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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Laurel orders temporary ban of goats from US after dozens of imported goats culled due to Q fever**

**BY AARON RECUENCO**

Jun 21, 2024 02:45 PM

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More than five dozen goats imported from the United States have been culled after detecting Q fever among some of the animals at a government breeding station in Marinduque, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) said on Friday, June 21.

Q fever is a zoonotic disease caused by *Coxiella burnetii*, as described by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Infected animals often show no signs of the disease, which can be transmitted to humans through birth products, urine, feces, and milk.

In a statement, BAI said the goats were bought for a dispersal program to farmers after conducting PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests on blood samples from suspected cases, with results of confirmatory tests released late Wednesday.

The confirmatory test resulted in the order of Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. to order the immediate condemnation of all infected goats and animals exposed to the infected ruminants; the tracing of potentially infected animals; and a temporary ban on the importation of goats from the U.S. He also ordered the preventive suspension of certain BAI personnel pending investigation, a review of BAI's quarantine and disease control protocols, and potential blacklisting of the importer of the infected goats.

"This is a very serious matter. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the health of Filipinos is not compromised. It is imperative that we act immediately and decisively to eradicate this disease that poses serious threats to both animals and humans," Laurel said.

Two dozen imported goats left in the quarantine facility in Pampanga were also condemned even before conducting tests on the ruminants to eliminate any possible source of Q fever infection. Other animals within the Marinduque breeding stations were also culled.

For his part, BAI-National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division Chief Dr. Christian P. Daquigan said the bureau is "actively addressing" the cases in Marinduque.

"BAI is conducting extensive surveillance in the affected areas to identify and manage any new cases promptly. Additionally, BAI is collaborating with the Local Government Unit for further actions within Marinduque," said Daquigan. "To ensure accurate and timely testing of suspected cases, BAI has directed the procurement of additional PCR reagents for emerging and re-emerging animal diseases. BAI assures the public that the bureau is committed to mitigating the spread of Q Fever. Our top priority is the health and safety of both animals and humans. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and take all necessary actions to control the cases," he added. Daquigan also assured the municipality of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque that all necessary assistance to contain and eliminate the infection will be provided by the agency. The stringent measures implemented by the BAI and the DA underscore the government's commitment to safeguarding public health and preventing the spread of infectious diseases in both animals and humans," he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/21/laurel-orders-temporary-ban-of-goats-from-us-after-dozens-of-imported-goats-culled-due-to-q-fever>

# What is Q fever?

**BY ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

Jun 21, 2024 06:22 PM

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Photo from Unsplash

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry on Friday, June 21, confirmed the Philippines' first case of human-transmissible Q fever.

The infection was detected in some goats imported from the United States, which were brought to a government breeding farm in Marinduque and a quarantine facility in Pampanga.

But what is Q fever and how does it affect humans?

DOH explained that Q fever, also known as "query fever," is caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*.

It is usually a mild zoonotic disease found in animals, which can be transmitted to humans, especially among farmers and animal handlers who have frequent contact with infected animals.

DOH said symptoms in humans usually appear within two to three weeks after exposure and are generally "non-specific and mild."

Symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, cough, nausea, and vomiting.

It noted that Q fever can be effectively treated with antibiotics that are readily available in the country.

DOH advised the public to avoid contact with animals suspected to have Q fever.

In case of suspected exposure, individuals are urged to promptly consult with the nearest hospital or clinic.

While "human to human transmission is rare," DOH assured that a thorough assessment of the risks to human health is currently underway.

DOH also said it is coordinating with the Department of Agriculture to control the spread of Q fever.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/21/what-is-q-fever>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Israel committed to a better world — envoy**

**BY JOSEPH PEDRAJAS**

Jun 21, 2024 06:13 PM

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Israel has vowed to make efforts to contribute to having a better world despite the rise of anti-semitism across the globe, its envoy in Manila has said.

During the celebration of the 76th Israeli Independence Day on Thursday night, Israeli Ambassador Ilan Fluss said the Jewish state is now committed more than ever "to rebuilding and contributing to a better world."

Its current war with Hamas militants would prevent Israel from doing so, citing the "numerous wars and countless terror attacks" it survived before.

"For the first time in 76 years, Israel's Independence Day is overshadowed by the turmoil of war. Our celebration is further dampened by a disturbing global surge in antisemitism," he said.

But he added that Israel's resolve "remains unshaken" and that Israel will no longer focus on atrocities that happened on October 7.

"We have chosen to highlight a message of resilience, heroism, and our unwavering determination to rebuild and revive our communities," he said.

Fluss cited various efforts that Israel is doing in Manila to contribute to a better world.

One of which is its exploration with Manila on new initiatives in the areas of water, agriculture and food security, support for girls' victims of human trafficking, the Holocaust education program with the Department of Education, and more.

"Furthermore, Israel continues to offer opportunities to Filipinos such as training programs of MASHAV - Israel's agency for international development cooperation and an agriculture internship program where 600 young Filipinos are trained in modern farming for 11 months," he said.

"Israel remains a reliable provider of high-quality defense platforms and technologies that contribute to the peace and security of the Philippines," he added.

Fluss said Israel is also committed to working with both the public and private sectors on innovation that is based on the Israeli model.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/21/israel-committed-to-a-better-world-envoy>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# PhilRice: Use drones to boost rice yield

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

June 22, 2024 | 12:00am



Farmers harvest rice using sickles in Bocaue, Bulacan on January 2, 2024.

STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) yesterday asked farmers to use drone technology to boost rice yields and lower production costs.

PhilRice and the International Rice Research Institute have launched the “Drones4Rice” project that aims to standardize protocols for drone applications of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for rice production in the Philippines.

Drones4Rice lead Dr. Jasper Tallada said the utilization of drones in rice farming is rising and it can revolutionize the production of the staple.

It is also said that drones can optimize the application of inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, which reduces costs.

The project lead also said that using drones in rice planting could promote gender inclusivity as women can get into rice farming by using drones for fertilizer application and seeding rice.

Tallada said the project also aims to establish drone service providers (DSPs) who can rent out or lease their drones to other farmers.

He claims that labor costs would be slashed by 50 percent as DSPs can optimize rice farming operations. He also noted that it takes a farmer half a day or a day to seed a hectare compared to just 20 minutes when using drones.

According to Tallada, the use of drones in rice production was also included in a Department of Agriculture (DA) directive on the use of the P22.903-billion financial assistance intended for fertilizers through discount vouchers and e-wallets, like the interventions monitoring card.

The Drones4Rice project, which is funded by the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research, aims to reduce production cost and need for manual labor and attract the youth to farming.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/22/2364683/philrice-use-drones-boost-rice-yield>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# President Marcos formalizes rice tariff cut through EO 62

[Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas](#), [Ramon Efren Lazaro](#), [Helen Flores](#), [Bella Cariaso](#) -

The Philippine Star

June 22, 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 government has lowered the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent until 2028, which President Marcos’ economic managers believe could bring down the price of the staple to P29 a kilo. Executive Order (EO) 62, signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin by the authority of the President on June 20, modified the nomenclature and rates of import duty on various products, including rice, for the period 2024-2028.

The levy on rice, which covers both in-quota and out-quota rates, is subject to review every four months based on the EO.

“As may be necessary and/or as may be directed by the President, the comprehensive and/or specific MFN (Most Favored Nation) tariff listed...shall be subject to periodic review,” the order read.

At a Palace briefing earlier this month, Socio-economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the move was seen to bring down the price of rice to P29 a kilo.



“The Department of Agriculture (DA) is aiming for a reduction (to) P29 per kilo, at least for the poor, because we will complement this tariff reduction with the direct subsidies to the poor and vulnerable so that at least they could access the food,” Balisacan said.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported a substantial decrease in the overall rice inflation last month from 23.9 percent in April to 23 percent in May as well as a slight decrease in its retail prices.

According to the DA price watch, well-milled rice sold in public markets during the last day of May stood at P48 to P55 per kilo, while regular milled rice was priced around P45 to P52 per kilo.

Marcos’ campaign promise is to reduce the price of rice to P20 a kilo.

Under the same EO, Marcos extended the effectivity of the lower rates on pork, mechanically deboned meat (MDM) of poultry and corn.

Pork imports have an in-quota tariff of 15 percent and out-quota rate of 25 percent, while the tariff on poultry MDM would stay at five percent until 2028.

The tariff rates on corn would remain at five percent for in-quota shipments and 15 percent for out-quota volume.

Under EO 62, the tariff rates on rice, pork, poultry MDM and corn would automatically revert to their original higher rates by Jan. 1, 2029.

Furthermore, Marcos approved the higher tariff on imported salt of nine percent from its present rate of one percent. However, the higher rate shall take effect once Republic Act 11985 or the Philippine Salt Industry Development Act becomes effective. The law is still awaiting its implementing rules and regulations.

However, Sen. Imee Marcos has noted that only rice exporters are benefitting from the reduced tariff on imported rice and not the Filipino rice consumers.

