

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY JUNE 15, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Arteche, Eastern Samar boosts seaweed production

Rice, corn output expected to decline in third quarter—PSA

'Mr. Rice' Romualdez goes to Quezon, leads 'ayuda' distribution to farmers

Gov't urged to buy P23-P25/kilo palay from farmers

Bird flu is highly lethal to some animals, but not to others. Scientists want to know why

Quezon farmers receive aid under FARM program

P100M worth of frozen meat, other agri products seized in Cavite warehouse—DA

How do cicadas make their signature sound, so eerie and amazingly loud?

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

'DA recommends raising rice tariffs to 50 percent

P100 million frozen meat seized in Cavite

Kanlaon eruption agriculture damage climbs to P151 million

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Increased rice imports may still boost farmers' competitiveness fund

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

High shipping costs dent Vietnam's rice prices

E. MANILA STANDARD:

Hungary urged to invest in agriculture, tech sectors

F. REMATE:

P68M pananim, palaisdaan napinsala sa pagsabog ng Mt. Kanlaon

Mga mangingisdang Pinoy 'di patitinag sa banta ng Tsina; proteksyon sa paglalayag hiniling

Brawner sa mga Pinoy: 'Wag matakot mangisda sa WPS

P100M frozen meat, iba pang agri products buking sa bodega sa Kabite

MANILA BULLETIN:

Arteche, Eastern Samar boosts seaweed production

BY MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO

Jun 15, 2024 05:50 PM

TACLOBAN CITY – The municipality of Arteche in Eastern Samar province is poised to become the center of seaweed production trading in Samar Island.



Mayor Roland Boie Evardone said a total of P16-million worth of projects were officially turned over on Friday, June 14, for the Eastern Samar Seaweeds Production and Trading Enterprise (ESSPATE) by the Department of Agriculture-8 and the provincial government.

The project was funded by the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP). It received a 20 percent counterpart from the provincial government, along with a contribution of P3 million from the Catumsan Crab Growers Association.

"We are expecting to increase the production of seaweeds to provide an alternative source of income for the fisherfolk," Evardone said.

He added that Arteche will serve as the consolidator of all the seaweeds that will be produced by the sub-proponent groups.

Arteche, located in the northernmost tip of Eastern Samar province, is the home of the largest mangrove forest in the province complemented by the emerging seaweed industry.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/15/arteche-eastern-samar-boosts-seaweed-production>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Rice, corn output expected to decline in third quarter—PSA

BY XANDER DAVE CEBALLOS

Jun 15, 2024 02:00 PM

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that rice and corn production is expected to decrease in the third quarter of this year.

As of May, palay or rice production is estimated to drop by 8.4 percent to 3.89 million metric tons between April and June from 4.25 million MT in the same period of 2023.

It is also lower by 0.4 percent than the previous estimates of 3.91 million MT in April.

The PSA said the area planted for rice may decrease by 7.1 percent to 892.40 million hectares, while yield per hectare may also drop by 1.4 percent to 4.39 metric tons.

It added that over 568,030 hectares or 63.7 percent of the updated standing crop has been harvested, which translated to palay output of 2.54 million MT.

Of the area remaining to be harvested, 38.6 percent were at the reproductive stage and 61.4 percent were at the maturing stage.

As of June 13, locally well-milled rice averages P48 to P55 per kilogram, while milled rice ranges from approximately P45 to P52 per kilogram, based on the price list of the Department of Agriculture.

The estimates for corn production were also lower by 19.1 percent to 1.19 million MT from the 1.47 million MT in the third quarter of last year. This is also down by 0.6 percent from the previous estimates of 1.20 million MT.

Area planted to corn during the period is estimated to have shrunk to 15 percent year on year to 347.70 thousand hectares.

The yield per hectare of corn is also seen to decline its year-earlier estimate to 3.43 metric tons or 4.7 percent from 3.60 metric tons in the same period last year.

Of the 347,700 hectares area, about 183,090 hectares or 52.7 percent of the updated standing crop has been harvested, which means 664,340 MT of corn output was recorded.

About 2.9 percent of the remaining corn crop was at the vegetative stage, 34.1 percent at the reproductive stage, and 63 percent at the maturing stage.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/15/rice-corn-output-expected-to-decline-in-third-quarter-psa>

MANILA BULLETIN:

'Mr. Rice' Romualdez goes to Quezon, leads 'ayuda' distribution to farmers

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO & AFP AND BLOOMBERG

Jun 15, 2024 10:55 AM

AT A GLANCE

- "Mr. Rice" House Speaker Martin Romualdez led on Friday afternoon, June 14 the distribution of "ayuda" or cash aid to nearly 4,000 of Quezon province's farmers-- a sector that he holds in high regard.



House Speaker Martin Romualdez attends the Agriculture Convergence Event held at the Tiaong Convention Center in Tiaong, Quezon. (Speaker's Office)

"Mr. Rice" House Speaker Martin Romualdez led on Friday afternoon, June 14 the distribution of "ayuda" or cash aid to nearly 4,000 of Quezon province's farmers-- a sector that he holds in high regard.

This took place during the Agriculture Convergence Event held at the Tiaong Convention Center in Tiaong, Quezon.

