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MANILA BULLETIN:

Balisacan: 15% rice tariff based on extensive consultations

BY XANDER DAVE CEBALLOS

Jun 10, 2024 05:53 PM

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said the 15 percent reduced tariff on rice was a balancing act to ensure affordable prices and protect consumers' interest.

In a statement on Monday, June 10, Balisacan said the decision was not made lightly as the Tariff Commission had to undertake several extensive consultations with stakeholders and received inputs from policymakers.

“The consultation began as early as March 2023, and 801 stakeholders were invited, with at least 192 coming from the agriculture sector,” said Balisacan, who also serves as the vice-chairperson of the NEDA Board.

President Marcos is the chairman of the NEDA Board.

“In the most recent comprehensive tariff review, the Tariff Commission received position papers and comments from 41 private sector parties, a consumer group, 15 Philippine government agencies, and a member of the House of Representatives. These inputs were invaluable in shaping the CTRM's recommendations,” he added.

The NEDA chief said that they will remain firm on supporting domestic production through an increased budget from the government to support agricultural productivity.

“We understand the concerns of our farmers, and we are committed to supporting them through this transition,” Balisacan said.

We are investing in infrastructure, promoting the adoption of modern technologies, improving market and financial access for local producers, and building resilience to climate change,” he further said.

Rice has contributed about two percentage points, or a 50 percent share, to the headline inflation for the past three months, based on the Philippine Statistics Authority report.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto earlier said that the government could lose P20 billion to P22 billion from the tariff cuts. However, he said that it could be offset by the increased budget of the Department of Agriculture budget which has jumped by 69 percent from 2022 to 2024 compared to its average appropriation for 2017 to 2021.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/10/balisacan-15-rice-tariff-based-on-extensive-consultations>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Ex-RAM, Magdalo soldiers launch Reform PH Party

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Jun 10, 2024 05:52 PM

AT A GLANCE

- Former military officers belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and Magdalo factions have banded together to form a new political party, the Reform PH Party.



Gringo Honasan (left), James Layug (MANILA BULLETIN, Knots Alforte's Facebook)

Former military officers belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and Magdalo factions have banded together to form a new political party, the Reform PH Party.

The party--officially launched Monday afternoon at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan City--is led by former senator Gringo Honasan, its chairman; and former Philippine Navy captain, James Layug.

Honasan and Layug were leaders of the RAM and Magdalo, respectively. As expected, the Reform PH Party leaned heavily on the ideals of its two root factions.

"Ang mga pangunahing prinsipyong 'We Belong' at 'Unity through Reforms' mula sa RAM, kasama ang 'Our Dreams Shall Never Die' mula sa dating mga miyembro ng Magdalo, ay sumasalamin sa isang kolektibong pangarap para sa mas magandang kinabukasan ng bansang Pilipinas," Layug, also a former Department of Agriculture (DA) assistant secretary, said in a statement.

(The main principles of 'We Belong' and 'Unity through Reforms' from RAM, and the 'Our Dreams Shall Never

Die' ideal of former Magdalo members reflect the collective aspiration for a better tomorrow for the Philippines.)

The party was launched some four months ahead of the filing of certificates of candidacies (COC) for aspirants in the May 2025 midterm elections.

The party said it took a cue "from the ideals of every Filipino hero who has fought hard for this country".

"The Reform Party is born out of a deep commitment to realizing a vision of a strong, equitable and prosperous Filipino Nation," read a joint statement from Honasan and Layug.



(Reform PH Party)

"At the core of our mission lie the timeless principles of liberty, equity and prosperity for all. Drawing inspiration from the spirit of our forebears like Bonifacio, we pledge to champion social, political and economic reforms that will uplift every Filipino and foster a more just and inclusive society," they said.

Also taking part in the launch was Mike Defensor, a former Anakalusugan Party-list congressman and chief-of-staff in Malacañang.

Honasan and Layug says that their strategic focus "is on enacting policies that promote democratic governance, protect human rights, alleviate poverty and empower marginalized communities".

"We are unwavering in our dedication to building a nation grounded in patriotic spirit, a nationalist economy and social balance. Our commitment to safeguarding national interests, promoting Filipino identity and fostering equitable development knows no bounds," they added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/10/ex-ram-magdalo-soldiers-launch-reform-ph-party>

MANILA BULLETIN:

In Cagayan, Marcos vows to follow father's footsteps to boost agri sector

BY RAYMUND ANTONIO

Jun 10, 2024 02:44 PM

President Marcos on Monday, June 10, assured Cagayan Valley that he plans to follow his father's footsteps in improving the agricultural sector of the region.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. leads the inauguration of the Solar Pump Irrigation system at Brgy. Cabaruan, Quirino in Isabela province on Monday, June 10, 2024. (Noel Pabalate/MANILA BULLETIN)

Speaking before farmers, fisherfolk, and their families affected by the El Niño phenomenon in Region II (Cagayan Valley) during the ceremonial distribution of Presidential assistance, the Chief Executive promised to bring more aid to the province in an aim to boost its economy.

He noted that his father's administration built the Magat Dam to fortify the agricultural industry in Region 2, and was also instrumental in strengthening various industries in the region.

“Walang pong duda na lubos na mahal ng aking ama ang mga taga-Isabela at kayo ang kung minsan kayo nauuna pa sa Ilocos Norte (There is no doubt that my father truly loves those

from Isabela. Sometimes, you're prioritized than Ilocos Norte)," Marcos told them.

"Namana ko rin po naman 'yang pagmamahal na 'yan, kaya naman sinikap ko na talagang sumadya [rito at] iparamdam sa inyo [nang] personal ang aking pagkalinga at suporta. Asahan ninyo ipagpapatuloy ko ang kanyang nasimulang pangako, tutuparin ko lalo na sa pagpapalago ng ating agrikultura at ekonomiya (I inherited that love, so that's why I try my best to go here to make you feel my personal support. You can be rest assured that I will continue what he has started and I will grow our agriculture and economy)," Marcos added.

During the ceremonial distribution at the Ilagan City Community Center in Ilagan City, the President gave P10,000 each to 10 beneficiaries from the provinces of Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino; P50 million each to the provincial governments of Isabela, Cagayan, and Nueva Vizcaya; P10 million to the provincial government of Batanes; and P30.92 million to the provincial government of Quirino.

The assistance given was made to fulfill the administration's commitment to provide immediate response to communities hit by the El Niño phenomenon.

Marcos also turned over farm and fishing machineries, equipment, and toolkits to beneficiaries of various government agencies.

The President also led the inauguration of the P65.7-million Cabaruan solar-powered irrigation project (SPIP) at Brgy. Cabaruan, Quirino, Isabela.

The project is the biggest solar-powered pump irrigation project in the country, and could irrigate 350 hectares of rice field, benefitting almost 237 palay farmers.

A project of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) under the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS), the Cabaruan SPIP has 1,056 solar panels, making it the biggest SPIP in terms of number of solar panels.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/10/in-cagayan-marcos-vows-to-follow-father-s-footsteps-to-boost-agri-sector>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos: Isabela Solar-powered pump irrigation to boost agri sector

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Jun 10, 2024 10:26 AM

AT A GLANCE

- The P65.77-million project comprises a pumping station involving 1,056 solar panels with an estimated wattage output of more than 739,000 watts.

President Marcos said that the Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project (SPIP) in Isabela is only one of the first undertakings in the government's list of projects that aim to boost the country's agriculture sector.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (RTVM screenshot)

Marcos said this as he led the inauguration of the Cabaruan SPIP in Quirino, Isabela on Monday morning, June 10.

"Ito po ay isa pa lamang sa ating binubuo mga proyekto para pagandahin ang sektor ng agrikultura (This is just the start of the different projects that we have to improve the agriculture sector)," he said in his speech.

According to the President, the project not only lessens the farmers' expenses, it also addresses water supply issues in farms during extreme heat.

"Lahat ng ito ay para magkaroon na ng patubig kahit na makarating na naman ang El Niño, ay mayroon din tayong maasahan na water supply, hindi lamang para sa irrigation kundi para na sa water supply ng ating mga konsumer (All of these is to ensure that we have enough

water even during El Niño, and so that we have a reliable water supply for irrigation and for our consumers)," he said.

Through the initiative of the National Irrigation Authority - Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS), the SPIP aims to maximize the utilization of water resources while providing sustainable and cost-efficient irrigation services to farmers in the province.

In his speech, President Marcos said the P65.77-million project comprises a pumping station involving 1,056 solar panels with an estimated wattage output of more than 739,000 watts.

He added that the SPIP can produce an output discharge capacity of 12,800 gallons per minute, projected to supply irrigation to 350 hectares of agricultural land.

With its completion in February this year, the SPIP is envisioned to contribute to an increase in agricultural production and ensure food security in the country.

Meanwhile, Marcos said that as the government continues to explore more options to provide water irrigation across the nation's agricultural regions, the project is seen as a way to address water scarcity and energy costs that will benefit farmers who are mostly reliant on diesel-engine irrigation machinery.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/10/marcos-isabela-solar-powered-pump-irrigation-to-boost-agri-sector>

MANILA BULLETIN:

CTA affirms seizure, auction, forfeiture of P68.4M imported rice in 2018

BY CZARINA NICOLE ONG KI

Jun 10, 2024 11:31 AM

The Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) has denied for lack of merit the petition of Calumpit Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CMPC) which contested the seizure, auction and forfeiture in 2018 of its P68.4 million worth of imported rice from Thailand.

The case started on Sept. 9, 2015 when CMPC was granted a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to import 7,450 metric tons (MTs) of Thai white rice. The importation of rice pushed through from November 2015 until January 2016, with a total of eight shipments.

CMPC did not have Import Permits for four shipments as the National Food Authority (NFA) only issued four permits. Thus, the Manila International Container Port (MICP) issued Warrants of Seizure and Detention for the four shipments without permits.

The Bureau of Customs (BoC) later proceeded with the sale of the shipments by public auction on March 1, 2016 for P68,422,000, with Faerdig General Merchandise as the winning bidder. The MICP, on the other hand, ordered the forfeiture of the subject shipments in a decision dated Sept. 27, 2018.

An appeal was made before the Commissioner of Customs (COC) regarding the seized auction amount, but it was denied on Dec. 7, 2018. CMPC then went to the CTA by filing a Petition for Review on Feb. 1, 2019.

The CTA stressed that import permits are required for the rice shipments, and their absence makes the shipments illegal.

Thus, the CTA ruled that the four shipments without permits "are legally seized" and the forfeiture of the auctioned amount of P68,422,000 is affirmed.

The 20-page decision was written by Associate Justice Corazon G. Ferrer-Flores with the concurrence of Associate Justices Ma. Belen M. Ringpis-Liban and Maria Rowena Modesto-San Pedro.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/10/cta-affirms-seizure-auction-forfeiture-of-p68-4-m-imported-rice-in-2018>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: El Niño agriculture damage balloons to P9.89 billion

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

June 11, 2024 | 12:00am



The volume of production loss reached 441.801 metric tons, based on the DA Operations Center's latest report.

[Philstar.com](#) / Jovannie Lambayan

MANILA, Philippines — El Niño's agricultural damage has ballooned to P9.89 billion, covering 170,469 hectares and affecting 173,455 farmers and fisherfolk in 12 regions, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said yesterday.

The volume of production loss reached 441.801 metric tons, based on the DA Operations Center's latest report.

Of the total damage, P4.75 billion or about 43 percent was registered to rice, covering at least 86,587 hectares and a volume of production loss of 191,233 MT.

It was followed by corn at P3.37 billion or 34 percent, affecting 70,809 hectares, with a production loss of 188,861 MT.

High-value crops' damage reached P1.7 billion or 17 percent, covering 13,046 hectares and a production loss of 50,227 MT.

Damage to the fisheries sector reached P57.72 million covering 2,686 hectares and a production loss of 11,334 MT; livestock and poultry, P10.47 million covering 2,403 animals; and cassava, P3.42 million covering 26 hectares with a production loss of 147 MT.

Interventions worth P9.91 billion have been provided by the DA to affected farmers and fisherfolk, including P8.59 billion through the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance.

Production support worth P659.17 million has been provided by DA regional field offices for agriculture inputs, fertilizers, planting materials, pumps and engines.

“The Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. has also indemnified 20,372 farmers in Cordillera Administrative Region, Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, VI, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII, with a total amount of P177.12 million,” the DA said.

