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MANILA BULLETIN:

DTI monitoring rice prices in Western Visayas

BY TARA YAP

Jul 17, 2024 07:31 PM

ILOILO CITY – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is monitoring rice prices in Western Visayas region following a 15 percent tariff reduction early this month.



A RICE stall at La Paz Public Market in Iloilo City. (Tara Yap)

Grace Benedicto, chief of the DTI-6 Consumer Protection Division, said 30 rice establishments have been monitored.

In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture-6, the DTI-6 is monitoring stores selling regular milled rice, well-milled rice, or special premium rice.

The monitoring is part of the implementation of Executive Order No. 62 issued by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on June 29 that reduced tariff for imported rice by 15 percent to 20 percent from 35 percent effective July 5.

The DTI-6 is monitoring rice prices in groceries and supermarkets in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental provinces as well as the highly urbanized cities of Iloilo and Bacolod.

Benedicto said the monitoring is not exclusive only to the retail price of one kilogram of rice. The monitoring also covers the prices of rice for five, 10, and 25 kilograms.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/17/dti-monitoring-rice-prices-in-western-visayas>

MANILA BULLETIN:

State of the Nation Address 2024

BY [SENATOR FRANCIS TOLENTINO](#)

Jul 18, 2024 06:22 AM

'TOL VIEWS



Three days to go till the President's third State of the Nation Address (SONA). There is much anticipation of the President's report to the Filipino people on the various aspects of our life as a nation – economy, international relations, peace and security, education, agriculture, health, employment and labor. Planning and coordination have been meticulous for the annual nationwide address, ensuring that the President and the nation will be seamlessly connected come July 22, 2024.

As expected, the President will detail the many positive strides that the government and the people jointly achieved. Similarly, the President will outline his governance agenda for the rest of his term and which I believe remains focused on agricultural reforms to boost food production and lower the price of rice and basic food commodities. Part of the SONA will likewise be an invocation of the support of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the passage of the President's priority measures and both chambers' cohesive and collaborative legislation.

With very limited time, the President will share with the nation the highlights of his administration's work since his election in 2022 and the government's continuing thrusts for development and nation building for the remainder of his presidency. Every State of the Nation

Address is highly awaited by both supporters and critics. Hence, every detail of the speech will have to be carefully written, ensuring that the exact meaning of what the President wishes to express is exactly what the speech will convey. The State of the Nation Address is akin to a score card which will, in one way another, shape public opinion on the performance of the Marcos administration. It is thus an imperative for the SONA to truly highlight the Marcos administration's accomplishments, priorities and direction.

Current and emerging issues will surely be part of the SONA, especially the relatively more enduring challenge in the West Philippine Sea which will include the government's efforts to forge stronger alliances with neighboring states and other nations of the world. Also remaining as a highly critical impediment to national growth is the overly volatile fuel and energy state of the country which almost always creates a chain reaction in the cost of basic utilities, food commodities, and transportation among others. Agriculture, trade and commerce, I believe, will also be a major part of the SONA as President Marcos remains determined to lower the price of rice and other agricultural products, build infrastructure and capacity for better crop production and post-harvest management, and ensure food security for every Filipino home.

In order to accomplish these goals, legislation will take a critical role. I implore my colleagues in the Senate and in the House of Representatives to unite and align legislative thrusts with the Chief Executive's roadmap for national unity and development. SONA 2024 will surely be applauded as well as criticized. At the end of the day, however, we remain one nation, one people, sharing in the work to create a better, stronger, future ready Philippines.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/18/state-of-the-nation-address-2024-1>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA warns overpricing traders amid P250/kilo of chicken

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

July 18, 2024 | 12:00am



The DA maintained that the prevailing price of chicken should range only between P200 and P210 per kilo.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Traders involved in overpricing will be held liable for profiteering under the Price Act as the P250 per kilo price of chicken is “too much,” according to the Department of Agriculture.

The DA maintained that the prevailing price of chicken should range only between P200 and P210 per kilo.

Chicken in Muñoz Market in Quezon City was being sold for as high as P250 per kilo, or P40 more compared to the prevailing price, Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said yesterday at a press conference.

“Somebody is really taking advantage. That’s why we will monitor this market,” De Mesa said.

The DA is coordinating with the local government to identify traders selling overpriced chickens.

“As Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has said, we do not want to zero in on vendors as they are only on the receiving end. We need to determine the source

as it is possible that the (overpricing) comes from the source, from the traders. We have to look at all possible angles,” he said.

The DA is not planning to impose a suggested retail price despite the spike in chickens’ retail prices, De Mesa noted.

The temporary ban on imported poultry products from Minnesota in the US amid the outbreak of bird flu has affected the farmgate price as the US is the main source of parent stocks, which produce day-old chicks, De Mesa said.

Tiu Laurel said the rapid spread of bird flu in the US necessitates a wider coverage of trade restrictions to prevent the entry of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus and protect the health of the local poultry population.

The Philippines has lifted the ban on imported poultry products from the Czech Republic.

De Mesa said that based on the United Broiler Raisers Association’s report, the recent El Niño also affected the Philippines’ chicken production.

Imported meat

The persisting elevated prices of locally produced meat products continue to make imported products more “competitive” and “attractive” to Filipino consumers, according to the Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA).

The 10 percent increase in meat imports from January to May reflects the growing need of consumers for more affordable items and products, the group noted.

“The high price locally could be attributed to decreased production and higher cost due to the El Niño phenomenon,” MITA president emeritus Jesus Cham said in a statement.

Latest Bureau of Animal Industry data showed meat imports from January to May reached 524,675 metric tons, or about 46,347 MT higher than the 478,327 MT recorded volume in the same period last year.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/18/2370980/da-warns-overpricing-traders-amid-p250kilo-chicken>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: P29/kilo rice ‘better than doing nothing’

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 18, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has defended the implementation of the P29 per kilo of rice after a farmers’ group questioned the program’s sustainability.

“First, there are those who criticized (the P29 per kilo rice program). Well, my first reaction is that it is better that we are doing something instead of doing nothing. Life is very hard,” Tiu Laurel said in an interview.

The DA is giving false hopes to the poor by selling rice at P29 per kilo, according to Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. president Danilo Fausto.

He added that the move is not sustainable since the DA’s subsidy is pegged at P20 per kilo or at P220 million per day.

He said in an interview with The STAR that the P29 per kilo rice is more of a political move and was implemented possibly in preparation for President Marcos’ State of the Nation Address on Monday.

He added that based on his conversation with National Food Authority administrator Larry Lacson, the NFA can provide only the initial rice supply for the program.

Tiu Laurel said that he initially targeted to benefit the vulnerable sectors, including the members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, senior citizens, single parents and persons with disabilities.

“I have long targeted the implementation of P29 per kilo of rice since my assumption in office. The basic question is how do we lower the price of rice in general,” he said.

He admitted that the government needs to provide subsidies for post-harvest facilities and fertilizers to implement the program sustainably.

Tiu Laurel added that at least 13 Kadiwa stores are currently selling P29 per kilo of rice with a limit of 10 kilos per month to the vulnerable sectors.

He hopes that the DA will add more Kadiwa stores in different provinces next month.

“We hope to scale it up to about 20 by August then we will sell in three provinces, particularly in Cavite, Cebu and Maguindanao or Sulu. Hopefully, by early August or mid-August we will be able to scale up (the sale of P29 per kilo rice),” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/18/2370984/da-p29kilo-rice-better-doing-nothing>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Poultry products imported from Minnesota banned in PH due to bird flu

By: [Dianne Sampang](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:18 PM July 17, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) announced on Wednesday that it has temporarily banned imports of domestic and wild birds and poultry products from Minnesota, United States due to an ongoing outbreak of the High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 subtype or commonly known as bird flu.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signed memorandum order No. 29 which imposes an import ban on domestic and wild birds including their products such as poultry meat, eggs, day-old chicks, and semen.

Laurel also instructed the Bureau of Animal Industry to suspend the processing, evaluation of applications, and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary import Clearances of the birds.