Speaker Romualdez, leader of the 300-plus-strong House of Representatives, was invited to the landmark event as guest of honor and keynote speaker by Deputy Speaker and Quezon 2nd District Rep. David "Jay-jay" Suarez.

The farmers received the cash assistance via the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program.

"Isang kagalakan na makasama kayo dito ngayon sa okasyong ito. Ang programang TUPAD na ipina-abot sa inyo ngayon ay isa lamang po sa mga inisyatibo ng administrasyon ng ating mahal na Pangulong Bongbong Marcos Jr.," Romualdez told the event's attendees.

(It is with pure joy that we have you at this event. The TUPAD that was distributed to you today was just one of the initiatives of the administration of our beloved President Bongbong Marcos Jr.)

He said the TUPAD distribution was done in recognition of the importance of the agriculture sector. He specifically pointed to the farmers' sheer efforts in making sure that Filipino families have food on their table.

"Hindi po nalalayo ang magsasakang Pilipino sa puso ng ating liderato. Kaya nga po't nabuo ang ganitong mga convergence event," noted Speaker Romualdez, President Marcos' top lieutenant in the legislature.

(Filipino farmers are close to the heart of the leadership. That's why events like this convergence event was created.)

Speaker Romualdez and Deputy Speaker Suarez also led the distribution of farm machineries to qualified farmer-beneficiaries in the province.

The Speaker underscored that the Marcos administration had more assistance in store for the farmers. He cited Quezon in particular as the country's sixth largest province and one of its top crop producers.

"Bukod dito sa programang TUPAD, na pinangangasiwaan ng DOLE, nariyan din po ang Department of Agriculture (DA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA) at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) para masiguro na may sapat na tubig ang inyong mga pananim," he said.

(Aside from TUPAD that is overseen by DOLE, the DA, NIA, and DPWH are also there to ensure that you have ample Irrigation for your crops.

Speaker Romualdez bared that his office has also coordinated with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the farmers to avail of the Farmer's Assistance for Recovery and Modernization or FARM.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/15/mr-rice-romualdez-goes-to-quezon-leads-ayuda-distribution-to-farmers>

Gov't urged to buy P23-P25/kilo palay from farmers

BY BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

Jun 15, 2024 09:01 AM

The government should reclaim its authority to regulate rice importation and domestic trade and procure palay from farmers for P23-P25 per kilo through the National Food Authority (NFA) rather than lower the tariffs on imported rice, according to a non-government organization (NGO) that advocates food security.

In a statement, the Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF) issued this statement as the group expressed alarm over the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board chaired by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. last week of the tariff reduction on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent until 2028.

IRDF's Executive Director Arze Glipo stated during a recent forum that further reduction on rice import tariffs will practically decimate the local rice industry as rice farmers have yet to recover from the massive income loss they incurred in 2019 when the Rice Tariff Liberalization law was implemented.

She added that the annual P10 billion tariff revenue earmarked for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) from the rice tariff revenue has failed to bail out farmers from bankruptcy as fertilizer and input costs have soared rapidly in the past four years while subsidies and cash assistance account only for about 10-20 percent of rising palay production costs.

To reclaim its authority to regulate rice importation, IRDF recommended that government procure palay from farmers through NFA, rice coops and local government units in order to collectively push domestic palay prices up to P23-25 per kilo. "This ensures fair compensation for farmers, sustaining their livelihoods and encouraging increased rice production and thereby ensuring stable domestic rice supply," said IRDF, whose advocacy is on rural development by promoting food security, food sovereignty, and social and environmental justice to enable the poor to have greater access to and control their resources. "Reforming while empowering the NFA to play a proactive role in price stabilization, preventing market manipulation by private traders, and ensuring that rice prices remain within reach for all Filipinos is vital," IRDF said.

Increased funding for rice farmers, at least P30 billion annually should be allocated to improve agricultural infrastructure, provide access to better farming technology, and offer training and resources to farmers.

According to agriculture consultant former professor of the UPLB, Dr. Ted Mendoza, the Philippines is projected to import 4.1 million metric tons (MMT) of rice this year, surpassing last year's import of 3.9 MMT. This trend highlights the country's increasing reliance on rice imports, raising concerns about food security and self-sufficiency.

To enhance data accuracy and transparency, Dr. Mendoza suggests that it is necessary to reassess and re-calculate rice demand. Adopting a realistic per capita consumption rate (e.g., 119 kg instead of the inflated 151.3 kg) will provide a more accurate picture of national needs. Ensuring transparency in rice trading and importation processes and addressing issues such as corruption and market manipulation are essential for fostering a more equitable and efficient agricultural sector.

Despite the ongoing El Niño phenomenon, the Department of Agriculture also claimed that rice production remains robust. However, discrepancies in data used to calculate rice demand and supply have led to overestimated import requirements.

Mendoza also recommends several measures to support sustainable agricultural practices and local farmer empowerment. He states that strengthening the role of the NFA in maintaining adequate buffer stocks, aiming for a 60-day buffer stock, is crucial to ensure food security and price stability. Promoting sustainable farming practices, encouraging the adoption of biodiverse, integrated, and organic-sustainable agriculture, and supporting small-scale and family-owned farms are essential steps towards achieving sustainability. Diversifying food sources by promoting other carbohydrate-rich crops like corn and sweet potatoes can help reduce reliance on rice and achieve food self-sufficiency.