In Region 4-B, rice machinery and equipment worth P8 million were distributed, as well as a P77.50-million survival and recovery aid loan from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council; P5.19 million, coconut seedlings; P65.35 million, composting facilities; P294.46 million, irrigation projects and P8.99 million, marine machinery and equipment.

The state weather bureau on June 7 announced that El Niño has officially ended.

There is a 69 percent chance of transitioning from ENSO-neutral to La Niña by the third quarter of 2024, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/06/11/2361854/da-el-nio-agriculture-damage-balloons-top989-billion>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

THAIFEX Anuga Asia 2024 sets the stage for Asia's F&B boom

[Jap Tobias](#) - Philstar.com

June 10, 2024 | 1:23pm



Held last May 28 to 31, the 32nd edition of THAIFEX Anuga Asia 2024 spotlighted products, innovations, solutions and trends in regional and global food scenes that are shaping the F&B industry's future.

Photo Release, Philstar.com / Jap Tobias

NONTHABURI, Thailand — With a record-breaking 85,850 visitors from 131 countries and regions, THAIFEX Anuga Asia 2024 has cemented its status as Asia's premier international expo for the food and beverage industry, setting the stage for significant growth and development in the Asian F&B market.

Held last May 28 to 31 at the IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center in Nonthaburi province, Thailand, the 32nd edition of THAIFEX Anuga Asia 2024 spotlighted products, innovations, solutions and trends in regional and global food scenes that are shaping the industry's future.

The high turnout at THAIFEX Anuga Asia 2024 highlights the increasing significance of the Asian F&B market on a global scale, with a notable jump from

last year's 78,764 visitors and a remarkable 22% surge in international attendees, emphasizing its worldwide appeal and the heightened interest in the Asian F&B sector.

Themed “Beyond Food Experience,” here's what went down at the five-day event in Thailand:

Koelnmesse emphasizes how cross-border collaborations can boost Asian economy



This year's edition showcased the products of 3,133 exhibitors from 52 countries

Photo Release

In an interview, Koelnmesse Managing Director and Vice-President Asia Pacific Mathias Kuepper said THAIFEX can contribute to boosting Asian economy by providing a platform for collaborations. It can help address concerns that the food supply chain is facing today such as logistics and raw materials.

“It's really critical to set this in motion once a year, and then we have a year for people to go back and do their business and trade, and then return here next year and be inspired again,” he said.

Additionally, Lynn How, THAIFEX - Anuga Asia project director, highlighted Koelnmesse's various initiatives aimed at supporting farmers and producers in exporting essential raw materials from their countries.

"We organize workshops to provide insights into how other companies conduct their business in Asia or internationally. Furthermore, we run hosted buyer programs where we bring buyers to them," she said.

This year, THAIFEX - Anuga Asia, in partnership with the government, brought in 1,935 carefully selected buyers from 46 countries to connect them with the exhibitors for potential partnerships.

For Koelnmesse, it is important to provide exhibitors an international platform and connect them with the right customers by inviting targeted buyers interested in the specific products at the show and create more productive business interactions.

THAIFEX – Anuga Asia gets United States Department of Agriculture endorsement



Robert Frank Godec, United States ambassador to Thailand and Gerald Böse, president & chief executive officer of Koelnmesse

[Philstar.com/Jap Tobias](https://www.philstar.com/jap-tobias)

Koelnmesse announced that starting in 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will officially endorse THAIFEX – Anuga Asia, showing a joint commitment to boosting global business opportunities and economic prosperity.

The announcement came from Robert Frank Godec, the United States Ambassador to Thailand, and Gerald Böse, President and CEO of Koelnmesse, at the opening of the United States Pavilion at THAIFEX – Anuga Asia 2024.

This partnership will open up new doors for the US food industry, helping both small and large companies explore and expand in Asian markets. By bringing in more top-notch US products to the trade show, everyone—from exhibitors to visitors—will get access to a wider range of innovative ideas and solutions.

Filipino businesses showcase the taste of the Philippines



Visitors get a taste of the Philippines at the Philippine Pavillion.

Philstar.com/Jap Tobias

For the ninth year, Philippine exporters showcased their products at this year's show, presenting Filipino offerings on the international stage through the "Taste of The Philippines" Philippine Pavilion.

Supported by the Philippine Food Processors & Exporters Organization (Philfoodex Inc.), along with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, and Philippine Exporters Confederation (PhilExport), 25 Philippine-based exporters joined forces to exhibit a diverse range of products, spanning from snacks and beverages to canned goods and condiments.

PhilFoodex President Ruben See shared with **Philstar.com** that the Philippines secured \$79 million in deals and sales from the expo last year, with banana chips, dried mangoes, canned seafood, coconut and coco-related products leading the way.

As regional competition grows fiercer and the Philippines offers similar products to its neighbors, See emphasized the rising significance of regular participation in the show for Philippine businesses and exporters, enabling them to attract buyers seeking similar products.

Notably, Filipino snack brand OSH Oh So Healthy emerged as a finalist in the event's TasteInnovation Awards for its line of "guilt-free" snacking treats, crafted from 100% real fruits and veggies without frying or oil.

According to the brand's profile, OSH is committed to supporting local agriculture by sourcing its products from local producers who advocate for a sustainable and diversified future for farmers.

Consumers look for “multi-dimensional” food: Koelnmesse



From left: THAIFEX - Anuga Asia Project Director Lynn How, Koelnmesse Managing Director & VP Asia-Pacific Mathias Kuepper and Koelnmesse General Manager - Food & Food Technology Exhibitions Wendy Lim

[Philstar.com/Jap Tobias](https://www.philstar.com/Jap_Tobias)

This year's food show unveiled several key trends driven by evolving consumer preferences. Convenience, plant-based options, and sustainability were among the most prominent.

In an interview, Kuepper of Koelnmesse emphasized that when it comes to the Asian market, most trends still center around personal health. Consumers are increasingly interested in the origin, sourcing, packaging, and health impact of their food choices, including whether it's organic.

Moreover, Koelnmesse elaborated that today's consumers are looking beyond just health. They seek "multi-dimensional" food that meets all of their needs rather than just one.

For example, consumers might want food that is not only organic and healthy, but also that convenient and is produced sustainably.

"It's a challenge for manufacturers, but I believe it's essential for consumers to understand what they're putting in their bodies. That's a very clear trend," Kuepper noted.

Spotlight on innovations in the F&B scene



Stellar food products and solutions were featured in the event.

[Philstar.com/Jap Tobias](https://www.philstar.com/jap-tobias)

Visitors to the THAIFEX – Anuga Asia 2024 fair were left amazed with numerous innovations that can shape the future of food.

For instance, Fundodai from Japan showcased a completely clear soy sauce that looks like water. This innovative product allows dishes to retain their vibrant colors while still delivering the classic soy sauce flavor.

Another example is a PCR testing kit made by Korean company Genelix, which can accurately check the presence or absence of animal species in a food by analyzing the genes of raw food material and food products.

For beverage lovers on the go, Vinca is making Sicilian Organic Wines travel-friendly by offering them in convenient cans. These cans replace traditional glass bottles and are lined with a special resin material to ensure the wine stays fresh for years.

Additionally, as part of the trends, this year's edition also saw the first-ever Alternative Protein flavor and taste contest.

CPF Global Food Solution Public Company Limited emerged victorious in the "Best Taste" category with their plant-based Thai Green Curry Gyoza. HA LI FA PTE LTD also claimed the "Best Texture" award for their innovative zero-cholesterol EPL Mushroom Ball and vegetable ball.

Malaysia's MORNING ARCH Sdn. Bhd took home the "Best Aroma and Innovation" double win for their Hello M'arch Quinoa Noodle Meal Kit made with high-protein wheat flour and organic quinoa, all free from MSG, artificial colors and preservatives.

Boosting the Asian economy, growing the show

Deemed a catalyst for redefining Asia-Pacific F&B commerce, the event is projected to generate a whopping THB 100 billion in revenue, with Thai businesses contributing an estimated THB 60 billion, according to Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Mr. Phumtham Wechayachai.

During the opening day, Phumtham expressed that the trade show is an exceptional opportunity for Thai businesses, especially SMEs and startups, as well as regional entrepreneurs, to showcase their products and services and connect with potential international buyers and importers.

Looking ahead, Koelnmesse envisions THAIFEX as the premier F&B business platform in Asia-Pacific. "Our long-term vision is to maintain THAIFEX as the leading platform," said Kuepper, hinting at increasing exhibitor diversity, sustainability initiatives, and showcasing even more cutting-edge trends in future editions.

To achieve this goal, organizers continuously look for ways to grow the show. This year, they implemented innovative initiatives like interactive maps, mobile apps, and streamlined processes, all of which contributed to efficient connections and maximized business potential for both visitors and exhibitors.

As THAIFEX Anuga Asia 2024 concluded with a record-breaking turnout, the event served as a launchpad for the latest trends and innovations in the food and beverage industry, inspiring Asian economies to compete and thrive on a global scale amid an ever-evolving food and beverage landscape.

The next edition of THAIFEX Anuga Asia is slated for May 27 to 31, 2025. The event is co-organized by Thailand's Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP), The Thai Chamber of Commerce and Koelnmesse.

Editor's Note: Philstar.com is an official media partner of THAIFEX Anuga Asia 2024. This story was produced from a visiting program in Thailand hosted by the organizers.

<https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/food-and-leisure/2024/06/10/2360344/thaifex-anuga-asia-2024-sets-stage-asias-fb-boom>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Aquaculture to drive up Philippine fish harvest, says FAO

[Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas](#) - The Philippine Star

June 11, 2024 | 12:00am



In its latest global report, the FAO estimated that Philippine fish output in 2032 would reach 2.881 million MT, up from 2.572 million MT recorded in 2022.

Michael Varcas, file

ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — The country's fisheries production is projected to rise by 12 percent to almost 2.9 million metric tons (MT) in 2032 on the back of higher aquaculture output, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

In its latest global report, the FAO estimated that Philippine fish output in 2032 would reach 2.881 million MT, up from 2.572 million MT recorded in 2022.

The FAO noted that aquaculture production would contribute more to the country's fisheries production by 2032.

The country's aquaculture output in 2022 stood at 804,000 MT, about 31 percent of its total fisheries production during the period, according to FAO.

In 2032, the contribution of aquaculture to overall fisheries output would increase to about 34 percent with estimated production at 965,000 MT or about a fifth higher than the 2022 volume.

“The top seven highest-producing countries in aquaculture are all in Asia: China, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Philippines and the Republic of Korea,” the FAO said recently.

“In 2022, these countries alone accounted for 86.2 percent of the total world production,” it added.

The Philippines is projected to remain as the fifth largest fish producer in Asia in 2032, according to the FAO.

Fish catch by the Philippines in 2022 reached 1.768 million MT, accounting for almost 69 percent of its total output, based on the FAO report.

The FAO reported that global aquaculture production in 2022 surpassed capture production for the first time in history. Global aquaculture output in 2022 stood at 94.4 million MT versus the 91 million MT volume of fish caught, according to the FAO.

Meanwhile, the Philippines was the fourth largest producer of algae in 2022 with an estimated output of 1.5 million MT.

The FAO noted that Asia accounted for 97 percent of the global algae production of 38 million MT in 2022.

Farmed algae output in 2022 stood at 36.5 million MT, slightly higher than the 35.1 million MT recorded in 2020, the FAO added.

“This increase was the result of production expansions led by China, followed by Malaysia, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Russian Federation and a few others,” the FAO said.

In the Philippines, aquaculture has been seen as one of the brightest prospects in agriculture and fisheries sector because of its potential to contribute to the country’s economy and uplift people’s welfare.

Aquaculture now accounts for more than half of the country’s annual fisheries production, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Almost 70 percent of the country’s aquaculture production is seaweed, an algae.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/06/11/2361852/aquaculture-drive-philippine-fish-harvest-says-fao>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos inaugurates Philippine's largest solar-powered pump irrigation

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star

June 11, 2024 | 12:00am



President Marcos inspects the Cabaruan Solar Pump Irrigation Project in Quirino, Isabela yesterday. Joining the President are National Irrigation Administration head Eduardo Guillen, Speaker Martin Romualdez and other government officials. The station, with 1,056 solar panels and two submersible pumps, serves 350 hectares of farmland, benefiting 237 farmers by reducing their reliance on fuel-driven pumps.

Krizjohn Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos inaugurated yesterday the country's biggest solar-powered pump irrigation project that is seen to boost agricultural production.

The P65.7-million Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project (SPIP) in Quirino, Isabela is expected to irrigate 350 hectares of rice field, benefitting 237 farmers.

