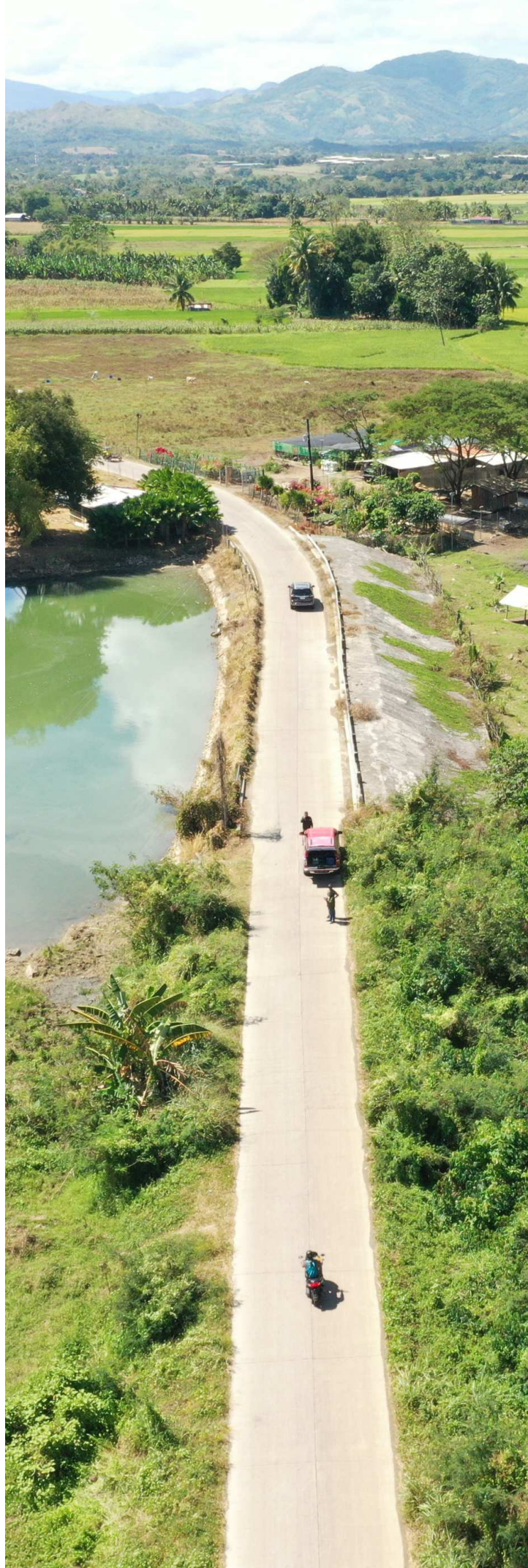
OL - original loan AF-affitional financing 1 AF2 - additional financing 2

Investments in subprojects totaled 114, that is, 60 SPs under I-REAP and 54 SPs under I-BUILD. 105 of which has been completed and nine (9) at various stages of implementation.

Farm to Market Road (FMR) / FMR with bridges, civil works (i.e., post - harvest/processing facility, solar dryer, warehouse with and without solar dryers, etc.), communal irrigation system (CIS), warehouse with solar dryer/s and investments for start-ups, upgrading or expansions as well as for the restoration or/and rehabilitation of civil works and other subprojects amounting to a total of **3,872,715,746.35** Philippine Pesos.

Fund sources included the original loan (I-BUILD - 31 SPs; I-REAP - 57 SPs), first additional financing (I-BUILD - 10 SPs), and second additional financing (I-BUILD - 13 SPs; I-REAP - 3 SPs) under Official Development Assistance (ODA) - World Bank and Government of the Philippines (GOP) both from DA and the LGUs.

Provincial accomplishments varied, with Isabela leading in SP funding followed by Cagayan, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, and Santiago City. Batanes had the lowest number of approved subprojects due to an outdated provincial commodity investment plan.





DA PRDP - RPCO2 staff conducts its Midyear Assessment at the DA Southern Cagayan Research Center, Iguig, Cagayan. (August 2-4, 2023)

The success of PRDP is bolstered by the I-SUPPORT Component, ensuring smooth implementation and adherence to project objectives. The project also ensures that objectives outlined in the planning phase are observed and met through the conduct of various activities under I-SUPPORT Component including but not limited to the following:

1. Consultation with identified project-affected persons (PAPs) and beneficiaries;
2. Adhering to the Philippine procurement process;
3. Ensuring that subprojects are financially viable and within the budget;
4. Auditing of subproject operations and maintenance;
5. Determining the emerging benefits of the subprojects and;
6. Documentation of success stories as well as lessons learned to avoid previous mistakes and provide basis for improvements.

Commended by DA - Regional Field Office 02 and Project Support Office (PSO) – North Luzon Cluster, RPCO 02 continues its momentum as it prepares for the proposed 600 million dollar-worth PRDP Scale-up from 2024 to 2028.