Meantime, Dr. Rene Ofreneo, former UP Dean and President of the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) explained that arresting inflation with the reduction of rice import tariffs maybe counterproductive as “historical experience shows that agricultural import liberalization does not automatically lead to the lowering of prices of food items.

Ofreneo added that lowered tariffs benefit only the importers and traders “by keeping the prices of these items at high level and by driving downward the gate prices for domestic harvests.”

Persistent high food inflation and declining domestic food production will push the government to increase domestic and foreign borrowings in order to provide "ayuda" to the poor consumers and poor farmers, he concluded.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/15/gov-t-urged-to-buy-p23-p25-kilo-palay-from-farmers>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Bird flu is highly lethal to some animals, but not to others. Scientists want to know why

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jun 15, 2024 06:05 AM

NEW YORK (AP) — In the last two years, bird flu has been blamed for the deaths of millions of wild and domestic birds worldwide. It's killed legions of seals and sea lions, wiped out mink farms, and dispatched cats, dogs, skunks, foxes and even a polar bear.



A dead sea bird lays beside a dead sea lion on the beach at Punta Bermeja, on the Atlantic coast of the Patagonian province of Río Negro, near Viedma, Argentina, Monday, Aug. 28, 2023. Government experts suspect that bird flu is killing sea lions along Argentina's entire Atlantic coastline, causing authorities to close many beaches in order to prevent the virus from spreading further. (AP Photo/Juan Macri, File)

But it seems to have hardly touched people.

That's "a little bit of a head scratcher," although there are some likely explanations, said Richard Webby, a flu researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. It could have to do with how infection occurs or because species have differences in the microscopic docking points that flu viruses need to take root and multiply in cells, experts say.

But what keeps scientists awake at night is whether that situation will change.

"There's a lot we don't understand," said Dr. Tom Frieden, a former CDC director who currently heads Resolve to Save Lives, a not-for-profit that works to prevent epidemics. "I

think we have to get over the 'hope for the best and bury our head in the sand' approach. Because it could be really bad."

Some researchers theorize that flu viruses that originated in birds were the precursors to terrible scourges in humans, including pandemics in 1918 and 1957. Those viruses became deadly human contagions and spread in animals and people.

A number of experts think it's unlikely this virus will become a deadly global contagion, based on current evidence. But that's not a sure bet.

Just in case, U.S. health officials [are readying vaccines](#) and making other preparations. But they are holding off on bolder steps because the virus isn't causing severe disease in people and they have no strong evidence it's spreading from person to person.

The flu that's currently spreading — known as H5N1 — was first identified in birds in 1959. It didn't really begin to worry health officials until a Hong Kong outbreak in 1997 that involved severe human illnesses and deaths.

It has caused hundreds of deaths around the world, the vast majority of them involving direct contact between people and infected birds. When there was apparent spread between people, it involved very close and extended contact within households.

Like other viruses, however, the H5N1 virus has mutated over time. In the last few years, one particular strain has spread alarmingly quickly and widely.

In the United States, animal outbreaks have been reported at dozens of [dairy cow farms](#) and [more than 1,000 poultry flocks](#), according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Four human infections have been reported among the hundreds of thousands of people who work at U.S. poultry and dairy farms, though that may be an undercount.

Worldwide, doctors have detected 15 human infections caused by the widely circulating bird flu strain. The count includes one death — a 38-year-old woman in southern China in 2022 — but most people had either no symptoms or only mild ones, [according to](#) the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There's no way to know how many animals have been infected, but certain creatures seem to be getting more severe illnesses.

Take cats, for example. Flu is commonly thought of as a disease of the lungs, but the virus can attack and multiply in other parts of the body too. In cats, scientists have [found](#) the virus attacking the brain, damaging and clotting blood vessels and causing seizures and death.

Similarly gruesome deaths have been reported in other animals, including [foxes](#) that ate dead, infected birds.

The flu strain's ability to lodge in the brain and nervous system is one possible reason for "higher mortality rate in some species," said Amy Baker, an Iowa-based U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist who studies bird flu in animals. But scientists "just don't know what the properties of the virus or the properties of the host are that are leading to these differences," Baker said.

Unlike cats, cows have been largely spared. Illnesses have been reported in [less than 10% of the cows](#) in affected dairy herds, according to the USDA. Those that did develop symptoms experienced fever, lethargy, decreased appetite and increased respiratory secretions.

Cow infections largely have been concentrated in the udders of lactating animals. Researchers investigating cat deaths at dairy farms with infected cows [concluded](#) the felines caught the virus from drinking raw milk.

Researchers are still sorting out how the virus has been spreading from cow to cow, but studies suggest the main route of exposure is not the kind of airborne droplets associated with coughing and sneezing. Instead it's thought to be direct contact, perhaps through shared milking equipment or spread by the workers who milk them.

Then there's the issue of susceptibility. Flu virus need to be able to latch onto cells before they can invade them.