“We get free electricity from the sun so we can provide free irrigation,” Marcos said in his speech.

“Since I assumed office, I have said we have to fix the agriculture sector and we all know that the most important aspect in improving our farmers’ yield is irrigation,” he said. Marcos served as agriculture secretary at the start of his presidency.

The President said the Cabaruan SPIP was the first to be constructed over an irrigation canal, relieving farmers of the requirement of donating a portion of their property.

He said excess power generated by the solar panels could also be sold to the national grid.

“When you have a solar plant, you have a power plant and you don’t use all the power... we put it in the grid... we have additional income,” Marcos said.

The SPIP allows farmer-beneficiaries to decrease their electricity or fuel expenses by minimizing the use of electric or fuel-powered pumps, and increase agricultural production with the ample supply of water coming from it.

The Cabaruan SPIP is a project of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) under the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS). It is the biggest SPIP nationwide in terms of the number of solar panels at 1,056.

Constructed from July 6, 2023 to February this year, the system can produce 739,200 watts of power for its two submersible pumps, with each pump capable of discharging 12,800 gallons per minute.

According to the Chief Executive, 152 solar-powered pump irrigation projects are being constructed, with 118 projects to be put up by the government.

So far, 82 solar-powered pump irrigation projects were completed last year, Marcos said.

Isabela is the biggest corn producer and the second biggest contributor to palay production in the country.

In February, Marcos said the government would undertake a nationwide solar-powered irrigation program to help achieve its goal of rice self-sufficiency.

The Department of Agriculture has allotted P17 billion for the Philippine Solar-Irrigation Project and P1.2 billion for the construction and improvement of small-scale irrigation projects, the Presidential Communications Office said in a previous statement.

In his speech yesterday, Marcos said he told NIA administrator Eduardo Guillen to also consider using solar panels for Magat Dam.

The dam was built in 1975 during the term of Marcos' late father and namesake.

“Let's also install this kind of solar if it's suitable so that we can modernize all the facilities (of Magat Dam),” Marcos said.

Magat Dam is a major source of irrigation for 85,000 hectares of farmland in Cagayan Valley region.

It also generates 540 megawatts of hydroelectric power.

However, the government said the dam is threatened by continuous siltation, sedimentation, slash-and-burn farming, illegal logging and fish caging. — **Victor Martin**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/11/2361934/marcos-inaugurates-philippines-largest-solar-powered-pump-irrigation>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Logistics industry sees robust growth in 2024

By: [Tyrone Jasper C. Piad](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:41 PM June 10, 2024

MANILA, Philippines —Logistics businesses are seen to thrive as the growing e-commerce industry boosts demand for last-mile delivery and warehousing services.

The Global Contract Logistics 2024 Report by market research firm Ti Insight noted that the logistics market would be mainly driven by the Asia Pacific region, which is estimated to grow by 7.1 percent this year.

Globally, the market is projected to improve by 4.2 percent this year, faster than the 3.5 percent growth it registered in 2023.

“Growth is being driven by emerging economies. In 2023, the Asia Pacific region saw growth of 7.5 percent year-on-year, versus North America and Europe which grew by 1.6 percent and 0.2 percent year-on-year, respectively,” the report noted.

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, merchandise trade in the region will likely rise this year, forecasting growth of 3.2 percent for exports and 3.4 percent for imports.

Localized warehouses

The increasing demand for logistics is in line with the growing e-commerce industry, which heavily relies on cross-border shipments of goods. A study by Google, Temasek, and Bain & Co. projects the Philippines’ e-commerce sector will be worth \$22 billion by 2025.

The growing online shopping sector also created the need for more localized warehouses where merchants can place inventory near their customers.

Such facilities can help bring down costs because they eliminate the need for additional inventory transfers, which also means a shorter time for parcel deliveries.

Locally, President Marcos recently ordered the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Agriculture to implement round-the-clock processing of inbound shipments at seaports to hasten supply chain movement. Doing so is also seen to accommodate more ships carrying containers.

The President said the same amount of workers should be working at all times to ensure continuous screening and checking of imported goods, raising the need to implement three eight-hour shifts to realize the mandate.

Private Sector Advisory Council lead convenor Sabin Aboitiz, who also heads the diversified conglomerate Aboitiz Group, said this move by the government would make the country's supply chain management more efficient.

Data from the Philippine Ports Authority showed that cargo throughput grew by about 5 percent to 271.97 million metric tons (MT) last year from 259.14 million MT in 2022, surpassing the prepandemic volume of 265.88 million MT.

<https://business.inquirer.net/463227/logistics-industry-sees-robust-growth-in-2024>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos distributes aid to farmers, fisherfolk in Isabela

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - Reporter / [@zacariansINQ](#)

INQUIRER.net / 04:35 PM June 10, 2024



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. leads the distribution of presidential assistance to farmers, fisherfolk and families in Ilagan City, Isabela on Monday, June 10, 2024. (Photo screengrab from RTVM)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday expressed his intention to find ways to assist farmers and fisherfolk affected by the El Niño phenomenon in Cagayan Valley.

Marcos made the pronouncement during a distribution of assistance at Ilagan City Community Center in Isabela.

“Makakaasa kayong hindi ito ang huli nating pagkikita dahil marami pang nakaabang na proyekto para sa inyong lahat,” he said during his speech.

(You can hope this will not be our last meeting as there are many more projects in store for you all.)

“Sa susunod na mga buwan at taon, pagtutuunan namin ng pansin ang mga paraan kung paapaano mapalaki ang kita ng ating magsasaka, at paano mapapaganda ang ating mga produktong pagkain,” he told the audience.

(In the coming months and years, we will focus on ways to increase the income of our farmers, and how to improve our food products.)

Part of these projects, said Marcos, is the establishment of new irrigation facilities, improvement of agricultural logistics and supply chain, post-harvest facilities; and building better farm-to-market roads.

The president said modern methods in agriculture will also be given through training, using science-based and climate-resilient farming technologies.

Marcos also announced plans to introduce a new variety of crops to farmers, which will be more resilient to the changing weather.

“Ito’y pinag-aaralan na mabuti at kapag na-develop na itong mga ito ay dadalhin namin sa inyo upang mas maging maganda ang ani ng ating mga magsasaka,” he said.

(It is being studied carefully, and when it has been developed, we will bring it to you so that the harvest of our farmers will be better.)

During the distribution, P191 million worth of aid was turned over to farmers and fisherfolk.

Financial assistance of P10,000 was distributed to 5,000 beneficiaries through the Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1950121/marcos-distributes-aid-to-farmers-fisherfolk-in-isabela>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos committed to boost agri sector in same way as his father

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - Reporter / [@zacariansINQ](#)

INQUIRER.net / 11:16 AM June 10, 2024



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. graces the inauguration of Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project in Isabela on Monday, June 10, 2024. | Photo from Malacañang Press Corps pool

MANILA, Philippines—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Monday he is committed to following in his father’s footsteps in boosting the agricultural sector.

Marcos made the pronouncement after recognizing the Magat Dam’s contribution to providing water to farmers in Isabela and the Cagayan Valley during the province’s inauguration of the Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project.

The Magat Dam opened in 1982 during the administration of then President and dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

“Hindi nagkamali ang aking ama, si Pangulong Marcos Sr. na ipinatayo ang Magat Dam na magsisilbing susi sa pag-uunlad ng agrikultura dito sa Isabela at buong Cagayan Valley,” said Marcos in a speech.

(My father, President Marcos Sr., did not make a mistake in building the Magat Dam, which will serve as a key to developing agriculture here in Isabela and the entire Cagayan Valley.)

“... Ikinangangaral ko na sundan ang yapak ng aking ama at dagdagan ang lahat ng kaniyang ginagawa para sa ating mga magsasaka at kanilang mga pamilya,” said Marcos.

(I am proud to follow in my father’s footsteps and increase all he did for our farmers and their families.)

According to Marcos, he is currently in talks with NIA administrator Eduardo Guillen about rehabilitating the dam and possibly installing solar panels as part of the administration’s efforts to modernize its facilities.

Apart from the newly-inaugurated Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project, which is set to provide water to 350 hectares of paddy fields and benefit 240 farmers, Marcos also announced that the NIA approved the establishment of 15 more solar-powered pump irrigation projects and two small irrigation projects in Cagayan Valley.

“Tinatang aabot sa naman sa mahigit 250 hectares ang matutubigan nito na mapapakinabangan ng mahigit na 860 farmers,” said Marcos.

(Irrigating more than 250 hectares is estimated to benefit more than 860 farmers.)

He added that these newly announced projects are in addition to the 50 solar-powered pump irrigation projects currently being finished by NIA and over 100 more to be constructed.

“Sa kabuuan, 82 solar-powered pump irrigation projects na ang natapos at napagana sa bansa, mula noong 2023 at itinitayak ko sa inyong lahat na dadagdagan pa natin ito sa susunod na buwan at susunod na taon,” he said.

(In total, 82 solar-powered pump irrigation projects have been completed and operational in the country since 2023, and I assure you all that we will increase this next month and next year.)

He then called on the NIA to continue studying its irrigation assets in the country to determine if more areas and sectors can benefit from solar power generation.

The Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project consists of 1,056 solar panels with an estimated wattage output of more than 739,000 watts.

The project can produce an output discharge capacity of 12,800 gallons per minute, projected to supply irrigation to 350 hectares of agricultural land.

Marcos said that with the project, Isabela may soon once again become the country’s top rice-producing province.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1949993/fwd-marcos-on-following-his-fathers-footsteps-for-boosting-agri-sect>

BUSINESS WORLD:

El Niño farm damage reckoned at P9.89B

June 10, 2024 | 9:22 pm



REUTERS

AGRICULTURAL damage due to El Niño was estimated at P9.89 billion as of June 6, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In Bulletin No. 12, the DA said damage in volume terms amounted to 441,801 metric tons (MT), affecting 183,455 farmers and fisherfolk.

The total area affected was 170,469 hectares, with about 71.2% of farmland deemed to be capable of recovery.

Damage to the rice crop was P4.75 billion or 48% of the total. The volume of rice lost was 191,233 MT across 86,587 hectares, below the DA's projection of 150,000 hectares.

The lost crop is equivalent to 2.07% of the 9.2 million MT production target for the dry cropping season. The DA is projecting palay (unmilled rice) production of 20.44 million MT this year.

The department said 70.8% of the affected farmland was classified as damaged, with the remainder completely written off.

Damage to the corn crop was 188,861 MT, valued initially at P3.37 billion. This accounted for 34.04% of the total damage inflicted by El Niño.

The DA added that high-value crop losses amounted to 50,227 MT across 13,046 hectares of farmland. The losses were valued at P1.7 billion, or 17.2% of the total.

Damage to fisheries was estimated at P57.7 million. This was followed by livestock and poultry with P10.5 million, and cassava with P3.42 million.

The department said that it had provided P9.91 billion worth of interventions to affected farmers and fisherfolks.

Last week, the government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), announced the end of El Niño, adding that conditions in the tropical Pacific have returned to El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral levels.

Weather conditions that are classified as neither El Niño nor La Niña are considered to be ENSO-neutral.

In its final advisory, it said chances of La Niña setting in are 69% between July and September. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/10/600912/el-nino-farm-damage-reckoned-at-p9-89b/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

DA surveying provinces with surplus ginger to supply NCR

June 10, 2024 | 9:21 pm



SAAD.DA.GOV.PH

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said that it is looking at provinces capable of helping Metro Manila with its ginger shortage which has caused prices to surge.

In a statement, Agriculture Undersecretary for High Value Crops Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero said: "If the challenge is logistics, then how do we help (producers) bring the crop to Metro Manila systematically," she added.

Ms. Natividad-Caballero said last week that demand for ginger from the processing sector was behind the tight supply.

The retail price of ginger in Metro Manila markets was between P220 and P280 per kilogram as of June 6, according to DA price monitors.

She added that the DA is looking closely at usage, consumption, and sourcing for shallots as well.

Additionally, Ms. Natividad-Caballero said that the agency is seeking to expand the production of garlic in the Ilocos Region.

“The DA is supporting efforts to preserve the garlic heritage through genomics. So, we are looking at a strategic investment in resilient agriculture...to again position our *bawang* as the white gold of Ilocos,” she added.

