

AGRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM DIURNAL • ENGLISH EDITION • AUGUST 2022

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AUGUST 1

Dairy processing facility soon to serve agrarian reform community in Nueva Ecija

San Jose, Nueva Ecija – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Nueva Ecija recently inspected the ongoing construction of the village level dairy processing center which is intended for the Simula ng Panibagong Bukas (SIPBU) Multi-Purpose Cooperative, part of the San Jose City agrarian reform community

(ARC) located in Brgy. Porais, San Jose Nueva Ecija.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Eden B. Ponio said the construction of the two-story building started on May 25, 2022 and is expected to be completed by the end of September 2022.

Ponio said the project will benefit

a total of 78 members of SIPBU MPC, consisting of 57 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

She said the construction of the 147 square meter two storey building, within the 420 square meter lot of the SIPBU MPC, will hold a 63.5 square meter dairy milk processing facility.

“The SIPBU MPC is among

the DAR-assisted agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) which availed the business development service with support facility under the Village Level Farm Focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) of the DAR,” Ponio said.

She said the VLFED project amounts to Php464,000.00

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DAIRY PROCESSING FACILITY SOON TO SERVE AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITY IN NUEVA ECIIJA



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comprising of materials and training for year 1 and Php 370,000.00 for year 2, with the San Jose local government unit (LGU) providing their counterpart construction materials amounting to Php700,000.00 and the ARBO providing their counterpart materials and labor amounting to Php1,800,000.00.

“The VLFED project aims to enhance the products of farmers through the provision of appropriate facilities and equipment,” she said. She added that the VLFED project aims to establish a sustainable Income-Generating Project (IGP) in the area and provide additional

income to the ARBs, develop rural-based entrepreneurs, upgrade the production, processing, packaging, distribution, and marketing of products, at the same time augment the ARBO’s income. SIPBU MPC chairman Freddie Carlos expressed their excitement over the completion of the processing center. He said that by then, the cooperative members can start working together to produce pasteurized milk and choco milk products with a common goal of helping and making their endeavor beneficial not only to the officers and members of the cooperative but also to the whole community of San Jose.

AUGUST 2

16 FARMING COMMUNITIES UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY FOR ARC INTEGRATION



AS President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. rallies concerned government agencies to hasten the delivery of basic support services to the farming sector, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is set to start deliberating this month the possible inclusion of 16 farming communities into the country’s recognized agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and ARC clusters (ARCCs). Undersecretary for Support Services, Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, emphasized the need for the 16 candidate-farming communities to pass the deliberation process as it would determine whether or not they are already ripe to be elevated into ARCs/ ARCCs, which serve as the convergence areas for development interventions.

Last year, DAR approved the applications of 19 farming communities for integration into its agrarian reform communities’ development program, bringing the number of ARCs to 2,244 and of ARCCs to 187. Earlier, Marcos Jr. assumed the top post of the Department of Agriculture to emphasize that the development of the country’s agriculture industry is his administration’s top priority with the end in view of ensuring food supply. “It is important that the president take that portfolio to make it clear to everyone what a high priority we put on the agriculture sector,” Marcos Jr. stressed. Cristobal, also the chairperson of the National ARC Task Force (NARCTF) in concurrent capacity,

said the 16 candidate-farming communities would be classified as another convergence areas for development interventions, if and when their applications are approved. Farming communities, which have been recognized as ARCs/ ARCCs enjoy various forms of support services, which include, among others, construction of basic infrastructure, such as, farm-to-market roads, bridges, post-harvest and irrigation facilities, technology transfer, livelihood projects, and credit-extension programs. Cristobal said the 16 candidate-farming communities are spread over 12 provinces all over the country. These are the provinces of Isabela with two candidate-farming communities; Camarines Sur-2, two; Masbate, two; Lanao del Norte, two; and one each among Camarines Sur-1, Albay, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, North Cotabato, South Cotabao and Sarangani. Cristobal advised the concerned DAR provincial offices to submit in advance pertinent documents of the 16 candidate-farming communities, such as: ARC/ARCC development

plan, powerpoint presentation of development plans, filled out fact sheet, evaluation matrix and letter to the NARCTF and Resolution from the respective local government units adopting/endorsing the plan to the NARCTF for approval. Delia Gabales, officer-in-charge of the Project Management Service, said the whole process is part of the DAR-Support Services Office’s holistic interventions to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), which is anchored on its banner program, the Resilient, Accelerated, Integrated, Sustainable and Equitable Delivery of Support Services to the ARCs (Raise the ARCs). “It encompasses the development needs of our ARBs, ARB organizations and communities,” Gabales said.



Group of farmers in Sarangani receives support from DAR



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Sarangani recently turned-over three (3) farm machinery and equipment to a group of farmers to boost their agricultural production. The farm equipment, composed of hand tractor with trailer, cacao grinder and coconut grater, with a total cost of about Php 250,000 were received by Pangyan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (PARBO) of Purok Dungon, Brgy. Pangyan, in the town of Glan. Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer John Gamad said the PARBO is one of the DAR-assisted organizations under Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project, which aims to provide agricultural extension services and support to farmers to develop resilience amidst the threats of climate change. “These equipment will provide mechanization and ease post-harvest problems of some 611 agrarian reform beneficiaries and farmers belonging to Pangyan,

Burias, Baliton and Cabalan agrarian reform community,” he said. Gamad encouraged the organization to ensure the sustainability of the project, materials and the maintenance of the farm machinery and to increase the sales of the organization. “The DAR will continue to monitor this project and I believe that you will fulfill your responsibilities as stated in the trust agreement that was established,” he added. On the other hand, PARBO President Reynaldo Calamayan said they are thankful for the assistance they received from DAR. “We will strive hard to manage and make all the machines and equipment to become instruments that will make our lives better,” Calamayan said. The turn-over ceremony was attended by some DAR personnel from provincial and municipal offices, barangay officials and farmers in the said community.



MISAMIS ORIENTAL FARMERS FINALLY OWN PRIVATE ESTATE AFTER 15 YEARS



Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental -- After fifteen (15) years of waiting, five hundred-six (506) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Tagpako, Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental finally received their Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The said CLOAs cover the landholdings formerly owned by Milagros Cuenco categorized as a landed estate covered under Republic Act No. 3844 Series of 1963, also known as the Agricultural Land Reform Code, which abolishes share tenancy system and emphasizes owner-cultivatorship and farmer independence. It was also concurred by Administrative Order No. 8 Series of 2016 or the “Guidelines Governing the Completion of Distribution and Titling of Landed Estates under 3844” generating individual CLOAs to farmers who tilled the land for more than a decade. DAR Northern Mindanao Regional Director Zoraida O. Macadindang said that the CLOA covers a total of 114.4245 hectares

of agricultural lands, the coverage of which started when she was still the Provincial Director. “I started my tenure in the DAR 15 years ago, a year older than the years it took to process and to finally have all these land titles. I can’t explain my overwhelming happiness, how much more to all of you here who received it,” she said. She was equally grateful to all people who are involved in this undertaking for not giving up and for pushing that land titles be provided to the identified ARBs. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Fatima Aniqua T. Macarambon. J. D.appealed to the farmers to take care and make the land productive and cherish all the support services provided by the government. “We consider you not just a farmer, but one of the true heroes of our country,” Macarambon said. Land Tenure division chief Noel Supremo said the land acquisition process was not an overnight success as it involved a long and painstaking process, but the DAR personnel persevered despite the hardships and succeeded.

Booster shots, DAR's contribution in fighting Covid-19



QUEZON CITY-- Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Chief Conrado Estrella III delivered his promise to inoculate the officials and employees of the DAR central office for their second dose of booster vaccine against Covid-19 yesterday, August 3, for additional protection against the contagious and deadly virus. The Secretary made his promise last July 4, during the turnover of DAR leadership. "DAR is my second home now, and as part of my family I want to help in your welfare too. I have been giving welfare assistance for my constituents in Pangasinan, now I will also attend to my constituents here at

the department," Estrella said. "I have so many plans and programs for our stakeholders, and I want my people protected from covid and for the continuous government service. In protecting ourselves, we are also protecting others from getting the virus," Estrella added. Estrella ordered the DAR administrative office and the DAR health clinic headed by Dr. Connie Cabildo to coordinate with the Conrado F. Estrella Regional Medical and Trauma Center (CFERMTC) in Pangasinan to organize the booster vaccination of the department. Cabildo said around 600 employees of the DAR central

office, including employees of DAR Regions 4A and 4B, whose offices are in the compound of the DAR central office, were injected with booster vaccine. "The Secretary was very generous. He instructed the CFERMTC to bring more than what we needed so that the janitors, security guards, and immediate members of the families of employees will be inoculated too," Cabildo said. According to Cabildo, people were given the choice of what vaccines to be injected with because the CFERMTC brought Pfizer, Moderna, and Sinovac. Director for administrative services Romeo Reyes was very grateful for the booster he and his

family received from DAR. "My wife and two kids were injected with booster today. We thank the secretary for his generosity and for thinking of the welfare of the employees, but also of our families," Reyes said. The Conrado F. Estrella Regional Medical and Trauma Center was built in honor of Conrado F. Estrella, Sr., the 1st DAR secretary. The hospital was established by virtue of Republic Act No. 11558, an act establishing a general hospital in the municipality of Rosales, province of Pangasinan, and is under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health.

DAR, PCC TRAIN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL FARMERS ON GOAT AND CARABAO PRODUCTION

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Negros Occidental 2, in partnership with the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) recently conducted a two-day training on goat and carabao production to improve productivity of goat and carabao as sources of meat and milk held in Barangay. Bacong, Bago City. DAR Western Visayas Regional Director Atty. Sheila B. Enciso said the training aims to educate the farmers in goat and dairy buffalo production and equip them with appropriate production techniques that would increase their income. Enciso expressed confidence that the training would help Negros Occidental 2 in uplifting the status of the goat and carabao industry. She acknowledged the PCC

for extending the much-needed technical assistance to the farmers of the province. Among the topics discussed by the DAR and PCC to the twenty-five (25) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who are members of Bacong Gustilo Farmers Association (BGFA), include the basic knowledge of goat and carabao production and its breeding techniques. Through this technical training, farmers were able to realize the exceeding potential income in dairy products as compared for example to carabao being used merely as farm working animals. PCC center director Maam Eva Rom pledged to provide support services to the BGFA and particularly invited the members to

visit the La Granja stock farm in La Carlota City to witness the milking process of buffalos. "PCC can offer various training for free which may include artificial insemination and bull entrustment, among others," she said.



BGFA expressed its appreciation to the DAR and PCC for sharing their knowledge and expertise with the ARBs and providing income-generating opportunities to improve their socio-economic welfare.