“If it doesn't get into a cell, nothing happens. ... The virus just swims around,” explained Juergen Richt, a researcher at Kansas State University.

But those docking spots — sialic acid receptors — aren't found uniformly throughout the body, and differ among species. One recent [study](#) documented the presence of bird flu-friendly receptors in dairy cattle mammary glands.

Eye redness has been a common symptom among people infected by the current bird flu strain. People who milk cows are eye level with the udders, and splashes are common. Some scientists also note that the human eye has receptors that the virus can bind to.

A [study](#) published this month found ferrets infected in the eyes ended up dying, as the researchers demonstrated that the virus could be as deadly entering through the eyes as through the respiratory tract.

Why didn't the same happen in the U.S. farmworkers?

Some experts wonder whether people have some level of immunity, due to past exposure to other forms of flu or to vaccinations. However, a study in which human blood samples were exposed to the virus [indicated](#) there's little to no existing immunity to this version of the virus, including among people who'd had seasonal flu shots.

A more menacing question: What happens if the virus mutates in a way that makes it more lethal to people or allows it to spread more easily?

Pigs are a concern because they are considered ideal mixing vessels for bird flu to potentially combine with other flu viruses to create something more dangerous. Baker has been studying the current strain in pigs and found it can replicate in the lungs, but the disease is very mild.

But that could all change, which is why there's a push in the scientific community to ramp up animal testing.

Frieden, of Resolve to Save Lives, noted public health experts have been worried about a deadly new flu pandemic for a long time.

“The only thing predictable about influenza is it's unpredictable,” he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/15/bird-flu-is-highly-lethal-to-some-animals-but-not-to-others-scientists-want-to-know-why>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Quezon farmers receive aid under FARM program

BY DANNY ESTACIO

Jun 14, 2024 09:19 PM

TIAONG, Quezon – House Speaker Martin Romualdez turned over agricultural inputs and farm equipment that will benefit 3,000 farmers during the launching of the Farmers Assistance for Recovery and Modernization program in the second district of this province on Friday, June 14, at the Tiaong Convention Center here.



HOUSE Speaker Martin Romualdez, Deputy Speaker David C. Suarez, Alona party-list Rep. Anna V. Suarez, and Mayor Vincent Arjay Mea grace the launching of the Farmers Assistance for Recovery and Modernization program on June 14 at the Tiaong Convention Center in Tiaong, Quezon. (Danny Estacio)

Romualdez was assisted by House Deputy Speaker David C. Suarez, Alona party-list Rep. Anna V. Suarez, and Tiaong Mayor Vincent Arjay Mea.

The program was first launched in Leyte followed by the Quezon second district, composed of Sariaya, Candelaria, Tiaong, Dolores, and San Antonio towns and Lucena City.

Farmers also received assistance under the Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating mga Displaced Workers program in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Eight-hundred college scholars received their P5,000 stipend each during the launching.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/14/quezon-farmers-receive-aid-under-farm-program>

MANILA BULLETIN:

P100M worth of frozen meat, other agri products seized in Cavite warehouse—DA

BY JEL SANTOS

Jun 14, 2024 02:27 PM

At least P100 million worth of frozen meat and other agricultural commodities were seized during a joint operation conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) in a storage facility in Kawit, Cavite recently, the DA bared on Friday, June 14.

In a statement, the agriculture department said the storage facility was leased by Vigour Global Logistic Corp.

Seized from the Cavite storage facility during the joint operation on May 31 were 98,000 kilograms of frozen meat and other agricultural products.

“The composite team discovered that the warehouse leased by Vigour Global had been converted into cold storage facilities to conceal a large volume of frozen, regulated meat products, and other commodities,” the agency stated.

According to a report from the DA Inspectorate and Enforcement Office, ten cold storage facilities were discovered hidden behind a false wall and blocked by a van.

After dismantling the wall, the DA stated that the composite team uncovered cold storage rooms filled with various items, including assorted meatballs, shabu-shabu ingredients, beef and pork, chicken wings, siomai, assorted fish, pork belly, boneless pork, beef, and Peking ducks.

During an inspection by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the National Meat Inspection Service, it was found that some frozen food products were unfit for human consumption, in violation of Republic Act No. 10611, also known as the Food Safety Act of 2013.

“This act could be construed as a breach of revenue laws or an attempt to evade tax payments, dues, and other fees,” the DA said.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. stated that this should serve as a stern warning to unscrupulous traders, emphasizing that efforts to crack down on these illicit activities will not cease.

“We want to ensure that our farmers are not disadvantaged by these unfair and often illegal trade practices,” he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/14/p100-m-worth-of-frozen-meat-other-agri-products-seized-in-cavite-warehouse-da>

MANILA BULLETIN:

How do cicadas make their signature sound, so eerie and amazingly loud?

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jun 15, 2024 12:59 PM



Two adult periodical cicadas mate at Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, in Springfield, Ill. The most noticeable part of the cicada invasion blanketing the central United States is the sound. The songs — only from males — are mating calls. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

WHEATON, Ill. (AP) — The most noticeable part of the cicada invasion blanketing the central United States is the sound — an eerie, amazingly loud song that gets in a person's ears and won't let much else in.