The senator expressed concern that rice prices in the market do not automatically decrease with the reduction in tariffs on imported rice. Exporters are taking advantage of the high demand in the country, leading to higher selling prices of rice in the Philippines.

The Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura described EO 62 as a “complete reversal” of the country’s “aspiration for food self-sufficiency” and a “catastrophe” for farmers.

Meanwhile, former agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor said that a temporary restraining order (TRO) will be filed against Executive Order 62 on the reduced tariff on imported rice before the Supreme Court after President Marcos formally signed the EO implementing the 15 percent tariff on outsourced grains.

He added that among the grounds to be raised on the TRO include the failure to follow legal process amid the lack of consultations of the Tariff Commission and the constitutionality of EO 62.

He said that farmers' groups are aiming to file the TRO next week.

He warned that the reduced tariff on imported rice will result in the drop in the farmgate price of palay between P3 and P4 per kilo.

“The fullest impact will be felt in the last quarter as it is the main harvest. So, in terms of the total potential losses to rice farmers, on a yearly basis, it is P80 billion, if you compute it per semester, it is P40 billion,” he added.

Aside from the P80 billion in losses of farmers, at least P28-billion annual revenues will be lost because of the reduced tariff.

Montemayor said that protest actions will also be staged to oppose EO 62.

## **Palay price**

The farmgate price of palay dropped to as low as P17 per kilo amid the limited procurement of the National Food Authority (NFA), according to the farmers' group Federation of Free Farmers (FFF).

FFF national manager Raul Montemayor cited reports the group received from farmers that the palay prices in parts of Central Luzon dipped to P17 to 18 per kilo.

Dry and clean palay ranged between 23 and P30 per kilo, depending on the prevailing market price in a given province.

Previously, the NFA bought dry and clean palay for P19 to P23 per kilogram.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/22/2364687/president-marcos-formalizes-rice-tariff-cut-through-eo-62>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# **BAI confirms Philippines first Q fever case**

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

June 22, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has confirmed the country's first case of Q fever disease from samples taken from goats imported from the United States.

The BAI announced yesterday that the blood samples collected from some goats imported by the government and a private entity were positive for Q fever – a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted to humans.

Because of the confirmation, authorities culled all 94 imported goats held in two farms – one each in Pampanga and Marinduque – to prevent the spread of the disease.

There is no confirmed human case in the country of Q fever, also known as query fever, yet.

Agriculture Asst. Sec. Arnel de Mesa said people infected with Q fever show flu-like symptoms, such as body aches and headaches.

Authorities assured the public that goat meat or chevon in the country remains safe for consumption as long as they are properly cooked. They also said that goat milk must be pasteurized first before drinking.

The BAI conducted a series of laboratory and confirmatory tests on blood samples from the suspected goats, which all yielded positive for Q fever. The results of the final confirmatory tests came out late Wednesday.

Of the total imported goats, 66 were contracted by the BAI for its dispersal program to farmers. The remaining 28 were brought in by a private entity.

The BAI allocated P10 million for the procurement of 66 Anglo-Nubian goats with the bidding process conducted in mid-October, weeks before Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. was appointed to head the agriculture department.

Aside from the immediate depopulation of the goats, Tiu Laurel ordered the tracing of all potentially infected animals as well as the imposition of a temporary import ban on all goats from the US.

Tiu Laurel also formed a team to investigate possible irregularities in the government's importation and quarantine protocols.

He likewise ordered the preventive suspension of some BAI officials involved in the procurement pending the results of the investigation.

“This is a very serious matter. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the health of Filipinos is not compromised,” Tiu Laurel said yesterday. “It is imperative that we act immediately and decisively to eradicate this disease that poses serious threats to both animals and humans.”

The imported goats arrived in the country in January with the government-contracted goats being transferred to a state-run farm in Sta. Cruz, Marinduque in February – after a month of quarantine.

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) considers Q fever, which is caused by a bacteria known as *Coxiella burnetii*, as a “widespread disease” that can infect mammals, birds, reptiles and anthropods.

It can also be transmitted to humans through the drinking of unpasteurized infected milk and contact with infected animals, including their excretion and body fluids, the WOAH added. — **Bella Cariaso**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/06/22/2364604/bai-confirms-philippines-first-q-fever-case>

# Young and hopeful

[FOOD FOR THOUGHT](#) - [Chit U. Juan](#) - The Philippine Star

June 22, 2024 | 12:00am

I recently learned about the Young Farmers Challenge, a project of the Department of Agriculture to encourage youth 18-30 years old to think about “farm to table.” I asked the young farmers present at a recent food show what they meant by the now common term “farm to table” and their reply was: to think of the whole journey of their produce from farm to processing various crops into vinegar, pickles, taro chips, crab meat, turmeric tea, soy coffee and more. I met a farm owner who is now contract growing with other farmers to satisfy demand from his customers. All is good for these youth who have won cash prizes ranging from P80,000 to P300,000 for their value-added products.

The other good idea is that they formed associations of young agripreneurs, young farmers’ groups who now use social media to sell to other markets. They know of Shopee and Lazada and how to “onboard” these e-commerce platforms. They are the new generation of farmers, indeed.

They are driven and their sales pitch included how they will ship their products to you and how they have sold out in the first two days of the five-day food show. I was so elated as I got their business cards, albeit made from thin sheets or photo paper, and some of them just asked me to scan their QR codes.

They are hopeful because not one stated an issue, a challenge or a roadblock. Their mindset, a positive attitude towards agriculture, keeps them on their feet, unlike old stories of hopelessness from farmers of yore who mostly talked about problems and did not wish their children to take up the same path.

I was so energized just talking to them – everyone a sales person aside from being a farmer. Truly, age and technology can do wonders to better people’s lives and make them the farmers of tomorrow. A big round of applause to Department of Agriculture’s AMAS, or the marketing service group, for introducing these youth to the public at Manila Food and Beverage Show or MAFBEX.

Another good idea which was started by the group of Joel Pascual of WOFEX, a show coming up in August, is connecting farmers to chefs. Joel brought several known chefs to Baguio and outskirts to visit farms and see how vegetables are grown. The farmers and chefs formed a connection that will make them talk to each other and do direct trade. This is another example of challenging norms like scale and supply chains done the old way. Today, a restaurant chain can visit a farm and

make a contract to buy vegetables directly from a farm in Benguet. Yes, it can happen, is already happening as we write this.

This is why I am saddened when economists and academics always throw us the book on scaling up every endeavor or business idea they see. Sometimes, it is not scale alone that is the solution. Creative ideas like Joel's outreach can break the long supply chain the vegetable farmer has always been part of. The chefs now talk directly to the guy whose feet are on the ground and can answer him about particular specs his recipe needs – a potato that has a certain moisture, for example. When you scale up, the Benguet potatoes are all mixed up, too, frustrating chefs and making them order Australian potatoes instead. Imported potatoes, for the price you pay, can be sorted well into one variety to make a chef's recipe consistent. By going direct to farmers, chefs can “order to spec” and sustain a farm-chef relationship.

I can go on about the frustration of chefs and cooks as we ask them why they do not buy local produce. It is because the farmer is invisible to them. They only have to rely on what their purchaser finds in the market, which are green tomatoes waiting to ripen, potatoes of all sizes and varieties and a mishmash of greens from God knows where. Direct trade may be the solution to these challenges.

Another issue this direct trade solves is seasonality. Chefs and cooks can ask the farmer what grows best in each season. We can stop forcing farmers to grow vegetables all year round when they may have seasons. This way, menus of restaurants must respect seasonality and offer only what is due for harvest.

The young and hopeful farmers meet young and hopeful chefs as I have observed many young chefs using local ingredients and getting to know their farmer supplier. The trend now is for these chefs to tell you the story of every vegetable that they serve, honoring the producer who used to be invisible. I like that the farmer now takes center stage along with the creative chef who creates recipes as the harvests come. And these young star chefs already have a following among the young professionals who have opened their minds (and wallets) to farm-to-table and traceability. I heard my age group is not their target market as our kind does not go out everyday. It is good though that they are catering to the young spenders who will boost and sustain such noble endeavors.

To promote these restaurants and chefs, even the e-magazines and the few real paper magazines are now handled by younger writers and reviewers who will help sustain the whole industry, putting focus on local ingredients and sustaining the young farmers we first mentioned above.

So all is not lost in agriculture and lifestyle trends in consumption. There is an ecosystem created by people like Joel and his colleagues, by private-public efforts (like the DA) and our young consumers willing to give local produce a leg up. Instead of complaining about inconsistency of potatoes and lettuce and even coffee,

the young have instead turned to creativity to help young farmers feed their generation and beyond.

Hopeful, I am truly hopeful.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/06/22/2364634/young-and-hopeful>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Bohol farmers still waiting for rains

By: [Leo Udtohan](#) - Correspondent / [@leoudtohanINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 05:04 AM June 22, 2024



**CRITICAL LEVEL** The water level at Bayongan Dam in San Miguel town, Bohol, has dropped to a critical level in this June 16 photo, as farmers await heavy rains following the weather bureau's declaration of the end of El Niño. —LEO UDTOHAN

**UBAY, BOHOL** — The start of the rainy season in the country has been officially declared but farmers in Bohol province are still waiting for rains to pour in their parched rice fields.