NORTH COTABATO FARMERS AVAIL DAR'S PHP44-M AGRI-CREDIT LOAN



A total of 97 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) from the different municipalities of North Cotabato availed themselves of a combined loan amount of Php44,031,587 from the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) credit assistance loan program to boost their agricultural production. The credit assistance loan is funded by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) through the Accessible Funds for Delivery to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (AFFORD-ARBs) program to fund the production of rice, corn, and high-value crops, and for the acquisition of small farm equipment. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said the loan granted to the ARBs

would be used for the enhancement of their banana production, rice production, corn production, and mango and pomelo production, which were released in tranches. "The AFFORD-ARBs program is an improved lending program offered to individual ARBs, who were provided with basic financial knowledge to allow them to optimize their loans to improve their income, generate savings, and boost their productivity," she said. Paña added that DAR would continue to provide the ARBs with support services such as technical assistance on their chosen commodities, coaching and mentoring, and other capacity development interventions. Of the 97 ARBs, 39 were from Arakan, 17 from Pres Roxas, 12

from Carmen and Alamada, 10 from Magpet, three from Pikit, and one each from Makilala, Matalam, Kabacan, and Pigcawayan. Provincial AFFORD-ARBs program Point Person Roland Daquio said these ARBs were provided with financial literacy seminars prior to the release of their loans, which offers a very lower interest rate at 5% per annum. "The ARBs had already received their first and second tranches of loan to fund their agri-production project, while the third tranche will be released depending on the crop status based on their submitted farm plan and budget," he said. He added that some of the beneficiaries had already started paying their loan amortization

based on the issued statement of account by the LBP. Daquio also disclosed that some Php9,583,816.00 were already approved and will be released to 18 ARBs upon the completion of documentary requirements. Likewise, the application of 12 ARBs with a combined amount of Php10,467,162.00 is expected to be released after the review and approval at the LBP Lending Center in Kidapawan City. The AFFORD-ARBs program is in compliance with Presidential Directive No. 2018-0176 dated April 14, 2018, which directs LBP in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and DAR to reach out to farmers and provide them with financial assistance for their agricultural needs.

DAR launches 10th Farm Business School site for Sorsogon farmers

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Sorsogon recently launched its 10th Farm Business School (FBS) site to help farmer-beneficiaries become farmer entrepreneurs and boost their entrepreneurial skills. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Nida A. Santiago expressed her happiness in welcoming a significant project that will help the farmers in their production and marketing activities. "Farmers are formed into small

groups to build collectively their capacity to produce for the market and respond to market demands with the aim of generating profits," she said. She said the FBS aims to develop agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to become agricultural entrepreneurs. "We want to make their farms profitable and make them understand the ins and outs of business so that they can respond to market challenges," she said.



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DAR LAUNCHES 10TH FARM BUSINESS SCHOOL SITE FOR SORSOGON FARMERS

PARPO Liza B. Repotente shared how the FBS has thrived through the years relaying that the office values the ARBOs and ARBs response to the challenges of welcoming a new support intervention.

“We will remain steadfast in exploring new ways on how to bring more services to our farmers, especially our ARBs. We will be with them every step of the way,” Repotente exclaimed.

She disclosed that this is the 10th FBS site in Sorsogon. In 2017, the pilot sites in Castilla and Bulan were launched. It was followed by a site in Juban in 2018, three (3) sites launched in Juban, Irosin, and Matnog in 2019, a lone site launched in Casiguran in 2020 and finally, two sites were launched in 2021 in Sta. Magdalena and Sorsogon City.

Repotente said the Capuy-Basud Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CABAMUCO) in Capuy, Sorsogon is the identified recipient of the FBS for 2022.

“In Sorsogon City, CABAMUCO

is the 2nd site of FBS. This milestone is significant not only for DAR but for the local government of Sorsogon,” she added.

FBS Facilitator Jicelle Escanilla said the program has thirty-five (35) enrollees. DAR-Sorsogon ensured that the CABAMUCO members will enjoy twenty-five (25) FBS sessions as they learn entrepreneurial skills.

CABAMUCO Chairman Rodolfo L. Bonete Jr. expressed his gratitude to the DAR for the opportunity to be selected as the recipient of the program.

“We know that the DAR and the LGU will not abandon us. We promise that whatever help and guidance are given to us, we will take care of it as a form of appreciation.

The farmer-students will undergo a curriculum including assessing their current farm situation, devising a farm business plan, and how to translate that plan into action, making their farms profitable, by managing their own farm business.



AUGUST 7

DAR CAPIZ LAUNCHES PROGRAM AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY

Gibato, Dumarao, Capiz – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Capiz strengthened its campaign against hunger and poverty through the recent launching of the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program (EPAHPP) which would also benefit the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the said province.

The EPAHPP is one of the strategic programs of the government, which seeks to mitigate hunger, ensure food nutrition security, reduce poverty in urban and rural communities, and establish sustainable agriculture linking through the various government agencies.

The project is seen to benefit the agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) members of the proponent ARB organization (ARBO) – the Progressive Women Agrarian Reform Cooperative (PWARC), as well as other farmers in the community by providing them with Php400,000.00 worth of support services.

Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer Lea L. Ubierna disclosed that the Php300,000.00 was allocated for support facilities and equipment while the Php100,000 would be for the capacity development services such as the conduct of project technology and other related training.

“The essential goal of the EPAHPP is to strategically reduce hunger in the community while helping the farmer-

beneficiaries elevate their living. Through the program, we would help our farmers increase their farm productivity and income through various provisions of support services like technology training, farm machinery, and equipment to address the problem of poverty and food security.” Ubierna said.

During the launching activity, the local government unit (LGU) of Dumarao, the barangay local government of Gibato, the Department of Education, and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, affirmed their support to attain the success of the program. The program’s success would eventually create greater synergy and convergence in engaging the urban and rural communities to optimize economic resources through supplementary feeding and other government feeding programs, food production and livelihood programs, and essential support services.

Florencio Fariñas Jr., a representative from Dumarao Mayor’s Office under the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office said that the LGU is now focusing on the infrastructure development of the municipality to enable the construction of a farm-to-market road for the farmers in the far-flung areas. “Hearing from the program’s advocacy, the countryside and community development would certainly elevate everyone’s lives, especially our farmers,” Farinas said.



DAR-Finance head to chair national promotion and selection board

DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III has appointed Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Office Jeffrey Galan as head of the national Human Resource Merit Promotion Selection Board (HRMPSB).

The HRMPSB under Galan will be responsible for deliberating and filling up vacant critical positions in the Second Level, such as division chief and municipal agrarian reform program officer.

Galan will be assisted by HRMPSB members, DAR-Administrative officer-in-charge (OIC) Director IV Romeo Reyes, Personnel Division Chief Maria Elizabeth Esteban, directors of regional/bureau/service where the vacancy exists, DAR Employees Association national president Jocelyn Chua and DAR central office president Gloria Almazan.

Estrella put on the shoulder of Reyes the

responsibility of leading the HRMPSB that will deliberate and fill up First and Second Level positions, from Salary Grades 1 to 23, or positions below the division chief.

Reyes will be assisted by his fellow national HRMPSB members and another DAREA representative Angelica Santos. Santos’s presence, however, is limited to deliberating and filling up for First Level positions.

Some DAR bureaus have recently reconstituted their respective HRMPSBs. They are awaiting orders from the national HRMPSB to start the process of deliberating and recommending qualified applicants for vacant positions in their respective bureaus.

The deliberation process for promotion and filling up vacant positions is being carried out in line with the 2018 DAR Merit Selection Plan and related Civil Service Commission’s policies, rules, and regulations.



AUGUST 8

DAR-BICOL SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT’S INITIATIVES FOR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES

LEGAZPI CITY-- The Department of Agrarian Reform in Bicol region supports Secretary Conrado Estrella III in actively pushing for the condonation of loan payments and providing a one-year moratorium on payment of amortization and interest fees, as announced by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s first State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Rodrigo O. Realubit, officer-in-charge of DAR Bicol, said the initiative will surely boost farmers’ productivity.

“We are behind our secretary in pushing for the initiatives of the President for agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). We have readied all documents and statistics needed should the Congress and the Senate ask for them,” Realubit said.

In his report to the nation, Marcos Jr. outlined his intention to waive farmers’ debts and implement a one-year moratorium on payments of amortization and interest on about 650,000 ARBs in the country.

“It’s a good strategic move by the president. It will provide the much-needed relief to our ARBs, as they can now use the money, supposedly for land amortization, to invest it for their farm production instead,” Realubit said.

Realubit added, “If the ultimate solution is provided by the Congress in the form of a moratorium or eventually a condonation, as indicated by the president involving billions of pesos, these funds may be used to stimulate rural agricultural dynamics in remote areas.”

Marcos said he would continue the

enforcement of Executive Order No. 75, series of 2019, which states that unused agricultural lands of the government would be distributed to war veterans, surviving spouses and orphans of war veterans, and retirees of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Realubit said in response that the DAR Bicol region has been executing the policy. Presently, DAR personnel are verifying about 2,557 hectares of government-owned property on the ground.

“Because these are still under validation, we cannot say exactly how many hectares could be acquired by the DAR now. In fact, we have already discussed this matter with the concerned agencies, particularly with the Department

of Environment and Natural Resources, for assistance on the ground.”

Farmer-beneficiaries in Camarines Sur hope the president’s promises in his SONA will be implemented soon.

Torribio Biag, an ARB from Barangay Cagmanaba in Ocampo said the President’s plans will greatly help them to sustain their awarded lands.

“We hope the President will also help us improve our farms through new technology. We are also happy with the DAR’s program on awarding lands to agri-graduates as this will encourage the youth to farm. We are encouraging our children to take up agricultural courses so they will continue to till the land that we will eventually leave behind,” said Biag.

DAR-CAVITE ENCOURAGES PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT SPLIT IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH BARC

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Cavite recently conducted an orientation for members of Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee (BARC) for them to participate in the implementation of Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project in Trece Martirez City.

DAR-Cavite Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II James Arthur T. Dubongco said the BARC's active community participation in the implementation of the SPLIT Project will ensure the success of agrarian reform in the countryside.

"One of BARC's main goal is to apprise the Provincial Composite Team and field point persons on Memorandum Circular 5, series of 2010, which aims to include the roles and functions of the BARC in the implementation of SPLIT Project and the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in general," he said.

He said the DAR continues to strengthen its grassroots formation and engagement with the orientation on BARC participation.

"This will enable the community to actively participate in CARP

implementation specifically on its major program components, which include Land Tenure Improvement (LTI), Program Beneficiaries Agrarian Reform Committee Development, and the Agrarian Justice Delivery (AJD)," he said.