Garlic production accounted for only 2.6% of annual demand of 146,879 metric tons, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Ilocos Norte, Batanes and Nueva Ecija are the top three producers of garlic.
— **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/10/600910/da-surveying-provinces-with-surplus-ginger-to-supply-ncr/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

DA lifts ban on poultry imports from Ohio

June 10, 2024 | 9:17 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday said it lifted a temporary ban on imports of poultry and by-products from the US state of Ohio.

In Memorandum Order No. 23, the DA said it lifted the ban following an official report by the US government to the World Organization for Animal Health.

“This order is hereby issued to lift the temporary ban on the importation of live poultry, poultry products, and by-products including day-old chicks and hatching eggs originating from the State of Ohio, and shall be in accordance with existing rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture,” the DA said.

In January, the DA froze poultry imports from Ohio after Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or Bird Flu was detected in the state.

The import ban had included domestic and wild birds, along with their associated products such as poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from Ohio.

“All affected counties of Ohio reported that HPAI cases have been resolved with no additional outbreaks after April 2,” the DA said.

In 2016, the Philippines and US veterinary authorities agreed that a statewide ban can be imposed if three or more counties are affected by the virus.

“This clearance from the US veterinary authorities provided the necessary assurance for the Department of Agriculture to lift the import ban, allowing the resumption of trade in domestic and wild birds including poultry products from the State of Ohio,” it added. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/10/600904/da-lifts-ban-on-poultry-imports-from-ohio/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL eyes 100 irrigation pumps powered by solar

June 10, 2024 | 8:31 pm



PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Monday ordered the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to look at its assets with power generation potential, as his government seeks to set up more than 100 solar-powered irrigation pumps this year.

He also urged the private sector to pursue “extraordinary” projects to advance the country’s transition to clean energy.

The government set up 82 solar-powered pump projects last year, and 152 more will be built this year, Mr. Marcos said at the inauguration of a P65.7-million solar-powered pump in a farming village in Quirino, Isabela north of Manila, the capital.

“I encourage you to study our other irrigation assets so that we can establish power generations like this,” he told NIA officials, based on a transcript from the presidential palace.

The Cabaruan solar-reliant irrigation system, touted as the biggest of its kind in the Philippines with 1,056 solar panels that can produce 739,200 watts, is expected to irrigate 350 hectares of rice fields and benefit 200 rice farmers.

The palace said the project, which is under NIA’s Magat River Integrated Irrigation System, is the first solar-powered irrigation pump in the country to be built over an irrigation canal, so farmers need not donate a portion of the land they till.

“Our savings here are really huge because aside from having a free electricity source, we placed our solar panels directly on top of the irrigation canal, so it won’t reduce the land area planted by our farmers,” the President said at the launch.

Mr. Marcos, 66, has vowed to boost the country’s shift to renewable energy after his election in 2022, asking foreign investors in international fora to consider green investments in the Philippines.

Coal accounted for 58% of the Philippines’ power generation mix in 2021, according to the Energy department.

Green groups have warned against the Marcos government’s decision to lower tariffs on coal briquettes, saying it could delay the country’s transition to clean energy.

The government should instead come up with more incentives for renewable energy projects, they said.

Increased electricity costs drove May inflation, which hit 3.9% from 3.8% in April.

The President also led the ceremonial signing of a connection agreement for a 440-megawatt (MW) solar farm in Ilagan City and Gamu town in Isabela that will be undertaken by San Ignacio Energy Resources Development Corp. and the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines, with financial and technical expertise from French company Total Energies.

San Ignacio is a unit of Nextnorth Energy Group, which is pursuing solar and hydropower projects in northern Luzon.

Construction of the P18-billion Isabela Ground Mounted Solar Project, which could benefit 4,000 workers, is expected to begin in the fourth quarter and will be finished by 2026.

A 2024 Green Economy Report for Southeast Asia by Bain & Co. said green investments in the Philippines rose by 57% to \$1.46 billion last year. This still fell short of the more than \$16-billion capital investments needed for its green transition.

“Let us continue to pursue extraordinary opportunities like this, to give ourselves and the next generations a fighting chance to succeed in reversing our exacerbating climate change problems,” Mr. Marcos said. —
Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2024/06/10/600928/phl-eyes-100-irrigation-pumps-powered-by-solar/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Balisacan defends decision to cut tariffs on imported rice

June 11, 2024 | 12:32 am



A WORKER unloads a sack of rice from a truck in Manila, May 30, 2024. — PHILIPPINE STAR/RYAN BALDEMOR

NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan on Monday defended the government's decision to slash tariffs on rice until 2028, saying this would reduce the impact of elevated global rice prices on Filipino consumers.

"If you reduce the tariff... that will dampen the effects of world rice price increases on our local markets," he told reporters.

The NEDA Board, chaired by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., last week approved the new Comprehensive Tariff Program which reduced tariffs on certain agricultural and industrial imports until 2028. Tariffs on rice imports were cut to 15% from 35%.

Mr. Balisacan, who is facing calls to resign from some agriculture groups, said in a separate statement that the NEDA Board as a collegial body made the decision, "recognizing its strategic importance in ensuring access and affordability to essential commodities — while balancing the interests of consumers, local producers and the economy."

"The goal of the NEDA Board in reducing the tariff rate of rice is to ensure that Filipinos have access to nutritious and affordable food, particularly rice, while managing inflation and sustaining our economic growth momentum," he said, noting that rice contributed about two percentage points to inflation in the past three months.

Inflation quickened to 3.9% in May, the fourth straight month of faster inflation. However, rice inflation eased for the second consecutive month to 23% in May from 23.9% a month earlier.

“Reducing rice tariffs is expected to bring down rice prices for consumers while supporting domestic production through tariff cover and increased budgetary support to improve agricultural productivity, especially as global rice prices remain elevated,” Mr. Balisacan added.

Global rice prices have soared since last year due to India’s ongoing ban on exports of non-basmati rice.

The Philippines, the world’s top importer of rice, has been affected by the spike in global rice prices. It imports rice mainly from Vietnam and Thailand.

However, Mr. Balisacan said the outlook for a decline in global rice prices is still uncertain, citing the impact of the El Niño dry spell and the looming La Niña weather pattern on agricultural production.

“If the forecasters, the futures market are correct, then we should see the tapering of this price increases soon, by around September. So, by then, you will feel the domestic prices stabilize,” he said in mixed English and Filipino.

Thai rice prices have increased by 6% to \$628 per metric ton (MT) as of end-May from \$592 per MT as of end-April, according to the World Bank Commodities Price Data. Meanwhile, Vietnamese rice prices dipped to \$568 per MT as of end-May from \$571.5 per MT in April.

With the tariff cuts, the NEDA chief hopes that rice inflation would ease near the level of inflation.

However, Mr. Balisacan said it is “hard to say” if it can be achieved this year “because it depends so much on what the world market...will be like in the next six months.”

“As of now, the best data that I saw until December of 2024 is that it comes down [from] the level today a bit. But then, it will stabilize there. It will not come down to the level of 2023. So, that is the challenge,” he added.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) last week said it expects the rice import tariffs to bring down average retail prices by P6-7 per kilo by July or August.

The DA’s latest price watch showed that the price of imported regular milled and well milled rice stood at P49.92 a kilo and P52.98 a kilo, respectively.

The NEDA chief reiterated that raising productivity in the domestic agriculture sector remains the government’s top priority.

“If we have started addressing these issues of the agricultural sector many years ago, then we should have not been in this situation now.”

On calls for his resignation, Mr. Balisacan said he serves at the pleasure of the President.

“If the President finds a better person to run NEDA, I’ll be happy to accept that,” he said. — **BMDC**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/06/11/600892/balisacan-defends-decision-to-cut-tariffs-on-imported-rice/>

MANILA STANDARD

Farmers hit by Kanlaon eruptions get gov't aid

By Caloy Lozada

June 10, 2024, 5:26 pm

Farmers in the towns of La Castellana, Moises Padilla, and La Carlota, as well as in Bago City affected by the Kanlaon volcano eruptions have received assistance from the Negros Occidental provincial government.

The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) reported that the eruptions caused extensive ash fall and lahar flows, severely impacting livestock and poultry in the affected areas.

The volcanic debris led to respiratory issues and other health concerns among the animals, adding to the challenges faced by the local farmers and their families.

PVO chief Dr. Placeda Lemana supervised the distribution of veterinary medicines to the farmers.

“We are working diligently to provide relief and support to our affected farmers. Our team is on the ground, offering medical supplies and technical support to ensure the health and well-being of their livestock,” Lemana said.

She also directed district veterinarians, livestock technicians, and para-veterinarians to provide continuous technical support and monitor the health of the animals for potential respiratory illnesses caused by the ash fall.

In response to the eruption's aftermath, the local government declared a state of calamity in La Castellana to expedite relief efforts and resource mobilization for the affected residents.

The move was expected to facilitate the provision of necessary aid and streamline recovery operations.

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office reported that agricultural damage in Negros Occidental was estimated at ₱1.49 million.

High-value crops were particularly affected, with an estimated 56.76 metric tons of produce damaged.

The provincial government's speedy response to mitigate the disaster's impact and help farmers recover and rebuild their lives temporarily shattered by the volcanic eruptions.

Editor's Note: This is an updated article. Originally posted with the headline **“Negrense farmers receive aid from provincial government after Kanlaon eruption”**

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314457678/negrense-farmers-receive-aid-from-provincial-government-after-kanlaon-eruption.html>

MANILA STANDARD

First solar-powered irrigation pump launched



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

By Charles Dantes & Maricel Cruz

June 11, 2024, 12:30 am

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday inaugurated the Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project (SPIP).

Designed to irrigate 350 hectares of rice fields and benefit 237 farmers, the Cabaruan SPIP is the country's first and biggest solar-powered pump irrigation.

“Back in the day, we used machines run by oil to flow water from the irrigation canal to your crops. Now we're making it

easier using electricity from the sun. Free electricity from the sun so we can provide free irrigation water,” Mr. Marcos said in his inauguration speech.

“Our savings here are really huge because aside from having free electricity source, we placed our solar panels directly on top of the irrigation canal, so it won't reduce the land area planted by our farmers,” he added.

Constructed by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) under the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS), the P65.77-million project features 1,056 solar panels installed above irrigation canals. It generates 739,200 watts to power two submersible pumps, reducing reliance on electric or fuel-powered pumps.

Marcos also announced the ongoing construction of 152 additional solar-powered pump irrigation projects, with 118 more planned by the government.

Last year, the Chief Executive said that 82 solar-powered pump irrigation projects had been completed, pledging to raise the count in the upcoming years.

Meanwhile, Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez on Monday distributed 17 solar pumps that would help hundreds of farmers irrigate their farms in Isabela, one of the country's major rice- and corn-producing provinces.

He made the distribution before he, along with officials of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and Isabela local government officials led by Gov. Rodito Albano, accompanied President Marcos in the inauguration of a big solar pump project in the same area.

Romualdez said irrigation is a major component of producing rice, corn and other agricultural products not only in Isabela, but in other parts of the country as well.

“We have to help our farmers with irrigation and other farm inputs like fertilizer and seeds so they can increase their produce. They should aim to double it,” he said.

In the case of rice and corn farmers who rely on rainwater for irrigation, Romualdez said solar pumps should enable them to plant an extra crop.

“This means that they can have at least two crops a year. That's double their harvest if they plant their crop only during the rainy days, which is really the case in farming areas that do not have irrigation,” he added.

The solar pumps were part of NIA's project meant to expand the irrigated areas in the country pursuant to President Marcos' vision to boost agricultural production, particularly rice.

Romualdez pointed out that if farmers could double their produce with solar pumps, that would accelerate the fulfillment of the goal of the President for the country to attain food self-sufficiency and security.

“That would also ease rice and food inflation, resulting in lower prices for the staple and other agricultural products for the benefit of all Filipinos,” he stressed.

The Speaker said he would propose more funding for solar-powered irrigation pumps in unirrigated farming communities when the House considers the annual national budget.

“That’s the only way we can bring irrigation to these areas,” he said.

According to NIA officials, the Cabaruan solar-powered pump irrigation project “was conceived as a response to the escalating challenges of water scarcity, energy costs and the need for environmental conservation.”

The project consists of a pumping station, 1,056 solar panels that can produce 739,000 watts of electricity, two units of submersible pumps with an output of 2,800 gallons per minute.

The project can irrigate 350 hectares of agricultural land. It will reduce the production cost of 237 farmers, who have been dependent on gasoline or diesel-run water pumps to irrigate their farms.

NIA has completed 17 such projects costing P180.2 million in several towns in Isabela, Quirino and Cagayan.