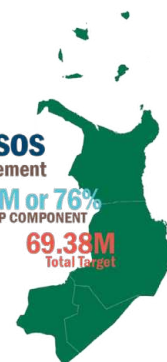
With effective mechanisms in place and strong stakeholder partnerships, PRDP implementation as of December 31, 2023, has been successful, with RPCO - Cagayan Valley committed to delivering efficient services moving forward.



758.51 Million Pesos
Total Disbursement

705.73M or 89% I-BUILD COMPONENT
810.01M Total Target

52.78M or 76% I-REAP COMPONENT
69.38M Total Target



Financial Performance

For the I-BUILD Component, the target for 2023 was increased by 8% based on the original target of 732M. Nevertheless, in terms of financial accomplishment, RPCO2 remains on top among other regions in the North Luzon Cluster. The review of billing documents at the LGU level before submission to RPCO, timely submission of financial reports, and good relationships among stakeholders, particularly contractors, LGUs, and PSOs, are key factors in expediting disbursement.

Under AF2 of IREAP Component, funds are now being downloaded directly to the Proponent Groups. Among the challenges under financial implementation includes the capacity of the Proponent Groups (PGs) in terms of financial management and bookkeeping, liquidation of fund transfers, and timely submission of required financial reports by the DA and other oversight agencies.

Additionally, an operational fund is allocated to the region to allow the various components/units deliver their specific roles and functions in project implementation amounting to P30,954,028.00 in which P28,116,392.83 was obligated and P26,727,927.11 was disbursed.

The Management Information System (MIS), as a monitoring tool for recording the overall number of project beneficiaries reached is routinely updated and maintained in the region. By the end of 2023, RPCO 02 recorded the following achievements:

RPCO2's Impact



75

proponent
groups

& 24,642

individual
members

empowered through rural enterprise investments



55,559

households

benefitting directly and indirectly from rural infrastructure projects



employment opportunities created for skilled and unskilled workers

Awards and Recognition

Awards/ Recognition/ Distinction	Recipient
Best in Micro Content Creation dated May 24, 2023	RPCO 02 InfoAce
Most Captured Testimonials dated May 24, 2023	RPCO 02 InfoAce
Highest Overall Implementation Performance I-REAP Second Additional Financing (AF2) Sub-project Implementation for 3rd Quarter of of CY 2023 dated October 18-20, 2023	RPCO 02 I-REAP
Most Number of Proponent Groups with Enterprise Assessment dated December 13, 2023	RPCO 02 I-REAP
Most Number of Proponent Groups Facilitated Access to Market dated December 13, 2023	RPCO 02 I-REAP
Most Number of Sustainable Enterprise dated December 13, 2023	RPCO 02 I-REAP
Certificate of Recognition for exceptional contributions in attaining the MEL unit's collective targets dated December 15, 2023	MEL North Luzon Cluster
Most RAEB Activities Conducted dated December 19, 2023	MEL North Luzon Cluster
Most Efficient in the Region having a 71% disbursement rate based on the I-PLAN Component total released vs. actual disbursement for 2023	RCPO 02 I-PLAN

The 1,124-square-meter aromatic and pigmented rice warehouse with solar dryer project at Brgy Bugallon, Ramon, Isabela, seeking to benefit 3,691 households.

PHILIPPINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SUCCESS STORY

Beating the Odds: The LGU Naguilian, Isabela Social and Environmental Safeguards Story

by Mark Anthony Gallibu/INFOAce Cagayan Valley

On the suburbs of Naguilian, nestled in the second congressional district of Isabela province in the Philippines, lie villages that have thrived on farming for decades. However, these communities have long struggled with poor infrastructure, particularly the lack of a reliable road network, making access to the town center a long and arduous journey.

For years, poor road conditions have hindered progress in the area. One barangay leader recounts that in severe emergencies, response times are delayed by hours due to the roads' conditions. "Our situation is unimaginable. Our village is affected when the monsoon season arrives. It's hard to travel, and economic activities are hampered," said Juanito Agbunag, Brgy. Capuchino village chief.

A new farm-to-market road, 7.24 kilometers long and spanning the villages of Quinalabasa, Capuchino, and Bagong Sikat, is now halfway through its construction, at 53.7 percent as of March 30, 2023. The project, costing PHP104,225,911.36, supports the aromatic and pigmented rice industry, and is expected to benefit over 1,961 residents across 635 households, helping to alleviate rural poverty.

Josie Salvador, a daycare worker living at the farthest village within the road influence area (RIA) says that to travel to the town center, they must leave Bagong Sikat at four a.m. and return four a.m. the next day. "I couldn't imagine how we have endured our difficult situation, with no transportation and the all-weather road," said Josie.

These three villages are the beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA PRDP) under its IBUILD Component. Although the project is still incomplete, the impact of the ongoing infrastructure and economic development is already being felt.





To ensure the project's success, the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Naguilian collaborated with the DA PRDP coordination offices in Cagayan Valley, the North Luzon Cluster, and the national level to meet all necessary requirements and documentation. This included securing agreement from Project Affected Persons (PAPs) on land acquisition and compensation through extensive field visits and public consultations.