Reynaldo Auza, a 77-year-old farmer from Barangay San Carlos in Talibon town, has been praying for rain.

“There was a drizzle last week but it was too short for the water to seep through the soil,” he told the Inquirer.

Auza and other farmers have been worried about where to get water because the water in the Talibon Small Reservoir Irrigation has dropped to a critical level.



The situation is similar in other dams in Bohol where water is scarce.

The Malinao Dam in Pilar town, the oldest water reservoir in the province, is short of water. It supplies 4,740 hectares of rice fields in the towns of Pilar, Alicia, Ubay, San Miguel, and Dagohoy.

The Capayas Dam in Ubay town which provides water to 1,160 ha of rice fields has water below its normal operating level.

The Bayongan Dam in the town of San Miguel is also running out of water.

Farmers have been complaining about the lack of rain that has affected at least 533.5 ha of rice fields in Bohol, considered the rice bowl of the Central Visayas region.

Of at least 47,000 ha of rice fields in Bohol, 24,000 ha are irrigated through dams, small water catchments and diversionary canals. The rest rely on rain.

Acting provincial agriculturist Larry Pamugas said the El Niño weather phenomenon's damage to agriculture and fisheries has reached P459 million in 41 of 47 towns and one city in the province.

### **State of calamity**

Bohol has been under a state of calamity due to the impact of the prolonged dry spell and drought since May 21.

Due to the water shortage, the provincial government had authorized cloud seeding operations starting June 11 despite an objection from Board Member Mimi Boniel.

In a privilege speech last week, Boniel urged the provincial government to stop the operations because of the onset of the rainy season.

However, Pamugas and the Bohol Cloud Seeding Task Force said the recent rains in Bohol were not enough to save farms.

“Based on our present observation and data from the National Irrigation Administration, [the water is] not enough,” Pamugas said.

He said farmlands were not the only ones affected by the lack of rainfall as its impact was also felt by livestock, poultry, and inland fishery businesses in the province.

According to Pamugas, heavy rains are also important to sustain Bohol’s 59,558 ha of forestland and its 16 watersheds.

When the province experienced drought in 2016, Pamugas said they had to resort to cloud seeding to bring relief to El Niño-stricken areas and reduce agriculture damage and crop losses.

Pamugas said cloud seeding was part of interventions to help restore water levels and support farmers and communities dependent on these resources.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1953747/bohol-farmers-still-waiting-for-rains>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **TeaM Energy: Building partnerships for progress**

INQUIRER.net BrandRoom / 09:00 AM June 22, 2024

Throughout the years, TeaM Energy has contributed in powering the country's development needs by lighting up homes, factories, offices, and various industries through the electricity it generates in its power facilities.

As the nation's growth partner, the power firm has gone beyond addressing the country's need for reliable and cost-efficient energy. Through its social development arm, TeaM Energy Foundation, Inc. (TEFI), TeaM Energy has forged strong partnerships with its various public stakeholders to implement high impact corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs that aim to complement government efforts to hasten the country's development and improve the lives of Filipinos.

## **Boosting agriculture**

Through its partnership with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the European Union Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (EU ASEP), TeaM Energy implemented programs to boost the productivity and improve lives of small farmers in different parts of the country by providing machines, equipment and facilities that promote the use of renewable energy.

Through a project completed in September 2023, a group of small-scale abaca farmers with 70 members in Jamindan, Capiz are now able to produce higher quality abaca fibers that will help increase their income. This was after they received a state-of-the-art hybrid-solar-powered abaca spindle machine donated by TeaM Energy.

In partnership with the DOE Visayas Field Office, the local government of Jamindan, Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAPELCO), and the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA), TeaM Energy funded the purchase of the abaca spindle machine that was turned over to the Pasol-o Small Coconut Farmers Association (PASCFA).

Traditionally, farmers in Barangay Pasol-o where PASCFA is based have employed manual methods to process abaca fibers, laboriously pulling the fibers by hand. This manual approach typically results in thicker abaca strips, which fetch a lower market price, averaging around 50 pesos per kilo. With TeaM Energy's donation of the hybrid solar-powered abaca spindle machine, farmers will now have access to advanced technology that yields more refined abaca strips, which command a significantly

higher price of approximately 90 pesos per kilo. These abaca strips are mainly used as raw material for barongs and other local garments.

The hybrid solar-powered spindle machine not only enhances the quality of the abaca fiber; it also increases the efficiency and productivity of the farmers.

In Sual, Pangasinan, a community of small rice farmers in Barangay Sioasio still reap the benefits of a program that was completed in 2020. In partnership with the DOE, the European Union Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (EU ASEP), the Sual local government, the Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative (CENPELCO), and Barangay Sioasio East Solar Power Association, Inc. (BSESPAI), TeaM Energy constructed a solar-powered rice milling facility, provided a palay de-husker, winnower, de-stoner, and a sewing machine to make rice sacks. This has improved rice production and significantly increased the income of beneficiary farmers while helping contribute to the region's food security.

Additionally, TEFI also installed a solar-powered air-conditioning system for a honey processing plant managed by the Sioasio East Forest Development Association in Sual.

Also in partnership with the DOE, EU ASEP, Central Negros Electric Cooperative (CENECO), the Don Salvador Benedicto local government in Negros Occidental, and the Bago Integrated Solar Farmers Association (BISFA), TeaM Energy provided a 4-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system that powers a decorticating machine to produce high-quality, export-ready fiber from pineapple leaves which are used for the production of barongs, other garments, and household products. These are exported as eco-friendly, ethically-sourced and locally produced materials. Completed in August 2021, the project has helped increase the income of around 125 farmers and spur local economic activity.

“Our partnership with the Department of Energy and other national and local government agencies has allowed us to implement high impact CSR programs that have helped improve lives throughout the country,” said Maria Teresa C. Lopez, Vice President of TeaM Energy Foundation, Inc. (TEFI).

In the early 2000s, in partnership with the DOE, various electric cooperatives and local government units, TeaM Energy completed the electrification of over 1,500 far flung barangays in the country through its flagship CSR program Project BEACON (Barangay Electrification Assistance for Countryside Development). Over 11,000 kilometers of power distribution lines were installed through this project, introducing electricity to remote barangays throughout the country.

### **Local government partnerships**

In the municipality of Sual in Pangasinan where TeaM Energy operates the Sual Power Station (SPS), the power firm partnered with the local government through Mayor Liseldo Calugay in powering the computer laboratories in all 20 public schools with solar power. Twenty-two (22) units of 4.6 kilowatt-peak grid-tied photovoltaic systems were installed in each of Sual's public schools. This project which was completed in 2021 reduced the dependence on electricity from the grid, which can be unreliable and expensive in some areas.

This computer laboratory in Sual National High School is one of the 20 computer laboratories in Sual, Pangasinan powered through a solar power system donated by TeaM Energy.

The solar units have helped reduce the electricity costs of schools, allowing them to allocate more for essential educational resources. Also, students in Sual are given hands-on experience in using computers and advanced software, enriching their educational experience.

TeaM Energy has supported the priority programs of the Sual LGU in the past years including supplying various medicines and vitamin supplements for its healthcare programs, turning over 234 sets of jetmatic pumps for its safe water program, and donating thousands of sacks of rice for distribution to Sual farmers affected by low harvest, and economically disadvantage residents.

In the host municipality of Pagbilao in Quezon, TeaM Energy has worked with Mayor Angelica Portes Tatlonghari in implementing various programs aligned with the priorities of the local government. In the past two years alone, TeaM Energy helped improve facilities in barangay health centers in Pagbilao by providing medical examination tables, first aid kits, surgical kits, fetal dopplers, weighing scales and IT equipment among others. The municipal birthing facility has also been equipped with hospital beds, air-conditioning units, an electric breast pump, oxygen tank and regulator.

TeaM Energy likewise supported the Pagbilao LGU's livelihood and food security program by providing farm implements, planting materials and hundreds of heads of cattle to boost the program. The power firm also provided handloom weaving equipment to be used as a source of livelihood for a group of local Pagbilao women.

**Partnering with host provinces**

In the past years, TeaM Energy has worked with the Pangasinan provincial government under the leadership of Governor Ramon Guico III in identifying areas where TEFI can support the province. This resulted in the donation of a mini bus, and six units of pickup vehicles to support the mobility requirements of the provincial government, and help improve the delivery of basic services in Pangasinan. Turned over in March 2024, the vehicles are also expected to boost Pangasinan's programs for tourism, livelihood, and investment promotion.

In Quezon Province where TeaM Energy operates the Pagbilao Power Station (PPS), TeaM Energy has aligned its development efforts with the priority programs of Governor Angelina "Helen" Tan. A medical doctor, Gov. Tan has strongly advocated to uplift the quality of public health care in the province. In March 2024, TeaM Energy turned over an anesthesia machine, and 15 digital ECG machines to the Quezon Provincial Government in addition to the two ventilators donated in 2023. The 15 ECG machines will be distributed to each of the 15 public hospitals in the province. Governor Helen Tan delivers a message during the turnover of medical equipment by TeaM Energy last March 2024 at the Quezon Medical Center.