The issuance of the import ban is based on the official report of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that three counties in Minnesota have confirmed cases of H5N1 infections as of June 12.

In 2016, Philippine veterinary authorities and the US agreed that a state-wide ban could only be imposed if three or more counties of a state detected cases of avian influenza. It is a notifiable disease with “zoonotic potential,” that can be passed on to humans.

Shipments from Minnesota that are already in transit or accepted into ports before the importation ban “shall be allowed provided that the products were slaughtered/produced 14 days before the first outbreak” from the place of origin, while those shipments that will not comply with the guidelines may be returned to the port of origin or disapproved.

The avian influenza A virus H5N1 was first detected among wild birds and domestic poultry products in the United States in 2022. In March, over 4,000 cases of avian influenza were reported in Leyte.

The DA lifted an import ban on poultry products from Minnesota due to bird flu last March.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/243001/poultry-products-imported-from-minnesota-banned-due-to-bird-flu>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos administration a 6 out of 10, says economist

By: [Dianne Sampang](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:47 PM July 17, 2024



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.. Screenshot from RTVM

MANILA, Philippines — An economist gave the administration a 6 out of 10 rating due to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s unfulfilled promises for the past two years.

In an interview with Teleradyo on Wednesday, Emmanuel Leyco said Marcos promised a lot, particularly lowering the price of rice.

“We have not achieved that and it seems like we will not achieve it in the coming months,” the chief economist of Credit Rating and Investors Services Philippines said in Filipino.

Marcos has promised to bring down the price of rice to P20 per kilo, saying it is possible but “it won't be easy.”

Leyco said that although select Kadiwa stores sell rice at P29 per kilo, it is not accessible to all.

Under Program 29 of the Department of Agriculture (DA), rice is sold at P29 per kilo to senior citizens, solo parents, and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

On the other hand, DA's Rice for All program seeks to sell rice at P45 to P48 per kilo to all Filipinos.

Leyco also took note of the direction of the economy in terms of developing infrastructure, particularly the Clark International Airport Corporation's plan to construct a 37-hectare entertainment and events center to accommodate the concerts of artists like Taylor Swift.

"It's okay if we don't have a Taylor Swift [concert]. It is not the basis of our growth. What we need is the infrastructure that will help boost our production, productivity, and job creation," he said in Filipino.

Leyco also said the President should have a "clear roadmap for economic development."

"We can't just watch other countries' economic growth from the sidelines all the time," he added.

On peace and order, the economist gave Marcos a positive rating, saying that the drug war under Marcos is more peaceful than the anti-illegal drug campaign of the Duterte administration.

"This is a relief. Unlike before when I would watch news about the killings...now, we do not hear news like that. The President is on the right track when it comes to combating the illegal drug trade," he said in Filipino.

In March, Marcos said the government's strategy in fighting the illegal drug trade "changed significantly" as he is "diametrically opposed to resorting to violence."

Marcos also reiterated that he would not cooperate with the International Criminal Court on its probe into former President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1961953/marcos-administration-a-6-out-of-10-says-economist>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Chicken prices expected to fall in August

July 17, 2024 | 9:09 pm



REUTERS

POULTRY raisers said that chicken prices may drop by late August after they hit a “record” P250 per kilogram in Metro Manila markets.

“The increased chicken prices are only temporary because raising chickens is fast... (it is possible) there will be a continuous drop in late August,” United Broiler Raisers Association President Jose Feliciano told reporters this week.

According to Department of Agriculture price monitors, whole chicken in National Capital Region markets sold for between P190 and P250 per kilogram as of July 15.

“P250 per kilo is a record... Other sellers are trying to take advantage of the supply situation,” Mr. Feliciano added.

Last month, whole chicken prices in Metro Manila markets sold for between P160 and P220 per kilogram.

Separately, Agriculture Undersecretary Deogracias Victor B. Savellano said that the increase may be attributed to a rise in production costs.

He cited “The cost of production (mainly) imports of feed additives,” as well as diseases hitting the poultry flock.

As of July 12, two municipalities in Pampanga had ongoing cases of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza or bird flu, according to the Bureau of Animal industry.

“Our concern is that the people should be able to buy affordable food,” Mr. Savellano said.

Mr. Savellano also described the high price of chicken as temporary. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/17/608800/chicken-prices-expected-to-fall-in-august/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Meat costs expected to rise due to high global prices, peso weakness

July 17, 2024 | 8:54 pm



THE Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA) said the price of imported meat could rise due to high international prices and a weak peso.

“We are already seeing the stocks of some major players thinning out,” MITA President Emeritus Jesus C. Cham said via Viber.

The peso closed at P58.295 against the dollar on Wednesday, according to the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Mr. Cham added that the recent signing of Executive Order (EO) No. 62, which cut import tariffs on major food items, could provide predictably for the meat import market.

“Unless the producers manage to overturn it,” he added.

EO 62, signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. extended low tariffs on pork and mechanically deboned chicken meat until 2028.

The tariff for pork was kept at 15% for shipments within the minimum access volume and 25% for those exceeding the quota. On the other hand, the rate for mechanically deboned chicken was retained at 5%.

According to the Bureau of Animal Industry, meat imports rose 10% during the five months to May, totaling 524.68 million kilograms.

Mr. Cham said shipments of major meats rose year on year despite the delayed release of quotas for pork and chicken.

“While we expect the quota to be finalized this month, only a few months remain to fully utilize,” he added.

He said that the heightened price of domestically grown pork and chicken may have driven consumers to cheaper imported variant.

“This suggests that the high price of local pork and poultry continue to make imported meat competitive and attractive. The high price of domestically grown meat could be attributed to decreased production and higher costs due to the El Niño,” Mr. Cham said.

According to the Department of Agriculture, a kilogram of domestically grown whole chicken in Metro Manila sold for between P190 and P250 per kilogram. On the other hand, pork belly (*liempo*) sold for between P350 and P410 per kilo, while pork shoulder (*kasim*) fetched P300-P380 per kilo.

Pork and chicken were the top meat imports during the six months at 253.55 million kilos and 181.23 million kilos, respectively.

Mr. Cham added that due to the rise in prices, beef is also emerging as an alternative.

“The high price of pork and poultry may have narrowed the gap against beef, making it easier to shift consumption from the former to the latter,” he said. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/17/608845/meat-costs-expected-to-rise-due-to-high-global-prices-peso-weakness/>

MANILA STANDARD

Solon favors NIA project on solar irrigation systems

By Maricel Cruz

July 17, 2024, 11:40 pm

The chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations has expressed full support for the National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) latest initiative to revolutionize irrigation in rain-fed areas, transforming them into productive lands year-round.

The NIA Solar Irrigation project, covering 71 sites across the Bicol Region, targets an area of 1,810 hectares benefitting 4,560 farmers across the region.

With a total project cost of P1.5 billion, Rep. Elizaldy Co of Ako Bicol party-list group said the initiative promises significant advancements in agricultural productivity and income for the farmer-beneficiaries.

“This initiative by the National Irrigation Administration is a game-changer for our farmers,” said Co. “With the availability of water during the dry season, we can expect an estimated additional income of P140 million every year for our farmers,” he said.

The priority areas for this project are currently rain-fed zones that rely solely on rainfall for irrigation, limiting their planting seasons to only once a year.

With the project's completion, these areas will have access to steady water supply even during the dry months.

This development will enable the farmers to plant rice during the rainy season and cultivate corn or other crops during the dry months, thus ensuring continuous agricultural activity throughout the year.

Co stressed the transformative impact of this project on the local farming community.

“Our farmers are the backbone of our economy. It is vital that we give them the tools and resources needed to boost their food production. This project will not only boost agricultural productivity but also uplift the socio-economic status of our farmers,” he said.

The Bicolano solon believes that by providing sustainable and efficient irrigation solutions, the project will significantly contribute to the region's overall development and food security.