Engr. Josephine Lobo, the municipal agriculture officer, highlighted the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down borders and forced communications to be conducted via phone or online. "We endured it all," she said. Lobo's team, including nine members dedicated to the DA PRDP amid the pandemic, conducted house-to-house visits and traveled to other provinces to secure signed waivers of rights.

One significant challenge was convincing a resident to give up a portion of her land, which required sending an extrajudicial settlement (EJS) document to Kuwait for approval by an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW). Trinidad M. Valdez, the OFW, cooperated fully, acknowledging that despite the reduction in her farmland, the development was a long-held dream.

Marlon Canceran, the village chief of Quinalabasa, praised the effective communication and strategy that convinced residents to donate portions of their land. "After years of waiting, it's incredible to see the road under construction," he said. Agbunag acknowledged the difficulty of convincing residents to give up and share two (2) meters of their land per shoulder. "It's a big deal for them, but the LGU assisted in informing them that the project shall push through," he ended.

Naguilian Mayor Juan Capuchino added that ensuring inclusive development by protecting people and the environment was crucial for the project's completion. "We promised them the sky, and with everyone's help, this multi-million project is now empowering communities," he said.

With the right approach and effective communication, the dialogue with PAPs was successful. Now, the project is nearing completion, bringing the dream of a developed road network within reach for the villages of Naguilian. Despite challenges, the experiences from this project offer valuable lessons for future implementations. The good practices learned from the DA PRDP are now integral to the LGU's operations, paving the way for continued development.

As the road nears completion, the lush farmlands of Naguilian and its resilient communities stand on the brink of a brighter future. The road not only promises improved access and economic opportunities, but it also symbolizes the collective effort and determination of the people of Naguilian to build a better tomorrow.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

As of December 31, 2023 (amount in Php '100)
Source: Finance and Administrative Division

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT



OPERATIONS



SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS



OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS



DA RFO 02
FY 2023



FUND UTILIZATION REPORT



100%
TOTAL PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/
PROJECTS

FMR NETWORK PLANNING & MONITORING SERVICES



REGULATORY SUPPORT SERVICES



LOCALLY FUNDED PROJECTS



Status of DA FY 2023 funds

The agency's adjusted total allotment for CY 2023 of P8.83B was 99.73% utilized as of December 31, 2023, in accordance with Section 7, General Provisions of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA), as implemented by Item 3.3 of National Budget Circular No. 590, dated January 3, 2023. Of the 8.80B agency's total obligation, 90.73% was disbursed as of December 31, 2023.

	ALLOTMENT	OBLIGATION	%	DISBURMENT	%
By Expense Class					
Personnel Services	194,666	194,607	99.97	190,541	98
MOOE (Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses)	8,005,823	7,981,748	99.70	7,429,206	93
Capital Outlay	633,522	633,516	100	373,518	58.96
TOTAL	8,834,012	8,809,872	99.73	7,993,264	90.73
By Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC) Program					
OPERATIONS	6,972,359	6,969,727	99.96	6,298,455	90.337
Technical Support Services	5,849,761	5,849,757	100	5,694,241	97.34
Production Support Services (PSS)	5,545,335	5,545,331	100	5,413,110	97.62
Market Development Services (MDS)	50,935	50,935	100	49,917	98
Extension Support, Education and Training Services (ESETS)	152,457	152,457	100	133,725	87.71
Research and Development (R&D) Services	101,034	101,034	100	97,489	96.49
Agricultural Machinery, Equipment, Facilities and Infrastructures Program	957,408	957,408	100	465,521	48.62
Provision of Agricultural Equipment and Facilities (PAEF)	753,173	753,173	100	337,296	44.78
Irrigation Network Services (INS)	198,659	198,659	100	122,933	61.88
Farm to Market Road Network Services	5,576	5,576	100	5,292	94.91
Regulatory Support Services	13,658	13,658	100	13,455	98.5
Support to Operations	436,377	436,377	100	388,837	89
Locally Funded Projects	151,532	148,904	98.27	125,238	84
General Administration & Support	86,817	86,817	100	79,765	91.4
Other Sources of Fund	1,338,459	1,316,951	98.40	1,226,237	93
TOTAL	8,834,012	8,809,872	99.73	7,993,264	90.73

2023 PARANGAL *at* PASASALAN

Personal Recognition

AP and PRIME



**ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER
SUPPORT SERVICES**

HRMO, MOVING FORWARD

The year 2023 marked a period of resilience and adaptation within DA RFO 02 as we navigated through the challenges imposed by the pandemic. Despite the constraints, we embraced innovation and creativity to redefine our Human Resource Management (HRM) strategies, transcending traditional paradigms.

Recruitment, Selection, and Placement (RSP)

In 2023, DA RFO 02 embarked on a rigorous recruitment drive, posting 32 job vacancies that garnered significant interest, with 253 candidates applying for these positions. Despite challenges such as the barangay elections, we conducted three oath-taking ceremonies, welcoming 29 employees into their new roles. The meticulous approval process for the remaining positions underscores our commitment to ensuring prudent selection and assessment procedures.