"It's beautiful chaos," said Rebecca Schmidt, a U.S. Department of Agriculture research entomologist. "It does make this kind of symphony."

The songs — only from males — are mating calls. Each periodical cicada species has its own distinct song, but two stand out: those of the orange-striped decims or pharaoh cicadas, and the cassini cicada, which is smaller and has no orange stripes on its belly.

ADVERTISEMENT

"The one we're hearing the most is the cassini, a buzzy trail that goes up in a wave and is coming back down," Jennifer Ryzdewski, an insect ecologist at DuPage County Forest Preserve, said in an interview in a clearing near a bunch of trees.

"And every time it goes up in a wave and comes back down, you'll see in the treetops a bunch of them start flying out, so they'll make a call and then jump to a new branch and make the call again. So it's actually like different groups that are coming in waves."

The other one is a "constant whirring hum, which is the pharaoh's staccato" and every now and then an individual call that sounds like "eee-ooo" can be heard, she said. Others have said the sound is more like "fffaaro, fffaaro."

The sound comes from a white membrane on the male's midsection that is made to vibrate, Schmidt and Rydzewski said. The area beneath it acts like an echo chamber.

"It's a lot of the same sort of physics as an instrument," Schmidt said. "So if you think about like a drum, you can have a pretty small drum that is being hit by somebody that's not hitting it that hard, and it still makes quite a lot of noise."

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/15/how-do-cicadas-make-their-signature-sound-so-eerie-and-amazingly-loud>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

‘DA recommends raising rice tariffs to 50 percent

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

June 15, 2024 | 12:00am



Workers arrange sacks of National Food Authority (NFA) palay or unmilled rice inside their warehouse in Balagtas, Bulacan on May 22, 2024.

STAR / Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) earlier recommended raising the tariff on rice to 50 percent, in stark contrast to the reduction pushed by some of the country’s economic managers.

Agriculture Undersecretary Asis Perez disclosed this during a Senate hearing on Thursday.

He said it was not the DA that recommended the reduction of the present 35 percent tariff on rice imports to 15 percent.

Perez, nonetheless, noted that the DA was consulted regarding the rice tariff reduction.

“Our recommendation is very different (from the 15 percent tariff). Our recommendation at the time – during the discussions at the CTRM (Committee on Tariff and Related Matters) – was to bring (the rice tariffs) back to 50 percent,” he told the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform during a hearing on the proposed amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law.

The CTRM is a Cabinet-level inter-agency committee that tackles matters relating to tariffs. It submits its recommendations to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) board, which is chaired by President Marcos.

The CTRM is chaired by the Trade and Industry Secretary and co-chaired by the NEDA Secretary.

Perez disclosed the information after he was asked by Sen. Imee Marcos on where the DA sided on the recent issue of the rice tariff reduction.

“So what happened is the opposite: the 50 percent (tariff) became 15 percent,” Marcos said.

The reduction of rice tariffs was part of the country’s comprehensive tariff program for 2024 to 2028, which was approved by the NEDA board last June 3.

During the same hearing, Roehlano Briones, senior research fellow at Philippine Institute Development Studies, said the rice tariff cut approved by the NEDA board would result in P9.4 billion in government revenue losses.

The projected drop in rice prices would be about P7.6 per kilogram as a result of the expected ballooning in rice imports due to more attractive tariff rates, Briones said. Briones’ estimates for the rice price decline aligns with the earlier estimate of as much as P7 per kilogram drop made by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Furthermore, the farm gate price of palay is projected to drop by P3.56 per kilogram, he added.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/06/15/2363085/da-recommends-raising-rice-tariffs-50-percent>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

P100 million frozen meat seized in Cavite

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

June 15, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa (2nd from the left) leads the inspection of 10 illegal cold storage facilities containing smuggled frozen meat and agricultural products in Kawit, Cavite on Friday (June 14, 2024). The seizure of the smuggled products was conducted in collaboration with the Bureau of Customs.

Contributed photo / pna.gov.ph

MANILA, Philippines — Frozen meat and other agricultural products have been seized at a warehouse in Kawit, Cavite, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported yesterday.

The DA and Bureau of Customs conducted a raid on May 31 and sealed the warehouse leased by Vigour Global Logistic Corp. on June 3.

DA Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said it was discovered that the warehouse had been converted into a cold storage facilities and stocked with, beef and pork products, assorted fish as well as Peking duck.

In a post-operation report to Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, the DA inspectorate and enforcement office said 10 cold storage facilities were found hidden behind a fake wall and blocked by a van at the warehouse.

“This should serve a stern warning to unscrupulous traders that we will not stop in going after these illicit activities,” Tiu Laurel said. ”We want to ensure that our farmers are not disadvantaged by these unfair and often illegal trade practices.”

Inspection conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry and National Meat Inspection Service showed that some of the frozen food are not fit for human consumption.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/06/15/2363002/p100-million-frozen-meat-seized-cavite>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Kanlaon eruption agriculture damage climbs to P151 million

[Gilbert Bayoran](#), [Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

June 15, 2024 | 12:00am



A resident holding an umbrella stands in a lot near their house at the foot of Mount Kanlaon volcano in a village in La Castellana, Negros Occidental province, central Philippines on June 4, 2024, a day after the volcano erupted.