"As a representative of the Bicolanos, I am committed to ensuring that we

continuously support and invest in our agricultural sector," Co said. "We continue to coordinate with government agencies like the NIA to ensure that projects such as these are successfully implemented and yield long-term benefits for our community."

<https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314473002/solon-favors-nia-project-on-solar-irrigation-systems.html>

MANILA STANDARD

Lawmaker extols sale of P29/rice by Kadiwa

By Maricel Cruz

July 17, 2024, 11:20 pm

Navotas Rep. Tobias Tiangco has lauded the Marcos administration's efforts to expand public access to affordable rice, following the announcement of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. that they will increase the number of Kadiwa outlets from 13 to 23.

"The sustained efforts of this administration to lower the price of basic commodities, including Filipino staples like rice, show its steadfast commitment to fulfil its promises. With this program, Filipinos from vulnerable households and sectors are given some economic relief as they gain access to low-cost goods for their families," Tiangco said.

Beneficiaries of the P29/kilo rice program being offered by the Kadiwa stores include members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), solo parents, senior citizens, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Earlier this week, some 1,500 Navoteños were able to purchase up to five kilos of P29/kilo rice.

"We are grateful to President Bongbong for his efforts to ensure Navoteños can have access to low-cost rice through the Kadiwa ng Pangulo program.

The local government of Navotas hopes to continuously work with the national government in delivering basic services that are truly relevant to the needs of our constituents," he said.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314472996/lawmaker-extols-sale-of-p29-rice-by-kadiwa.html>

Searca pushes open-system farming

By Leander C. Domingo

July 18, 2024

THE Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) held two events that introduced and promoted open-system farm machines to agricultural communities in the Philippines and Cambodia.

Searca Director Glenn Gregorio said these events were recently held in collaboration with Central Philippines State University (CPSU) in the Philippines and the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) in Cambodia.

"These events represent a crucial step toward modernizing agricultural practices in these regions," Gregorio said, adding that these initiatives also "underscore the importance of collaboration among the academe, industry and government in driving agricultural innovation."



The Oggun tractor manufactured by Bacolod-based Royal University Foundry is a type of open-system farm machine. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He noted that Searca as a leading enabler continues to champion initiatives that foster innovation and community participation, aiming to modernize agriculture through advanced mechanization.

These events also mark a milestone in Searca's mission to promote agricultural modernization and highlight the transformative potential of open-system machinery in Southeast Asia.

Enhancing farm machinery with local innovations in the Philippines, the knowledge-sharing event took place in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, in June through a collaboration between Searca and CPSU.

The Sitio Flora Agrarian Reform Cooperative (Sfarc) was identified as a partner farmer group to test and improve the Bacolod-based RU Foundry-manufactured Oggun tractor.

During the event, a ceremonial signing of a memorandum of agreement was witnessed by representatives from Sfarc, CPSU, Searca and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Western Visayas.

Gregorio said this event highlighted CPSU's "Pandayan ng Bayan" program, promoting community-managed foundries and equipping farming communities with essential skills in forging tools and farming equipment.

The training was also provided by RU Foundry on the tractor's basic operation, management, repair and maintenance while the farmer representative had the opportunity to operate the tractor with support from RU Foundry's technical staff.

Representatives from DAR pledged support to ensure that the cooperative will effectively manage and maintain the tractor, generating income for future repairs and maintenance.

Also, in advancing vegetable transplanting technology in Cambodia, the knowledge-sharing event in May 2024 was held in Takeo province in partnership with the RUA.

Gregorio said the event highlighted the introduction of a no-till vegetable transplanter powered by a two-wheel tractor, which was designed to reduce the labor required for vegetable planting.

He said this innovative technology was showcased to net house vegetable planters who had the opportunity to see its operation firsthand.

Gregorio said RUA is currently conducting comparative studies to evaluate the performance of vegetables transplanted using the machine versus traditional manual transplanting methods.

"With the support of Searca, the technology was demonstrated to the local farming community, allowing farmers to operate the machine and provide valuable feedback for further improvements," he said.

"This machine can significantly reduce our workload and increase efficiency," a farmer participant said. "We look forward to seeing its impact on our vegetable production."

Searca is a nonprofit organization established in 1966 by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization or Seameo, an intergovernmental treaty body founded in 1965 to foster cooperation among Southeast Asian nations in the fields of education, science and culture.

ADVERTISEMENT

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/business/agribusiness/searca-pushes-open-system-farming/1958096>

NIA eyes start of Panay River basin project

By Philippine News Agency

July 18, 2024

ILOILO CITY — The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is hoping to start construction of the P20.7-billion Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project in Capiz in 2026, or even earlier, if the agency can secure savings in 2025.

NIA Administrator Eduardo Guillen said they would already start acquiring the right-of-way and the necessary permits next year.

"Rest assured, we will already start the project. We already have complete data," Guillen said at the sidelines of the inauguration of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project (JRMP) II in Calinog, Iloilo.

He said they can bid the project through design and build, which is faster by an average of three years in terms of implementation.

Guillen said if they could get a contractor with a Quadruple A accreditation capable of implementing the project, then it would be up for completion before President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s term ends in 2028.

Once completed, the Panay River project is expected to address flooding in some 26,800 hectares in Capiz, generate hydroelectric power of 18.42 megawatts and produce 3 cubic meters of water per second to nearby municipalities.

The project will have a reservoir dam in Barangay Acuña and an afterbay dam in Barangay Garcia, all in Tapaz town, creating 13,950 hectares of potential new irrigable areas.

It is expected to benefit 25,046 farmers and 9,378 Indigenous people households.

It will cover the city of Roxas and the municipalities of Maayon, Panay, Panitan, Pontevedra, Cuartero, Dao, Dumalag, Jamindan, Mambusao, Sigma and Tapaz, all in Capiz, and the neighboring towns of Bingawan, San Rafael and Lemery in Iloilo.

Guillen said the catch basin of the Panay River basin is huge, around 10 times that of the JRMP II dam, so they are studying if the water from the river basin can augment the water at the JRMP II through a transbasin tunnel.

In 2022, the Western Visayas Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council passed a resolution calling for the phase-by-phase implementation of the project as a long-term solution to address the flooding problem in Capiz.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/business/agribusiness/nia-eyes-start-of-panay-river-basin-project/1958089>

'Lambaklad' project boosts fishing in coastal town

By Leander C. Domingo

July 18, 2024

COASTAL fishers in Claveria, Cagayan, need not go to the high seas, particularly in the Babuyan Channel, and risk their lives to catch fish.

This, as fish catching is now done through nets installed 460 meters away from the shore of Barangay Taggat that is part of the "Lambaklad" Fishing Project initiated by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

Citing the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data, BFAR said Region 2 has seen a constant downtrend in fish production in the commercial sector, logging 3,689.84 metric tons (MT) in 2023 or lower than the 3,920.66 MT of 2022.



The Lambaklad Fishing Project in Claveria, initiated by BFAR in Cagayan Valley, gives fishers an option not to venture out to sea to catch fish. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The PSA said that among the reasons for the downtrend are fuel price hikes that hinder fishing operations in the open seas. Also, strong typhoons deter fishers from venturing out to sea.

Thus, BFAR Region 2 launched the Lambaklad Fishing Project through its Capture Fisheries Section-Fisheries Production Support Services Division.

Coined from the Filipino words "lambat" (net) and "baklad" (corral), the Japanese-inspired technology called "Otoshi-Ami" uses nets and ropes, instead of bamboo poles, laid down about 200 meters from the shore.

BFAR said this technology that has been adopted in the Philippines is sustainable because, among others, the holes of the nets allow small fish to easily escape.

The first in Region 2, the Lambaklad project in Claveria town is located near the Community Fish Landing Center.

"It is an environment-friendly fishing gear that catches fish through allurements. The structure of the Lambaklad guides fish to swim toward the net and ends up in a bag or cod-end," BFAR said.

"As such, it only allows big pelagic [surface] and commercially important fishes such as yellowfin, skipjack, *Caranx* sp., Spanish mackerel and mackerel leaving small juvenile fish species to swim through the holes," it added.