BARC has a critical role in ensuring an efficient mechanism for grassroots participation in the various programs of DAR.

"The department recognizes the importance of the farmers, landowners, agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations, and other CARP-stakeholders' participation in the planning, organization, and effective management of the program," he said.

Program Beneficiaries Development Division Chief Eva Reyes said they were given updates on the latest policies and activities of the department's programs.

"This activity also served as an avenue for discussing and sharing the problems and solutions they have encountered in the past, as well as other legal issues they may encounter," she said.

The orientation, held in Barangay Multi-Purpose Covered Court, Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martirez City Cavite.



DAR CHIEF LAYS DOWN 9 PRIMARY GOALS FOR THE NEXT 6 YEARS

MALACANANG—In his first few weeks as head of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Secretary, Conrado Estrella III has moved swiftly and impressively as he laid down his nine (9) land reform priorities which were identified and presented at the latest cabinet meeting presided by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. "These primacies that we have crafted are aligned with the President's national goal of improving the lives of the farmers," Estrella said.

"I have also included the services of other government agencies to help us in elevating the welfare of farmers. This convergence of support will surely benefit not only the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) but all farmers in the country," Estrella added.

The Secretary's nine land reform priorities:

1. Intervention on land tenure problems

The DAR is counting on the President's executive order (EO) on the moratorium of payments for amortization fees and interests of ARBs. The EO shall ease the burden of payment and the cash may be used by the farmers on other agricultural ventures.

The DAR will coordinate and

give technical support for the formulation of law for the condonation of payments for amortization fees and interests to free the farmers from debts.

Aggressive and full-scale parcelation program and eventual issuance of individual titles to ARBs under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT).

2. Agrarian Justice Delivery

The Department will hire additional lawyers to review pending cases and conduct fast-tracking activities and enhance its legal monitoring system.

3. Interventions for support services

The DAR will intensify its delivery of modern farm equipment, fertilizers, and other farm inputs. Credit assistance, capacity development, and marketing assistance will also be provided.

4. Intervention for medical expenses

The DAR will tap the Department of Health (DOH) to provide subsidies and include in its coverage the ARBs as recipients of its Medical Assistance for Indigent Patients (MAIP).



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DAR Chief lays down 9 primary goals for the next 6 years

5. Intervention for educational expenses

The DAR will tap the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to include the children of ARBs in the coverage of the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST).

6. Intervention for technical skills

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will be tapped to allocate funds to farm schools for the training of farmers on a scientific method of farming.

7. Intervention for farm-to-market roads

The DAR will partner with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to provide roads to agrarian reform

communities (ARCs).

8. Intervention for diversified income sources

The Secretary's goal is for ARBs to earn additional income through livestock farming. The DAR will tap the DA to provide livestock to ARBs, and skills training to be provided by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), TESDA, Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), and the National Dairy Authority (NDA).

9. Intervention for irrigation

The absence and lack of irrigation is a major reason for farmers' lack of production. The DAR will partner with the National Irrigation Association (NIA) to provide irrigation for ARBs and ARCs.

The Secretary said his priority goals would also serve as a guide for formulating strategic plans for

agrarian reform implementation for the next six years.

"In six years, I will push the DAR to achieve self-sufficiency for ARBs, progressive agrarian cooperatives, and sustainable and resilient ARCs," Estrella said.

He said the department intends to achieve the following targets: 80 percent or 743,800 ARBs with improved productivity and increased income; 85 percent or 7,800 agrarian cooperatives with

established and stable viable business operations managed by the ARBs; and 80 percent or 1,300 ARCs with improved business ecosystems and connectivity.

"I am confident that with these nine priority goals the workforce of the department will do its best to implement programs and projects that will hasten land distribution, delivery of support services, and improve the economic lives of farmers," Estrella said.

DAR asks DBM to release 2022 and 2023 AR Fund

To address the needs of agrarian reform beneficiaries, the landowners, and agrarian reform personnel, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has asked the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the release of a portion of the remaining P34.474 billion Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF) in the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) to implement both the 2022 and 2023 Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said his office, through Finance, Management and Administration Office Undersecretary Jeffrey Galan, has submitted a letter to the DBM, indicating that for the year 2023, a total amount of P10 billion is being requested to be part of the authorized budget of the DAR.

In his letter to the DBM, Galan is requesting the release of the P10 billion ARF which will be used

to pay landowner's compensation for the year 2023 amounting to P2 billion.

The remaining P8 billion is programmed for the provision of support services such as farm tools and equipment, communal irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, and technical assistance, among others. For the year 2022, another P10 billion is being proposed for release by the DAR to augment its current budget. The bulk of this, or P8.75 billion will go to the agrarian reform beneficiaries' development and sustainability program.

Estrella stressed that nearly 90 percent of the requested fund for 2022 would be allocated for the delivery of support services, which is in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s recent pronouncement – to help enhance the capacity of farmers to produce, deliver and

ensure the continued supply of food in the country.

Estrella also recognized the need to address the concerns of former landowners, so he sets aside P1 billion of the 2022 requested fund for compensation of their agricultural lands that were placed under the

Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Estrella has allotted the remaining P250 million of the 2022 requested ARF for capacity building of DAR employees to train newly-hired personnel and re-orient newly designated and promoted employees.



North Cotabato farmers' group gets additional income thru DAR's tilapia production



Pikit, North Cotabato – A group of farmers in the community of Katilacan in this province were jubilant about the additional income they gained from the first cycle harvest of their tilapia production project using floating fish cages.

The Katilacan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers Organization (KARBFO) earned a gross income of Php15,000.00 in the first cycle harvest of the said livelihood project, which was implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to help improve the economic condition of the farmers. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Charish Paña said the project was funded by the Office of Mindanao Affairs and was implemented under the DAR's Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program.

"We are happy to see the outcome of our intervention in the vulnerable communities on climate change and hazard-prone areas like Pikit. This confirms that the usage of floating fish cages is suitable and effective in flood-prone areas like Katilacan," Paña said.

She lauded the Katilacan ARB

Farmers Organization (KARBFO) for successfully managing their project that generated an additional income for their organization and their respective families.

"As a strong gesture of support in marketing their produce, we recently invited them to the general assembly of DAR-Cotabato Employees Cooperative, where some 100 kilograms of Tilapia at Php150.00 per kilo were sold out," Paña said.

Meanwhile, KARBFO President Tumendig Abdul expressed his gratefulness to all DAR employees for their commitment and support by buying all of their first harvests. "We are really inspired by the support of DAR Cotabato employees to us. First, they provided us with training and other development interventions, now they are helping us in marketing our products," Abdul said.

Abdul added that two out of 15 floating fish cages were recently emptied, while 13 more fish cages are yet to be harvested and they are open to wholesalers, which the DAR Pikit Municipal Office would help them find their buyers.

CAMSUR FARMERS RECEIVE P900-K FARM MACHINERY AND AGRI INPUTS FROM DAR

To help the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) cope up with the effects of climate change, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Camarines Sur distributed farm machinery and equipment (FME) and agricultural farm inputs worth more than P900,000.00.

DAR Bicol Regional Director Rodrigo Realubit said the amount consists of Php707,328.00 worth of farm machinery and equipment and P205,610.00 worth of farm inputs provided to four (4) ARB Organizations (ARBOs) under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) Program.

"Aside from distributing agricultural lands, the DAR also provided the farmers with common service facilities (CSF) to ensure that their parcel of land becomes productive, increase their production, and subsequently improve their lives," Realubit said.

He reminded the members of the cooperative to handle the FMEs with care and maintain it in good condition to maximize its usefulness and subsequently result in more farm outputs.

DAR-Camarines Sur has extended support services to 4 ARBOs under the Sustainable Livelihood Support for Disaster Affected Areas (SLSDAA) project.

The ARBOs include the Libtong Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (LARBA) in Sitio Libtong, Payatan, Goa; Coyaoyao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (CARBA) in Coyaoyao, Tigaon; San Ramon Vegetable Farmers Association (SRVFA) in San Ramon, Tinambac; and Bahi Farmers and Fisherfolks Organization (BAFFO) in Bahi, Garchitorea, Camarines Sur. Under the project, the ARBs were also provided with agri-extension

and technology services coupled with farm inputs. The technology training gave emphasis on the major crop cultivated in the area which is rice and corn.

Farm inputs distributed to the ARBOs include thirteen (13) bags each of certified rice seeds and four (4) bags each of corn seeds to BAFFO, and nine (9) bags of corn seeds to LARBA.

The project will adopt the roll-over scheme in order to sustain the project and the inputs trading enterprise of the ARBO.

Among the CSFs provided were two (2) units of corn sheller turned-over to LARBA, two (2) units rototiller with implements granted to SRVFA, one (1) unit hand tractor with implements to CARBA and one (1) unit mobile rice milling machine delivered to BAFFO.

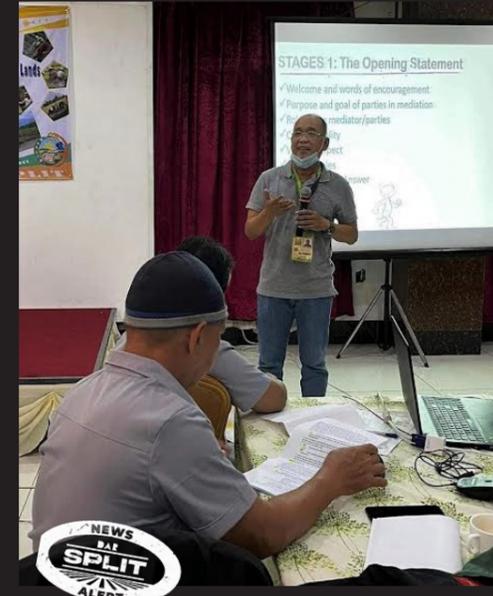
On-site testing and operation and management were done in order to test its performance and provide technical guidance for the efficient use and operation of the CSFs.

LARBA president Matea Belleca could not contain her happiness, as the DAR awarded them with two (2) units of corn sheller to help not only the ARBO members but also service the neighboring corn farmers in Payatan, Goa.

CRFPS is a major program of DAR focused on extending assistance to calamity prone areas within the agrarian reform communities (ARC).

The SLSDAA project is geared towards improving the farm yield and livelihood of the ARBs by improving their adaptive capacity and socio-economic activities for food sufficiency and environmental sustainability through their organization.

DAR taps community partner's support in parcelization of agri lands



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Negros Oriental recently conducted training and orientation for the Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee (BARC) to expedite the implementation of the Support to Parcelization of Land for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project. SPLIT project is the department's thrust to issue individual land titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) who were previously awarded lands but through collective ownership.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Elvira Bation said BARC is the DAR's partner, at the community level, in executing land acquisition, land distribution,

delivering support services, and solving agrarian disputes.