AFP / Ferdinand Edralin

MANILA, Philippines — Damage to the agriculture sector due to the eruption of Kanlaon Volcano has increased to P151 million, according to the Department of Agriculture.

DA Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said 2,341 farmers in Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental were affected, with production loss of 5,583 metric tons.

At least 1,061 plantations were destroyed while 534 hectares were affected by ashfall and lahar.

Losses in Negros Oriental were estimated at P139.6 million and P11.3 million in Negros Occidental.

Damage to high-value crops was recorded at P101.2 million; rice, P47 million; livestock and poultry, P2.2 million, and corn, P562,312.

The DA said its regional field offices are validating the impact of Kanlaon Volcano's unrest on the agriculture and fisheries sectors.

"Best possible efforts are being undertaken to carry out assistance and appropriate interventions for affected farmers and fisherfolk," the DA said.

It said a loan of P25,000 is available under the Survival and Recovery program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council.

Meanwhile, 783 families or 2,922 residents of four barangays in La Castellana, Negros Occidental may stay longer in evacuation centers.

Mayor Alme Rhummyla Mangilimutan said residents of Barangays Biak na Bato, Masulog, Cabagna-an and Sagang, whose houses were within the four-kilometer danger zone, were not given clearance to return to their homes.

On Wednesday, 488 families from Barangay Mansalanao were allowed to return to their homes.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology recorded 10 volcanic quakes yesterday.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/06/15/2363004/kanlaon-eruption-agriculture-damage-climbs-p151-million>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Increased rice imports may still boost farmers' competitiveness fund

By: [Mariedel Irish U. Catilogo](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 09:35 AM June 15, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — Greater importation of milled rice encouraged by tariff cuts can offset expected forgone revenues, auguring well for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) which is funded by the tariff revenues, according to Finance Secretary Ralph Recto.

“That’s a possibility. However, what is important is to reduce rice prices to benefit consumers, especially low-income Filipinos,” Recto said in a text message on Friday.

In a report released by the US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service, the Philippines’ rice imports are expected to reach 4.6 million metric tons (MT) for the year, making the country the largest rice importer in the world.

The 2024 estimate is higher by 27 percent from the 3.6 MT imported rice last year.

Earlier this week, Recto estimated revenue losses from the rice tariff cut could reach P22 billion.

With the projected increase in the volume of rice importation, Recto said that tariff revenues from the tariff would be used to boost rice production.

Revenue loss from tariff cuts

“The government is committed to reducing rice imports by increasing rice production by investing in irrigation, post-harvest facilities, and others,” he said.

Tariff collections from imported rice are directed into the RCEF, as required by Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

The National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board last week agreed to reduce tariff rates of rice imports to 15 percent from 35 percent. President Marcos is set to issue an executive order to implement such a reduction.

Asked whether he expects any delays related to the EO, Recto emphasized that the government should act quickly to bring down inflation and help farmers increase their productivity.

Inflation in May slightly quickened by 3.9 percent from 3.8 percent in April, while rice inflation moved at a slower pace at 23 percent from 23.9 percent.

For 2024, the Department of Agriculture's budget stood at P208.58 billion, however, the agency seeks to double its allocation amounting to P513.81 billion in 2025. **INQ**

<https://business.inquirer.net/464010/increased-rice-imports-may-still-boost-farmers-competitiveness-fund>

BUSINESS WORLD:

High shipping costs dent Vietnam's rice prices

June 14, 2024 | 12:09 pm



Workers load sacks of flour in a delivery truck in Manila, July 11, 2022. — PHILIPPINE STAR/
MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

Rice export prices from Vietnam this week dipped slightly on rising shipping costs, while prices of rice exported from other major Asian hubs held steady.

Vietnam's 5% broken rice prices were offered at \$570-\$575 per metric ton on Thursday, down from a range of \$575-\$580 a week ago, traders said.

Rising shipping cost, both domestically and internationally, is impacting rice shipments, a trader based in Ho Chi Minh City said, without elaborating.

Another trader in the city said the Philippines' move to lower its import tariff on rice will boost shipments of Vietnamese rice. For years, the Philippines has been Vietnam's largest rice export market.

Vietnam's rice exports in May fell 14.6% from April to 856,000 tons, according to the government's customs data. For the first five months of this year, the country's rice exports rose 11.2% from a year earlier to 4.02 million tons.

Top exporter India's 5% broken parboiled variety was quoted at \$539-\$546 per ton this week, unchanged from the last week.

"African buyers are continuously making purchases. The depreciation of the rupee is allowing exporters to absorb rising local prices because of falling supplies," a Mumbai-based trader said.

Thailand's 5% broken rice was quoted at \$630 per ton, unchanged from last week.

Demand continues to come in from regular customers in Indonesia and the Philippines, said a Bangkok-based trader, adding that new demand and additional crops would come in July.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh plans to import 400,000 tons of rice in 2024 as the government struggles to control staple grain prices for the nation, food secretary Ismail Hossain said. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/14/601897/high-shipping-costs-dent-vietnams-rice-prices/>

Hungary urged to invest in agriculture, tech sectors

By Rey E. Requejo

June 14, 2024, 10:30 pm

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has urged Hungary to invest in the Philippines, particularly in the fields of agriculture, information and communications technology (ICT), and digital and water technologies.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo made the call after holding a bilateral talk with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto on Thursday.