"We recognize that close coordination with local officials and leaders in implementing development programs will work best. This way we are able to add value to their efforts by strategically deploying resources in areas where gaps have been identified," said Froilan Gregory H. Romualdez III, Head of External Affairs, TeaM Energy.

### **Partners in Education**

In partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), TeaM Energy turned over two brand new school buildings at Paitan Integrated School and Pangascasan Integrated School in Sual, Pangasinan, last December 2023. Another school building was turned over at Polo Integrated School in Padre Burgos, Quezon while a multi-purpose facility was turned over to Walay Elementary School also in Padre Burgos, Quezon last October 2023. The facility can be used for various school events, meetings, and even as a disaster risk management evacuation center.

Through Project SiKAP (Silid Aralan tungo sa Katuparan ng mga Pangarap), this brand new school building in Polo Integrated School in Padre Burgos, Quezon was constructed. The building has two classrooms which are fully-furnished with chairs, desks, electric fans, lighting fixtures, and a teacher's desk. It also comes with its own comfort room for the convenience of students and teachers.

Students of Sioasio Integrated School in Sual, Pangasinan attend classes in their newly constructed classroom donated by TeaM Energy, one of the 22 it has built since 2014.

TEFI's Project SiKaP has successfully constructed high-quality classrooms and school buildings to aid different public schools. Since 2014, TEFI has helped build classroom buildings for 22 public schools and multi-purpose facilities for three public schools. TEFI is also an active participant in Brigada Eskwela since DepEd started the program in 2003. Through the years, TEFI has helped prepare public schools for the opening of classes by virtue of volunteerism among TeaM Energy employees who clean, paint, and repair classroom materials like chairs and desks.

### **Partners in Environmental Stewardship**

In partnership with DepEd Pangasinan, 18 public elementary schools in Sual completed TEFI's Ecoskwela Program where environmental stewardship is instilled to students and teachers through institutionalized green systems or 4 green seals in schools: Solid Waste Management, Biodiversity Conservation, Energy Conservation, and Water Conservation. TEFI has trained school heads and teachers with the knowledge, skills and values to promote green practices in their schools. TEFI provided infrastructure based on validated needs to institutionalize green systems such as vermi-composting, waste segregation, and rain catchment.

In Sioasio East in Sual Pangasinan, 60 hectares of reforestation area is maintained and protected through TEFI's partnership with Sioasio East Forest Developers Association, Inc. (SEFDAI), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Capacity building in leadership development, values formation, and enterprise development was provided to SEFDAI. The DENR considers this project as a success story given its high average survival rate of 96% since 2010. TEFI has also provided livelihood opportunities to SEFDAI including honey production and sawali making.

In General Nakar, Quezon, and Daraitan, Rizal, TEFI has partnered with Non-Timber Forest Product Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) in establishing Pigteponen, a community-based enterprise of the Agta/Dumagat-Remontado tribes. Through Pigteponen, forest-based livelihood was developed which included production, harvesting, manufacturing, processing, distribution, and marketing of non-timber forest products such as honey, tea, roselle wine, and almaciga resin. These efforts primarily support forest conservation by the forest-dependent communities in the 144,000 hectares of forest land in the area.

In Santiago Island in Bolinao, Pangasinan, TEFI partnered with the Asian Social Institute, Inc. (ASII) to help address the destruction of marine resources caused by illegal fishing practices, and insufficient income of fisher folk. Working further with the DENR, the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI), various fisherfolk organizations, local government units and its municipal local agencies, improvements were made such as the rehabilitation and enhancement of mangrove conditions in several barangays through activities such as training in mangrove reforestation, coastal resource management, installation of a mangrove nursery, and the establishment of a sea cucumber project to create an added income source for fisher folk.

### **Recognition from partners**

Last April 2024, the Provincial Board of Quezon led by presiding officer and Vice Governor Anacleto Alcala III passed a resolution that recognized TeaM Energy's contributions to the development of Quezon Province through its CSR programs. The resolution, sponsored by Board Member Roderick Magbuhos, expressed "profound appreciation and gratitude to TeaM Energy for consistently demonstrating a commitment to CSR initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development and community empowerment."

The Provincial Board of Quezon, led by its presiding officer, Vice Governor Anacleto Alcala III (6th from left) hands over a copy of Provincial Resolution No. 2024-099—authored by Board Member Roderick Magbuhos (center)—to representatives of TeaM Energy led by Froilan Gregory Romualdez III (8th from right). The resolution cites TeaM Energy for its corporate social responsibility programs in the province. Also in the photo are (left to right): Board Member Julius Jay Luces; Ex-Officio Board Member Angelo Eduarte; Board Member Claro Talaga Jr.; Board Member Vinette Alcala-Naca; Carlo Calvario, External Affairs Associate, TeaM Energy; Board Member Harold Butardo; Ethel Osio, External Affairs Manager, TeaM Energy; Board Member Maria Yllana Liwanag-Asistio; Francis Xavier Sia, Board Secretary (partly hidden); Ex-Officio Board Member Jackelyn Delimos; Board Member John Joseph Aquivido; and Board Member Isaias Ubana II.

Earlier this month (June 2024), the Municipal Council of Pagbilao led by its presiding officer, Vice Mayor Shierre Ann Portes Palicpic, issued a resolution "expressing gratitude and thanks to TeaM Energy Corporation for all the projects and assistance given to the municipality of Pagbilao, Quezon." Authored by Councilor Michael E.



Martinez, Resolution No. 208 points out that TeaM Energy's projects and assistance will help beneficiaries in their day-to-day lives.

The local government of Pagbilao also gave TEFI a special award last September 2023 recognizing the foundation's contributions to the development of Pagbilao through its various social development programs.

As recognition for TeaM Energy's initiatives for education, in January 2023, the DepEd Quezon Division awarded TeaM Energy with a plaque of recognition for the power firm's support to the Adopt-a-School program in the province; and another award from the DeEd Region IV-A Calabarzon as one of DepEd's valuable private partners in the region.

The Schools Division Office I of DepEd Pangasinan likewise recognized TeaM Sual Corporation as the Top 1 Notable Stakeholder for 2023 "in recognition and grateful acknowledgement of its noteworthy contributions, tireless effort, and outstanding support which made a significant impact" and which helped in the success of DepEd's programs.

Indeed, strong partnerships with public stakeholders are an essential element to the success of private sector-driven CSR programs. By engaging its government stakeholders at the national and local levels, TeaM Energy has ensured that its community development efforts are timely, relevant, and will create a lasting impact in improving people's lives.

TeaM Energy operates two power plants: the 1,200 MW Sual Power Station in Pangasinan and the 735 MW Pagbilao Power Station in Quezon Province. It also has a 50% stake in the 420 MW Pagbilao Unit 3 Power Project in Quezon.

*This article is brought to you by TeaM Energy.*

**ADVT.**

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/240083/team-energy-building-partnerships-for-progress>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DOH says ongoing study to determine risk of Q Fever to humans

By: [Adrian Parungao](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:06 PM June 21, 2024



INQUIRER.net file photo

MANILA, Philippines – A study on whether Query Fever, or Q Fever, poses a risk to humans is ongoing, the Department of Health (DOH) said on Friday.

The Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry confirmed on Friday that there were cases of Q Fever in goats imported from the United States.

“Alongside the confirmation by the Department of Agriculture (DA) of Q Fever bacteria *Coxiella burnetti* being found in imported goats, the Department of Health assures the public that a thorough assessment of risks to human health status is underway,” the DOH said in a statement.

The DOH said that Q Fever, caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetti*, can be transmitted from animals to humans, but human-to-human transmission is rare.

“Q Fever can be cured by antibiotics that are widely available in the Philippines,” the DOH added.

Some of its symptoms in humans include fever, fatigue, headache, cough, nausea, and vomiting, which develop within two to three weeks after exposure.

The DOH, likewise, advised the public to avoid animals suspected of having Q Fever, and to consult their nearest hospital or clinic if an exposure is suspected.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1953709/doh-says-ongoing-study-to-determine-risk-of-q-fever-to-humans>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Of bananas and tariff cuts

By: [Ernesto M. Ordoñez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:10 AM June 22, 2024

**It is imperative that the private sector take a strong proactive role in improving our agriculture exports.**

This was highlighted during the quarterly meeting of the Committee on International Trade (CIT) of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) last June 18.

Paul Cuyegkeng, former Dole Asia president and now president and owner of the multinational Sumufru Corp., said it was the first time he saw the Department of Agriculture (DA) significantly reach out to the private sector, thanks to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. Cuyegkeng also complemented the extensive work of Special Assistant to the Agriculture for Agriculture Export Development Philip Young in spearheading the DA's first clear export strategy.

Just for context: It used to be that we were way ahead of Thailand, but our agriculture exports as of 2022 reached just \$7.5 billion versus our neighbor's \$42.9 billion.