Learning and Development (L&D)

Recognizing the imperative of continuous learning, particularly in the wake of the pandemic, our Training Unit pivoted to deliver a blend of in-person and virtual interventions aimed at enhancing skills and fostering adaptability among our workforce.

Key initiatives

- Supervisory Development Course Track I (SDC I), conducted on August 2-4, 2023, in partnership with the Civil Service Commission Regional Office II (CSC RO II), empowering 50 managers and supervisors with essential leadership competencies
- As a follow-through training of the Supervisory Development Course Track I last August, the Supervisory Development Course Tracks II-III were conducted exclusively for DA RFO 02 last September 18-22, 2023. The training course aimed to capacitate the agency's workforce directly involved in supervising both permanent

and contractual employees. The group has already completed SDC Track I prior to attending SDC II-III

- Training on Internal Control Standards for the Philippine Public Sector (ICSPPS), in partnership with the Commission on Audit-Internal Control Systems Advisory Office (COA-ICSAO) was participated by 70 employees representing all divisions and RCES

Rewards and Recognition (R & R)

To recognize and celebrate excellence within the department, the Employee Recognition Day 2023, which honored retirees, loyal employees, and outstanding performers across various categories, fostering a culture of appreciation and motivation within the department.



Securing the Civil Service Commission's Honor Awards Program, qualifying as a semi-finalist for the 2023 Search for Outstanding Government Worker, Ms. Vanessa Joy F. Calderon, Senior Science Research Specialist of the Cagayan Valley Research Center, received the award for the CSC Pagasa Regional Award - Individual Category.



PMED's Vital Role in DA RF02's Success

The Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (PMED) within the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Office No. 02, serves as the backbone for ensuring efficient implementation and evaluation of agricultural programs. In 2023, PMED played a critical role in supporting DA RF02 operations through significant achievements across its four key sections: Planning & Investment Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and Project Development.

Planning & Investment Programming

PMED spearheaded the preparation of strategic plans that will genuinely address the urgent needs of the stakeholders in the agriculture and fishery sectors. Despite challenges during the transition year of FY 2023, PMED effectively formulated new directives and targets. Through stakeholder consultations, plans were validated to ensure alignment with stakeholder needs, resulting in well-defined strategies and exemplary financial achievements. A notable accomplishment was crafting the *DA Cagayan Valley Strategic Plan 2024-2028*, guiding the region's agriculture sector toward sustainable development.



- Developing and updating planning tools, including distributing 80 copies of the Regional Agricultural Profile, one (1) DA Cagayan Valley Briefer Kit, and four (4) Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment maps



Monitoring and Evaluation

Prioritizing monitoring alongside the cultivation of an evaluative culture within the department is essential. PMED's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts encountered challenges such as vehicle shortages and project locations in conflict areas. However, proactive coordination and strategic planning mitigated these challenges.

Major accomplishments include:

- Updating the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan (RAFMIP) 2022-2030, Regional Food Security Plan (FSP), and Public Investment Plan
- Formulating Annual Program and Project Plans, and the FY 2024 Work and Financial Plan (WFP) based on the General Appropriations Act (GAA)
- Preparing and presenting the FY 2025 Plan and Budget Proposal to the National Technical Budget Review Committee and the Regional Development Council 02-Regional Budget Review Committee (RBRC)
- Conducting a meeting on Devolution Transition Plan (DTP) activities

Key M&E activities included:

- Preparing periodic accomplishment reports, including four quarterly progress reports, 144 monthly accomplishment reports, 48 budget accountability reports, and the annual report
- Monitoring and validating 60 project sites and conducting four performance reviews
- Conducting two (2) Rapid Appraisals of Emerging Benefits for completed projects, 46 Regional Operation and Maintenance Audit (ROMAT) of completed subprojects, and operationalizing the Neutral Evaluation Unit through capability trainings and technical reviews
- Attending five national performance reviews of banner programs

DA Cagayan Valley Recognized for Exemplary M&E Practices

DA RFO 02 distinguished itself at the National Year-End Assessment and 2024 Planning Workshop held by the Planning and Monitoring Service (PMS) and Regional PMEDs (November 20-24, 2023, BSP, Los Banos, Laguna).

The first practice focuses on enhancing service delivery through client satisfaction feedback. PMED has established a system for **validating Client Satisfaction Feedback (CSF)** forms which involves retrieving, processing, and analyzing 100 CSFs, followed by in-depth validations of major program interventions through six dedicated CSF validations. Ultimately, this data-driven approach verifies if interventions are appropriate and effectively utilized by beneficiaries.

The second practice underscores DA Cagayan Valley's commitment to informed decision-making. PMED-MES conducts comprehensive profiling of **FCA and farmer-member beneficiaries for DA RFO 02 projects from 2019 to 2022**, culminating in a **centralized database**. This initiative strengthens program effectiveness by providing valuable data for analysis and future program development.

Prioritizing robust monitoring and cultivating an evaluative culture is essential for the department. Addressing data availability and quality is crucial for timely and reliable program evaluations. Establishing baseline data before interventions is critical, as the absence of such information can hinder accurate assessments of program effectiveness.



Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Despite scrutiny from the Commission on Audit, PMED ensured continuous operation of ICT services through proactive representation at ManCom meeting and maintaining adequate manpower for regular maintenance and development of information systems.

Notable ICT achievements included:

- Supporting ICT planning and standards services with two SMEE – INTERACT trainings
- Conducting internal ICT updates and maintaining databases for various projects
- Standardizing ICT services through ISO 27001 Information Security Management System
- Maintaining and upgrading the DA RFO 02 AGRI Network and conducting preventive/reactive maintenance of computers and software
- Enhancing data management services, updating databases, and developing IT systems such as the Citizen Portal-Soil Fertility Map module and HRMIS.
- Developing geomatics and remote sensing services, including the production of Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment maps
- Strengthening data privacy and cybersecurity measures
- Operationalization of Business Intelligence Tool



There was palpable confidence surrounding the implementation and goal of soft launching our Business Intelligence initiative, marking yet another significant milestone for the DA RFO 02. This innovative tool stands as a beacon of modernization, aligning perfectly with our esteemed Regional Executive Director's vision of transforming Cagayan Valley into a modernized and industrialized agricultural hub.

At the heart of our discussions was the overarching goal of digitalization, a crucial step towards enhancing efficiency, scalability, and sustainability within the regional office. We envisioned a future where towering stacks of paperwork would become relics of the past, replaced by streamlined digital workflows. With the Business Intelligence tool at our disposal, we anticipate a wealth of information becoming digitalized, and made accessible to the public once this powerful tool has been integrated by all operating units.

Director Rose Mary Aquino challenged the PMED-ICT team to encapsulate her vision - a vision of information at our fingertips, accessible anywhere with an internet connection, even in the absence of our staff. This transformative vision emphasizes our commitment to delivering exceptional services and positioning our region as a model of excellence.

From the inception of our Business Intelligence journey to its culmination, the Department of Agriculture has remained steadfast in its support, offering comprehensive training and software learning initiatives.

The PMED-ICTS spearheaded these efforts, equipping 70 staff members, including key decision-makers, managers, report officers, and IT personnel, with the technical competencies needed to harness the full potential of the Microsoft Power BI.

Through these capacitation sessions, the PMED-ICTS has not only mastered the intricacies of data warehousing and visualization but also gained the confidence to craft insightful reports and deliver compelling presentations. Armed with these newfound skills, we stand poised to usher in a new era of data-driven decision-making, propelling the Department of Agriculture Regional Office 02 towards greater heights of excellence.

Project Development

Key project development initiatives included:

- Conducting two (2) participatory rural appraisals under the Climate Change - Adaptation & Mitigation Measures in Agriculture (CCAMIA)
- Supporting regional coordination, partner mobilization, and convergence support services
- Providing seed capital and livelihood support to farmers' associations and conducting technical trainings on farm management and product development

Additionally, PMED oversees the operationalization of the ISO Quality Management System, the Agriculture Dialogue and Information Network Group (ADING), and the Program Regional Accreditation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Through its proactive approach and dedication, PMED significantly contributed to the success of DA RFO 02's operations in 2023. Through its effective planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes, PMED continues to play a vital role in ensuring the sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries in the region.



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 02 (DA RFO 02) contributes to the vision of a gender-inclusive and sustainable agriculture and fisheries sector. Guided by a mission to ensure equitable access to agricultural resources and services for women and men, the Gender and Development (GAD) program has spearheaded various interventions, modernizing agriculture, and empowering women at every step.

Modernizing Agriculture

Cagayan Valley women in agriculture are embracing modernization, supported by the GAD program and various DA banner programs. Nine (9) FCAs have received crucial farm machinery and projects, including four-wheel drive tractors, pump irrigation systems, drying facilities, composting facilities, and greenhouses, enhancing productivity and sustainability. These initiatives, along with organic fertilizer production and diversified farming options, showcase the program's commitment to enabling women to excel in traditionally male-dominated roles.

Industrializing Agri-business

Going beyond the farm gate, the GAD program has established Agri-industrial Business Corridors, providing vital support to women's ventures in agri-business. Through market linkages, KADIWA trade fairs, and digital marketing platforms, women farmers have gained direct access to consumers, expanding their market reach and enhancing profitability. Business support services, including assistance with registration, certification, and product design enhancements, have bolstered the competitiveness and sustainability of women-led agri-businesses. Livelihood packages, such as those for cattle-corn-HVC production, have further diversified income sources, ensuring economic stability for women farmers.

Professional Development through Education and Training

The program's extensive technical assistance has ensured that women are proficient in operating and maintaining agricultural machinery and processing facilities, making them self-reliant and boosting their productivity.

Building a Supportive Community

The GAD program also fosters a sense of community and collective action among women. Cluster development training and the INSPIRE program have strengthened women's groups, enabling them to collaborate and support each other effectively.

Internal efforts at DA RFO 02 aim to foster a supportive environment for women employees, notably through the operation of a daycare center providing childcare support. The daycare center, a pioneering initiative by DA RFO 02, has been in operation for approximately 30

years, boasting a significant number of graduates and a preschool curriculum.