Manalo also urged his counterpart to explore investment possibilities on renewable energy, green metals, electric vehicle manufacturing, and smart and high-tech light manufacturing.

In his remarks, Manalo also thanked Hungary for its support for the resumption of a free trade agreement (FTA) between the Philippines and the European Union (EU).

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314459419/dfa-pitches-agriculture-technology-sectors-as-potential-areas-of-investments-for-hungary.html>

REMATE:

P68M pananim, palaisdaan napinsala sa pagsabog ng Mt. Kanlaon

June 15, 2024 15:48



BACOLOD CITY- Naapektuhan ang mga magsasaka sa dalawang lungsod at isang bayan sa lalawigan ng Negros Occidental sa mahigit P68 milyong halaga ng pinsala sa pananim at palaisdaan dahil sa pagsabog ng Mt. Kanlaon nitong buwan, batay sa ulat mula sa provincial government.

Sinabi ni Dina Genzola, officer in charge ng Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, naapektuhan ng kalamidad ang kabuhayan ng 885 magsasaka na nagtatanim sa 504.4 ektarya ng lupain sa mga lungsod ng Bago at La Carlota at bayan ng La Castellana.

Pumalo naman ang pinsala sa fishponds sa P595,000, ayon sa mg ulat.

Sinabi ni La Castellana Mayor Rhummyla Nicor-Mangilimutan na kailangan ng tulong ng mga magsasaka sa rehabilitasyon ng kanilang lupang taniman.

“Food needs at evacuation centers can be addressed now but the rehabilitation of our farmers’ livelihood will be long-term. We are hoping the Kanlaon volcano’s alert level 2 (moderate level of volcanic unrest) goes down to [alert level] 1 (low level of volcanic unrest),” anang alkalde.

Base kay Nicor-Mangilimutan, ang mga residenteng nananatili sa evacuation centers ay mula sa lahar-prone areas at naninirahan sa mga komunidad na saklaw ng 4-kilometer danger zone ng bulkan.

Iniulat ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council ang 2,922 evacuees sa La Castellana evacuation centers hanggang nitong Hunyo 13.

Magbibigay naman ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng equipment upang ma-monitor ang air at water quality sa mga lugar na malapit sa Mt. Kanlaon kasunod ng pagputok nito noong Hunyo 3.

Nagtungo si Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga sa Negros noong Huwebes upang makita kung paano inaasistihan ng kanyang departamento ang government agencies na rumeresponde sa epekto ng pasabog.

“What we are trying to do is work very closely with the province in order to identify where it would be best to position the [scientific] instruments so that they can actually be effective in terms of decision-making,” wika ni Yulo-Loyzaga.

“The issue here is the lahar is mobilizing wherever the waterways will allow it to flow. Whether that impacts the communities, agriculture, or the fish in the river, that will be the way they will determine where the instruments should be placed,” patuloy niya.

Handa rin ang DENR na suportahan ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology sa delineation ng danger zone ng Mt. Kanlaon.

“What we are here to do is to support in any way, perhaps in mapping support. Every time there is lahar, the configuration changes,” sabi pa ng opisyal. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/p68m-pananim-palaisdaan-napinsala-sa-pagsabog-ng-mt-kanlaon/>

REMATE:

Mga mangingisdang Pinoy ‘di patitinag sa banta ng Tsina; proteksyon sa paglalayag hiniling

June 15, 2024 12:20



MANILA, Philippines- Ipagpapatuloy ng mga mangingisdang Pilipino sa Zambales ang kanilang pangangisda sa Bajo de Masinloc sa West Philippine Sea sa kabila ng polisiya ng China na arestuhin ang sinumang manghihimasok sa inaangkin nitong teritoryo simula ngayong Hunyo 15. “Iniisip po namin ‘yun, yung takot, pero mas nangingibabaw po sa amin kasi, ‘yung hanapbuhay mas importante po kasi sa amin eh,” pahayag ni Henrelito Empoc, tagapagsalita ng Bigkis ng Mangingisda Federation, sa isang panayam.

“Walang karapatan sila na magpatupad ng ganyang batas dahil atin po ang teritoryo na ‘yan. Atin po ang karagatan na ‘yan. Atin po ang West Philippine Sea na nasasakop ng EEZ, exclusive economic zone,” dagdag niya.

Binibigyang-awtoridad ng bagong polisiya na iditine ng China Coast Guard ang “trespassers” hanggang 60 araw nang walang paglilitis, ayon sa ulat ng South China Morning Post, batay sa regulatory document ng Beijing.

Pinagtibay ng 2016 arbitration ruling ang saklaw ng exclusive economic zone ng Pilipinas sa historical claims China sa pinag-aagawang South China Sea sa ilalim ng UNCLOS. Subalit, hindi kinikilala ng China ang desisyon.

Bagama’t hindi magpapatnag ang mga mangingisda, humingi sila ng proteksyon sa pamahalaan mula sa Chinese militia.