The PCAF-CIT meeting approved 22 recommendations from four working groups: export development, marketing and regulations; trade agreements, negotiations and remedies; antismuggling and border controls; and monitoring, evaluation and impact. Each group is chaired by a private sector leader and cochaired by a DA assistant secretary. Three of the recommendations from the private sector are listed here.

TariffsThe tariff plan announced concerning rice and other products did not go through the required hearings to justify reductions. The CIT recommended that the President consider holding hearings before a tariff adjustment is implemented.

Hearings would determine if the rice tariff reduction from 35 percent to 15 percent would actually result in a P6 to P7 decrease in retail prices. Previous experience has shown that tariff reductions failed to do so.

Sure, if the hearings reveal that a tariff cut is truly necessary, then the rate should be properly determined.

Perhaps a 25-percent tariff would have the same effect on retail price, even locking in potential savings of P14 billion for farmer subsidies and P45 billion of what might have been farmer income losses, according to Federation of Free Farmers' Raul Montemayor. Those hearings will determine important issues such as this.

### **Budget monitoring**

The CIT commended the PCAF secretariat for restoring a proven effective private sector monitoring of the DA budget. After Tiu Laurel emphasized this, five regions immediately made the adjustments.

Such restoration entails giving the private sector-led Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Councils (RAFCs) a complete list of DA-funded projects for monitoring purposes. Its previous abolition and the consequent lack of transparency were cited as major reasons as to why a third of the DA's expenses in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were tagged as unliquidated and unexplained in a Commission on Audit (COA) report.

The CIT said this mode of transparency should be implemented by a wider group. One way is to establish an accessible website where these projects are listed. This should be accompanied by a reward and punishment system.

As far as I know, no one has yet to be charged in relation to the COA findings.

### **Advocacy**

Cuyegkeng also reported that banana exports were cut in half from \$2 billion in 2019 to \$1.1 billion in 2022. This was largely because of decreased competitive access to important markets.

The CIT recommended stronger private sector advocacy for a tariff reduction.<sup>[1]</sup> Japan imposed a tariff of 9 percent for bananas from Vietnam for the period October to March, while ours is 18 percent. South Korea, on the other hand, gave Vietnam a zero-percent tariff, while our bananas are levied 30 percent. If we do not move fast, we will soon lose to Vietnam.

There is already an approved tariff reduction scheme pending in the Senate. The private sector should move for its ratification, or consider an executive agreement with the two countries.

From these examples, we see how bringing in new investments is not enough. The private sector must participate proactively in cogovernance if we are to achieve our most needed agriculture development.

<https://business.inquirer.net/464741/of-bananas-and-tariff-cuts>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Marcos amends tariff schedule

By: [Julie M. Aurelio](#), [Mariedel Irish U. Catilogo](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:34 AM June 22, 2024



WAITING FOR PRICE CUT A rice vendor explains how he thinks duties affect rice prices. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has issued an updated, comprehensive tariff schedule on various goods in a bid to “augment supply, manage prices and temper inflationary pressure” amid a slight increase in inflation last May.

Executive Order No. 62 prescribed the modified import duty rates on commodities in the agriculture, energy, and manufacturing sectors, which mostly maintained the reduced most favored nation (MFN) tariff rates while reducing rates on other essential items like rice.

In the directive dated June 20, the President stressed the need for a new multi-year and comprehensive tariff schedule to allow businesses to engage in medium to long-term

planning to improve productivity and competitiveness, facilitate trade, and enhance consumer welfare.

“The implementation of an updated comprehensive tariff schedule aims to augment supply, manage prices and temper inflationary pressure of various commodities, consistent with the Philippine national interest and the objective of safeguarding the purchasing power of Filipinos,” Mr. Marcos said.

He noted that last month, the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) decided to maintain the reduced MFN tariff rates of certain commodities until 2028 and to impose zero duties until 2028 on battery electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and certain parts and components.

The updated import duty rates on various products will be in effect from 2024 to 2028.

The President issued the modified import duties as inflation slightly rose to 3.9 percent in May from 3.8 percent last April.

The 455-page list of modified tariff rates included the reduction of tariffs on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent, which the Neda announced earlier this month.

EO 62 said the updated import duty rates will be periodically reviewed, while the MFN tariff rates for rice will be reviewed every four months.

### **Four-year regime**

A check of the list showed that tariffs on commodities including raw materials, chemicals and products in the agriculture, energy, manufacturing, textiles, and pharmaceutical sectors were mostly maintained until 2028.

Imported rice, including unhusked, milled, and semi-milled rice and other rice varieties had reduced import duties from 35 percent to 15 percent.



Earlier this month, Socioeconomic Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the government is hoping to bring down the price of rice to P29 a kilo for the poor, especially beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

The modified tariff rates were also expanded to cover battery electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles which had zero duties.

Republic Act No. 10863, or the Customs Modern and Tariff Act, stated that the President, upon the Neda's recommendation, may increase, reduce or remove existing rates of import duty, including any necessary change in classification.

### **Mulled action**

RA 8178, or the Agricultural Tariffication Act, as amended by RA 11203, also authorized the Chief Executive to increase, reduce, revise or adjust existing rates of import duty up to the bound rate committed by the Philippines under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Trade in Goods Agreement.

Meanwhile, agricultural groups remain adamant that EO 62 will lower the rice prices while an analyst suggested that problems in the rice retailing system should be addressed.

Federation of Free Farmers national manager Raul Montemayor said it will decide soon along with other farmer groups on other possible legal steps to take.

“We feel bad about it because it was done hastily and clandestinely by the Neda board without giving us the opportunity to present our side,” Montemayor said in a Viber message.

Montemayor added that the groups will finalize their actions before Sunday.

Jayson Cainglet, executive director of the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura, likewise, noted that Balisacan should have called a hearing through the Tariff Commission.

“All tariff reduction proposals are submitted to the Tariff Commission,” Cainglet said in a Viber message.

For Cid Terosa, senior economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific, while tariff cuts can bring down rice inflation theoretically, the inefficient trading and retailing of rice may impose additional costs that causes prices to remain high.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1953787/marcos-amends-tariff-schedule>

## BUSINESS WORLD:

# Why food prices will remain high in India

June 21, 2024 | 12:15 pm



STOCK PHOTO | Image by [jorono](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Food inflation in India, driven by supply-side factors like adverse weather affecting crops, has remained at around 8% year-on-year since November 2023 and is unlikely to ease any time soon, despite early arrival of [monsoon](#) rains and forecasts of above-normal rainfall.

Elevated prices of food, which accounts for nearly half of the overall consumer price basket, has kept headline inflation above the central bank's target of 4%, preventing it from cutting interest rates.

### WHAT IS DRIVING FOOD INFLATION HIGHER?

A drought last year and an ongoing heat wave have significantly reduced the supplies of foods like pulses, vegetables, and cereals.

Curbs on food exports and reducing tariffs on imports have had little effect.

Although vegetable supplies generally decrease during the summer months, this year's decline is much more pronounced. Temperatures in nearly half of the country are soaring 4-9 degrees Celsius above normal, spoiling harvested and stored vegetables and hindering the planting of crops such as onions, tomatoes, eggplant and spinach.

Farmers usually prepare vegetable seedlings before the June-September monsoon rains and transplant them to the main fields afterward. However, this year, the excessive heat and water scarcity have disrupted both seedling planting and replanting, further exacerbating the shortage of vegetables.

## WHY HAS THE MONSOON NOT HELPED?

The annual monsoon, on which India's agricultural output is dependent, arrived early in the southern tip of the country and advanced swiftly to cover the western state of Maharashtra ahead of schedule. However, this initial momentum soon waned, resulting in a 18% rainfall deficit so far this season.

Besides triggering the heat wave, the weakened monsoon has delayed the planting of summer-sown crops, which can only proceed at full pace with sufficient rainfall.

Despite June's patchy rains, India's weather office has [forecast](#) above average rainfall for the rest of the monsoon season.

## WHEN WILL PRICES COME DOWN?

Vegetable prices are expected to fall from August onwards if the monsoon revives and covers the entire country as per the usual schedule. However, floods or a prolonged dry spell in July and August could disrupt the production cycle.

Prices of milk, cereals and pulses are unlikely to decrease soon due to tight supplies. Wheat supplies are dwindling, and the government has announced no plans to import grain, which will allow wheat prices to rise further.

Rice prices may increase as the government on Wednesday [raised](#) the minimum support price, or buying price, of paddy rice by 5.4%. Supplies of pulses, such as pigeon peas, black matpe and chickpeas, were severely affected by last year's drought, and will not improve until the new season crops are harvested.

Sugar prices are likely to remain high as next season's production is expected to fall due to lower planting.

## CAN GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION HELP?

Yes, government interventions such as restricting exports and easing imports can help bring down the prices of some food commodities. However, the government can do little when it comes to prices of vegetables, which are highly perishable and difficult to import.

The government has implemented various measures to bring down food prices by restricting exports of sugar, rice, onions and wheat. However, these measures have proved unpopular among farmers, and led to losses in the general election for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in rural areas.