A significant milestone in the GAD program was the first-ever Women in Agriculture Congress, held on March 30, 2023. This event, themed "Women in Agriculture Breaking Ground," celebrated the achievements of 40 outstanding women who have made significant contributions to agricultural development.

Honoring Excellence: Thelma T. Alabon's Triumph

The GAD program's success stories are numerous, but one particularly stands out. Thelma T. Alabon of San Mariano, Isabela, was honored as the 3rd runner-up in the 2023 DA Search for Outstanding Rural Women. Her journey from a casual employee to a full-time farmer, using her background in Mathematics to forecast crop growth and yield, showcases the transformative power of education and innovation.



The DA RFO 02's GAD program exemplifies the potential of gender-responsive development in agriculture. By providing modern tools, business support, education, and a supportive community, the program empowers women to transform their lives and contribute significantly to agricultural sustainability.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Arlene Lopez, Trainer School President of Lopez Integrated Farm School Inc., Gamu, Isabela Nominee for The Search and Award for the Outstanding Farmers of the Philippines, Woman Farm Category



“Dahil sa paghihirap namin noon, naranasan ko ang hindi kumain sa buong araw dahil wala kaming maisasaing na bigas. Kaya ang sabi ko sa sarili ko, balang araw magkakaroon ako ng malawak na lupain upang hindi maranasan ng aking mga anak ang aking naranasan. Sa aking murang edad, sinikap ko ang mag-ibang bansa at doon ko naranasan talaga ang hirap ng buhay.

Nag-engage ako sa agrikultura, dahil dito ko nakita ang mga posibleng benepisyo at oportunidad, at higit po sa lahat, dito ko nahanap ang aking sarili. Kahit wala si mister sa bukid, kaya ko nang magbukid. Bilang isang babae sa larangan ng agrikultura, ako ay patunay na ang agrikultura ay para sa lahat, maging babae man o lalake.”

Benjamin Domingo, Cabisera 5, City of Ilagan, Isabela, Most Outstanding Corn Farmer



“Nagsimula akong magtanim ng mais mahigit 40 years na siguro dahil sumasama na ako noon sa aking mga magulang. Ang maipapayo ko sa mga kapwa kong magsasaka, kailangan meron kang innovation, dapat bawat galaw mo sa pagsasaka ay nagri-research ka din. Halimbawa, yung waste na galing sa mga pinagtaniman natin ay pwedeng gawing organic fertilizer at hindi na tulad ng dati na sinusunog.

Ngayon, marami na rin ang sumusunod at tumatangkilik sa mga innovation na ginagawa ko sa aking mga lupa. Malaking bagay ang mga binibigay na seminar ng DA at ng iba pang mga ahensya-mapa gobyerno man o pribadong sektor.”

Lamberjack Jurado, Aquarich Integrated Farm, Lasam, Cagayan, Outstanding Livestock Farmer



“Ako ay isang OFW sa Taiwan sa loob ng anim na taon, graduate ng Engineering, at ngayon ay isang farmer. Ang ating good farming practices dito sa Aquarich Integrated farm ay organic farming para masigurong ligtas ang ating pagkain at maibalik ang sustansya ng ating lupain. Sa aking komunidad, dumami ang nagka-interes sa farming, lalong lalu na sa mga nag nagpa-paaral na ina at magulang, kung may livestock ka tulad ng alagang manok, mabilis ang kumita ng pera dahil naibebenta sa mataas at tamang halaga.”

Juliet Guieb, Outstanding High Value Crops Farmer, San Agustin, Isabela



“Nung pinag-iisipan namin ng aking asawa kung ano ang magiging retirement namin na pangkabuhayan, nakonsidera namin ang farming lalo na ang cacao. Nagsimula kami noong 2016 na unti-unting magtanim ng cacao sa aming lupain na dati ay palayan at maisan. Mula sa 4,000 trees na una naming itanim, ngayon ay 10,000 na at 8,000 ang namumunga.

Maliban pa sa mga training na naibigay sa amin ng DA, nabigyan din ang aming asosasyon ng isang

banana processing facility at ngayon ay gumagawa na kami ng banana chips, gayundin ang mga training sa paggawa ng iba pang banana products.

Malaking tulong ang mga programa ng DA sa aming kabuhayan. Malaking pagbabago ang naibigay nila sa amin at sa mga miyembro ng aming kooperatiba. Patuloy ang aming pag-asenso dahil sa mga programa ng Department of Agriculture.

Servando Gumabay, Most Outstanding Urban City Farmer, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan



"Ako ang nagpatuloy sa pagsasaka sa aming mga lupain nang tumanda na ang tatay. Dati wala pang yellow corn. Pero nang dumating na ang mga bagong technology na tine-training, yun na ang ginagawa namin sa aming barangay na bumuo ng farmer group at matuto sa mga bagong paraan ng pagtatanim ng mais. Malaki na ang aking production dahil sinusunod ko na ang mga naituturo sa mga training at sa paggamit ng tamang abono."