"They are our extension or arm of agrarian implementation, capacitating them means capacitating the agency and its mandates," she added.

Bation said the members of BARC actively took part in lectures and simulation exercises in equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills for their important role in the SPLIT project implementation. The SPLIT project, implemented in 78 provinces in 15 regions, would strengthen the property rights of ARBs as opposed to collective ownership where they do not possess land titles to the land they are tilling.

'I stand by the law' - DAR chief

"I STAND by what the law says. I will not be swayed by any pressures wherever they may come from."

Thus, said Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III as he firmly established his position when deciding agrarian cases during his first-ever dialogue with a group of farmers as head of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) at the DAR Gymnasium in Quezon City.

Estrella stressed that he is afraid of

nobody and will decide issues and concerns according to the intent and spirit of the laws, to which he drew big applause from the farmers from the province of Batangas who raised their alleged rightful claims over certain properties in the towns of Lian and Nasugbu.

"This is very simple. We just need to follow the law," Estrella said.

The DAR chief, however, stressed that he would be fair to all concerned individuals and groups even as he formed a five-man

task force that would investigate issues and concerns raised by the farmers, who belonged to the Damayan ng mga Manggagawa, Magsasaka at Mangingisda sa Bansa (DAMMMBA).

Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Atty. Napoleon Galit bannered the three lawyer representatives of the DAR in the task force, which also included his deputy, Assistant Secretary Celestina Tam, and Undersecretary for Field Operations, Atty. Kazel Celeste.

The two other slots are allotted to lawyer representatives of the farmers' group and of the former landowners.

Estrella said he expects that some former landowners may have started looking for patrons with political influence to try influencing his decision-making process in their favor.

"I don't care. I fear nobody even if they will threaten to derail the passage of DAR's budget in the hearing," he said.



CAM SUR FARMERS GET P200K GRANT FOR LIVESTOCK AND VEGETABLE FARMING

SIPOCOT, Camarines Sur — A farmers' cooperative in Camarines Sur has begun backyard hog farming and vegetable production after receiving P200,000 worth of equipment and agricultural inputs from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

The initiative of the DAR is part of the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program, which aims to alleviate hunger, provide food and nutrition security, reduce poverty in urban and rural areas, including marginalized communities, and supplement farmer earnings.

The Garat Farmers' Agrarian Reform Cooperative (GFARC)

in Barangay San Isidro, Sipocot, received nine piglets and one gilt, as well as feeds and other agri-supplies for swine production.

The GFARC will adopt the roll-over scheme of pig dispersal, where a piglet will be returned to the cooperative when the piglets are ready to be weaned and then given to the next beneficiary.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Gay L. Labad said the project would be a big financial support to the 35 farmer-members of GFARC, who primarily cultivate corn and coconut trees.

"These backyard livelihood projects are welcome additional income for families of farmers. As they earn from

selling the piglets, fattened hogs, and pork meat in the neighboring barangays and municipalities, they are also feeding their families with the meat and vegetables they harvest from their gardens," said Labad.

The farmers also received a grass cutter, a knapsack sprayer, a jetmatic pump, wires, a shovel, fertilizer, insecticides, a drum, a trapal, a weighing scale, and bitter gourd seedlings, for their vegetable production.

Hazel France B. Sapaula of EPAHP, said that the recipients were instructed on systems and strategies for site duplication during the input-sharing for vegetable and hog production.

"It must be replicated so that all agrarian reform beneficiaries can participate in the project directly," Sapula said.

She added the attendees were interested in securing slots as production sites for fattening and breeding of hogs, or for bitter gourd cultivation.

GFARC Chairperson Quirino B. Bonita assured that marketing will not be an issue.

"These livelihood projects are such a big help for us. Any endeavor that will give us additional income is a blessing," said Bonita.

The farmers will transform a hectare of land into bitter gourd plantation area in the said barangay.



DAR chief: 'Fast track subdivision of collectively titled lands'

As a serious move to deliver individual land titles to all agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III recently formed a new task force that would help expedite and smoothen the process of subdividing collectively titled landholdings.

Estrella designated Undersecretary for Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Office Jesry Palmares as chairman of the "Task Force on Drafting the Project SPLIT (Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling) Catch-Up Plan" to ensure that the project would proceed as scheduled.

Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Jeffrey Galan will be on hand to assist Palmares. He was designated

as the task force's vice chairman, Palmares and Galan will be ably supported by its members: Undersecretaries, Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal of the Support Services Office and Atty. Kazel Celeste of the Field Operations Office and Assistant Secretaries, Atty. Maria Celestina Tam of the Legal Affairs Office, Engr. Joey Sumatra of the Field Operations Office, Aurita Carlos-Ang of the Finance Management and Administration Office, Josef Angelo Martires of the Foreign-Assisted and Special Project Office, and Director Susana Serrano of the Agrarian Reform Capacity Development Service.

All DAR-regional directors are also expected to lend a hand as the members-on call for the deliberation and processing of Collective

Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) under their respective regions.

Estrella directed Palmares to leave no stone unturned as the task force tries to put on the finishing touches on the catch-up plan to ensure the smooth and orderly implementation of the project.

He also advised the task force to study the feasibility of increasing the target and the budget requirements of the project, which seeks to improve the "security of tenure" and strengthen the "property rights" of the ARBs.

Estrella said subdividing the collective CLOAs into individual land titles and distributing them to each beneficiary "will help release them from the otherwise complicated situation where they are considered

co-owners of the project-covered landholdings."

"This is precisely what we wanted all along: 'See each beneficiary enjoying the peaceful cultivation of their farm lot,'" Estrella said.

The P24.63-billion SPLIT project, courtesy of the World Bank, will subdivide around 1.3 million hectares of landholdings, which had been processed under the collective CLOAs due to time constraints as the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program was initially considered to last only for 10 years.

The SPLIT project is considered the key to resolving common problems, such as boundary disputes of the landholdings, which would, later on, identify which areas they are entitled to.

DAR TO BOOST VEGETABLE PRODUCTION OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY FARMERS

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Zamboanga Sibugay recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Milagrosa Farmers Association (MFA) to launch the Community Managed Potable Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (CPWASH) project to boost their organic vegetable production.

CPWASH project would be the vegetable processing center's source and storage of clean water. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Mohammad Dassan Adju, who led the project launching and MOA signing, said the DAR saw the potential of vegetable gardening as a great additional income for the members of MFA and the CPWASH would be a big factor to make it happen.

"This could be a window of opportunity for other agencies to pour their support and assistance to your group. I ask you to look after and maintain the facilities provided to you so that they would last longer and help more members," Adju told the association.

Representing the parties involved,

Adju led the MOA signing between MFA President Richard Rojas and Milagrosa Barangay Captain Catherine Traje for the implementation of the CPWASH project held at the barangay hall of Milagrosa, in the town of Alicia.

Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Romulus Perez said that with the positive attitude of its members, he is certain that this endeavor would become successful, and would become a model and a showcase for other farmers' organizations in neighboring barangays to engage in organic vegetable gardening.

At the same event, the DAR also conducted training on the Natural Farming Technology System in support of their organic vegetable production, where the members enthusiastically participated.

As the president of the association, Rojas conveyed their full commitment to take care of the facilities and sustain the project afforded to their association.

"We are very thankful to the DAR for the support they are giving us. We would do our best to make this a successful one," he said.



DAR uplifts Camarines Sur abaca production, provides P580-K grant

LAGONOY, Camarines Sur — Coastal farmers got a boost in abaca production and marketing business following the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), partner agencies, and the local government unit for the improvement of the abaca processing facility.

Under the Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) project, the Himanag-Sipaco Development Multipurpose Cooperative (HSDMPC) will receive P300,000 worth of construction materials for the improvement of their abaca processing center. The cooperative will also receive P280,000 for skills and managerial training, as well as marketing activities for 120 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

The DAR, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, and the LGU of Lagonoy signed the agreement at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall in Lagonoy, with the HSDMPC required to bear the labor costs, and the LGU Lagonoy contributing P50,000.

Noel Gaor, chairperson of the HSDMPC, thanked all the agencies involved in helping their agri-venture.

"Thank you, line agencies, especially DAR, for helping us with this VLFED livelihood project and the LGU for providing us with additional funds to improve our processing center," Gaor said.

"We are so excited. With this partnership, our vision of expanding the production and marketing of abaca in coastal areas is now going to become a reality," Gaor added.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Chief Renato C. Bequillo said that with

the help of partner agencies—DTI, DOST, and the MLGU of Lagonoy, ARBs will not only achieve an increase in agricultural productivity but will also develop entrepreneurial skills to improve the sustainability of their livelihoods.

"DAR will also allocate P370,000 for abaca product upgrading, marketing, and training in 2023 to ensure the long-term viability of the livelihood project," Bequillo said.

DOST Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) will provide the services for economic growth and will give HSDMPC the technological support to help them scale up their production.

The DTI promised to assist the organization in marketing or selling their products and adapt it to the preferences of identified markets.

"Our agency has two supporting interventions for this program. First is the DTI-CARP project, which will provide them with continuous training to adjust to market innovation. Second, the Negosyo Center in Lagonoy promotes ease of doing business and facilitates access to services for small enterprises like that of the HSDMPC," said DTI Provincial Director Jay Percival Ablan.

In recent years, DAR has supported HSDMPC through capacity building in abaca production by providing 2,700 tissue-cultured abaca plantlets of various varieties through the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA), as well as product development training in weaving trays, baskets, and mat-making.

DAR also linked the ARBO to its existing financing and business development support programs and projects.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL FARMERS PROMOTE ORGANIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTION



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Negros Occidental has provided P360,000.00 worth of training, seminars, and adequate organic farm inputs to members of a farmers' group to help them establish sustainable organic vegetable production. OIC-Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Teresita R. Mabunay said the project is being implemented under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support-Sustainable Livelihood Support for Disaster Affected Areas (CRFPS-SLSDAA) of DAR. Mabunay said that members of Hiyang-Hiyang Malasaga Farmers Association, located in barangay Katilingban, Talisay

City were the recipient of seeds, organic fertilizer, nursery common service facilities, farm supplies, vermi-worms, and equipment, and tools. "Thirty (30) out of the 46 farmer-members of the Hiyang-Hiyang Malasaga Farmers Association were grouped into four (4) clusters where they will establish organic communal vegetable production in the 800 square meter lot of the cooperative," she said. She added that the support service facilities will address the problem of limited and high transportation costs, particularly for their vegetable crops, which often cause delays in the delivery of their farm products. Starter bundle kits were also provided to the said cooperative consisting of assorted vegetable

seeds, organic fertilizer, nursery supplies, vermi-worms, and construction materials for vermi-cast production and the establishment of vermi-housing. "This will not only help them counter the potential impacts of climate change on their crops but through this training, they can adopt farming methods they have never previously tried, and ensure crop resilience to produce healthy organic vegetables," Mabunay said. Farm tools and equipment such as grass cutter, wheelbarrow, polyethylene plastic drum, knapsack sprayer, water sprinkler, hoe, spade, and hose will be used to augment field activities, especially in the land preparation and cultivation stage.