[State elections are approaching](#) in Maharashtra and Haryana, where a significant farmer population will decide the outcome. The central government has been trying to win back farmers' support and may allow prices of some crops to rise instead of taking aggressive measures before the elections, which are due in October. – **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/world/2024/06/21/603415/why-food-prices-will-remain-high-in-india/>

**REMATE:**

## **Monitoring system iwas hoarding ng P29/kilong bigas itatatag ng DA**

June 21, 2024 11:55



MANILA, Philippines – Magtatatag ang Department of Agriculture ng monitoring system upang maiwasan ang hoarding ng P29/kilo na bigas na ibinebenta sa mga tindahan ng Kadiwa.

Kabilang sa mga posibleng opsyon ay ang paggamit ng mga booklet na katulad ng mga ginagamit sa mga botika.

Ito ay upang matiyak na ang limitadong supply ay mapakinabangan at walang pamilyang bibili ng higit sa 10-kilo bawat buwan na limitasyon sa ilalim ng kanilang mga alituntunin.

“Una, kailangan may ID sila, makikipagtulungan tayo sa mga lokal na pamahalaan, this is through our Kadiwa system. Mayroon naman nang existing card eh, halimbawa senior citizen, 4Ps, may card yan. ‘Yun pagbabasehan natin na nakatanggap sila,” ani Asec Arnel de Mesa, tagapagsalita ng Department of Agriculture.

Noong Huwebes, inamin ng ilan sa mga mamimili na ilang beses silang pumila para makabili ng mas murang bigas.

“Pangalawang pila ko lang ito. Siyempre, naghahabol ako sa murang bigas. Sa mahal ng bigas ngayon, dito ka na sa mura,” ani Salvacion Atutubo, isa sa mga mamimili.

Nauna nang inihayag ng National Food Authority (NFA) Council na inaprubahan nila ang pagbebenta ng kanilang tumatanda ngunit magandang stock para matulungan ang mga tao na makayanan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas.

Ang Bigas29 ay nasa kanilang dry-run na bersyon na ngayon, at ang buong pagpapatupad ay nakatakda ngayong Hulyo. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/monitoring-system-iwas-hoarding-ng-29-kilong-bigas-itatatag-ng-da/>

**REMATE:**

## **Recto: Inflation posibleng pumalo sa 3.4% ngayong taon**

June 21, 2024 18:12



MANILA, Philippines- Kumpiyansang inihayag ni Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto na ang rate ng pagtaas ng consumer prices ay bababa sa loob ng target range ng gobyerno ngayong taon.

Sa isinagawang Philippine Economic Briefing sa Tokyo, araw ng Biyernes, sinabi ni Recto na inflation ay maaaring ma-stabilize sa 3.4% ngayong taon, nakahanay sa International Monetary Fund's (IMF) forecast. "This is well within the government's target of two to four percent and significantly lower than the global average of 5.9 percent," ayon kay Recto sa harap ng Japanese investors.

Inaasahang ang 3.4% annual inflation rate ay magiging mas mabagal kaysa sa 6.0% na naitala noong nakaraang taon o mas mabagal ang bilis simula ng 2.4% na nakita noong 2020.

Ang inflation ay may average na 3.5% sa unang limang buwan ng taon.

“As inflation eases, we anticipate a further acceleration in our already robust domestic demand, with household consumption accounting for about 75 percent of our economy,” ayon sa Kalihim.

Gayunman, nang magsimula ang taon, nakitaan ang inflation ng ‘consistent uptrend,’ tumaas mula 2.8% noong Enero na naging 3.4% noong Pebrero, 3.7% noong Marso, 3.8% noong Abril at 3.9% noong Mayo.

Ang pigura noong Mayo ang pinakamataas sa loob ng anim na buwan mula nang umabot ang inflation rate sa 4.1% noong Nobyembre 2023.

“The main reason for the accelerated inflation rate in May compared to April was the faster rise in the prices of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels, which increased by 0.9% from 0.4%,” ayon sa ulat.

Base sa Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), ang pabahay, tubig, elektrisidad, gas at iba pang fuel ang itinuturo para sa 56.8% share ng overall inflation rate increase sa bansa.



“Specifically, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices increased to 9 percent from 8.3 percent month-on-month, while electricity prices decreased to -8.5 percent from -11 percent in April,” batay pa rin sa ulat.

“The government will continue to implement lasting policy reforms to ensure we address the drivers of food and non-food inflation sustainably. We want to maintain a macroeconomic environment conducive to investment and high-quality job creation — an environment that would allow us to hit the Marcos Administration’s development targets by 2028,” ang tinuran ni National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan.

“To help manage food inflation, promote policy stability and investment planning, and enhance food security, the NEDA Board has agreed to reduce the rice duty rate to 15 percent from 35 percent for both in-quota and out-quota imports until 2028,” dagdag na pahayag nito.

Samantala, inaprubahan naman ng NEDA Board, sa pangunguna ni Pangulong Marcos bilang chairman, ang ekstensyon hanggang 2028 ng reduced tariff rates sa mais, baboy at mechanically deboned meat sa ilalim ng Executive Order No. 50, s. 2023.

“The NEDA Board approved the new Comprehensive Tariff Program for 2024-2028, a strategic move to ensure access and affordability to essential commodities while balancing the interests of consumers, local producers, and the economy. At the same time, we recognize the need to help our farmers by modernizing our agricultural sector,” ayon pa rin kay Balisacan. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/recto-inflation-posibleng-pumalo-sa-3-4-ngayong-taon/>

**REMATE:**

## **‘Q fever’ cases sa Marinduque pinatatalupan ng DA**

June 21, 2024 16:28



MANILA, Philippines- Bumuo ang Department of Agriculture (DA) ng special fact-finding committee upang imbestigahan ang pagsulpot ng Q Fever disease sa bayan ng Santa Cruz sa lalawigan ng Marinduque.

Sa Special Order No. 867 na may petsang Hunyo 19, sinabi ng DA na bubusisiin ng panel ang lahat ng “facts and circumstances” hinggil sa “alleged violations and irregularities” na isinagawa ng mga opisyal at empleyado ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) kaugnay ng “importation and failure to contain goats infected with Q fever disease” sa lugar.

Dulot ang infectious disease, ayon sa webpage ng European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, ng bacteria na tinatawag na *Coxiella burnetii* na nakaaapekto sa mga tao at mga hayop.

Dagdag nito, maaaring masapul ng sakit mula sa infected animal sa pamamagitan ng kontaminadong gatas o paghawak ng fetus, placenta, o fluids mula sa infected animal na nanganak.

Hindi naman nagbigay ng karagdagang detalye ang opisina ni Agriculture Assistant Secretary Paz Benavidez II, mamumuno sa komite, dahil katatanggap lamang nito ng kopya ng special order.

Naitala ng Pilipinas ang unang kaso ng Q fever, ayon sa BAI nitong Biyernes.

Nagdudulot ang sakit sa mga tao ng panginginig, lagnat, at muscle pain, at kapag hindi ito nagamot, maaari itong magresulta sa komplikasyon sa atay o puso. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/q-fever-cases-sa-marinduque-pinatatalupan-ng-da/>

**ABANTE:**

## **Q fever ng kambing nakakahawa sa tao – DA**

- [Abante News](#)
- [June 21, 2024](#)



Nagbabala sa publiko ang Department of Agriculture (DA) dahil sa naitala na unang kaso ng Q fever sa Pilipinas.

Base sa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ang Q fever ay sanhi ng bacteria na *Coxiella burnetii* na nagdudulot ng impeksyon sa ilang hayop tulad ng kambing, tupa at baka.

Ayon sa Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), maaaring mahawa ng Q fever ang isang indibidwal kapag nakalanghap ng kontaminadong alikabok mula sa infected na hayop.

Ang sakit sa tao ay nagdudulot ng panginginig, lagnat at pananakit ng kalamnan at kung hindi magagamot, maaaring maging sanhi ng komplikasyon sa atay at puso.

Ayon kay Dr. Christian Daquigan, officer-in-charge ng Bureau of Quarantine Services ng BAI, mahigit 90 kambing na ang kinatay at inilibing upang hindi na makapanghawa.

Nabatid na inangkat ang mga naturang kambing mula sa Estados Unidos.

Sinabi naman ni DA Spokesperson at Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa na ipinag-utos na ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang imbestigasyon kung paano nakalusot ang may sakit na kambing mula sa ibang bansa.

Ayon kay De Mesa, inangkat ng BAI sa Estados Unidos ang 94 na kambing at ginastusan ito P10 milyon.

Dumating ang mga kambing noong Enero 2024 pero pinatay lahat ito matapos matuklasan na may sakit.

Bukod sa mga imported na kambing, pinatay na rin ang iba pang hayop na maaaring nahawa ng mga ito at inutos na rin ni Laurel na ihinto ang pag-angkat ng kambing mula sa Amerika. (Darcie De Galicia/Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/06/21/q-fever-ng-kambing-nakakahawa-sa-tao-da/>

**ABANTE:**

## **Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin pinirmahan 15% tapyas-taripa sa bigas**

- Abante News
- June 21, 2024



Tuluyan nang tinapyasan ng Malacañang ang taripa sa bigas sa 15% mula 35% epektibo hanggang 2028 sa kabila ng pagtutol ng mga magsasaka at iba ibang sektor sa agrikultura.