Noon ang income ko nagkukulang, kailangan mangutang pero sa ngayon nakatapos na ang mga anak ko gawa ng pagsasaka. Kumpleto na rin ang mga machinery at pangangailangan ko kaya medyo umangat na ang buhay ko. Nakikita ng aking komunidad araw-araw ang mga magagandang ginagawa ko sa bukid. Isa po akong barangay official kaya isa yun sa nagbibigay sakín ng kaligayahan."

Janeth Arboleda, Most Outstanding Organic Farmer, Arbolera Integrated Farm, Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya



"Nung may project ang gobyerno, ang DAR, Fao, at DA, nag aral ako sa Farm Business School. Naengganyo akong maging organic practitioner dahil maliban sa food safety at environmental management, ito rin ang nakita kong nakatulong para ako ay hindi na maging sakitin gayundin ang aking pamilya."

Mula sa aming pago-organic, nakabili na kami ng kaunting lupa at nakapagpatayo ng greenhouse. Ito yung matagal ko nang inaasam-asam at napagtagumpayan ko naman sa tulong ng organic option na bumibili sa aming gulay."

Nabigyan kami ng Solar Irrigation System ng DA na malaking tulong lalo na pag drought hindi lang sa vegetable pati sa rice field. Nabigyan rin kami ng LGU ng rice transplanter na katuwang namin sa pagtuturo dito sa RCEF."



Kariza Mae Baclig, Gonzaga, Cagayan, Outstanding Young Farmer AgriEntrepreneur

"Nagstart itong hydroponics namin noong pandemic out of curiosity. Nung nalaman natin ang programang AgriBiz, grinab ko yung opportunity na sumali. Luckily, nanalo po tayo ng P50,000 na ginamit naming fund para magstart ng indoor setup ng hydroponics. Yung income namin ngayon ay ginagamit namin sa pag put up ng iba pang business."

Continuous learning ang farming kaya kailangan natin i-educate ang sarili natin para mas maging competitive at resilient ang farming techniques natin. Ang DA ang eye-opener ko sa farming. Bilang accountancy graduate, pinakita ng DA sa akin na may future sa farming at ngayon, lalo pang lumalaki itong business namin. Sa mga kapwa kong kabataan, sana makakita niyo rin yung opportunity sa agriculture."

RTD'S CORNER

Dr. Roberto Claro Busania's trajectory in the realm of agriculture epitomizes dedication, expertise, and transformative leadership. Graduating with distinction in Doctor of Veterinary Science and Medicine from Central Luzon State University in 1994, Dr. Busania embarked on a journey marked by relentless pursuit of excellence. His academic endeavors continued with a Master's in Public Management from Quirino State University in 2010, further enriching his repertoire of skills and knowledge.

Currently serving as the Officer-in-Charge Regional Technical Director (OIC-RTD) for Operations and Extension at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 2 (DA RFO 02), Dr. Busania oversees critical divisions including Field Operations, Regional Agricultural Engineering, and Agribusiness, Marketing, and Assistance. With a keen eye for innovation and efficiency, Dr. Busania helps ensure the seamless execution of agricultural programs and initiatives across the region.

Dr. Busania's illustrious career in government service spans over 25 years, marked by a series of impactful roles and achievements. Beginning as an Agricultural Extension Worker in the Local Government Unit of Diffun, Dr. Busania honed his expertise in veterinary extension work, championing initiatives to enhance livestock-based livelihoods in underserved communities. His pivotal role in the genetic improvement of cattle, through natural breeding and Artificial Insemination (AI), has significantly bolstered cattle genetics and farmer incomes across the region.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Busania has held key positions including Manager of Quirino Experiment Station, Regional Livestock Program Coordinator, Chief of the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and Chief of the Integrated Laboratory Division, where his leadership and expertise were instrumental in advancing agricultural research and diagnostic services. His tenure as the OIC-RTD for Operations and Extension has been characterized by exemplary leadership, fostering cooperation among program coordinators and spearheading initiatives that have propelled DA RFO 02 to national recognition.

Under Dr. Busania's stewardship, DA RFO 02 has consistently excelled in national livestock programs, earning accolades as a top implementer and achieving outstanding ratings in all banner program implementations. Dr. Busania's commitment to agricultural development and his unwavering dedication to public service have earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and stakeholders alike.



Dr. Roberto Claro Busania
OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations
and Extension

Ms. Kay S. Olivas epitomizes a distinguished career in government service, boasting 34 years of invaluable experience. As the current Officer-in-Charge Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02, she embodies a blend of expertise in program administration, project development, and agribusiness management.

RTD Kay's academic journey commenced with a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Education, where her academic prowess shone brightly, culminating in the esteemed Cum Laude distinction. Undeterred by success, she pursued dual master's degrees, one in Public Administration and another in Applied Business Economics, under grant scholarship from Civil Service and DA-EHRDP respectively, each underscored by exemplary thesis work that earned her recognition within scholarly circles.

With 34 years of unwavering commitment to public service, RTD Kay has held pivotal roles within the government, notably serving as the Division Chief of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, & ICT at DA RFO 02 since 2014. Notably, she has been instrumental in the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), contributing as the I-PLAN Component Head and the Social & Environmental Safeguard (SES) Unit Head, until she was designated as Officer-in-Charge Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations, and the PRDP-RPCO2 Deputy Project Director.