BFAR said it took a month to set the gear at sea phase by phase "to ensure that it followed the prescribed design and the site conforms with the standards required in the guidelines in selecting a project site."

Crisanto Laeno, BFAR Capture Fisheries Section chief, said fishing activities in Claveria are now made easier with the Lambaklad project.

"Since fishing is done by allurement, in this way the fish swims inside and is trapped in the box-like chamber," Laeno said, adding that hauling of fish requires 15 up to 26 people aboard two motorboats, one bamboo raft and a flatboat, which usually takes place twice a day.

It was in May this year when the dry run in hauling resulted in harvesting about 672.05 kilograms of various species of marine fish such as tuna, Caranx (talakitok), dolphin fish (Dorado) and barracuda.

"These catches only prove that the Lambaklad is an effective fishing device," Laeno said.

BFAR also encouraged members of the Claveria Federation of Fisherfolk Association, the project beneficiaries, "to ensure the sustainability of the Lambaklad and to conduct regular maintenance and monitoring every 25 days and check for possible damages in the nets and mooring system."

Laeno added that in times of impending calamity or disaster, the nettings can be detached and brought to dry land for safety.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/business/agribusiness/lambaklad-project-boosts-fishing-in-coastal-town/1958093>

Cebu, Bohol fishermen receive boats

By Kaiser Jan Fuentes

July 18, 2024

CEBU CITY — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has awarded the first batch of 15 newly built 62-foot fishing vessels to qualified fisherfolk associations and cooperatives to bolster the municipal fishing capabilities.

During a ceremonial unveiling at Cebu Technological University-Carmen Campus in northern Cebu, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. emphasized the boats' role in enhancing national food security efforts.

Tiu Laurel highlighted their efficiency and safety features, crucial for improving fishing operations under the Capacitating the Municipal Fisherfolk program. Some materials are high-end and sourced from France.



MODERN BOATS Members of fisherfolk associations in Medellin, Cebu, and in Duero, Bohol, were given the opportunity to improve their catch following the turnover of 15 modern boats (in photo) by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isidro Velayo, BFAR officer in charge national director, noted that prior to this project, fishers relied solely on smaller boats equipped with engines under 3 horsepower. The new vessels are outfitted with engines ranging from 9 to 16 horsepower, significantly increasing their fishing capacity.

BFAR Region 7 (Central Visayas) Director Mario Ruinata underscored the program's goal to alleviate poverty among municipal fisherfolk. In addition to the boats, the agency has provided essential tools and resources for swimming which are aligned with Secretary Tiu Laurel's food security agenda.

Ruinata stressed the importance of a robust fishing sector in ensuring a stable and sustainable food supply for the nation, highlighting specific beneficiaries of the initiative such as the Mansilang Integrated Fisherfolk Association of Medellin, Cebu, and the Madua Norte Fisherfolks Association of Duero, Bohol.

Duero Mayor Al Taculad expressed gratitude to BFAR for the new vessels, acknowledging their potential to enhance local fishing industries and support the responsible management of aquatic resources.

More fishing boats will be awarded to other regions in the country later this year. They are eyeing at least 50 more of these fishing vessels will be distributed.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/regions/cebu-bohol-fishermen-receive-boats/1958144>

DTI-6 starts rice prices monitoring amid tariff cut

By Rjay Zuriaga Castor

July 18, 2024

ILOILO CITY — The Department of Trade and Industry Western Visayas (DTI-6) said it has started collecting the baseline prices of rice in the region in compliance with the lowered rice tariff requirement of Executive Order (EO) 62.

"Before we implement the EO, we are still getting the baseline data on current rice prices," said Grace Benedicto, Consumer Protection Division chief of the DTI-6, adding that they started their monitoring procedures on July 8.

Benedicto said they have so far monitored 29 establishments selling rice that are either regular milled, well-milled or special premium across the region.

"The DTI and Department of Agriculture (DA) will be in the piggy bank to monitor the prices of rice in supermarkets, hypermarkets and grocery stores," she added.

The price monitoring of DTI will cover supermarkets, hypermarkets and grocery stores, while wet markets will be under the DA's purview.

The EO issued by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on June 29 ordered the modification of nomenclature and tariff rates on various imported agricultural products, including rice, for the period 2024-2028.

"An updated comprehensive tariff schedule aims to augment supply, manage prices and temper inflationary pressure of various commodities," read a dispositive part of the EO.

Specifically, the EO has lowered the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent effective July 5.

Benedicto said their monitoring in markets will also indicate whether the rice product is local or imported and their sources.

"We are not limiting our monitoring per kilogram. We are also monitoring those that are 5, 10 or 25 kilograms," she added.

"Hopefully, it will reduce the prices, especially for our imported rice. We will check that after the EO takes effect," stressed Benedicto.

DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa previously said that prices of rice are expected to drop by P6 to P7.

Meanwhile, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the move to lower the tariff is seen to bring down the price of rice to P29 per kilo.

Benedicto appealed to rice retailers to be aware of the new EO and know who their suppliers are.

The DTI-6 said it is closely coordinating with the DA in monitoring those who will not comply with the EO and the Price Act or Republic Act 7581.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/regions/dti-6-starts-rice-prices-monitoring-amid-tariff-cut/1958125>

DA bans poultry from Minnesota

By Janine Alexis Miguel

July 18, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has reimposed a ban on the importation of wild birds, poultry and byproducts from the US state of Minnesota due to cases of avian influenza or bird flu.

In Memorandum Order 29 dated July 15, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service had confirmed cases of H5N1 infections in three Minnesota counties as of June 12.

"Based on a 2016 agreement between the Philippines and the US, a statewide ban may be imposed by the Philippines' Department of Agriculture if there are at least three counties affected by HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza)," Tiu Laurel said.



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. Photo from Department of Agriculture

The import ban covers domestic and wild birds and byproducts, including poultry meat, eggs, day-old chicks and semen.

Memorandum Order 69, issued in November last year, banned poultry imports from Minnesota and South Dakota due to cases of bird flu. The ban on Minnesota was lifted in March.

The DA said the USDA-APHIS had reported the bird flu cases to the World Organisation for Animal Health. HPAI is a disease with zoonotic potential, which means that it could be passed on to humans.

Processing, evaluation of applications, and issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances for agricultural products have been suspended.

However, shipments from Minnesota that are already in transit or accepted into ports before the imposition of the ban will be allowed entry if the products were slaughtered/produced 14 days before the first outbreak.

The United States was the second-largest supplier of Philippine poultry meat imports last year.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/business/top-business/da-bans-poultry-from-minnesota/1958137>

Cargill CSR projects get awards

By The Manila Times

July 18, 2024

CARGILL Philippines was honored for its Outstanding CSR Project at the 2024 CSR Expo, hosted by the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) on July 5 at the Glorietta Activity Center.

The company's Agri-Sagana Project received the prestigious Medal of Recognition under the Enterprise and Livelihoods Development category.

The CSR Guild Awards, a flagship program of the LCF, awards and honors organizations for their outstanding CSR contributions and practices.

Mija Cachapero, Cargill Philippines country president, expressed appreciation for the award, saying: "This recognition is a testament to our steadfast commitment to empower corn farmers and cooperatives in Cagayan Valley (Region 2) and the Philippines," said Mija Cachapero, Cargill Philippines country president.

"As a sustainable partner, we believe that providing market access and enriching local communities is the way toward a more inclusive and resilient food system. We continue to strive to extend this impact across the country for a more sustainable future for all Filipinos," she added.

The Agri-Sagana Project, meaning "bountiful," aims to upskill 15,000 farmers and empower 15 corn cooperatives in Region 2 to engage in corn consolidation and trading.