Pinirmahan ni Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin ang Executive Order. No 62 sa bisa ng kapangyarihang iginawad sa kanya ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. noong Hunyo 20, 2024 para tapyas ang taripa sa bigas at ilan pang produktong agrikultura hanggang 2028.

Ayon sa Malacanang, ang taripang nakalatag sa EO No. 62 ang inaprubahan ng National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board noong Hunyo 3, 2024.

Nauna nang nagpahayag ng alinlangan ang iba't ibang sektor sa agrikultura dahil malaki ang mababawas sa koleksyon ng pamahalaan sa pagbaba ng taripa.

Ayon sa Federation of Free Farmers, P22 bilyon ang mawawala sa koleksyon ng pamahalaan kada taon sa pagbaba ng taripa sa bigas pa lamang at mababawasan ito ng pondo para sa mga programa sa sektor.

Sa baboy, pinalawig na rin hanggang 2025 ang tapyas-taripa na tinututulan ng mga hog raiser.

Nasa Kongreso ang kapangyarihang magtakda ng mga taripa ngunit maaari itong gawin ng Malacañang kapag naka-recess ang mga mambabatas tulad ngayon.

“EO 62 is a catastrophe for our rice farmers, corn growers, livestock and poultry raisers,” ayon naman sa Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura na naniniwalang mga importer lamang ang makikinabang sa tapyas-taripa.  
(Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/06/21/executive-secretary-lucas-bersamin-pinirmahan-15-tapyas-taripa-sa-bigas/>

# El Niño farm damage in WVisayas reaches P2.9 B

By Rjay Zuriaga Castor

June 22, 2024

**ILOILO CITY** — The Department of Agriculture Western Visayas (DA-6) reported that the El Niño phenomenon and the dry season have left a total damage of P2.9 billion in the region.

"El Niño has significantly impacted the Western Visayas region, leading to substantial agricultural damage and economic losses. Reports indicate that the phenomenon has caused approximately P2.9 billion in losses across the region, heavily affecting rice and corn crops," said DA-6 Director Dennis Arpia.

DA-6 data showed that the dry conditions adversely affected 84,181 farmers and about 122,702 hectares of farmland.

This resulted in 74 local government units in the region declaring calamity states due to the prolonged dry conditions and water shortage.

Despite the adverse effects of El Niño on other crops, Arpia said mango production in Guimaras province has increased due to the prolonged dry season.

The Bureau of Plant Industry noted an increased inspection and issuance of regulatory documents for domestic and international mango movement from Panay and Guimaras Islands from January to April of 2022 to 2024.

"There has been a notable rise in mango transport in 2024 alone, the bureau inspected 80.57 metric tons (MT) of mangoes for domestic



movement and 0.36 MT for export. GS International exported 352.79 kilograms of fresh mangoes to Switzerland," said Arpia.

Meanwhile, Arpia said the fisheries industry incurred a total damage of P49 million as reported by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The DA-6 has encouraged farmers and fisherfolk to obtain insurance from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) by visiting the local Municipal Agriculture Offices (MAOs).

PCIC on May 1 started accepting insurance applications through MAOs for farmers who want to insure their rice and corn crops and livestock for the current wet or first cropping season.

As of May 31, PCIC had distributed indemnity payments totaling P391 million, with P50 million attributed to drought. In 2023, PCIC reported a total indemnity payout of P972 million.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/22/regions/el-nio-farm-damage-in-wvisayas-reaches-p29-b/1952619>

# 1,069 Bulacan farmers get financial aid

By Frederick Silverio

June 22, 2024

**BULACAN —** Around 1,069 farmers and fisherfolk from the towns of San Miguel, Obando, and San Rafael each received financial assistance worth P5,000, food packs, and fertilizer from the provincial government held at The Pavilion, Hiyas ng Bulacan Convention Center, City of Malolos on Tuesday.



**ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK** The provincial government of Bulacan, through its agriculture office, extends P5000 each to 1,069 farmers and fisherfolk from San Miguel, Obando, and San Rafael affected by El Niño during the distribution supervised by Gov. Daniel Fernando and Vice Gov. Alex Castro at the Pavilion, Hiyas ng Bulacan Convention Center, City of Malolos on June 18, 2024. PHOTO BY FREDERICK SILVERIO

**The Provincial Agriculture Office conducted the program to provide assistance to farmers whose crops were affected by El Niño in San Miguel and San Rafael, and fisherfolk from Obando who experienced incidents of fish kill.**

"Nararapat lamang na kayo ay alagaan, suportahan, at bigyang pansin sapagkat, unang-una, kayo ang naglalalatag at nagbibigay ng pagkain sa hapag-kainan ng mga Pilipino at ng mga Bulakenyo. Salamat po sa inyong pagsusumikap, pagpupursigi (You need to be protected, supported, and given proper attention for you are the ones who provide food on the table of every Filipino)," said Gov. Daniel Fernando.

Vice Gov. Alex Castro, who was also present during the distribution, assured the beneficiaries that the provincial government will not neglect the agricultural sector.

According to Jimmy Bernandino, a farmer from San Miguel, El Niño has a significant impact on their lives because their income has significantly decreased, which was only sufficient for their daily expenses.

He said the financial assistance he received will be a great help for him to make a new start on farming activities.

Meanwhile, to prepare Bulakenyos for disasters like El Niño and La Niña, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office headed by retired colonel Manuel Lukban Jr. cited the importance of having enough supplies and equipment for the rainy season.

**The provincial government reminded everyone to have an emergency kit containing food, water, medicine, and other essentials to be prepared for all types of disasters.**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/22/regions/1069-bulacan-farmers-get-financial-aid/1952613>

# Armyworms infest Negros farmlands

By Eugene Y. Adiong

June 22, 2024

**BACOLOD CITY — Farmlands in five localities in the fifth district of Negros Occidental have been under attack from armyworms, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist reported on Thursday.**



**ARMYWORM INFESTATION** Negros Occidental Rep. Emilio Yulo, center, inspects leaves damaged by armyworms that have attacked farmlands in the fifth district. Looking on are personnel of the Department of Agriculture and the Sugar Regulatory Administration. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**The destructive worms infested the sugarcane plantations and corn fields in Himamaylan City and the neighboring localities of Binalbagan, Moises Padilla, Isabela, and Ilog town.**

A farmer's group reported that a total of 80 hectares of cornfields have been affected by the infestation in Sitio Aglahog 1, Barangay San Antonio, Himamaylan City.

The infestation has been adversely affecting around 40 farming families in just one sub-village.

The Department of Agriculture said armyworms are destructive pests known for their army-like movement through agricultural fields.

Armyworms typically consume turf grass but can eat any vegetation, causing extensive damage to crops.

Infestations of armyworms have been reported in three local government units of the fifth district of Negros Occidental.

Nilo Basco Jr., head of the Crop Protection Section of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), said the fall armyworms and cutworms infestation have damaged mostly sugarcane in the villages of Cabadiangan and Carabalan in Himamaylan.

The armyworms have hit 80 hectares of sugarcane in Sitio Iling-iling, Barangay Cabadiangan, belonging to mostly small farmers, Basco said.

**The OPA together with the Sugar Regulatory Administration will conduct massive spraying to prevent the spread of armyworms to other areas, Basco said.**

**Provincial Agriculturist Dina Genzola on Thursday confirmed the infestation and said they are currently conducting an assessment and validation in coordination with the affected local government units.**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/22/regions/armyworms-infest-negros-farmlands/1952611>

**THE MANILA TIMES**

# Palace cuts rice tariffs to 15%

By Catherine S. Valente and Niña Myka Pauline Arceo  
June 22, 2024

**(UPDATES)** MALACAÑANG has ordered tariff cuts for rice and other key commodities in an effort to keep prices low and inflation under control.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., through Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, on Thursday approved Executive Order (EO) 62 to formalize changes to the 2024-2028 tariff program.

Earlier this month, the National Economic and Development Authority Board chaired by Marcos announced that the "strategic" move would ensure access and affordability of essential goods and at the same time balance the interests of consumers and domestic producers.

Among others, the import duty on rice — blamed for rising inflation — was slashed from an already lowered 35 percent to 15 percent.

Reduced tariffs on corn, pork and mechanically deboned meat that were originally set to expire at the end of this year via EO 50 were also extended to 2028.



**This June 21, 2024 photo shows rice for sale at a market in Manila. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA**

The reduced rice tariffs will take effect in 15 days from the June 20 publication of EO 62 while the rest of the approved revisions become enforceable in 30 days.

"There is a need for a new multiyear and comprehensive tariff schedule that will provide a transparent and predictable tariff structure, and allow businesses to engage in medium- to long-term planning to improve productivity and competitiveness, facilitate trade and enhance consumer welfare," EO 62 states.