Editor’s Note: This is an updated article. Originally posted with the headline Marcos inaugurates first solar-powered pump irrigation in Philippines

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314457586/marcos-inaugurates-first-solar-powered-pump-irrigation-in-philippines.html>

MANILA STANDARD

Modernize, rehab Magat Dam—PBBM

By Charles Dantes

June 11, 2024, 12:25 am

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday called for the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to modernize and rehabilitate the Magat Dam.

Speaking at the inauguration of the P65.7 million Cabaruan Solar-Powered Irrigation Project (SPIP) in Quirino, Isabela, President Marcos highlighted the need for updates and suggested incorporating solar technology.

“We’re talking with Administrator Guillen. We’re saying, let’s go back and check the Magat Dam again and see if it’s still possible. Looks like there’s still something needed. Probably needs rehabilitation. Let’s improve it,” President Marcos said.

“Let’s also put this kind of solar panel if it suits so we can modernize all of our facilities.,” he pointed out.

Built in 1975, the Magat Dam irrigates 85,000 hectares in the Cagayan Valley and generates 540 megawatts of hydroelectric power. However, it faces challenges from siltation, sedimentation, illegal logging, and fish caging.

President Marcos praised his father’s decision to build the dam, calling it crucial for agricultural development in the region.

He also urged NIA to explore power generation potential in other irrigation assets to reduce farmers’ costs.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314457936/modernize-rehab-magat-dam-pbbm.html>

MANILA STANDARD

NEDA defends rice tariff cut, commits to food security

By Manila Standard

June 10, 2024, 9:25 pm

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on Monday defended the reduction in rice tariffs, saying the move aims to balance affordability for consumers with support for domestic rice production.

NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the board's decision targets ensuring Filipinos' access to "nutritious and affordable food, particularly rice," while managing inflation and economic growth.

"Rice contributed about two percentage points to inflation in the past three months," Balisacan said in a statement. "Reducing rice tariffs is expected to bring down prices for consumers while supporting domestic production through continued tariffs and increased budgetary support to improve farm productivity, especially as global rice prices remain high."

The statement comes amid calls from some farmers' groups for Balisacan's resignation over the tariff reduction.

Balisacan acknowledged "concerns raised by our farmers" and assured the public "this decision was not made lightly." He said the NEDA board, chaired by the president and composed of Cabinet members, unanimously approved a recommendation from the Committee on Tariff and Related Matters for a new Comprehensive Tariff Program for 2024-2028.

"The board, as a collegial body, recognized the strategic importance of ensuring access and affordability of essential commodities while balancing the interests of consumers, local producers, and the economy," Balisacan said. "This is crucial for fostering rapid, sustained, and inclusive economic growth."

He said the Tariff Commission conducted "extensive consultations and reviews" before making recommendations, as mandated by law. These consultations included public hearings where stakeholders could voice their opinions.

While acknowledging farmer concerns, Balisacan emphasized the government's commitment to supporting them. This includes investments in infrastructure, technology adoption, market access, and climate-change resilience initiatives.

“The Marcos administration has prioritized agricultural development,” Balisacan said, citing a 69-percent increase in the Department of Agriculture's budget from 2022 to 2024 compared to its average allocation for 2017-2021.

“We are mindful of the need to manage inflation and ensure affordability for all Filipinos,” he said. “High food prices disproportionately affect the poor and contribute to hunger, malnutrition, and stunting, hindering development goals.”

Balisacan reiterated NEDA's commitment to food security and strengthening the agriculture sector, pledging continued engagement with all stakeholders, including farmers.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314457984/neda-defends-rice-tariff-cut-commits-to-food-security.html>

MANILA STANDARD

DA lifts ban on Ohio poultry products

By Othel V. Campos

June 10, 2024, 8:40 pm

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the temporary ban on poultry and bird products from Ohio in the United States.

The ban, implemented in January 2024, addressed concerns about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in Ohio.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signed Memorandum Order No. 23 on June 7, 2024, officially lifting the restriction.

The ban covered domestic and wild birds, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen originating from Ohio.

The DA said it based its decision on a report from the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) submitted to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

The report confirmed that Ohio has successfully contained all avian flu cases and reported no new outbreaks since April 2, 2024.

The update from US veterinary authorities allowed the Philippines to resume trade in poultry and bird products from Ohio.

On Saturday, the DA imposed a ban on imports of birds and poultry products from Australia over the alleged bird flu outbreak in Australian states.

It said it would prohibit the imports from Australia of wild and domestic birds, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen.

Australia was the Philippines' fourth-largest source of imported chicken meat, accounting for 4 percent of its total volume of chicken imports.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/csr-mining/314457945/da-lifts-ban-on-ohio-poultry-products.html>

MANILA STANDARD

DTI Region 2, Ilagan officials visit Thailand to boost corn production

By Manila Standard

June 10, 2024, 8:25 pm

The Department of Trade and Industry Region 2 (DTI R2) teamed up with the city government of Ilagan, Isabela to embark on a two-day business mission to Thailand to bolster Ilagan's standing as the corn capital of the Philippines,

The mission aimed to explore further mechanization and development opportunities for the city's corn industry.

Ilagan is a major contributor to corn production in the Philippines with a record of 155,767,000 kilograms of corn produced per cropping season.

This translates into 2.07 percent of the national corn production and 13.92 percent of Isabela province's output. With 33 percent of its land dedicated to agriculture, the city's local government is actively pursuing initiatives to transform corn production into a sustainable and lucrative enterprise for its residents, especially local farmers.

Ilagan City Mayor Josemarie Diaz, together with officials from DTI R2, joined the mission from May 30 to 31.

The itinerary included visits to renowned private companies and government-operated facilities in Thailand, known for their advanced machinery and export-quality corn products. The visit aimed to assess the feasibility of integrating Thai technologies into Ilagan City's existing infrastructure.

The delegation's first stop was at the National Corn and Sorghum R&D Center at Kasetsart University, where they learned about the latest advancements in maize and sorghum production. These insights are expected to enhance corn farming quality and efficiency in Ilagan City.

They also visited the Thai Danish Dairy Farm, a key player in the dairy industry under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives' Farming Promotion Organization. This provided them with knowledge instrumental in formulating

policies and government interventions to maximize production in Ilagan's dairy sector.

The first-day visit concluded with a tour of the Hualam Collective Farm-Corn Silage Group, which boasts a 40 to 50-ton daily production capacity being exported to Japan, Qatar, Korea and China. Inspired by this success, the team envisioned Ilagan local farmers scaling their operations to produce export-quality products.

The delegation also visited KU Beef and River Kwai on the second day, private facilities specializing in meat and corn processing that uphold high export standards.

The state-of-the-art technologies and processes in these facilities hold the potential to influence policy and intervention strategies aimed at propelling Ilagan City's local production.

The visit builds on previous initiatives, including DTI R2's visit to the Hualam Collective Farm in 2022. This encouraged DTI R2 to form a technical working group and explore opportunities in export-quality corn silage production in Ilagan City.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/csr-mining/314457889/dti-region-2-ilagan-officials-visit-thailand-to-boost-corn-production.html>

MANILA STANDARD

Rice retailers seek grace period before implementation of tariff reduction

By Othel V. Campos

June 10, 2024, 8:35 pm

Rice retailers are calling for a two to three-month grace period to allow retailers and millers to unload existing rice stocks before the tariff reduction takes effect.

“Many retailers, wholesalers, and millers still have rice stocks purchased at higher prices,” said Philippine Rice Industry Stakeholders Movement (PRISM) co-founder Orly Manuntag.

“These include imported rice bought with a 35 percent tariff and locally milled rice acquired during the last harvest, where palay prices ranged from P29 to P31 per kilo,” he said.

Manuntag cited the need for ample time to sell existing stocks at current prices to avoid significant financial losses for stakeholders in the rice industry.

The group also expressed concerns about the potential impact of the reduced tariff on Filipino farmers.

“We urge the Department of Agriculture to implement a safety net program to protect our local farmers,” Manuntag said.

The program should include support for seeds, fertilizer, and additional cash incentives, to ensure continued income and livelihood of farmers, he said.

The group agrees with the estimated P5 to P6 per kilo drop in rice prices once the halved tariff takes effect. However, PRISM clarified that the final price would depend on several factors, including global rice market prices, logistics costs, and dollar exchange rate

Manuntag noted the importance of regular communication and collaboration among stakeholders in the rice industry.

“We believe there should be monthly or bi-monthly consultative meetings between all players in the rice supply chain. These meetings will ensure everyone is updated on market developments and can work together for a more stable rice supply and pricing for Filipino consumers,” he said.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/economy-trade/314457895/rice-retailers-seek-grace-period-before-implementation-of-tariff-reduction.html>

El Niño farm damage said to have hit P9.89B

By Janine Alexis Miguel

June 11, 2024

AGRICULTURAL damage caused by El Niño has hit P9.89 billion and could still rise even if the weather pattern has officially been declared as having ended, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday.

The DA said it was still collating data from across the country and that to date the government had distributed P9.91 billion in assistance to those affected by dry spells and droughts.

As of June 10, a total of 183,455 farmers and fisherfolk in 13 regions were estimated to have been affected, while the damaged crop area was said to have hit 170,469 hectares, with 71.2 percent of the land potentially recoverable.

The production loss was set at 441,801 metric tons (MT).

Rice accounted for 191,233 MT or around 2.07 percent of this year's target production of 9,218,358.28 MT. In value terms, the rice sector loss was estimated at P4.75 billion.

For corn the loss was 188,861 MT (P3.37 billion) and for high-value crops it was 50,227 MT (P1.7 billion).

The DA said it had implemented interventions amounting P9.9 billion for affected farmers and fisherfolk, including P8.59 billion that was distributed through the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance and P659.17 million for production support.

In Mimaropa, which recorded the largest loss among the regions, almost P460 million was provided via rice machinery, loans,

coconut seedlings, composting facilities, irrigation projects, and marine equipment.

The government has now shifted to monitoring and preparing for the La Niña, which will bring higher-than-normal rainfall and floods that is expected to hit in the latter part of the year.

The DA said that it was monitoring prices of rice, corn and other agricultural products to prevent possible volatility.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/11/business/top-business/el-nio-farm-damage-said-to-have-hit-p989b/1950914>

Balisacan: Prices to stabilize in Sept following tariff cuts

By Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

June 11, 2024

DOMESTIC prices are expected to stabilize by September following the government's move to reduce import duties on rice, a Cabinet official said on Monday.

"All we can say is very clearly that, if you reduce the tariff, you temper the increases in the prices," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan told reporters.

"If the forecasters, the world, and the futures market are correct ... then we should see the tapering of these price increases soon, by around September," he added.

The National Economic and Development Authority Board last week slashed rice tariffs to 15 percent from 35 percent for both in-quota and out-quota imports until 2028.

Also approved was the extension to 2028 of reduced tariffs on corn, pork and mechanically deboned meat.

The NEDA chief said the move will also help inflation end the year within the 2.0- to 4.0-percent target at 3.8 percent.

Farmers groups have criticized the tariff cuts, saying it would also lower farmer incomes and only benefit importers. They have also called on Balisacan to resign.

The NEDA chief, in a statement, said that the decision "was not made lightly."

"We are aware of the concerns raised by our farmers ... we understand the apprehensions and emotions that this decision has caused," he said.

"As the secretary of NEDA and vice chair of the NEDA Board, I want to assure the public that this decision was not made lightly."

He rejected claims that stakeholders were not consulted and said that the Tariff Commission, in the course of doing so, had received position papers and comments from 41 private sector parties, a consumer group, 15 Philippine government agencies, and a member of the House of Representatives.

"The goal of the NEDA Board in reducing the tariff rate of rice is to ensure that Filipinos have access to nutritious and affordable food, particularly rice, while managing inflation and sustaining our economic growth momentum," he reiterated.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/11/business/top-business/balisacan-prices-to-stabilize-in-sept-following-tariff-cuts/1950912>

Indonesia rice output down in June, July

[By Reuters](#)

June 11, 2024

JAKARTA — Indonesia sees rice production in June and July dropping on an annual basis, the head of its food agency said on Monday, due to delays in the crop cycle as a result of less rain last year.

June rice production is expected at 2.01 million metric tons and July production at 2.15 million tons, according to data presented to parliament by agency head Arief Prasetyo.

That compared to 2.79 million tons and 2.48 million tons, respectively, in those months last year.

Indonesia's food procurement agency Bulog has imported 1.2 million tons of rice as of April out of the 3.6 million import quota allotted this year.