“Bigyan nila ng pansin ang mga maliliit na mangingisda ng West Philippine Sea na sana bigyan naman nila ng proteksyon,” wika ni Empoc.

I“Kung mayroon mang trespasser dito na hindi sumusunod sa international law and keeps on violating the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, that’s only the Chinese Coast Guard and that’s only the Chinese maritime militia,” pahayag naman ni Commodore Jay Tarriela, PCG spokesperson for the WPS, sa hiwalay na ulat.

Ayon sa pinakabagong monitoring ng PCG sa Bajo de Masinloc noong Huwebes, dalawang China Coast Guard vessels at limang Chinese maritime militia vessels ang namataan.

Hinihingi pa ang komento ng panig ng China ukol dito. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/mga-mangingisdang-pinoy-di-patitinag-sa-banta-ng-tsina-proteksyon-sa-paglalayag-hiniling/>

REMATE:

Brawner sa mga Pinoy: ‘Wag matakot mangisda sa WPS

June 15, 2024 09:00



MANILA, Philippines- Sa gitna ng bagong regulasyon ng China na nagbibigay ng kapangyarihan sa coast guard nito na iditene ang mga dayuhang maaakusahan ng panghihimasok sa West Philippine Sea, sinabi ni Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner Jr. sa mga Pilipino na patuloy na mangisda sa lugar.

Sinabi ni Brawner na poprotektahan ng militar, katuwang ang maritime law enforcement agencies, ang mga mangingisdang Pilipino sa pagpapairal ng Beijing ng anti-trespassing policy nito ngayong Sabado, Hunyo 15.

Nanindigan ang AFP chief na may karapatan ang mga Pilipinong mangisda sa katubigan na saklaw ng exclusive economic zone ng Pilipinas.

“Kasama natin dito ang PCG, PNP, BFAR and other agencies that are concerned. Kasama rin natin dito hindi lang ang uniformed personnel... and especially ang mga mangingisda natin. Sila ang apektado. Tayong lahat ay apektado by this, so we really have to work together. Dapat isang bansa tayo na nag-aaddress ng ganitong problema,” giit ni Brawner nitong Biyernes.

“Ganun ang mensahe natin sa ating mga mangingisda. Sinabi namin sa kanila for them not to be afraid, but to just go ahead with their normal activities na mangisda sa ating EEZ. Atin itong EEZ. We have the right to exploit the resources in the area,” dagdag ng opisyal.

“Dapat hindi matakot ang ating mga mangingisda. Nandiyan po ang inyong AFP, ang ating Philippine Navy, pati na ang PCG. Marami tayong pinag-uusapan ngayon na mga hakbangin na gagawin in order for us to protect our fishermen,” aniya pa.

Sa ilalim ng kontrobersyal na regulasyon ng China, ang mga dayuhang maaakusahan ng ilegal na pagpasok sa “Chinese waters” ay maaaring iditene hanggang 60 araw nang walang paglilitis. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/brawner-sa-mga-pinoy-wag-matakot-mangisda-sa-wps/>

REMATE:

P100M frozen meat, iba pang agri products buking sa bodega sa Kabite

June 14, 2024 17:33

MANILA, Philippines- Hindi bababa sa P100 milyong halaga ng frozen meat at iba pang agricultural commodities ang nakumpiska sa joint operation na isinagawa ng Department of Agriculture (DA) at Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa isang storage facility sa Kawit, Cavite kamakailan, ayon sa DA nitong Biyernes.

Sinabi ng agriculture department na inuupahan ang storage facility ng Vigour Global Logistic Corp.

Nasabat mula sa Cavite storage facility sa nasabing joint operation noong Mayo 31 ang 98,000 kilo ng frozen meat at iba pang agricultural products.

“The composite team discovered that the warehouse leased by Vigour Global had been converted into cold storage facilities to conceal a large volume of frozen, regulated meat products, and other commodities,” anang ahensya.

Batay sa ulat mula sa DA Inspectorate and Enforcement Office, 10 cold storage facilities ang nadiskubrenag nagtatago sa likod ng pekeng pader na hinarangan ng isang van.

Matapos sirain ang pader, sinabi ng DA na natuklasan ng composite team ang cold storage rooms na puno ng iba't ibang items, kabilang ang assorted meatballs, shabu-shabu ingredients, beef at pork, chicken wings, siomai, assorted fish, pork belly, boneless pork, beef, at Peking ducks.

Sa inspeksyon ng Bureau of Animal Industry at ng National Meat Inspection Service, napa-alamang ilang frozen food products ang hindi pwedeng kainin, sa paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10611, kilala rin bilang Food Safety Act of 2013.

“This act could be construed as a breach of revenue laws or an attempt to evade tax payments, dues, and other fees,” pahayag ng DA.

Sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na dapat itong magsilbing babala sa tiwaling traders, at binigyang-diin na patuloy ang pagsisikap na tugisin ang nasabing ilegal na aktibidad.

“We want to ensure that our farmers are not disadvantaged by these unfair and often illegal trade practices,” wika ng opisyal. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/p100m-frozen-meat-iba-pang-agri-products-buking-sa-bodega-sa-kabite/>