Additionally, five of the cooperatives' postharvest facilities have begun transitioning their operations from oil-based power to solar energy, promoting sustainability. As a result of ongoing accreditation

and supplier certification, market access for corn in Region 2 has expanded, leading to increased income for the registered cooperatives and corn farmers by 10 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

"LCF is proud to spotlight corporations' and corporate foundations' initiatives through the Medal of Recognition, and this year, one of them is the Agri-Sagana Project. We hope that through piloting this awards program, we are able to draw attention, not just to Cargill's CSR efforts but to all who have joined, and that next year we will have more entries," said LCF Executive Director Celine Santillan.

"The aim is to pave the way for all good CSR projects or programs to be recognized so that others are inspired, and that corporations and other stakeholders learn and collaborate for better impact," she added.

In addition to the Medal of Recognition, Cargill's RISE Coco Project, in partnership with CARE Philippines, was named a finalist under the Disaster Resilience category, acknowledging its role in rehabilitating coconut-based farming livelihoods in Bohol.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/business/agribusiness/cargill-csr-projects-get-awards/1958094>

Keeping prices of rice stable

By Malaya Business Insight

July 18, 2024

A MONTH ago, President Marcos Jr. issued Executive Order 62 reducing the tariff on rice and other products to 15 percent from 35 percent, a move that would ease the entry of imported rice and ensure the availability of the stock in the market. In theory, this should stabilize and even lower the market price of the staple grain.

In his order, the President said, “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.”

While EO 62 is still being challenged in the Supreme Court by various agri groups and farmers through a petition for certiorari, the government is ready to implement it in the absence of a temporary restraining order from the High Tribunal. This is the position taken by Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra.

‘However, scaling up importation of rice to boost its supply and thus attain stability in prices is at best a temporary solution.’

The Supreme Court has ordered the respondents in the case — President Marcos, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, and Tariff Commission chair Marilou Mendoza — to file their comments within a non-extendible period of 10 days.

With the implementation of EO 62 under way, Finance Secretary Ralph Recto said Filipinos would start to feel the impact of the order in August as average price of rice could go down to P50 per kilogram from P54.50 per kilo this month.

“Had we not taken this step, rice prices would have remained above P50, causing significant pain for consumers,” Recto said. “A sustained high price of rice could continue to drive inflation, delaying the reduction of policy interest rates by the BSP and derailing the country’s economic growth trajectory.”

Critics, however, have maintained that reducing the tariff rate on rice is not a panacea to the problem of high prices. Thus, the government has launched a nationwide rice price monitoring to assess the impact of the rice tariff reduction across the entire supply chain, from importers to retailers.

The extensive price monitoring initiative will be done by the Department of Trade and Industry, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, and this will cover a wide range of retail markets, including supermarkets, hypermarkets, and grocery stores under the DTI's jurisdiction, as well as wet markets under the DA's purview.

Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual, who also chairs the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC), said his department would remain steadfast in the rigorous monitoring and analysis of rice price fluctuations. He added that the data-driven reports will inform policymakers' decisions to ensure stable rice supply, distribution, and pricing.

The NPCC plays a crucial role in coordinating national efforts to stabilize and control the prices of essential goods and prime commodities. The council is composed of the secretaries of the trade and agriculture departments, as well as representatives of the consumer, agricultural, trading, and manufacturing sectors.

Food security, which is a principal objective of the Marcos administration, is best served when several government agencies cooperate and align their efforts towards shielding Filipinos from high food prices which, after all, have the biggest impact on inflation. Inflation rate also dictates the policy stance of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which affects other economic activities like investments, lending, and hiring.

A strict and extensive monitoring of price movements will enable the government to take the correct and timely measures as it intervenes in the rice market. However, scaling up importation of rice to boost its supply and thus attain stability in prices is at best a temporary solution. There is nothing better than ramping up production and increasing productivity of our rice farms so that we won't need to import this staple food, just as we were doing some 50 years ago.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_opinion/keeping-prices-of-rice-stable/

DA bans egg, poultry from Minnesota due to bird flu

Ada Pelonia

July 17, 2024



Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) ordered a temporary import ban on egg and poultry products from Minnesota, United States due to a bird flu outbreak.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Order (MO) 29 following an official report from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) which confirmed cases of H5N1 infections in three counties in Minnesota as of June 12.

The agriculture chief said the import ban will cover domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, eggs, day-old chicks, and semen.

Laurel ordered the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to immediately suspend the processing, evaluation of applications, and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary import Clearances (SPSIC) for those agricultural products.

The DA said shipments from Minnesota, USA that are already in transit, loaded or accepted unto port before the imposition of the ban “shall be allowed provided that the products were slaughtered/produced 14 days before the first outbreak” from the place of origin.

“Shipments that don’t comply with the conditions set in the import ban may either be returned to the port of origin or condemned,” the DA said in a statement.

The DA explained that based on a 2016 agreement between the Philippines and the US, a statewide ban may be imposed by the department if there are at least three counties affected by HPAI.

“The USDA-APHIS has reported the HPAI cases to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a notifiable disease with zoonotic potential, which means it could be passed on to humans.”

It noted that in 2023, the Philippines imported 166,356 metric tons (MT) of poultry products worth \$175.8 million from the US, which is the second-largest supplier of the country’s poultry meat imports accounting for 39 percent of overseas purchases.

In March, the DA lifted the temporary import ban on Minnesota, which was earlier imposed due to a bird flu outbreak.

Meanwhile, the DA chief issued MO 30 lifting the import ban on wild and domestic birds and their byproducts from the Czech Republic, following the declaration that the European country has resolved the bird flu outbreak.

The department noted that based on a recent report by the Czech Republic to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), all bird flu infections have been resolved and no additional outbreak has been reported since May 8.

“With all the technical information and documents submitted by their veterinary authorities, the DA is lifting the suspension imposed on the Czech Republic thus any trade from this country may commence again,” Laurel said.

The department said it imposes an importation ban on birds and their byproducts in countries where there are reported outbreaks of bird flu to prevent contagion on local poultry, a multibillion-peso industry that employs thousands of Filipinos and is a key component of the government's food security goal.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/17/da-bans-egg-poultry-from-minnesota-due-to-bird-flu/>

Average farmgate price of unmilled rice jumps in June

Ada Pelonia and Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

July 17, 2024



Farmworkers skillfully wield sickles as they harvest palay on a roadside farm in Calauan, Laguna.

Local traders bought dry unhusked rice at a higher price in June, according to the latest data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

A month before the start of the lean season for rice, PSA data showed that the average quotation for dry palay jumped by nearly 28 percent to P24.59 per kilo in June, from P19.23 per kilo a year ago. The lean season for rice is from July to September.

“Farmgate prices refer to the prices received by farmers for the sale of their produce at the first point of sale net of the total marketing cost paid by the farmers,” the PSA said.

“These prices are determined at the farmgate or first point of sale transactions and are also known as ‘producer prices.’”

On a monthly basis, the average farmgate price of palay in June slid by 0.8 percent from P24.79 per kilo recorded in May.

PSA data showed that the highest increase was observed in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where the average prices registered a year-on-year growth of 42.8 percent.

The average palay farmgate price in BARMM reached P26.66 per kilo in June, higher than the previous year’s P18.67 per kilo.

The slowest year-on-year growth in farmgate prices was recorded in Eastern Visayas at 13.3 percent. The average palay price went up to P19.97 per kilo in June from P17.62 per kilo in the same period last year.

On a month-on-month basis, the highest increase was recorded in Ilocos Region at 4.4 percent. The same region also recorded the highest average palay farmgate price which averaged P28.37 per kilo in June, higher than last year’s P20.23 per kilo.

This was followed by Western Visayas at P28.30 per kilo; Central Visayas, P27.65; BARMM, P26.66; and Northern Mindanao, P26.11.

The lowest average palay farmgate price was registered in the Eastern Visayas where it reached P19.97 per kilo followed by Caraga where it hit P21.24 and the Bicol Region.

The PSA said the monthly data on the farmgate prices of palay are obtained from the results of the Farm Price Survey for Palay conducted on the last five days of the reference month.