From January to July, domestic production of the staple was 18.64 million tons, down 13.3 percent from the same period last year. Meanwhile, consumption from January to July was 18 million tons, Arief said.

The El Niño weather phenomenon last year had cut rain volume, causing delays in the new crop cycle and a drop in production.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/11/business/foreign-business/indonesia-rice-output-down-in-june-july/1950866>

Marcos orders Magat Dam rehab

[By Agence France-Presse](#)

June 10, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday directed the National Irrigation Administration to modernize and rehabilitate the Magat Dam.

He gave the order during the inauguration of the P65.7-million Cabaruan solar-powered irrigation project in Quirino, Isabela.

Built during the administration of his father, Ferdinand Sr., Magat Dam is slowly deteriorating because of siltation, sedimentation, slash-and-burn farming, illegal logging, and fish caging.

"It needs rehabilitation. Let's improve it," the President said. "Let's also put some solar panels if possible to modernize it."

Built in 1975, Magat Dam is a major source of irrigation for 85,000 hectares of farmland in Cagayan Valley.

It also generates 540 megawatts of hydroelectric power.

Marcos said rehabilitating the dam would further unearth the potential of the Cagayan River, the longest river in the Philippines, because of the tributaries connected to it.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/10/news/marcos-orders-magat-dam-rehab/1950818>

El Niño damage to agri nears P10B

By Jed Macapagal

June 11, 2024

Damage to agriculture due to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon has reached P9.89 billion, according to latest data from the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center.

The DA attached agency in its advisory as of 12 noon of June 6 said the weather phenomenon affected 170,469 hectares (ha) of areas tended by 183,455 farmers and fisherfolk in Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Central Mindanao, Davao and Soccsksargen.

The total amount is equivalent to a total volume loss of 441,801 metric tons (MT) of agriculture products: 191,233 MT of rice worth P4.75 billion; 188,861 MT of corn, P3.37 billion; 50,227 MT of high value crops worth P1.7 billion; 11,334 MT of fisheries, P57.72 million; 2,403 heads of livestock and poultry, P10.47 million; and 147 MT of cassava, P3.42 million.

The DA said it has so far provided P9.91 billion worth of assistance to affected farmers: P8.59 billion through the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance program and P659.17 million for production support including inputs, fertilizers, planting materials, pumps and engines, hose, drugs and biologics provided by the agency's regional field offices.

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. also indemnified farmers with a total amount of P177.12 million.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/el-nino-damage-to-agri-nears-p10b-2/

NIA ordered to modernize Magat Dam

By Jocelyn Montemayor

June 11, 2024

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. yesterday directed the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to modernize and rehabilitate the Jagat Dam.

The President, during the inauguration of the P65.7-million Cabaruan solar-powered irrigation project (SPIP) at Barangay Cabaruan in Quirino in Isabela also ordered NIA to look into the country's other irrigation assets with power generation potential to maximize its use and eventually help ease the cost of running the irrigation facilities.

The Magat Dam was constructed in 1975 during the administration of Marcos Sr. and is currently used as a major source of irrigation for 85,000 hectares of farmland in Cagayan Valley region; and a source of 540 megawatts of hydroelectric power.

The dam, however, is threatened by continuous siltation, sedimentation, slash-and-burn farming, illegal logging, and fish caging.

Marcos led the inauguration of the Cabaruan SPIP In Quirino, Isabela the biggest solar-powered irrigation system in the country, which is capable of producing an output discharge capacity of 12,800 gallons per minute and irrigate 350 hectares of land. It could also provide power and water supply to the nearby communities.

The Cabaruan SPIP is a project of NIA under the Mangat River Integrated Irrigation System which was constructed from July 6, 2023 to February 2024 at a cost P65.77 million.

Isabela is the biggest corn producer and the second biggest contributor to palay production in the country.

There are 152 solar-powered pump irrigation projects being constructed nationwide, with 118 of which funded by the government. In 2023, 82 solar-powered pump irrigation projects had been completed.

Following the inauguration, Marcos witnessed the signing of the Connection Agreement for the Isabela Ground Mounted Solar Project in the City of Ilagan between the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines and the San Ignacio Energy Resources Development Corp. .

The agreement for the 440-Megawatt Peak (MWp) solar project is expected to further support the government's initiatives in promoting the use of renewable energy sources in the country .

Located in the City of Ilagan and the Municipality of Gamu, the project is expected to start in the fourth quarter and provide employment opportunities to more than 4,000 Filipinos during construction.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/nia-ordered-to-modernize-magat-dam/

BUSINESS MIRROR

‘40 years of poor rice yield make imports crucial’

Cai U. Ordinario

June 11, 2024

WITH the country’s low rice production already 40 years old, importation has become crucial in ensuring that Filipinos have access to the food staple, according to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

On Monday, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan told reporters that importation has helped the government ensure that the country had sufficient and affordable rice supply for Filipinos.

Balisacan said the country’s rice production woes persisted for four decades because the Philippines failed to increase agriculture investments such as those that would have gone to irrigation.

“Our problem is, for the last 40 years, we have always been short of production. And our demand, our total consumption has always been higher than our production. So, if you don’t import, prices will rise,” Balisacan explained, partly in Filipino.

“If we had started addressing these issues of the agricultural sector many years ago, then we should have not been in this situation now. The lack of, for example, of irrigation. That’s the easiest way to double, to increase productivity,” he added.

Irrigation investments require building either small or big dams that will allow farmers to grow crops all year round and not just during the rainy season.

Balisacan said if farmers nationwide were provided with sufficient irrigation facilities, there is a chance that they could plant two or even three times a year.

More frequency in planting rice, Balisacan said, will significantly increase rice production. However, making these investments is not cheap, nor can they be completed in a short period of time.

The Neda Chief said irrigation facilities take 3 to 5 years to complete or even longer, especially if the funds being used are Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Nonetheless, Balisacan said, the recent 69-percent increase in the budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA) can be a significant boost in realizing these investments.

“That will mean we address the the lack of irrigation development issues, the logistics issues, the marketing distribution issues, the access to seeds, access to planting materials, the access to fertilizers. That’s where government support is focused on,” Balisacan stressed.

“The intention is to raise the productivity because in truth, the only way you can improve the welfare of our farmers on a sustained basis is increase their productivity so that they are able to get more incomes, more profits from whatever small piece of land they have,” he added.

Tariffs impact

Given the recent spike in inflation, Balisacan said, government had to bring down rice tariffs to 15 percent from the 35 percent. This, he said, can keep rice prices from increasing further.

The price of rice in the global market, he said, is at \$571 per metric ton (MT). At a tariff of 35 percent and at the current exchange rate, this will translate to a landed cost of P50.95 per kilo.

However, given a lower tariff of 15 percent, the landed cost of the rice would just be around P37 to P38. This can free up much needed funds from household budgets.

But, Balisacan said, Filipinos cannot expect rice prices to be lower than 2023 levels which was estimated at P44 per kilo. He said, however, that Filipinos can expect rice inflation to slow starting around September.

At the very least, Balisacan wants to slow the increase in rice prices through the reduction in tariffs. He said slower inflation means zero inflation, significantly lower than the 23-percent increase in rice prices posted in May 2024.

“As you know, it’s the poorest 30 percent of the population who suffer the brunt of high food prices because the bulk of their incomes are spent on food. So that’s it, I think it’s managing inflation is particularly food inflation. It’s part of that,” Balisacan said.

“So from that, inclusive growth paradigm and we need to ensure that we have all the tools and we use our tools properly. We have policy tools properly so that we can achieve those various objectives of government. Particularly inflation because it has many effects on the economy,” he added.

IMF: inflation crucial

The reduction in rice tariffs is considered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a crucial factor in reducing inflation in the second half of the year.

The IMF team leader in its recently concluded mission to the Philippines, Elif Arbatli Saxegaard, said inflation is now forecast to average 3.4 percent from the initial estimate of 3.6 percent.

“Our assumption is that they will be implemented very soon. The tariff, the tariff. In a few months. So the assumption is that they will affect the second half of 2024,” Saxegaard said.

Given this, Saxegaard said, IMF expects the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to maintain a “sufficiently restrictive stance” in the medium term because of the slowdown in inflation.

“I think central banks like the BSP and other central banks are exactly trying to figure out what the right calibration is and the data-dependent approach will be quite important. Because we are really in an uncertain, sort of the last mile of the inflation reduction,” Saxegaard said.

“And although we expect inflation to go down in the second half of this year, one also needs to be vigilant and see what kind of... how the inflation outturn presents itself. At the same time, also, the growth momentum and the assessment of the economy is also very important,” she added.

IMF revised its GDP forecast downward to 6 percent from the 6.2 percent estimate in the April World Economic Outlook. This forecast already includes expectations that the BSP will gradually ease monetary policy.

Farmers

Balisacan, meanwhile, addressed another concern raised by farmers' groups, that of his resignation. The country's Chief Economist said it is up to the President to decide on the matter.

He said if the President is able to find a better person to take over running Neda, he will abide by the President's wishes.

"If the president finds a better person to run Neda, I'll be happy to accept that because all we care is about the country. I want to see this country develop and join our neighbors," Balisacan said.

"So if there are any other better people out there to run, I would want those people to take over, to take government," he added.

Farmers and fishers' groups said over the weekend that reducing tariffs on key agricultural commodities, such as rice, will bring the Philippine farm sector to its knees.

The groups claimed that the Neda chief is "partial to importation" and as such should step down from office. (<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/10/rethink-decision-to-slash-agri-tariffs-govt-told/>).

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/11/40-years-of-poor-rice-yield-make-imports-crucial/>

BUSINESS MIRROR

‘NFA to retain palay buying prices despite tariff cut’

Ada Pelonia

June 11, 2024

San Ildefonso, Bulacan—The National Food Authority (NFA) said it will maintain its current palay buying price even if the tariff on the staple is slashed to more than half, according to its top official.

NFA Administrator Larry Lacson made the pronouncement after the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Board reduced the tariff on rice to 15 percent from 35 percent in its bid to lower the price of the staple.

“Walang kinalaman ’yung pagbaba ng tariff ng imported rice doon sa buying price ng NFA. Kahit ibaba nila sa zero ’yan we will buy at the price na makakatulong at makakaginhawa sa farmers [The reduction in imported rice tariffs has nothing to do with NFA’s buying price. Even if they lower that to zero, we will buy palay at a price that will improve the income of farmers],” Lacson told reporters during a recent inspection of a warehouse here.

Lacson said one of the food agency’s mandates is to buy palay or unmilled rice from farmers.

“Our mandate is to buy from the farmers because we want them to continue planting, we want them to earn,” he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Meanwhile, Lacson said the preventive suspension of NFA officials did not affect its operations, but the grains agency is hopeful that it will be lifted soon to beef up its manpower.

“We made it a point that our operation is running smoothly. Even with limited manpower, we are hitting 100 percent of our target,” Lacson said in a mix of English and Filipino.

The NFA Council earlier approved raising the buying price per kilo of *palay* to as much as P30 per kilo for clean and dry palay and as much as P23 per kilo for wet and fresh palay.

“We are praying *na ma-lift na 'yung suspension ng iba lalo na 'yung mga walang kinalaman sa partikular na transaction na iyon* so that they can help. *Marami pa kasi tayong programa na dapat ipatupad,*” Lacson added.

The Office of the Ombudsman earlier ordered the preventive suspension of 139 officials of the food agency for up to six months over the alleged disadvantageous sale of rice buffer stocks.

The NFA said it has procured some 3.3 million of 50-kilo bags of palay as of June 5, of which 3.17 million bags were purchased from farmers over the last six weeks.

The food agency also said it plans to increase the target buffer stock next year to 545,000 metric tons of unmilled rice. It has been allotted P16 billion for its procurement program for 2025.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/11/nfa-to-retain-palay-buying-prices-despite-tariff-cut/>

BUSINESS MIRROR

Marcos distributes P190 million cash aid to Cagayan Valley farmers and fisherfolk affected by El Niño

Samuel Medenilla June 10, 2024



In file photo: The resilient Filipino farmer stands as a testament to the indispensability of experience in modernizing agriculture, particularly amidst the challenges posed by the El Niño phenomenon. Despite the harsh conditions, these farmers demonstrate their essential role and irreplaceable expertise, embodying the spirit of innovation and sustainability in farming practices.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Monday extended over P190-million worth of Presidential aid to farmers and fisherfolk, who were affected by El Niño in the provinces in the Cagayan Valley Region.