Her leadership extended into other roles such as Vice Chairperson of the Quality Management System (QMS) Committee, guiding DA RFO 02 to ISO 9001:2015 certification. Moreover, she actively collaborates with local government units (LGUs) and national government agencies (NGAs), fostering synergy in planning and convergence activities.

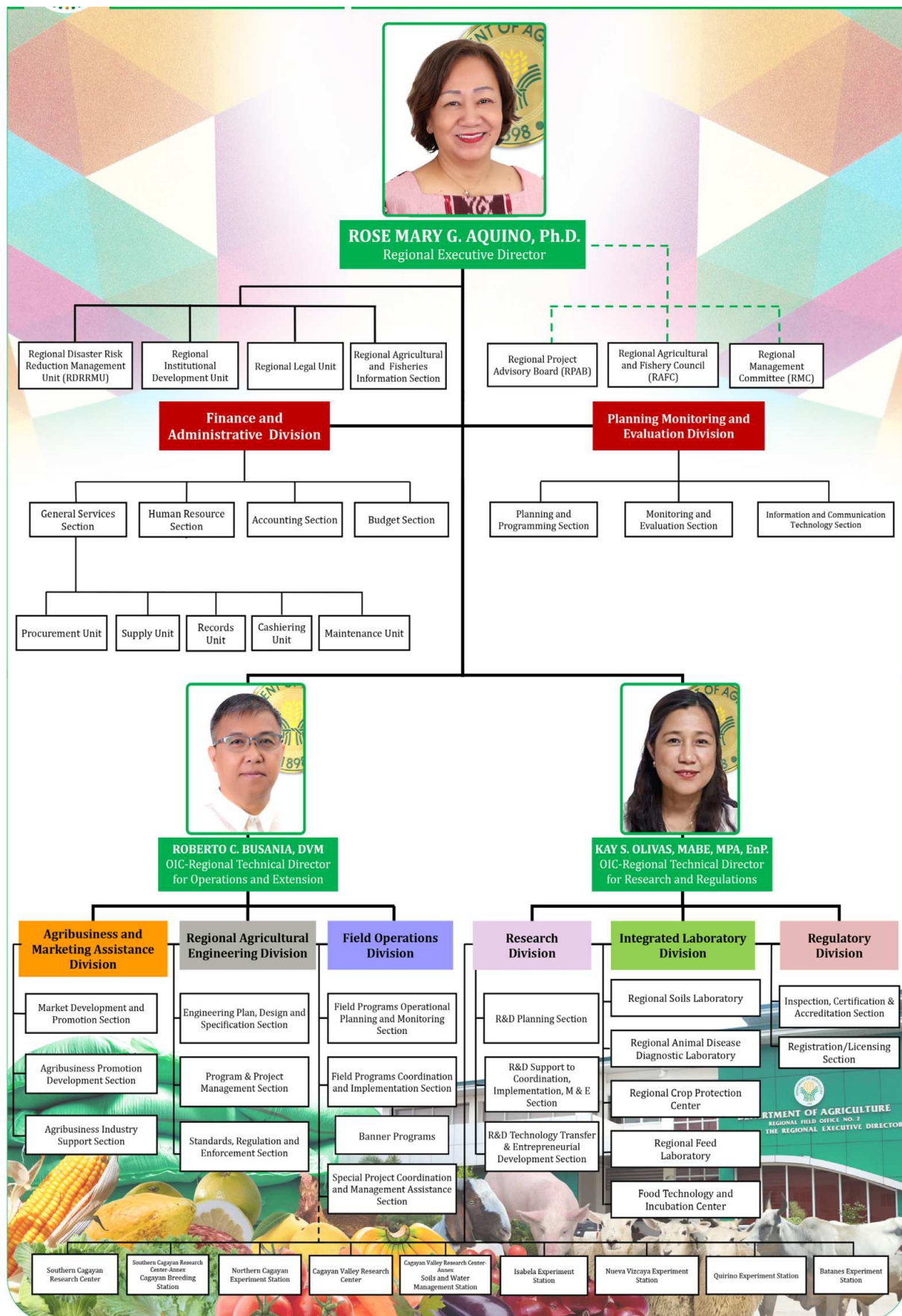
A testament to RTD Kay's dedication and proficiency, numerous designations adorn her portfolio, including leadership roles in climate change adaptation, project management, and regional coordination initiatives. Her commitment to excellence has been recognized through accolades such as Best Employee in 2021-2022, with her division, PMED, esteemed as the Best Division in previous years.

With an illustrious career marked by academic prowess, leadership, and a passion for agricultural development, Ms. Kay S. Olivas stands as a beacon of excellence in the field, driving impactful change and innovation for the betterment of communities and the agricultural sector as a whole.



**Ms. Kay S. Olivas, MPA, MABE, EnP,
OIC-Regional Technical Director for
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CAGAYAN VALLEY
Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya!



DA Region 02



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