DAR DISTRIBUTES P7.6-M FARM MACHINES AND INPUTS TO ILOCOS NORTE AGRARIAN COOPERATIVES

SAN NICOLAS, Ilocos Norte-- The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has turned over P7.6 million worth of farm machinery, trucks, and farm inputs to nine (9) agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) here to help them improve production and income generation. The turnover was led by DAR Undersecretary for Filed Operations Atty. Kazel Celeste at the Catuguing Multipurpose Cooperative in San Nicolas.

The provision of farm machinery and farm inputs was implemented under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP). "This project under the CRFPSP aims to protect the environment. It seeks to reduce the poverty level by creating sustainable employment and income-generating opportunities for the farmers," said Celeste. "These farm implements will service more than 300 farmers



here. And because the machines are mechanized, it would make farming easier and faster for them. It will also greatly improve their yield and increase their income," Celeste added. Undersecretary Celeste was joined by Ilocos Norte 1st District Congressman Sandro Marcos, who graced the occasion and thanked the DAR for the machines and farm inputs. He assured the farmers of his support in working for the economic improvement of their district. "All of these are a big help for my constituents. You can count on me to think of ways and work with government agencies like the DAR for the advancement of agriculture in our district," Representative Marcos said. DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Vic Ines said the beneficiaries of the machines and farm inputs are members

of 9 ARBOs from the towns of Dumalneg, Burgos, Sarrat, Pinili, Banna, Dingras, Marcos, and Currimaos. The Nanguratao Irrigators Association, Inc., and the Sunrise Agrarian Reform Cooperative each received a farm tractor; the Banna Alliance of Cooperative and Buanga Agrarian Reform Cooperative were each provided with a hauling truck; the Pagwagan ti Gabon ARBs Cooperative and Imelda Agrarian Reform Cooperative received one and two hand tractors respectively; and the Agaga Agrarian Reform Cooperative, Golgol Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association Inc., and the Langayan Agrarian Reform Cooperative received a tri-bike chariot each. Ines said that all 9 ARBOs received farm inputs consisting of water pumps, bags of organic fertilizer, bags of 14-14-14, and bags of Urea.



DAR improves hog production of South Cotabato farmers

Barangay Moloy, Surallah - The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of South Cotabato recently turned over a unit of biogas digester and rainwater collector to the farmer-members of Moloy ARB Association in this community to improve their hog production. The said facilities were provided under the Community-Managed Potable Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (CPWASH) Project amounting to Php80,000. Assistant Regional Director H. Roldan A. Ali said these support services aim to provide the community with a permanent facility to collect the rainwater for hog production and the biogas digester would convert the hog waste into methane gas that could be used for cooking. "I am glad that you are receptive to the project. I hope that this support will be a big help in boosting your hog production," Ali said to the farmer recipients. He also encouraged the beneficiaries to sustain the

project and suggested that they should register with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) to further expand their business operation. CDA is the government's agency that promotes sustained growth and full development of cooperatives in the country. Moloy ARB Association President Naomi Ebueta thanked the DAR for the CPWASH projects they received because he said that it would provide a boost in their business. "We will take good care of the project and we will keep it sustainable," she said. Meanwhile, Surallah Municipal Councilor Harold Eslabon advised the farmers to closely coordinate with the local government unit and work hand-in-hand against the threat of disease that could harm farm animals. "We empower the barangay animal health workers to mitigate the critical situation threatening the hog industry," he said.

DAR SURIGAO DEL NORTE PRESENTS ITS OWN SET OF FARM BUSINESS SCHOOL GRADUATES

A total of thirty-two (32) farmer-members this time from the San Juan Producers Association (SJPA) in Alegria, Surigao del Norte have transformed themselves into farmer-entrepreneurs as they graduate from the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) Farm Business School (FBS) in Surigao del Norte. DAR OIC-Provincial head Maria Elizabeth De Guzman said the FBS aims to develop the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) into agricultural entrepreneurs to promote farming as one of the businesses where ARBs could draw big earnings. "This activity aims to help the farmers upgrade their knowledge and skills in developing competitive farm enterprises that will open opportunities for them to earn more," she said. De Guzman disclosed that the

32 ARBs were trained on various entrepreneurial skills and advanced farming practices covering a total of 25 sessions. She said that the FBS has empowered the participants to make the lands awarded to them by the DAR change their lives and the lives of others by properly managing their lands and their products in terms of marketing their various crops. "Your active participation in this activity shows that you are now ready for the challenge that awaits you as you are now one step ahead to become Agripreneurs!," she said. The FBS can be compared to an educational system designed to provide the farmers with techniques to maximize their agricultural products to earn more profit, learn marketing strategies, and other opportunities to uplift their living conditions.



DAR, PCCAI SEAL PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO DAR EMPLOYEES



MANILA – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Inc. (PCCAI) on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) granting medical assistance to the DAR employees.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III and PCCAI chairman Antonio Tan spearheaded the MOA signing at the Chinese General Hospital Medical Arts Building in Manila.

Estrella said that this is a very significant and memorable day as he expressed his gratitude to the PCCAI for understanding and exerting all efforts to partner with the DAR to address the worries and fears of its employees.

“On behalf of the millions of agrarian reform beneficiaries and the DAR, I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity. The magnitude of your kindness and generosity is one big favor that you extended to the employees of the DAR and we will

forever be indebted to all of you,” he said.

Tan said that the partnership with the DAR will provide comprehensive medical assistance to all DAR personnel in times of sickness or emergency.

He said that under the agreement, the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center will provide fifty percent (50 %) discount on diagnosis and treatment including major operations or surgeries, and thirty percent (30%) discount on laboratory, pulmonary and x-ray services upon presentation of proof that the patient is a personnel of the DAR.

Tan disclosed that in the event of emergency cases and hospital confinement, the DAR personnel must present and submit his employment identification card or in its absence, a certification duly signed by the Chief, Personnel

Division that the patient is a bonafide employee of the department.

“We are thrilled to be able to work with you on your noble goal of actualizing equitable land distribution, ownership, agricultural productivity, and tenurial security for the farmers of our country,” he said.

The MOA will take effect immediately and will be valid for one (1) year subject to renewal thirty (30) days before its expiration as may be agreed upon by both parties.

The MOA signing was witnessed by PCCAI Executive-Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Kelly H. Sia, Emeritus Chairman Dr. Benito. Goyokpin, Honorary Chairman Florante Dy, Vice-President and Special Assistant to the President Robert Yang, and DAR Assistant Secretary for Finance, Management and Administration Office (FMAO) Aurita Carlos-Ang.

AUGUST 18

DAR boosts coffee production of Sarangani farmers



Barangay Malalag Cogon, Malungon, – The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Sarangani recently turned over a unit of coffee pulper and coffee dehuller to Malalag Cogon Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Association (MACARBA) to further boost the coffee production in this town.

The turnover of the Php249,000 worth of post-harvest equipment coincided with the graduation of 40 members of MACARBA, who attended the two-day coffee post-harvest handling and processing training conducted by the department.

Resource person Arnel Cadeliña, a Q Robusta Grader, Specialty

Coffee Roaster, and proprietor of Tay Roming Coffee Roasters, discussed the importance of quality standards to be observed in coffee harvesting and emphasized the importance of picking the right cherries in producing fine Robusta and specialty Arabica coffee.

“Each stage of post-harvest handling is important and having the proper equipment in processing the cherries is also important in producing quality products,” he said.

MACARBA was registered with the Department of Labor and Employment on November 20, 2020.

MACARBA President Emilio Arañez divulged that all their

member persistently worked hard together to strengthen and grow their organization.

“Through our unity and dedication, and the support provided to us by the DAR, we could achieve the success we are dreaming of, one of which is to improve the production of coffee in our area,” he said.

Arañez added that they are inspired and challenged to work more to meet the growing demand for quality specialty coffee both

in the local and international markets.

The equipment provided by the DAR is under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project-Sustainable Livelihood Support program, which is aimed to address food security amidst climate change by providing livelihood support in the form of farm machines and equipment, farm inputs, and capacity development interventions.

DAR provides Php59.98-M worth of bridges to improve Palawan’s agri sector



In an effort to boost the agricultural sector of Palawan, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, turned over Php59.98-million worth of bridges in its five (5) municipalities, through the signing of certificates and acceptance of the said infrastructure facilities.

The turned over bridges include the Parasao bridge in Barangay Apocapo, in the town of Aborlan, which costs Php 9.43-M; Abucayan bridge in Barangay Panitian, Sofronio Española, Php 12.63-M; Buayan bridge in Barangay New Cuyo, Roxas, Php 11.28-M; Minara Bridge in Barangay Minara, Roxas, Php

9.97-M; and the Cagbanaba bridge in Barangay New Ibajay, El Nido, Php 16.67-M.

The infrastructure projects are seen to provide easier access and cheaper transportation costs to farmers in bringing their agricultural products to various trade centers and markets.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said his administration would not settle on the distribution of lands because he would also provide various support services to ensure the success of the department’s endeavor of improving the quality of life in the countryside.

“First world countries have rich agriculture production and we



will pool all our efforts to lift our agricultural sector,” Estrella said.

The Secretary added that he would bring the government closer to the farmers to see and listen, first hand, to their needs in improving their economic lives.

“We will coordinate with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Works and Highways to build more infrastructure facilities for the best interest of our agriculture,” he said.

The bridge projects were implemented under the agency’s Tulayng Pangulo Para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP), which aims to promote rural development

in agrarian reform communities, enhance productivity and income through reduced marketing costs, and alleviate poverty among agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and agrarian reform areas.

Barangay Captain Ferdinand Dacilo, in his message, thanked the DAR for the bridge that they have received and added that they could now save time and money in bringing their products to various markets.

A signing of a memorandum of agreement on the Buhay sa Gulay Project also took place to promote the significance of urban farming and help contribute to the province’s food security.

AUGUST 19

CAMNORTE WOMEN FARMERS LEARN BAKING, GET BAKING KITS AND EQUIPMENT

SAN VICENTE, Camarines Norte—Twenty-five (25) women farmers here are happy after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) trained and provided them with a baking entrepreneurial project to help them augment their household income.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Camilo del Monte said the women, who are agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of the Man-Ogob, Cabanaban, Iraya Sur, San Jose, Asdum Agrarian Reform Community Organization (MAGCAISA) took part in a training provided by DAR under its Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development

(VLFED) project. He said the project aims to develop new products, improve their baking skills, and increase the income of their organization.