The provincial governments of Isabela, Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya each received P50 million to help their agricultural workers recover from the effects of the dry spell and drought caused by El Niño.

The province of Quirino got P30.92 million, while Batanes received P10 million.

“At the Office of the President, we looked for funds because I said, let us increase the assistance that will give out. So we found funds, which will give to our

governors to help those suffering [from the effects] of El Niño,” Marcos said in Filipino during the distribution of government aid to farmers and fisherfolk at the Ilagan City in Isabela last Monday.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided P10,000 cash aid to the affected agricultural workers, while the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) provided them P6-million worth of emergency employment.

They also received farm-related machinery from the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), 315 pump and set engine from the Department of Agriculture (DA), and almost 20 sets of non-motorized boats and 18 units of fishing gear from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

For its part, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) provided 25 toolkits to Rice Enhancement Competitive Fund (RCEF) beneficiaries.

“Our assistance does not end here since the regional line agencies will still provide help to the citizens of Cagayan Valley,” Marcos said.

He said the additional support includes providing them with more irrigation facilities, more farm-to-market roads, post-harvest facilities, and providing them with “science-based and climate resilient farming technologies.”

“In the coming months and years, we will focus our attention on ways to increase the earnings of our farmers and how to enhance our food production,” Marcos said.

Last April, 37 towns in Isabela declared a state of calamity due to the drought caused by El Niño.

El Niño caused P200 billion of losses in the agricultural sector, which affected 43,000 farmers and fisherfolks nationwide.

Image credits: [Joel C. Paredes](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/10/marcos-distributes-p190-million-cash-aid-to-cagayan-valley-farmers-and-fisherfolk-affected-by-el-nino/>

Farm damage from El Niño has risen to ₱9.89 billion, says D.A.

Ada Pelonia

June 10, 2024

THE agricultural damage caused by the El Niño phenomenon rose to P9.89 billion, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In its latest bulletin, the DA said the volume of production losses for agricultural and fishery areas was pegged at 441,801 metric tons (MT). Palay and corn bore the brunt of the weather phenomenon at 191,233 MT and 188,861 MT, respectively.

Other agricultural commodities also sustained damage such as high-value crops (50,227 MT), cassava (147 MT), and aquaculture produce (11,334 MT).

According to the report, the production losses are equivalent to P4.75 billion for rice, P3.37 billion for corn, P1.70 billion for high-value crops, and P57.72 million for fisheries. For livestock and poultry, the department said 2,403 chicken, cattle, carabao, goat, and swine heads were affected by the dry spell, accounting for P10.47 million.

The weather phenomenon also affected 183,455 farmers and fisherfolks with 170,469 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas.

The report showed the total affected area reached 86,587 ha for rice, of which 25,309 ha were totally damaged. Meanwhile, the affected area for corn was pegged at 70,809 ha, with 22,164 ha completely destroyed.

The rice production loss of 191,233 MT is equivalent to around 2.07 percent of the target production of 9.22 million MT (MMT), both for the dry cropping season this 2024. Also, the corn production loss of 188,861 MT is 4.20 percent of the 4.49 MMT target production in the same cropping season.

“Most of the corn and rice damaged are in the reproductive and maturity stages,” the DA said.

The department said it provided P9.91 billion worth of assistance, among which were production support (agri-inputs, fertilizers, planting materials, pumps and engines, HDPE hose, drugs and biologics) and indemnity checks amounting to P177.12 million.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) recently declared the end of the El Niño phenomenon in the country, with the shift to La Niña likely to begin by the third quarter of the year.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/10/farm-damage-from-el-nino-has-risen-to-p9-89-billion-says-d-a/>

DA lifts suspension of poultry imports from US

Ada Pelonia

June 10, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) lifted the temporary ban on poultry products from the United States.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Order (MO) 23, rescinding the temporary import ban imposed in mid-January of this year due to a confirmed outbreak of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the State of Ohio, USA.

The agri chief's decision to lift the ban was based on the official report submitted by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

Citing a report, the DA said all counties in Ohio have successfully resolved avian flu cases, and no additional outbreaks have been reported after April 2.

“This clearance from the US Veterinary Authorities provided the necessary assurance for the Department of Agriculture to lift the import ban, allowing the resumption of trade in domestic and wild birds including poultry products from the State of Ohio, USA,” the DA said in a statement.

The import ban had encompassed domestic and wild birds and their associated products such as poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen originating from Ohio.

Meanwhile, the Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA) said the ban on poultry products from Australia would not increase the prices of imported chicken.

MITA President Emeritus Jesus Cham issued the statement after the DA banned imported poultry products from Australia following a bird flu outbreak detected in parts of the continent.

“Australia exports a relatively small volume of chicken meat to Philippines so impact would be minimal,” Cham told the BusinessMirror via Viber.

Latest figures from the BAI showed that meat imports grew by 11.34 percent to over 390,000 metric tons (MT) as of April 30. It was driven by higher pork and chicken purchases abroad.

Chicken imports from Australia stood at 5,364 metric tons (MT) from the 134,465 MT total from January to April this year, based on BAI data. The mechanically deboned meat (MDM) accounted for a chunk of the imports at 4,160 MT.

According to BAI, Australia ranked the country’s third major supplier of chicken, contributing to 4 percent of the total volume of imports.

Under Memorandum Order (MO) 21, Laurel ordered the suspension of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSIC) issuance by the BAI.

“All shipments coming from Australia that are in transit-load-accepted unto port before the official communication of this order to the Australian authorities shall be allowed provided that the products were slaughtered-produced on or before May 9, 2024,” Laurel said in a statement.

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) confirmed the outbreaks of H7N3 and H7N9, subtypes of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, on May 23 in Meredith and May 25 in Terang in Victoria, Australia.

Tiu Laurel said imports from Australia, such as poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen would be stopped.

The DA and the Department of Health (DOH) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) allowing the BAI to evaluate animal vaccines and biologics that aim to stop the spread of viral diseases threatening the local poultry and hog sectors.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was also mandated to issue a License to Operate (LTO) to BAI for manufacturing or importation and the issuance of certificate of no objection for BAI’s importation of vaccines and biologics for its evaluation and research.

“This MOA will significantly strengthen our fight against transboundary animal diseases such as African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza,” Laurel said in a statement.

Data from the BAI indicated that bird flu continues to affect 8 provinces and 127 barangays in the country.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/10/da-lifts-suspension-of-poultry-imports-from-us/>

ABANTE TONITE

NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan pinanindigan 15% tapyas-taripa sa bigas

June 10, 2024

Nanindigan si National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan sa desisyon ng ahensiya na irekomenda ang pagtapyas sa taripa ng bigas sa 15%.

Iginiit nito na “unanimous” ang desisyon ng NEDA Board na sundin ang rekomendasyon ng Committee on Tariff and Related Matters (CTRM) na bawasan ang taripa ng bigas sa 15% mula 35% at patagalin ito hanggang 2028.

Ang Department of Trade and Industry ang chairman ng CTRM at kasama rito ang Department of Agriculture at iba pang mga kagawaran at ang Tariff Commission.

Si Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. ang chairman ng NEDA Board at vice chair naman si Balisacan.

Sabi ni Balisacan, batid niya ang pag-aalala ng sektor ng agrikultura sa desisyon ng NEDA Board na tapyasin ang taripa sa bigas at naiintindihan niya ito. Aniya, naging mabigat din gawin ang desisyon.

Nauna rito, pinuna ng iba’t ibang grupo mula sa sektor ng agrikultura na hindi sila pinapakinggan ng Tariff Commission. Iginiit din nila ang pagbibitiw ni Balisacan sa NEDA dahil sa tapyas-presyo ng taripa sa bigas. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/06/10/neda-secretary-arsenio-balisacan-pinanindigan-15-tapyas-taripa-sa-bigas/>

ABANTE TONITE

PBBM binuksan pinakamalaki, libreng solar-powered irrigation sa `Pinas

June 10, 2024

Pinasinayaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. nitong Lunes (Hunyo 10) ang Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project (SPIP), isa sa una at pinakamalaking solar-powered pump irrigation project sa bansa na layong tugunan ang tumataas na hamon ng mga gastos sa enerhiya sa paglipat ng suplay ng tubig sa mga lupang sakahan.

Ang Cabaruan SPIP ay inaasahang magpapatubig sa 350 ektarya ng mga palayan, na pakikinabangan ng halos 237 magsasaka ng palay.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa inagurasyon ng Cabaruan SPIP sa Quirino, Isabela, sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos na ang SPIP ay isa lamang sa napakaraming proyekto ng gobyerno na naglalayong palakasin ang sektor ng agrikultura sa Pilipinas, na lubhang apektado ng natural phenomenon sa bansa.

“Kung dati-rati ay gumagamit tayo ng mga makinang pinatatakbo ng langis upang dumaloy ang tubig mula sa irrigation canal papunta sa inyong mga taniman, ngayon ay pinagagaan na natin ito gamit ang kuryente galing sa araw. Libre na kuryente na galing sa araw kaya’t maaari nating ibigay ang libre na tubig,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos.

“Napakalaki pa ng naging katipiran natin dito dahil bukod sa libre na ang pagkukunan ng kuryente, inilagay mismo sa taas ng irrigation canal ang ating mga solar panel, kaya hindi na po mababawasan ang lupang tinataniman ng ating mga magsasaka,” dagdag ng Pangulo.

Idinagdag ni Pangulong Marcos na nais ng pamahalaan na matiyak na ang Pilipinas ay magiging sapat sa sarili sa mga tuntunin ng mga produktong pang-agrikultura, at upang maiwasan ang isang katulad na insidente kung saan ang bansa ay nahaharap sa iba’t ibang hamon na dulot ng pandemya ng COVID-19.

“Kaya po, mula noong ako’y umupo, ito ngang sabi ko, dapat natin ayusin ang sektor ng agrikultura at alam naman po natin lahat na ang

pinakamahalagang bahagi para pagandahin ang ani ng ating mga magsasaka ay ang patubig,” pahayag ni Pangulong Marcos.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na ang agrikultura ang prayoridad na sektor ng kanyang administrasyon.

“Mabuti na lang mayroon tayong bagong teknolohiya, itong solar. Dahil kung maaalala ninyo, ‘yung ginagamit natin, mga pump, mga diesel, mahal ang krudo at mahal ang maintenance at saka maliit ‘yung mga bomba natin dati. Kaya’t ito ay napakalaking bagay,” diin ni Pangulong Marcos.

Ang SPIP ay nagpapahintulot sa mga benepisyaryo ng magsasaka na bawasan ang kanilang kuryente, o mga gastusin sa gasolina sa pamamagitan ng pagliit ng paggamit ng mga electric o fuel-powered pump, at dagdagan ang produksyon ng agrikultura na may sapat na supply ng tubig na nagmumula dito.

Ang Cabaruan SPIP ay isang proyekto ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) sa ilalim ng Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS). Ito ay itinayo mula Hulyo 6, 2023 hanggang Pebrero 2024 na may kabuuang halaga ng proyekto na P65.77 milyon.

Ito ang kauna-unahang SPIP sa bansa na itinayo sa ibabaw ng isang irigasyon, na nagpaginhawa sa mga magsasaka sa pagbibigay ng bahagi ng kanilang ari-arian. Ito rin ang pinakamalaking SPIP sa buong bansa sa mga tuntunin ng bilang ng mga solar panel sa 1,056.

Ang sistema ay maaaring makagawa ng 739,200 watts ng kapangyarihan para sa dalawang submersible pump nito, na ang bawat pump ay may kakayahang maglabas ng 12,800 gallons kada minuto.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/06/10/pbbm-binuksan-pinakamalaki-libreng-solar-powered-irrigation-sa-pinas/>

Mga libreng solar power sa irigasyon itinayo sa buong bansa

Gemma Garcia

June 11, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pinasinayaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. nitong Lunes ang Cabaruan Solar-Powered Pump Irrigation Project (SPIP), isa sa una at pinakamalaking solar-powered pump irrigation project sa bansa na layong tugunan ang tumataas na hamon ng mga gastos sa enerhiya sa paglilipat ng suplay ng tubig sa mga lupang sakahan.

Ang Cabaruan SPIP, na siyang pinakamalaking solar-powered pump irrigation project sa Pilipinas ay inaasahang magpapatubig sa 350 ektarya ng palayan, na makikinabang sa halos 237 magsasaka ng palay.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa inagurasyon ng Cabaruan SPIP sa Quirino, Isabela, sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos na ang SPIP ay isa lamang sa napakaraming proyekto ng gobyerno na naglalayong palakasin ang sektor ng agrikultura sa Pilipinas, na lubhang apektado ng natural phenomenon sa bansa.