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 62

**MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND RATES OF IMPORT DUTY  
ON VARIOUS PRODUCTS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 13, Article XII of the Constitution provides that the State shall pursue a trade policy that serves the general welfare;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1608 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10863 or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act" empowers the President, in the interest of general welfare and national security, and upon recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), to increase, reduce or remove existing rates of import duty, including any necessary change in classification thereof;

**WHEREAS**, Section 7(a) of RA No. 8178 or the "Agricultural Tariffication Act," as amended by RA No. 11203, authorizes the President to increase, reduce, revise or adjust existing rates of import duty up to the bound rate committed by the Philippines under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture and the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, including any necessary change in classification applicable to the importation of rice;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order (EO) No. 20 (s. 2017) set forth the Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff schedule for the years 2017 to 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the prevailing MFN tariff rates are based on EO No. 20, as amended by subsequent EOs which cover several commodities, including EO No. 12 (s. 2023);

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a new multi-year and comprehensive tariff schedule that will provide a transparent and predictable tariff structure, and allow businesses to engage in medium- to long-term planning to improve productivity and competitiveness, facilitate trade, and enhance consumer welfare;

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of an updated comprehensive tariff schedule aims to augment supply, manage prices, and temper inflationary pressure of various commodities, consistent with the Philippine national interest and the objective of safeguarding the purchasing power of Filipinos;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



**WHEREAS**, on 15 May 2024, the NEDA Board resolved to maintain the reduced MFN tariff rates of the products covered under EO No. 12 until 2028, and to expand its product coverage to include other battery electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and certain parts and components, at zero duty until 2028; and

**WHEREAS**, on 03 June 2024, the NEDA Board endorsed the modification of the nomenclature and rates of import duty on various products for years 2024 to 2028;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

**Section 1. Rates of Import Duty.** The articles specifically listed in Annex A hereof, as classified under Section 1611 of RA No. 10863, shall be subject to the MFN rates of duty in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite the article.

**Section 2. Levy on Articles.** Upon the effectivity of this Order, all articles specifically listed in Annex A hereof, which are entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption, shall be levied the MFN rates of duty as prescribed therein.

**Section 3. Review.** As may be necessary and/or as may be directed by the President, the comprehensive and/or specific MFN tariff rates listed in Annex A hereof shall be subject to periodic review: Provided that, the MFN tariff rates for rice, listed in Annex A hereof, shall be subject to review every four (4) months from the effectivity of this Order.

The NEDA shall submit to the President, through the Office of the Executive Secretary, its findings and recommendations on the matter.

**Section 4. Separability.** If any section or part of this Order is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 5. Repeal.** All orders, rules, regulations, and issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 6. Effectivity.** Pursuant to Section 1608 of RA No. 10863, this Order shall take effect thirty (30) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation: Provided that, the tariff rates on rice shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, consistent with Section 7(a) of RA No. 8178, as amended.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 20th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

By the President:

  
LUCAS P. BERSAMIN  
Executive Secretary



Office of the President  
MALACAÑANG RECORDS OFFICE  
**CERTIFIED COPY**  
  
ATTY. MARICEL N. ESPINO  
796-26-7619 ACTING DIRECTOR IV



**"The implementation of an updated comprehensive tariff schedule aims to augment supply, manage prices and temper inflationary pressure of various commodities, consistent with the Philippine national interest and the objective of safeguarding the purchasing power of Filipinos," it adds.**

**Analysts said the move could lower inflation significantly but warned of the long-term impact on farmers.**

Security Bank Corp. chief economist Robert Dan Roces said that while estimates showed that inflation could drop by 0.4 to as much as 1.8 percentage points, this would depend on the extent and speed of adjustments in domestic rice prices.

Inflation, which picked up to 3.9 percent last month, could potentially hit 2.0 percent, HSBC Global Research economist Aris Dacanay said, at the bottom end of the central bank's 2.0- to 4.0-percent target.

**t might drop even further if global rice prices also concurrently decline, he added.**

**"The tariff cut would also negate the inflationary impact of Executive Order 50's expiration in 2025," Dacanay continued, noting that the tariff on out-quota rice imports would have risen to 50 percent.**

**"That said, investors will need to monitor the implementation of the policy since its timely and successful implementation could vastly change the inflation outlook, and thus, the policy rate outlook."**

**Roces, meanwhile, said the quick approval of the new tariff schedule "could lead to quicker relief, but long-term effects on farmers and the need for complementary measures require further national government action..**

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**Speaking at a Manila Times economic forum on Thursday, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Jude Aguilar said the tariff cuts were a "temporary solution."**

**"Right now, we are addressing the problem that there's a lack of supply, and we may need that. I think they foresee several crises coming in ... I think that it's just a temporary solution or a band-aid to address our food security issues," he said.**

**"[I]t's a band-aid that they intend to last for four years ... does it need to be that long?" Aguilar added.**

**The PCCI will look at the "scope ... the landscape and then we will have to advocate. We will have to work with the government. And we will have to discuss and see if, let's say, there are better ways to solve that issue."**

**<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/22/business/top-business/palace-cuts-rice-tariffs-to-15/1952502>**

# India rice prices climb as demand increases

By Reuters

June 22, 2024

INDIA's rice export prices rose to a near three-month peak this week as demand picked up, and the government raised the paddy procurement price for the new season.

India on Wednesday raised the price at which it will buy new-season common rice paddy from farmers by 5.4 percent to 2,300 rupees (\$27) per 100 kilogram.

"With the hike in paddy prices, export prices of rice will also go up. Overseas buyers will still make purchase. Even after factoring in the hike, Indian rice is cheaper than rice from other origins," a Mumbai-based trader said.

Top exporter India's 5 percent broken parboiled variety was quoted at \$544-\$552 per ton, up from last week's \$539-\$546.

Vietnam's 5 percent broken rice was offered at \$570 per ton, down from \$570-\$575 a week ago.

"Trading activity is weak as buyers are halting their purchases to wait for the Philippines to officially cut its import tariff on rice," a trader based in the Mekong Delta said.

"We heard the Philippines' decision to cut the tariff is pending final approval from its president, likely in July or September."

Traders said export prices were also moving in tandem with domestic paddy prices amid an ongoing harvest in the Mekong Delta area, which will end in early July.

Thailand's 5 percent broken rice slipped to \$615-\$620 per ton from last week's \$630.

Prices came down slightly due to weaker demand because Thai rice prices were higher than Vietnam, a Bangkok-based trader said.

A second crop coming out next month should have good yield due to good rainfall, another trader said, adding that prices could weaken to \$610-\$615.

**Meanwhile, in northeastern Bangladesh, large swathes of land have been submerged due to flash floods from heavy rainfall and upstream water from India, potentially jeopardizing rice crops if the water remains for an extended period, officials said.**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/22/business/top-business/india-rice-prices-climb-as-demand-increases/1952609>

**THE MANILA TIMES**

# **DA reports first case of Q fever in goats**

**By Janine Alexis Miguel**

**June 21, 2024**

**MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) confirmed on Friday the first case of Q fever affecting goats.**

**Out of the 94 imported goats that were in the country in January, 19 tested positive for the disease.**

**<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/21/news/da-reports-first-case-of-q-fever-in-goats/1952489>**

# **Farmers dismayed as Palace issues EO reducing tariff on rice to 15%**

**Samuel Medenilla**

**June 22, 2024**

**PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. finally issued late Thursday the Executive Order which will reduce the tariff on rice to 15 percent.**

**Dated 20 June 2024, EO No. 62 contained the modified nomenclature and rates of import duties of various products, including rice.**

**“The implementation of an updated comprehensive tariff schedule aims to augment supply, manage prices, and temper inflationary pressure of various commodities consistent with the Philippine national interest: the objective of safeguarding the purchasing power of Filipinos,” Marcos said in the three-page issuance.**

**EO 62 was based on modified tariff rates endorsed by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Board on 3 June 2024.**

**The broad agriculture sector coalition Sinag, however, called EO 62 :a setback for the local agriculture sector and “a complete reversal of our aspiration for food self-sufficiency.”**

**It is “a catastrophe for our rice farmers, corn growers, livestock and poultry raisers, will impede local agriculture development, will not guarantee a significant reduction in rice prices, and will only benefit a few privileged importers,” Sinag added.**

**Under the new issuance, the tariff for local food staple will be reduced from 35 percent to 15 percent 15 days after EO 26 is published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.**

**The new tariff rate for rice will continue to take effect until 2028.**



**Starting 1 January 2029, the most favored nation (MFN) tariff schedule rates of duty for in-quota and out-quota subheadings will revert to 40 percent and 50 percent ad valorem, respectively.**

**The other tariff rates for other products including corn will take effect 30 days after EO 26 is published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.**

**EO 62 will maintain the existing tariff for corn to 5 percent (in-quota) and 15 percent (out-quota) until 2028.**

**But starting January 2029, its MFN rates will revert to 35 percent (in-quota) and 50 percent (out-quota) ad valorem.**

**The new comprehensive and/or specific MFN tariff rates listed under the Annex A of EO 26 will be subjected to a Neda review every four months from the effectivity of the new order.**

**<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/22/farmers-dismayed-as-palace-issues-eo-reducing-tariff-on-rice-to-15>**