Based on the agency’s survey of standing crops, the country’s paddy rice output likely dropped by 8.6 percent to 3.88 million metric tons (MMT) in the second quarter from the actual output of 4.25 MMT a year ago.

The latest figure is also 0.6 percent lower than the PSA's initial estimate of 3.91 MMT.

'Game changer'

House Committee on Appropriations Chairman and Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Zaldy Co said Wednesday that he supports the National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) latest initiative aimed at "revolutionizing irrigation" in rain-fed areas, thereby transforming them into productive lands year-round.

Co said the NIA Solar Irrigation project, which covers 71 sites across the Bicol Region, targets an area of 1,810 hectares and is set to benefit 4,560 farmers across the region.

With a total project cost of P1.5 billion, Co said the initiative promises significant advancements in agricultural productivity and income for the farmer-beneficiaries.

"This initiative by the National Irrigation Administration is a game-changer for our farmers," said Co.

"It meets the crucial needs of farmers on the river. It will increase the harvest, the ability of farmers to cultivate their lands, and their income. With the availability of water during the dry season, we can expect an estimated additional income of P140 million every year for our farmers."

According to Co, the priority areas for this project are currently rain-fed zones that rely solely on rainfall for irrigation, limiting their planting seasons to only once a year.

With the project's completion, these areas will have access to a steady water supply even during the dry months, and this development will enable farmers to plant rice during the rainy season and cultivate corn or other crops during the dry months, thus ensuring continuous agricultural activity throughout the year, the lawmaker added.

"Our farmers are the backbone of our economy. It is important to give them the equipment and resources they need to develop and strengthen their food production. This project not only boosts agricultural productivity but also uplifts the socio-economic status of our farmers."

Image credits: Bernard Testa

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/17/average-farmgate-price-of-unmilled-rice-jumps-in-june/>

Google-backed AI startup Cropin wants to predict future of food

BusinessMirror

July 17, 2024

Food and agriculture AI startup Cropin Technology Solutions has unveiled a real-time intelligence solution to forecast future yields for 13 vital crops as artificial intelligence helps overcome bottlenecks in the farming industry.

The Bangalore-headquartered company unveiled Sage, powered by Alphabet Inc.'s Google Gemini AI model, which converts the world's agricultural landscape into a proprietary grid-based map and then delivers precise predictive intelligence based on historical data. Decision-makers can ask questions about crop performance and life cycle in their native language and get information on productivity, climate, farm practices and soil for the 13 crops that account for 80 percent of global food demand.

“To predict the future of a particular crop is a major leap, and we see entire industries go into turbulence on account of shortfall in say, cocoa or orange crop,” said Krishna Kumar, Cropin's founder and chief executive officer.

As the world's population explodes and food security concerns increase, generative AI and large language models have the potential to transform modern agriculture in a climate-impacted world. That can help a whole range of customers from consumer packaged goods makers and seed manufacturers to financial institutions and governments plan crop production and make informed decisions on cultivation.

The world's agricultural land spans 4.8 billion hectares, according to Cropin.

The company's technology fuses generative AI with four decades of climate data, earth data and knowledge graphs to decode each crop country-by-country and predict how a certain crop will behave this season, next year or over the next five years.

“We have the technology to predict, for example, which variety of potato will yield optimally in certain grids in Idaho or in Kenya, helping a prominent chipmaker customer to plan their supply chain,” Kumar said over a video call.

Fertilizer deal

PepsiCo Inc. struck an agreement with fertilizer giant Yara International ASA to secure lower-emission crop nutrients for farmers it buys from in Europe, as food and beverage companies push to become greener.

Yara will initially mostly supply PepsiCo farmers with traditional products made using natural gas, but plans to boost volumes of fertilizer manufactured with either renewable ammonia or ammonia produced via carbon capture and storage by 2030. PepsiCo—which sells snacks including Lay’s potato chips—said efforts will focus on potatoes to begin with, before expanding to other crops.

It’s the latest sign that food producers are paying more attention to the impact of fertilizer usage in their supply chain. Multinationals are coming under pressure to reduce their environmental footprint—and for foods like wheat and potatoes, a big chunk of emissions can come from nutrients used to grow them.

Gas is used as a feedstock and source of energy to make nitrogen fertilizer. So-called green ammonia is energy intensive, produced by combining hydrogen from water electrolysis using renewable energy with nitrogen. While companies including Yara are starting to manufacture green ammonia, so far not enough has been made to sell commercially at scale.

PepsiCo will buy as much as 165,000 tons of fertilizers per year from Yara by 2030, according to a statement on Tuesday. Those volumes will eventually come from Yara’s new renewable hydrogen plant in Norway, and some from a Dutch plant which will use carbon capture and storage.

“Fertilizers represent one of the biggest opportunities for PepsiCo to reduce emissions, as they significantly impact the company’s average potato carbon footprint in Europe,” according to the statement.

Yara recently agreed similar collaborations with companies including Simpsons Malt, potato chip manufacturer El Parque Papas and agricultural cooperative Lantmannen.

“This is quite different from what we have been doing so far,” Mónica Andrés Enríquez, Yara’s executive vice president Europe, said by phone. “It’s not about a simple contract of fertilizers, but it includes also a holistic approach on how the farmer is going to apply the fertilizers, and the use of precision farming tools as well.”

Separately, fertilizer company CF Industries could produce 20,000 tons a year of green ammonia at a plant in Donaldsonville starting in 2024, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Bloomberg News

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/17/google-backed-ai-startup-cropin-wants-to-predict-future-of-food/>

Government opens marine hatchery in Zamboanga del Norte

Manuel Cayon

July 17, 2024

Davao City—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Bfar) said the government recently opened a multispecies marine hatchery in Jose Dalman, Zamboanga del Norte.

Bfar, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA), said the hatchery is “the first of its kind” and is expected to drive the region’s aquaculture development.

For the first few years, the Jose Dalman Marine Fish Hatchery will focus on milkfish fry production, which is expected to produce 12.5 million milkfish fry annually at a 50-percent survival rate, the agency said in a statement last Tuesday.

During the inauguration ceremony in the town, DA-BFAR Officer-in-Charge Isidro M. Velayo Jr. said the hatchery “is important to reinforce the province’s milkfish production.”

“Why bangus? Because the technology is already available. We have lots of fishponds, we have more areas for development that is why our primary commodity for this hatchery is bangus,” Velayo said.

“Hopefully we can add more species so that the income potential will be maximized by us.”

The hatchery’s production aims to provide the seed requirement for grow-out facilities like ponds and cages in the entire Zamboanga Peninsula, including the more than 200 milkfish cages operating in the different mariculture parks in the region, he said.

He said the hatchery is the government's "first-ever" multispecies hatchery in the Zamboanga Peninsula, the region known for its sardine production.

Bfar said the hatchery was established by virtue of Republic Act 10859, which the agency described as "another significant legislative and technological investment under the Legislated Hatcheries Program of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources."

It said that of the 57 multi-species hatcheries and other aquaculture facilities to be constructed nationwide under 41 laws passed during the 16th, 17th and 18th Congresses, "the Bureau, to date, has completed a total of 26, while 21 are now under construction and 10 undergoing preliminary preparations including feasibility studies and procurement procedures."

"With this new facility, local fish farmers would soon no longer need to source their supplies of fry and fingerlings from local wild fry gatherers, private hatcheries from other regions like the Soccsksargen, or even from traders selling imported fry from Indonesia."

The agency said this would cut fry costs, "which mean lower operating capital, emergence of more grow-out areas, additional revenue for the local government unit, and more employment opportunities for the community."

The Jose Dalman Marine Fish Hatchery was designed by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and built in partnership with the municipal government, which provided the 3,000-square meter lot for the project.

The municipality of Jose Dalman is 260 kilometers northeast of Zamboanga City, and 65 kilometers southwest of Dipolog City, the capital of Zamboanga del Norte.