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“Napakalaki pa ng naging katipiran natin dito dahil bukod sa libre na ang pagkukunan ng kuryente, inilagay mismo sa taas ng irrigation canal ang ating mga solar panel, kaya hindi na po mababawasan ang lupang tinataniman ng ating mga magsasaka,” dagdag ng Pangulo.

Idinagdag ni Pangulong Marcos na nais ng pamahalaan na matiyak na ang Pilipinas ay magiging sapat sa sarili sa mga tuntunin ng mga produktong pang-agrikultura, at upang maiwasan ang isang katulad na insidente kung saan ang bansa ay nahaharap sa iba’t ibang hamon na dulot ng pandemya ng COVID-19.

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Ito ang kauna-unahang SPIP sa bansa na itinayo sa ibabaw ng isang irigasyon, na nagpaghawa sa mga magsasaka sa pagbibigay ng bahagi ng kanilang ari-arian.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/06/11/2361917/mga-libreng-solar-power-sa-irigasyon-itinayo-sa-buong-bansa>

PhilGAP certify na...Biaca hydro farm ng ginang na dating OFW

ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER - Mer Layson

June 11, 2024 | 12:00am

Ngayong araw na ito ay ibabahagi ko sainyo ang very inspiring nabuhaysapaghahalaman ng isangginangna dating Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) nanagsimulalamangsa P1,000 puhunan para sakanyang Hydroponics method of farming ngayon ay may halagang P200,000 green house na. Ang akingtinutukoy ay siEdlyn Canlas, ex-OFW sabansang China, owner ng Bianca's Hydro Farm namakikitasa Barangay San Pedro, Sta Ana, Pampanga.

NagsimulasiEdlyn at ang kanyang mister nasi Albert namagtanim ng iba'tibanguri ng halaman, partkular ang iba'tibang variety ng lettuce, green leafy vegetables at fruit trees noongkasagsagan ng pandemyasa COVID-19.

Ayon kay Edlyn, nanirahansilasa 1,600 na square meter nalupangnamana ng kanyanginansiEdelina at nagtanim-tanim ng mgagulay, na noon una ay pang-ulamlamangnilahanggangmagingnegosyona.

Kalaunan ay pinasokrin ang Hydroponics method of farming sahalagang 1,000 puhunansapamamagitan ng Kratky method of farming o pagtatanimmulasastyroboxhanggangmaging NFT na ang kanilang set-up.

Ani Edlyn, mabilis ang Return of Investment (RIO) dahilsalooblamang ng 40-days ay aani ka na ng lettuce at mabilis din ibentadahilmalaki ang demand samerkadomula ng mauso ang syngupsal at vegie salad.

Sa paglipas ng taon ay unti-untina ring nakaipon ang mag-asawangEdlyn at Albert sakanilangpaghahalaman at maraminarinsilangnaitatanim at naaning lettuce, pipino, melon, sweet basil, kamatis at iba pa sakanilang hydroponics method of farming. Ang garden ng mag-asawa ay kanilangipinangalansakanilang nag-iisanganaknasi Bianca, pitongtaonggulangpalamangperotumutulongnarinsapagtatanim. Mayroon ding iba'tibangtanimnagulay ang mag-asawana conventional method of farming o direktasalupanakatanimnasinu-supervise naman ng kanyang ama nasi Eduardo at inanasiEdelinaDizon-Canlas nakapwa senior citizens na.

Organisado, maganda at luntian ang loob ng Biaca's Farm dahilnakalinya ang bawattanim. May portion ng taniman ng mani, talong, nakabalag ang mgaampalayapatola, upo at pipinohabangsa pathway naman ay sili at okra habangsapalibot ay sitaw ang nakatanim. Sa gitna ng farm ay may tanimnaisangpuno ng mangga at guapolnanagsisibingpahingahan ng pamilyakapagmainit ang sikat ng araw.

Ang greenhouse naman ay katabimismo ng bahay ng mag-asawangnadati ay kubo lang ngayon ay batona. Maganda ang bentilasyon ng greenhouse. Malinis ang loob ng farm at mayroon portion nalagayan ng basura kaya naman nakuhanila ang perfect score na 100 noongi-check at evaluate sila ng Philippine Good Agricultural Practice (PhilGAP).

Nais ng mag-asawana expand pa ang kanilang operation kaya nananawagansilasa Department of Agriculture (DA) nasana ay matulungansilanagawing learning site ng mgakabataangestudyante ang kanilangfarm. "Nawa po ang ma-tulungan kami ng DA national o DA-Region 3 at DA Santa Ana para mapalaganap pa ang kaalamansamganaismatuto ng Hydroponics method of farming," ani Edlyn at Albert.

Baka naman po magawanninyo ng pa-raan DA Engr. Gizelle Pineda, Municipal Agriculturist ng Santa Ana at Ms. Marilyn Velarde DA-SACOP Regional Office namatulungan ang Bianca's Hydro Farm namagingkatuwangninyo para salayunin ng atingPangulong Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr., namagkaroon ng food security saatingbansa. Engr. Pineda at Ms. Velarde, "Ma'am, baka naman po puwedengmaglambing."

Ngayon pa lamang ay taus-pusongnagpapasalamatna ang Magsasakang Reporter kahitanongayudangmaipagkakaloob po ninyo para sa Bianca Hydro Farm. Sa mganaispumasyal, magpaturo at magsimula ng Hydroponics method of farming sa mag-asawangEdlyn at Albert ay i-text lamang po ninyosilasa 0905-513-43-37. SabihinninyonanabasaninyosakolumnaMagsasakang Reporter ang kanilang journey of farming.

Sa Linggo, June 16, 2024 ay mapapanoodninyo ang interview kay Edlyn at tour sakanyang farm saMasaganangBuhay TV Show ng Magsasakang Reporter.

Samantala, para saiba pang tips at sikretosapagtatanim, manood at makinig ng aking TV program naMasaganangBuhaytuwingLinggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 ng umagasaOnePHSignal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapanood din sa RPTV, Facebook at Youtube. Maaaririnmanood at mag-subscribe sa ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook profile na Mer Layson at Facebook page na Ang Magsasakang Reporter, TV host Vlogger, TiktoknaMagsasakang Reporter para saiba pang kaalaman at impormasyonsapagtatanim ng iba'tibanguri ng halamansapamamagitan ng organi-kongpamamaraan. Tuwingaraw ng Martes ay regular ninyongmababasa ang akingkolumditosaPilipino Star Ngayon (PSN) ng Star Media Group. Sa mgatanong at komento ay maaarininyoakongi-text, huwag po tawag, sa 09178675197. STAY SAFE, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2024/06/11/2361899/philgap-certify-nabiaca-hydro-farm-ng-ginang-na-dating-ofw>

REMATE:

Pinakamalaking solar pump irrigation sa Pinas pinasinayaan

June 10, 2024 18:11



PINANGUNAHAN ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang inagurasyon sa Isabela Province ng pinakamalaking solar pump irrigation project (SPIP) sa bansa.

Ang SPIP ay proyekto ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) at naglalayong itaas ang agricultural production sa pamamagitan ng ‘sustainable at sufficient irrigation water.’

Binubuo ito ng 1,056 solar panels na makapagpo-produce ng 739,200 watts at dalawang submersible pumps na may output discharge capacity na 12,800 gallons kada minuto.

Maaari itong makapagbigay ng irigasyon sa 350 ektarya ng agricultural land, mapakikinabangan ng 237 magsasaka ng lalawigan.

Ang Isabela ay kilala bilang “the Rice Granary of the North” dahil sa malawak na produksyon ng bigas at mais.

Sa naging talumpati ng Pangulo, sinabi nito kung paano makikinabang ang agricultural sector lalo pa’t ang mga magsasaka sa lalawigan ay umaasa karamihan sa diesel- at gasoline-powered pumps.

“Napakalaki pa naging katipiran natin dito dahil bukod sa libre na ang [pagkukunan] ng kuryente, inilagay mismo sa taas ng irrigation canal ang ating solar panels, kaya hindi [na] po mababawasan ang lupang tinataniman ng ating mga magsasaka,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos.

Umaasa naman ang Pangulo na makatutulong ang proyekto na mapanatili ang demand ng komunidad para sa water supply sa oras na umatake ang isa pang wave ng dry spell.

“Makarating na naman ang El Niño, bumalik ang tagtuyot ay mayroon din tayong maaasahan na water supply. Hindi lamang para sa irrigation, kung hindi pati na para sa water supply ng ating mga consumer,” ang sinabi ng Punong Ehekutibo sabay sabing ang proyekto ay makadaragdag din sa pagkukuhanan ng kuryente para sa northern Luzon.

“May sobra, may sobrang production ng kuryente ito. Kaya’t ito puwedeng ibalik sa grid, puwedeng ibenta. Maaaring ipagbili ngayon ang sobra. Kapag may solar plant ka, may powerplant ka at hindi niyo ginagamit lahat ng power ay dadalin niyo, lalagay natin sa grid, mayroon tayong...may additional na kita,” ang paliwanag ng Chief Executive.

Target aniya ng kanyang administrasyon ang i-rehabilitate ang Magat Dam, isa sa pinakamalaking dam sa bansa.

“Pagandahin natin. Lagyan din natin ng ganitong solar kung babagay siya para naman i-modernize natin lahat ng ating mga facilities,” ayon pa rin sa Pangulo.

Matatagpuan sa Ramon, Isabela, ang Magat Dam ay ang pangunahing pinagmumulan ng irigasyon para sa 85,000 ektarya ng lupa ng sakahan.

Nagsu-suplay din ito ng elektrisidad sa northern Luzon grid. ***Kris Jose***

<https://remate.ph/pinakamalaking-solar-pump-irrigation-sa-pinas-pinasinayaan/>

REMATE:

DOF: Kita ng PH gov't posibleng bumagsak ng P22B sa pagtapyas sa taripa ng bigas

June 10, 2024 11:47



MANILA, Philippines- Maaaring malugi ang gobyerno ng P20 bilyon hanggang P22 bilyon sa kita nito ngayong taon sanhi ng 15% na tariff reduction sa inangkat na bigas.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto na maaaring itong ma-offset sa pamamagitan ng pagpapaba sa inflation, maaaring mauwi sa posibleng pagtapyas sa interest rates.

“Fifteen percent (tariff cut) for the year, ang tansya ko ay 20 to 22 billion,” ang sinabi ni Recto sa sidelines ng site inspection ng LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension.

“Hindi losses yan, we are reducing inflation and once we’re able to reduce inflation, hopefully we can reduce interest rates and that would create more growth,” dagdag na wika ng Kalihim.

Pinagtibay din nito na ang approval ng tariff rate cut ay short-term development plan lamang ng estado, layon nito na tiyakin na ang investments ay ginawa para itaas ang productivity ng mga magsasaka.

“We will continue to make those investments with our farmers, irrigation, mechanization, post-harvest facilities so the time will come we dont have to import our food requirements particularly rice. We are not abandoning our farmers,” ayon kay Recto.

Aniya pa, nakipagpulong siya sa mga magsasaka ukol sa pagtapyas sa taripa, ang kanila aniyang pag-uusap ay “moving forward” sa pagpapataas o pagdaragdag sa rice productivity.

“They are one of those that we are consulting how do we increase rice production. So what are there inputs, how should we spend the budget,” anang opisyal.

Maaari naman aniyang magrekomenda ang grupo ng mga magsasaka na amyendahan ang Rice Tarrification Law (RTL) para imungkahi ang isa pang P15 bilyon mula sa Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund.

“They can also suggest another P15 billion, halimbawa, because in the RTL they’re already getting more or less P20 billion in the beginning, and more or less P30 billion last year, so we can provide another 15, possibly,” wika ni Recto.

Matatandaang noong nakaraang buwan, inaprubahan ng Kamara sa ikalawang pagbasa na amyendahan ang RTL para itaas ang pondo mula sa kasalukuyang P10 bilyon sa P15 bilyon.

Samantala, nakakolekta ang gobyerno ng P16 bilyon sa taripa ng bigas ngayong taon para tulungan ang mga lokal na magsasaka. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/dof-kita-ng-ph-govt-posibleng-bumagsak-ng-p22b-sa-pagtapyas-sa-taripa-ng-bigas/>