“We want to capacitate and help empower women farmers by grooming them into entrepreneurs. That is why we are providing them with the necessary skills to give them options in generating income for their family,” said del Monte.

The one-day event was facilitated by Nora Lobos and Sheena Bibon, both professional trainers on bread and pastry from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

“The women were taught how

to make pandesal, buko pie, and pili roll,” Bibon said.

The trainers demonstrated how to make pastries step-by-step and discussed best practices and what to avoid. They also encouraged participants to have fun and enjoy themselves, as they were learning by doing.

In addition to the skills training, the MAGCAISA received P70,000.00 in baking kits, materials, and equipment from the VLFED project.

Since 2015, the MAGCAISA ARC has produced pili-based delicacies, including tarts, jams, and crispy treats. They have also exhibited their products at trade shows in Bicol and the National Capital Region.



DAR DISTRIBUTES LAND TITLES, FARM MACHINERY TO BRING HOPE TO PALAWEÑO FARMERS

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) distributed certificates of land ownership award covering an aggregate area of 215.5 hectares and various farm machinery, on Thursday, August 18, 2022, providing Palaweño farmers an inspiration for their future.

The agricultural lands were from the towns of Aborlan, Bataraza, El Nido, Brooke's Point, Narra, Sofronio Española, Quezon, Roxas and Taytay. While the farm machinery and equipment include a hauling truck, a 35-HP 4-wheel drive truck, multipurpose-seeder with fertilizer applicator and six (6) units of hand tractor with implements.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said that under this administration, the President would ensure that the welfare of the farmers would be taken care of.

"Hang in there. We will provide you with more lands and necessary support to help you improve your economic lives" Estrella said to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

The Secretary revealed that with the help of President Ferdinand

Marcos Jr. and other lawmakers, they would pass a bill that would make the distributed lands be given for free.

Meanwhile, DAR Support Services Office Undersecretary Milagros Isabel Cristobal said that aside from farm machines, the department would continue to provide infrastructure facilities and other interventions to make their farm become more productive

"We do not just help our ARBs in enriching their lands, we also assist them in selling and marketing their agricultural products," she said.

The farm machinery and equipment were provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project, Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program and ARBOLD Project.

Land recipient Erlinda Velardo, 76 years old from Barangay Mabini El Nido, thanked the DAR for finally receiving her land title.

"It took 14 years before I can finally say that the land I am tilling is legitimately mine. And because of what the DAR has given us I am sure that we are already in good hands," she said.



DAR fast tracks subdivision of collective titles, targets 157,000 has for 2nd semester



THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is working double time in its effort to fast-track the subdivision of collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) and will target at least, 157,000 hectares of agricultural lands for field validation in the second semester of this year.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III said accelerating the subdivision of the collective CLOAs into individual titles through the Support to Parcelization of Land for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project would help empower farmer-beneficiaries as it enables each of them to direct their individual aspirations as new landowners. "It will also help improve the farmer-beneficiaries' security of tenure and strengthen their property rights," Estrella said.

The 2nd Semester 2022 target under the SPLIT Project shows that it represents about 42 percent of the 378,293 hectares that were subdivided over the past three

semesters, from January 1, 2021 up to June 30, 2022.

"Once the collective CLOAs are parceled into individual titles, they will be re-awarded to beneficiaries who are co-owners of the covered landholdings," Estrella stressed.

Estrella described the 2022 second semester field validation target as an indication of the sense of urgency to get the job done within the term of the Marcos Jr. administration. So far, the remaining workable balance is set at 1,002,485 hectares. Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Joey Sumatra said the field validation targets for each of the 80 Provincial Project Management Offices (PPMOs) are based on "the updated workable balance less the accomplishments for the year 2021 and the first semester of this year."

"The targets were anchored with the collective CLOA Inventory System as of July 14, 2022," Sumatra, who is also the national director for the SPLIT project, said.

DAR TO HOLD 'GABI NG KILALANAN'

In a bid to make the conduct of the 2022 First Semester National Formative Assessment and Second Semester Planning Conference more meaningful and productive, and less stressful, the Department of Agrarian Reform is holding the "Gabi ng Kilalanan" on August 25, 2022, at the Tanza Oasis Hotel and Resort in Tanza, Cavite.

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research, Atty. Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan said the fellowship night is the "very first opportunity" for participating DAR officials and personnel "to have a personal and productive encounter with Secretary Conrado Estrella III," the namesake of his late grandfather, the first secretary of the DAR.

"As we prepare to address the problems, issues, and challenges, which we have identified during the first part of our annual undertaking and formulate the corresponding catch-up plans and remedial measures, we cannot overemphasize the importance of strengthening our bonds through fellowship and services," Pañgulayan stressed.

A total of 240 DAR officials and staff from the central, regional and provincial offices will be in attendance at the three-day blended face-to-face and online conference, which will start on August 24, 2022.

"This will be our way of introducing the men and women of the Department to our dear Secretary," Pañgulayan said.



AUGUST 21

Bukidnon farmers receive farm equipment, training on alternative hog feeds processing from DAR

To improve farm productivity and earning capabilities of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in a sustainable manner, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has turned over Php363,920.00 worth of farm machinery and equipment (FME) and agri-extension services (AES) to the members of San Jose United CARP Beneficiaries Association (SJUFCBA) of San Jose, Bukidnon to promote its hog raising activities, as an alternative source of income. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Mohammad Abdul Jabbar M. Pandapatan said a total of sixty (60) ARBs from the (SJUFCBA) will benefit from this project on the Use of Alternative Feeds through Hog Raising under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support (CRFPS) project of the DAR.

The project encourages the use of natural and readily available materials with nutrient content like

leaves, moringa, banana pulp, and cassava, among others, which can be processed into hog feeds. This is to do away with the usual left-over foods fed to the hogs.

The municipal agriculture (MA) officer helps the farmers compute the feed requirements based on the age of the hogs. Through the use of the equipment provided by the DAR, farmers will mix the feed formulation using alternative leaves and root crops from their products.

"The project is geared towards building resiliency among the ARB organizations (ARBOs) in order to address the ensuing climate change concerns and at the same time, improving the socio-economic life of the farmers and the ARBs," Pandapatan added.

He disclosed that the department procured five (5) units of different feed-processor machines and farm tools worth P283,920.00.

"The Department hopes that these

farm machinery will help generate additional income and make your organizations more resilient as we face the concerns of climate change", Pandapatan said.

He added that a total of P80,000.00 worth of agri-extension services in the form of technology and technical training were also channeled to the ARBs.

"The ARBs are still undergoing a

season-long training program for Hog Raising using the technology and are being taught to operate the equipment as supervised by MA officer Roque Pepito," Pandapatan said.

SJUFCBA Chairman Melencio Cabantac expressed his utmost gratitude to the DAR and promised to take care of the equipment so that they can maximize its use.



DAR FARMERS' COOPERATIVE JOINS BRIGADA ESKWELA 2022



CAMARINES SUR — As part of their commitment to community service, an agrarian reform beneficiaries organization (ARBO) of Sipocot, in this province, took part in the Department of Education's (DepEd) Brigada Eskwela this year. The Bolo Sur Agrarian Reform Cooperative (BSARC) organized a cleaning campaign within the school to prepare for the start of classes this August and the full resumption of face-to-face classes in November. This year's DepEd activity, with the theme "Brigada Eskwela: Tugon sa Hamon sa Ligtas na Balik-Aral", will run until August 26. Lulive C. Abenoja, head teacher at Bolo Sur Elementary School, said that the activity shows how different partnerships work together to create a safe learning environment for students, teachers, stakeholders, and the community. This activity ensures that students get a quality education while keeping them safe. "We are grateful for the active

participation of the farmers' organization in this year's Brigada Eskwela. Thank you for your valuable support in this undertaking," she added. Francia B. Cantor, chairperson of the BSARC, stated that the activity may also promote the welfare of the coop members, their families, and the community, which is the goal of the cooperative. "By joining Brigada Eskwela, we are helping our children enroll in this school. We must maintain cleanliness to prevent our children from becoming ill, especially with dengue. Children can study effectively and will remain healthy if we keep the school and surrounding area clean," Cantor said. The BSARC, which has 31 members, was organized in 2020 and became a recipient of the egg-laying production enterprise under the DAR's Sustainable Livelihood Support for Disaster Affected Areas (SLSDAA) project in 2021.

Quirino farmers receive processing facility from DAR to enhance cassava chips production



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has turned over a newly-rehabilitated processing facility to the Dumanisi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (DARBENCO) located in Diffun, Quirino to enhance, profitably operate and manage the cooperative's cassava chips production. Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Jess Beth G. Quidasol said the project has a total cost of Php430,000.00 with the local government of Diffun contributing Php50,000.00 and the DARBENCO with P80,000, as

their counterparts, respectively. The project is being implemented under the Village Level Farm-Focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) Project of the DAR amounting to Php300,000.00. Quidasol disclosed that a total of 257 cooperative members, consisting of fifty (50) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and 207 non-ARBs will benefit from the project. "We want to enhance the processing of the cassava chips production of Quirino farmers through the provision of appropriate facilities and



equipment, under the VLFED project," she said. Quidasol said the processing center is designed to further develop competitive ARBs' products and make them conform with the market demand. She also explained that the department assisted the farmers by organizing the community, establishing linkages to different agencies, providing training on product packaging and marketing to reach more consumers. "The project would increase the community's income. Through the training on processing and

packaging, we can sell these products at reasonable prices and increase the farmers' profit in return," she added. DARBENCO representatives extended their gratitude to the DAR and partner agencies for their assistance and providing them with the facility, which, according to them, will help them achieve the goals of the organization. The VLFED project aims to enhance the ARBs products using appropriate facilities and equipment applicable for agri-business enterprises of the ARBs.

DAR BUILDS 140 BRIDGES UNDER TULAY NG PANGULO PROJECT

Hundreds of thousands of agrarian reform beneficiaries, their families, relatives, and ordinary rural folks are expected to have benefited from 140 bridges that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has constructed all over the Philippines under the "Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-Agraryo (TPKP). DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the multi-billion-peso TPKP, a joint project of the Philippine and French governments, has been a source of pride for the whole Filipino nation as it opens great opportunities to enhance their socio-economic well-being. Estrella said the P18.5-billion project has three-pronged objectives: "Promote agrarian

reform and rural development, enhance productivity and income, and alleviate poverty among various farming communities." "The idea is to link even the remotest barangays or villages to the town and market proper, our way of making them feel that they belong and play a big role in nation-building," Estrella said. DAR Undersecretary for Foreign-Assisted Special Projects Jesry Palmares said the project is set to build a total of 188 bridges nationwide. "As of June 30 this year, a total of 140 bridges under this project have already been finished and are now serving hundreds of thousands of our rural people, while construction for 29 others are ongoing and



another 17 more are under pre-construction," Palmares said. He added that the two remaining bridges that are set for identification in Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat are beset by the lack of funds for their civil work component, citing a report from the Department of Public Works and Highways, the

project implementing agency. Palmares said the TPKP has been identified as one of the priority projects of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in its effort to resuscitate the country's agriculture industry and keep food supply flowing normally in the major market centers.