During the first two years, Bfar said its Regional Fishery Office will manage the hatchery while providing technical skills through training and capacity building to local government personnel in preparation for the turnover of the hatchery to the local government of Jose Dalman.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/17/government-opens-marine-hatchery-in-zamboanga-del-norte/>

‘Meat imports still competitive due to costly local products’

Ada Pelonia

July 17, 2024

The Philippines purchased more imported meat products in the first five months of the year to meet rising demand for cheaper alternatives, according to the Meat Importers and Traders Association (Mita).

Data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed that the country’s meat imports grew by nearly 10 percent to year-on-year to 524,675 metric tons (MT) as of May 31, driven by more purchases of imported pork and chicken.

Pork imports jumped by 10.62 percent to 253,548 MT from 229,201 MT while chicken meat imports also grew by 4.98 percent to 181,232 MT from 172,627 MT, based on BAI data.

The country’s imports of mechanically deboned meat (MDM) accounted for the bulk of chicken imports at 99,122 MT. This was followed by the purchases of chicken leg quarters at 49,125 MT.

“This suggests that the high price of local pork and poultry continue to make imported meat competitive and attractive,” MITA President Emeritus Jesus Cham said via Viber.

“The high price locally could be attributed to decreased production and higher cost due to the El Niño phenomenon.”

He also noted that the high prices of pork and poultry have prompted consumers to shift to beef. The country’s beef imports during the period jumped by nearly 29 percent to 68,527 MT from 53,211 MT last year.

“Looking ahead, the weak peso [and] strong dollar coupled with higher prices abroad is increasing the landed cost of imported meat,” Cham said.

“The recent issuance of EO [Executive Order] 62 will lend stability and predictably for the remaining years of [Marcos] unless the producers manage to overturn it.”

Meanwhile, Brazil was the top supplier of chicken at 98,318 MT with the United States trailing behind at 58,389 MT, based on BAI data.

Spain was the Philippines’s top supplier of pork at 64,719 MT, followed by Brazil at 58,354 MT and Canada at 36,514 MT.

In terms of beef imports, BAI data showed that Brazil was also the country’s biggest supplier at 23,959 MT followed by Australia which accounted for 20,440 MT.

Cham said his group expects the government to finalize the quota for meat products this monthly. “While we expect the quota to be finalized this month, only a few months remain to fully utilize (it).”

Under EO 62, pork imports have an in-quota tariff of 15 percent and an out-quota tariff of 25 percent, while poultry MDM has a 5-percent tariff rate.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/17/meat-imports-still-competitive-due-to-costly-local-products/>

ABANTE TONITE

Manok pumalo sa P250 per kilo, itlog 20% taas-presyo

July 17, 2024

Nag-iisip ngayon ng paraan ang Department of Agriculture (DA) kung paano kokontrolin ang pagsipa sa presyo ng ilang produktong agrikultural tulad ng manok at itlog.

Base kasi sa Bantay Presyo ng DA, tumaas ang presyo ng manok sa Metro Manila na umabot ng hanggang P250 per kilo habang nasa P190 ang pinakamura.

Nangako si DA Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano na gagawa sila ng paraan at kinakausap na nila ang poultry sector kaugnay sa tumataas na presyo ng mga bilihin sa palengke.

Nabatid na apektado umano ang poultry sector ng pagtaas ng gastos sa produksiyon, pag-angkat ng feeds o pagkain ng mga alagang hayop, at ang epekto ng avian influenza na nagdulot ng taas-presyo.

Pero sinabi ni Savellano na maaaring hindi rin magtagal at bababa ang presyo ng manok.

“Siguro saglit lang, kaya nga kailangan naming bumaba, makita at pag-aralan namin kung ano iyong nagko-cause nito,” dagdag pa ng opisyal.

Samantala, inalarma na rin ng DA ang taas-presyo sa itlog na papalo umano ng 10 hanggang 20 porsiyento ngayong malapit na ang balik-eskuwela.

Sa Bantay Presyo ng DA, nasa P5.50 hanggang P9 na ang presyo ng medium egg sa Metro Manila.

“Pagdating ng ‘ber’ months, normally nagti-trigger na ng panahon ng paglakas ng demand sa itlog at gaya ng nabanggit ko before, kapag ‘ber’ months at panahon ng pasukan,” ayon naman kay DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa.

Itinakda ng Department of Education (DepEd) sa Hulyo 29 ang balik-eskuwela para sa school 2024-2025.

Ngunit sinabi naman ni Philippine Egg Board Association president Francis Uyehara na tumaas na ang presyo ng itlog sa ilang lugar noon pang nakaraang buwan ng Hunyo at maaaring tuloy-tuloy na ito hanggang sa holiday season sa Disyembre. (PNA)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/07/17/manok-pumalo-sa-p250-per-kilo-itlog-20-taas-presyo/>

Kamatis nabubulok na sa kamahalan sa Bulacan

[Omar Padilla](#)

July 18, 2024 | 12:00am



Maging ang presyo ng kinchay ay umabot na sa 150 pesos kada kilo kaya bihira nang makakita nito sa palengke.

[Philstar.com/lrra Lising](https://philstar.com/lrra-lising)

MALOLOS CITY, Bulacan, Philippines — Nabubulok na halos ang kamatis sa ilang pamilihang bayan sa lalawigang ito matapos na hindi na nabibili dahil sa sobrang taas ng presyo nito na umabot na sa 200 piso kada kilo.

Maging ang presyo ng kinchay ay umabot na sa 150 pesos kada kilo kaya bihira nang makakita nito sa palengke.

Sa panayam kay Aling Gloria, maggugulay sa Brgy. Matungao, Bulakan na umaangkat sa Balagtas public market, nasa P14 ang benta niya sa isang

pirasong katamtamang laki ng kamatis dahil pumalo na ito sa P200 kada kilo.

Aniya, dati lamang P6 ang presyo ng isang kamatis nitong mga nakaraang dalawang linggo hanggang umabot ng P14 ngayon kaya tumamlay ang bentahan per piraso nito sa mga talipapa, bangketa at sari-sari store.

Tumaas na rin ang presyo ng talong na dating P80 per kilo nitong nakaraang linggo ay pumalo ngayon sa P120 habang ang calamansi na dating P70 per kilo ay umakyat sa P130. Sumabay din ang pagtaas ng presyo ng ampalaya na mula sa dating P80 per kilo ay pumalo sa P110 na ito.

Samantala, ilang umaangkat at tindera ang napag-alamang nagboykot o hindi na nagtinda ng kinchay sa ilang palengke dahil sa sinasabing nasa P1,500 per kilo ang puhunan nito.

Ayon sa ilang retailer at maggugulay na bumibili sa palengke, ang dating P50 na kinchay ay sadyang napakarami na para sa kanilang paninda.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/07/18/2370966/kamatis-nabubulok-na-sa-kamahalan-sa-bulacan>

REMATE:

Poultry products mula Minnesota, US bawal sa Pinas sa banta ng bird flu

July 17, 2024 17:07



MANILA, Philippines – Ipinagbawal ng pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pagbabawal sa importasyon ng poultry at poultry by-products mula sa Minnesota sa Estados Unidos dahil sa outbreak ng bird flu. Sa pahayag nitong Miyerkules, Hulyo 17, nag-isyu si Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ng Memorandum Order No. 29, na nag-aatas ng agarang pagbabawal sa pagpasok ng domestic at wild birds maging ang kanilang by-products mula Minnesota, kasunod ng kumpirmadong ulat ng High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 cases sa naturang US state.

Sakop ng import ban ang domestic at wild birds at mga produkto nito kabilang ang poultry meat, eggs, day-old chicks at semen.

Nagpasa ang USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) ng official report sa DA na nagpapakita ng kumpirmadong kaso ng H5N1 infections sa tatlong county ng Minnesota hanggang noong Hunyo 12.

Batay sa 2016 agreement sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at US, maaaring ipatupad ang statewide ban ng DA kung mayroong tatlong counties ang apektado ng HPAI.