Farmers' organization in Cebu province receives farm tractor from DAR



To improve the agrarian reform beneficiaries organization's (ARBO) productivity in the province of Cebu, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) turned over a farm tractor worth P813,000.00 to members of Anopog Mountain Spring Farmers Association Inc. (AMSFA) in Pinamungajan, Cebu. DAR Central Visayas Regional Director Engr. Reynaldo C. Anfone said a four-wheel drive hand tractor was provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP), a DAR program

which provides farm machines aimed to improve farm productivity and earning capabilities of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in a sustainable manner through their organizations. "We encouraged the beneficiaries to establish effective operations of the farm tractor, since such a tractor was provided to help increase the income of their members and their association," he said. Anfone expressed his appreciation to the AMSFA for creating other income generating services like

the consumer goods store and swimming pool management helping its 319 total members. Cebu Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Grace B. Fua congratulated AMSFA and said that the P813,000.00 worth tractor was provided to help their farm productivity. "We hope the organization will fully utilize and manage the farm equipment as an important part of their business enterprise to boost their farm productivity" she said. Fua reminded the ARBO of their

responsibility to provide a secured storage facility, a regular operator, operating capital, and maintenance for the farm tractor. AMSFA President Fernando Navaja expressed his gratitude to the DAR for the support it has extended to their cooperative through its various programs and projects. "We would like to thank the DAR for this big help of providing equipment that would be very beneficial to our farmer-members," he said.

10 RICE FARMERS RECEIVE LAND FROM DAR

ORMOC CITY – Farmer Elenita Godin never thought the day would come when she could finally own the land that she has been tilling for more than a decade.

Her long wait ended this month when she became one of the 10 farmers in Ormoc who receive her certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) in a simple distribution rite held in Barangay San Jose, where most of the recipients reside. “I am thankful that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) finally made this happen. The wait took a long time, but it was worth it,” said Godin who could not hide her happiness after receiving the CLOA.

Farmer-beneficiaries Ernesto Bolakinia and Ramil Catado said they are thankful for the land reform program of the government. “I now have something to leave my children with when I die,” farmer Bolakinia said.

Bolakinia, 63, said the rice field awarded to him will be of big help in sending his six children to school.

Catado, 42, said he is happy

because they will now be relieved from giving shares to former the landowner. “All the harvests will now be ours,” he said.

DAR Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Ruben Rebato disclosed that the 10 individual CLOAs covered an aggregate area of 6.8 hectares previously owned by the Concepcion Espina Agricultural Corporation and Anito Ygot. The landholdings are situated in Barangay Guintiguian in this city.

As the 10 recipients are now considered landowners, Rebato emphasized their obligations as agrarian reform beneficiaries including the payment of land amortizations and real property taxes.

He also encouraged the farmers to join agrarian reform beneficiaries’ organizations to avail themselves of the various support services extended by DAR.

“DAR’s responsibility does not end with CLOA distribution. We will continue to provide you with support services to boost your capabilities to further develop your lands,” Rebato said.



P12-M DAR solar-powered irrigation system to increase yield of Cavite farmers



To increase the production of high-value crops and improve farmers’ livelihood and income, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Cavite, together with the inspectorate team from the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), conducted the final inspection of the P12-million solar-power irrigation system (SPIS) in Tres Cruces, Tanza and Baliwag Magallanes.

DAR-Cavite Provincial head James Arthur T. Dubongco said the SPIS will soon be turned over to Tres Cruces ARB Farmers Association Inc., situated at Sitio Gugo, Brgy. Tres Cruces, Tanza and Brgy. Baliwag Farmers Association Inc. located in Magallanes.

Dubongco said that the project can irrigate 32 hectares of agricultural lands primarily benefiting twenty-four (24) agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) households and other neighboring farmers. “The DAR Provincial Office with the NIA successfully completed the final inspection of the two (2) SPIS under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program-Irrigation Component (CARP-IC),” he said. He emphasized that the installation

of the SPIS will promote the development and adoption of modern, appropriate, cost-effective, and environmentally safe agricultural machinery and equipment that can enhance farm productivity and efficiency.

He cited the timeliness of using solar-power irrigation pumps to irrigate farms amid the skyrocketing prices of gasoline and diesel.

Dubongco said that these SPIS will be able to increase the cropping intensity by continuously providing timely and reliable irrigation water requirements, especially in the once-a-year cropping or rain-fed areas.

SPIS is a cost-efficient and climate change adaptive technology that does not require the use of fuel, is not affected by power interruptions, is easy to operate, environmentally friendly, suitable for remote watershed and rain-fed areas, and requires minimal maintenance.

The SPIS is being implemented under the DAR’s Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project (CRFPSP) and is designed to help ARB organizations (ARBOs) in remote areas irrigate their farmland to increase their production even during the dry months.

DAR turns over farm machinery to improve livelihood of Sultan Kudarat farmers

Isulan, Sultan Kudarat — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Sultan Kudarat handed over a total of Php500,000.00 worth of farm machinery to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of Sultan Kudarat to improve their farm productivity and their profitability competence.

The turned over farm machinery include Php 250,000.00 worth of delivery truck, which was granted to the Tagumpay Vegetable Growers Association (TVGA) from the municipality of Esperanza, and a corn and rice mill worth

Php100,000 and Php150,000.00, respectively, which were granted to the Pusot Women’s Organization of Palimbang town.

OIC-Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Mary Jane Aguilar said the livelihood projects are part of DAR’s effort in the province to boost the ARBs’ economic lives.

“I hope the ARBs will maintain the usability of these farm machinery to help them in the transportation, processing, and marketing of their products. They must also continue to be resilient in order to strengthen their organization to withstand any



future difficulties,” Aguilar said.

DAR SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Director Mariannie Lauban-Baunto assured the farmers that the DAR would do its best to address whatever problems or challenges that the organizations would encounter.

The farm machines were provided under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Project, which aimed to address food security amidst climate change by providing livelihood support in the form of farm machinery and equipment, farm inputs, and capacity development interventions.

TVGA President Jose Herminio

Legada thanked DAR for the farm machines they have received and for the department’s continued support and assistance which contributed to the growth of their organizations.

“This delivery truck will surely provide us with ease in transporting our farm goods and produce. Gone are the days where we suffered financial constraints due to high transport costs notwithstanding the difficulties in ferrying out our products to the market. You can be assured that this truck will be put to good use and properly maintained for its longevity and purpose,” he said.

DAR CHIEF: ‘CREATE MORE FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS’

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has stepped up its effort to link even the remotest villages to the city and town market centers by requiring its regional and provincial offices to submit proposed farm-to-market road projects that would connect completed bridge projects to the main roads.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III issued the order in compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to extend the necessary support services to the farming sectors in the latter’s bid to resuscitate the country’s agriculture industry by improving the flow of food supply.

“The best way to improve the flow of food supply is to improve our road networks, from as far as the remotest villages to

the main roads leading to the market centers so that farmers themselves can bring their fresh harvests easily,” Estrella said.

In Memorandum No. 326, series of 2022, DAR Undersecretary for Support Services, Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, provided the DAR field offices a list of completed and on-going bridge projects under the Tulay ng Pangulo para sa Kaunlarang Pang-agraryo (TPKP) where they could connect their proposed farm-to-market roads.

So far, 140 bridges under the TPKP project, a joint project between the Philippines and French governments, had already been completed, while construction for 29 others are on-going and another 17 are still under study or pre-construction

stage.

“Please identify from the attached list of completed and on-going TPKP projects that will require extension of the bridge approach roads to connect them to the main thoroughfares,” Cristobal instructed DAR regional and provincial officials in the said memorandum.

Estrella explained that improving the road networks would help farmers maximize their earning potentials as they can haul their harvests themselves to the city and town markets, instead of relying on traders or middlemen, who usually buy their products at very low prices.

“With improved road network, the cost of hauling or transportation will be much lower and affordable for our farmers,” Estrella said.



DAR CONDUCTS ASSESSMENT, PLANNING TO HIT ITS PRIORITY TARGETS



TANZA, Cavite-- The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is currently conducting its first-semester performance assessment and planning conference here. The three-day activity aims to improve the delivery of its services by identifying the challenges and crafting solutions to deliver the department's priority targets. DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the activity focuses on assessing the DAR offices nationwide of their performance on the programs and projects of the department undertaken from January to June 2022. "This assessment would help us achieve President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s national goal of addressing social justice and

improving the lives of poor farmers through land reform," Estrella said. Estrella laid down his priority goals to his officials, to serve as a guide for formulating strategic plans for agrarian reform implementation for the next six years. The Secretary's main priorities are to speed up land distribution, agrarian justice delivery, and intensify support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). "In six years, aside from these three main goals, I will push the DAR to achieve self-sufficiency for the ARBs, create progressive agrarian cooperatives, and sustainable and resilient agrarian reform communities (ARCs)," Estrella said.



He said the department intends to achieve the following targets: 80 percent or 743,800 ARBs with improved productivity and increased income; 85 percent or 7,800 agrarian cooperatives with established and stable viable business operations managed by the ARBs; and 80 percent or 1,300 ARCs with improved business ecosystems and connectivity. "I am confident that with these priority goals, the department's workforce will do its best to implement programs and projects that will hasten land distribution, delivery of support services, and improve the economic lives of farmers," Estrella said. DAR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Office

(PPRO) Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan said the activity also included mapping strategic plans to achieve the department's targets. During the plenary and focus group discussion, the participants were able to identify the DAR's internal and external drivers and barriers, which either helped or hindered the achievement of its targets. "This activity is being done to assess the gaps in areas of work, formulating solutions to deliver its annual targets and objectives, and engaging and empowering employees to motivate them in doing their job," Pañgulayan said. The assessment and planning conference is being held from August 25-27, 2022 in Tanza, Cavite and via online streaming.

AUGUST 27

DAR provides farm machinery to improve palm oil production of Surallah farmers

Surallah, South Cotabato – The provincial office of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in South Cotabato recently turned over a delivery truck and four (4) units of grass cutter, with a total cost of Php860,000, to help boost the palm oil production of MATELCOS Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (MARBC). DAR Regional Director Marianne

Lauban-Baunto said the farm machines were provided under the DAR's Major Crop-based Block Farming Project to support the production and marketing transactions of the MARBC. "Through these facilities, our farmers belonging to this cooperative can now work faster in improving their various crops, particularly the palm oil," she said.

Baunto added that the truck would give them the opportunity to transport their products to wider markets. "I hope that you will take care of the farm machines and maintain its optimal condition," she said. A ribbon cutting and signing of certificate of turn over and acceptance were done as a symbol of the official turnover of the project

from the DAR to MARBC, which is located in Barangay Colongulo of the said town. MARBC Chairman Elviro Herbilla expressed his gratitude for the continuous support of DAR to the cooperative. "We promise to take good care of these equipment and we will put them in good use to serve their purpose," he said.

DAR INTENSIFIES FOOD SECURITY CAMPAIGN IN CAPIZ

With utmost desire to help ensure food security in the country, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Capiz intensifies its support to link the agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations' (ARBOs) agricultural products to various institutional markets through Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program (EPAHPP). The EPAHPP is a government initiative addressing food security, hunger, and poverty problems through the synergy and convergence of essential services of government agencies.

To ensure the support from various government agencies, the DAR recently held its EPAHPP-ARBO and Institutional Buyers Orientation and Drafting of Contract which was attended by various stakeholders such as the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Filamer Christian University, St. Anthony College Hospital, Provincial Agriculture Office, Capiz National High School Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC Coop). The ARBOs with potential agricultural products for marketing include the Progressive Women Agrarian Reform Cooperative, Agcabugao Multi-Purpose Cooperative, CAMMMA Small Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Tumalalud Farmers

Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Barangay Tapulang Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Agsirab Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and Capiz Small Coconut Farmers Cooperative.

DAR Western Visayas Director Sheila Enciso urged the stakeholders to support the government and enter into an agreement to help ARBOs as they hold vital roles in achieving food security, and mitigation of hunger and poverty in the country.

"Let us support our farmers and ARBOs. This orientation strengthens our partnership to combat hunger and poverty and the sustainability of the country's food supply and demand," she said.

Enciso added that with the support of stakeholders and the signing of the agreed marketing contract, the farmers are assured of a brighter future as their agricultural products will have sure buyers, as well as, assurance that there will be enough food for the said institutions. During the orientation and drafting of the contract, SIDC Cooperative Manager Vivian Allanares declared their support by saying that their cooperative follows the "big brother and small brother concept" where they help smaller cooperatives succeed.

"We used to be in their stature, now that we achieved stability, we will support them boost and market their agricultural products," she said.

DAR chief mobilizes stakeholders for agro-enterprise dev't



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is mobilizing its major stakeholders to enhance their knowledge on agro-enterprise development as it seeks to create a sound marketing strategy for farmers' products in its bid to transform members of farmers' organizations into agri-entrepreneurs. DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III stressed the need to provide agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) the technical know-how in farming and in business management to increase their harvests while developing their confidence in dealing with various establishments for farm inputs and outputs. Estrella said a refresher course for agro-enterprise development is set for DAR staff and representatives of various local government units and agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations with the end in view of developing a well-coordinated working relationship between and

among them. "We need to bring all hands on deck to improve the food supply in the country," Estrella said. In a Special Order signed by DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Atty. Milagros Isabel Cristobal said that the course would provide the ARBs with technical guidance and institutional support to sustain their livelihood recovery through product consolidation and collective marketing of their members' products. Cristobal said 105 DAR staff and representatives of the various local governments and ARB's organizations are set to participate in the course, "a blended activity where simultaneous separate face-to-face sessions will be held in various locations." Earlier, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. emphasized the importance of better coordination mechanisms between the national and local governments in the area of food supply.

“ARBO MERCADO ON WHEELS” HELPS PROMOTE AKLANON PRODUCTS



In a bid to help the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) promote and sell their products, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Aklan conducted the “ARBO Mercado on Wheels” as it joined the Farmers’ and Fisherfolks Market day held in the Capitol Grounds, Estancia, Kalibo, Aklan which displayed various products on sale produced by members of different ARB organizations (ARBOs).

DAR-Western Visayas Director Sheila Enciso said that with the success, the Aklan provincial office plans to conduct the “ARBO Mercado on Wheels” every 15th and end of the month to showcase the various products of the local farmers and the ARBs, which include native bags and baskets made from abaca, coconut products, vegetables, and fruits.

“ARBO Mercado on Wheels offers low-priced agricultural products and caters to the basic needs of the consumers. The program also aims to bring safe, nutritious, and affordable agricultural products more accessible and closer to the

communities,” she said.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Ma. Teresa Valencia said the Provincial Agriculturist and the local government of Aklan have partnered with the ARBs to implement “ARBO Mercado on Wheels” to empower the farmers and help them sell their own produce.

Valencia said the goods are cheaper because consumers can buy the products directly from the farmers themselves.

“Thank you to the local government of Aklan and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist for embracing our ARBO Mercado on Wheels initiative and integrating it into the regular Farmers’ and Fisherfolks’ Market Day. The DAR Aklan is truly honored and humbled. Let us continue patronizing our farmers’ products,” Valencia said.

Valencia said that marketing is a critical component in the value chain and providing opportunities to the marginalized farmers will not only boost their income but will help them increase their efficiency and improve their productivity.

DAR joins nation in celebrating Philippine Civil Service Anniversary



The Department of Agrarian Reform joins the nation in celebrating the 122nd Philippine Civil Service Anniversary (PCSA) for the whole month of September this year.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said this is a great opportunity for every government employee to show their contribution to good governance in solidarity with the whole bureaucracy.

Estrella said the 10-year theme, ‘Transforming Public Service in the Next Decade: Honing Agile and Future-Ready-Servant Heroes,’ - “is very timely as it emphasizes the importance of preparing our civil servants for the challenges ahead.”

DAR Undersecretary for Finance Management and Administration Jeffrey Galan enjoins all DAR employees to actively participate in the month-long PCSA activities, which will be kicked off with the “Online Film Showing, starting from September 1 to 12.

Galan also invites health-conscious and dance-enthusiast employees to join in the other featured activity – the Zumba session with a certified instructor, one of the best ways of keeping oneself physically and mentally sound.

Participants in the PCSA activities are required to register at the link: <https://fdcpchannel.ph> of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDPCP) Channel. The registration fee is P250 per participant.

Upon confirmation of registration, payment, and uploading of the official receipt, each participant will receive a voucher to access the selected films from the FDPCP website.

Proceeds of the activity will go to the Pamanang Lingkod Bayan (PLB), a program that honors government workers who died in the line of duty through the provision of assistance plus scholarship opportunities to their family members.

The land that fulfills a dream

Jie Anne, a petite lady with a great aspiration in life had been dreaming of having a land of her own since she was seven years old.

It is because, at her tender age, she already bore life’s hardships as she helped her father till and cultivate somebody else’s farmland in Villa Cerveza, Victoria in the province of Oriental Mindoro.

Now 24 years old, Jie Anne M. Villacrusis of Barangay Alcate, recalled that in order to survive poverty, she and her five (5) siblings had to help their father work on farmland to make ends meet.

“I was too young to be exposed to the real-life difficulties of farming where I and my siblings’ routine were to forage in the woods just to help our family source out available food for us to have something to eat,” she shared.

She revealed that sharing a piece of bread and two (2) noodles or boiled bananas was their usual meal to quench their hunger.

“I have seen my father’s backbreaking work on a leased farmland, yet we were still poor since he couldn’t take home all the farm yields’ earnings because he needs to pay for the rentals and other farm expenses,” Jie Anne said.

She added that they helped their father in the day-to-day maintenance of the farm which has made her young and lithe body get used to toiling the lands, doing the fences, and tending to

the upkeep of farm tools.

Because of this, she promised herself that one day she would buy land for her father and her family. And having the opportunity to be sent to school gave her a glimpse of hope to realize this promise.

“Being the youngest, me and the 4th sibling, who’s also my only sister, were fortunate enough to continue our studies. Unlike my four brothers, who were already grown-ups, they failed to finish their studies because they needed to help my father full-time and they already have families of their own,” she disclosed.

Jie Anne murmured that she had to face numerous financial struggles during those times as a student having a family with very limited resources.

“We lacked money for the school expenses like the tuition fee, renting of computers, school projects, and many other things. Our parents worked doubly hard and were always looking for people that would loan them the money for those expenses,” she said.

She revealed that she and her sister persevered and would even go to school on an empty stomach so that they could attend their classes.

“In my 4th year of college, my struggle continued but I never failed to pursue my dream of getting a degree in agriculture. I finished all my school projects including my thesis and defended it successfully amid the difficulty of having limited resources or

the lack of it like books and computers,” she continued.

She acknowledged that she overcame those problems by believing that the key to achieving all her dreams in life would start when she finished her formal education.

“After those grueling experiences, I finally graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture major in Crop Science,” she exclaimed.

Jie Anne proudly said she graduated in 2019 from Mindoro State University (MinSU) and dedicated her accomplishment to her parents.

On January 17, 2022, three years after she graduated, her dreams of owning land came true after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) awarded her 8,900 square meters of agricultural land.

Through Executive Order No. 75, series of 2019, and DAR Administrative Order No.03, Series of 2020, all qualified Agriculture graduate applicants could be awarded agricultural lands. She was one among the 220 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), in the said province, who received lands from the department, which was held in MinSU Campus Auditorium.

“There were times when we talked about the milestones of accomplishment we had as a family, we often cry especially when we remember how our family dealt with our struggles. I am forever grateful for the blessings that the DAR has given

me as the lands I received open a lot of opportunities for me and my family,” she exclaimed.

DAR Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III believes that true social justice is to make good use of the lands given to the farmers.

Estrella, a former congressman, and ABONO party-list representative, for years, has already been championing the farmers’ rights prior to his appointment as the department’s secretary.

“We will continue to empower our ARBs by providing them all the necessary support services they need to ensure their success in their career as the food-provider of the country,” Estrella said.

Being a true believer in DAR’s crusade in boosting the agriculture sector, Jie Anne, now an active member of the Muravilla ARB and Irrigators Organization (MARBIO) of Barangay Alcate, said that she would help her fellow farmers. “Being a daughter of one, farming is inducted in my blood that my heart goes out to them.”

“I am 100% sure that I will achieve all my dreams. I am an Agriculture graduate, I have the total support of my family, the full support of the DAR officials and personnel such as Regional Director Marvin Bernal, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officers Rogelio Madarcos and Isagani Placido, and most of all the hope that DAR Secretary Estrella brings to small farmers like me,” she exclaimed.