Ayon kay Tiu Laurel, ipinag-utos na nito sa Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) ang agarang pagsuspende sa pagproseso, evaluation ng aplikasyon, at pag-iisyu ng Sanitary and Phytosanitary iImport Clearances (SPSIC) para sa mga agricultural products.

Sa kabila nito, ang mga kargamento mula Minnesota na in transit na, ikinarga o tinanggap sa port bago ang pagpapatupad ng ban “shall be allowed provided that the products were slaughtered/produced 14 days before the first outbreak” mula sa place of origin.

Ang mga hindi susunod sa kondisyon na itinakda sa import ban ay ibabalik sa port of origin o kukumpiskahin. ***RNT/JGC***

<https://remate.ph/poultry-products-mula-minnesota-us-bawal-sa-pinas-sa-banta-ng-bird-flu/>

REMATE:

P29/kilo na bigas sa Kadiwa ng Pangulo at Diskwento Caravan sa Navotas, umarangkada na

July 17, 2024 17:20



BINISITA ni Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco ang Kadiwa ng Pangulo at Diskwento Caravan na nagbebenta ng P29 per kilo na bigas at mga gulay, prutas, school supplies, at iba pang gamit sa Navotas Sports Complex. Target ng P29 Rice Program na makapaghandog ng murang bigas para sa mga senior, PWD, 4Ps, at solo parents. Pinuri ni Navotas Representative Toby Tiangco ang pagsisikap ng administrasyong Marcos na palawakin ang sakop sa abot-kayang bigas, kasunod ng pag-anunsyo ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. na dadagdagan nila ang bilang ng mga Kadiwa outlet na nag-aalok ng P29 kada kilo ng bigas mula 13 hanggang 23 na tindahan. **JOJO RABULAN**





<https://remate.ph/p29-kilo-na-bigas-sa-kadiwa-ng-pangulo-at-diskwento-caravan-sa-navotas-umarangkada-na/>

REMATE:

Kita ng mga mangingisda sa Scarborough bumaba ng 60% sa fishing ban ng China

July 17, 2024 13:52



MANILA, Philippines – Bumaba ng halos 60% ang kita ng mga mangingisdang Pinoy malapit sa Scarborough Shoal dahil sa fishing ban ng China sa South China Sea, kabilang ang mga bahagi ng West Philippine Sea.

Ayon sa PAMALAKAYA, bumaba mula P10,000 patungong P4,000 ang kita ng mga mangingisda sa Zambales sa bawat biyahe ng mga ito malapit sa Scarborough o Panatag Shoal.

“The presence of Chinese vessels has intensified since our territorial waters have been placed under a fishing moratorium,” saad sa pahayag ni PAMALAKAYA-Zambales provincial coordinator Joey Marabe.

“While we don’t experience direct untoward incidents with these huge vessels, their overwhelming presence effectively impedes our regular fishing activities,” dagdag pa niya.

Upang masuri ang epekto ng fishing ban ng China sa ibang mga probinsya ay nakikipag-ugnayan na ang PAMALAKAYA sa mga operator at asosasyon ng mga mangingisda sa Pangasinan at La Union.

Nanawagan naman ang PAMALAKAYA sa administrasyong Marcos na ibigay ang pangangailangan ng mga mangingisdang apektado ng fishing ban ng China.

“Halos isang buwan na mula nang ideklara ng China ang walang batayan nitong fishing ban, subalit hindi pa namin maramdaman ang administrasyon ni Marcos Jr. na kamustahin man lamang ang mga mangingisda, lalo pa ang pagbibigay ng suporta sa kanilang kabuhayan,” ayon kay PAMALAKAYA vice chairperson Ronnel Arambulo.

Nauna nang ipinrotesta ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) ang fishing ban ng China na lumalabag sa international law at tinatapakan ang soberanya at maritime rights ng bansa.

“The Philippines called on China to cease and desist from the conduct of illegal actions that violate the Philippines’ sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction in its maritime zones,” sinabi ng DFA.

Hinimok din nito ang China na “comply with its obligations under international law, particularly the 1982 UNCLOS and the final and binding 2016 Arbitral Award; and adhere to its commitments under the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.” *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/kita-ng-mga-mangingisda-sa-scarborough-bumaba-ng-60-sa-fishing-ban-ng-china/>

REMATE:

Import ban sa sibuyas pinalawig ‘gang Agosto

July 17, 2024 09:08



TINIYAK ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pagpapalawig pa nito ang pagbabawal sa pag-import ng mga pulang sibuyas dahil nananatiling stable ang supply ng mga lokal na sibuyas.

“As of the moment, hindi talaga kailangang mag-import ng onions... For now, until August,” ani Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr. sa isang ambush interview.

Ayon kay Sec. Tiu Laurel ang umiiral na import ban ay nakatakdang mag-expire sa katapusan ng Hulyo.

”We’re monitoring everything closely, day-to-day iyan. So I guess, we would be extend on a monthly basis,” sabi nito.

Siya, gayunpaman, ay nagbabala sa mga walang prinsipyong mangangalakal na maaaring “potensyal” na samantalahin ang sitwasyon.

“Baka mayroon diyang unscrupulous na traders o businessmen na baka mag-tighten na mag-release ng” sabi ni Tiu Laurel.

Nauna rito nitong Hulyo 5, ang bansa ay mayroong 152,839.25 metric tons (MT) ng red onions, 10,601.42 MT ng yellow onions, at 63 MT ng shallots, ayon sa DA.

Ang imbentaryo ng sibuyas sa bansa ay maaaring tumagal ng walong buwan o hanggang Pebrero 2025.

Ang umiiral na presyo ng lokal na pulang sibuyas sa Metro Manila ay nasa pagitan ng P80 at P150 kada kilo para sa pulang sibuyas at P60 hanggang P130/kg para sa puting sibuyas. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/import-ban-sa-sibuyas-pinalawig-gang-agosto/>

REMATE:

Presyo ng manok umabot sa P250 kada kilo sa ilang pamilihan sa Maynila

July 17, 2024 07:39



MANILA, Philippines – Sumirit ang presyo ng manok sa ilang pamilihan sa Metro Manila ng hanggang P250 kada kilo, kung saan aabot sa P190 kada kilo naman ang pinakamababa, ayon sa Department of Agriculture-Bantay Presyo.

Bunsod nito, sinabi ng DA na patuloy silang nakikipag-usap sa poultry sector sa gitna ng pagtaas ng presyo sa merkado.

Sa isang ambush interview, nangako si DA Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano na magbibigay ng mga interbensyon sa mga raiser na apektado ng iba't ibang hamon sa bansa, tulad ng mataas na halaga ng produksyon, importasyon ng mga feed additives, at ang mga epekto ng avian influenza, na dahil dito ay nag-ambag sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon ng supply.

Mula Oktubre 2023 hanggang Abril 2024, ang average na farm gate prices ng manok ay bumaba sa mababang hanay na P91.47 kada kilo sa P101.32 kada kg, ayon sa United Broiler Raisers Association (UBRA).

Gayunman, sinabi ni Savellano na ang P250 kada kilo ay maaaring hindi magtatagal sa merkado at maaaring makabili ang publiko ang mas murang manok o iba pang mga pagpipilian sa karne sa mga supermarket.

“Siguro saglit lang, kaya nga kailangan naming bumaba, makita at pag-aralan namin kung ano ang dahilan nito,” sabi ni Savellano.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni UBRA president Jose Gerardo Feliciano ang P250 kada kilo ay isang hindi makatwirang pagtaas, kung isasaalang-alang ang P70 hanggang P75 na average na markup mula sa presyo ng farmgate.

Ipagpalagay na ang farm gate presyo per kg. ay PHP150, pagkatapos ang market retail price ay magiging PHP220 hanggang PHP230, aniya.

Sa ngayon, ang average na farm gate presyo bawat kg. Ang manok ay itinakda sa PHP137, mas mataas kaysa noong Hunyo na PHP125.57 at PHP118.75 para sa parehong buwan noong 2023. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-manok-umabot-sa-p250-kada-kilo-sa-ilang-pamilyan-sa-maynila/>