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Bicolano rice farmer sets record harvest of hybrid rice

BY JUNEP OCAMPO

Jul 21, 2024 07:49 AM

MAGARAO, Camarines Sur — A seasoned rice farmer from Barangay Sta. Lucia in this town recently made headlines on social media for his extraordinary rice harvest.

Genaro A. Tamon produced 263 cavans (sacks) of hybrid rice, each weighing 60 kilos, from his one-hectare irrigated farm, setting a new record in the Bicol Region.

Lovella P. Guarin, head of the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS), confirmed that Tamon's record harvest amounted to 15.78 metric tons, tripling the Bicol region's average yield of 4.41 metric tons per hectare in irrigated rice areas, according to the 2023 data from the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Tamon sold his fresh palay at a local comprada for P21.50 per kilo, earning a gross income of P339,270. After deducting his production expenses, which totaled around P130,000, he netted P209,270 from just one hectare of rice.

Tamon credits his impressive yield to the combined use of organic (chicken dung) and inorganic fertilizers, along with a high-yielding hybrid rice variety. He planted 15 kilos of the US 88 Hybrid Rice variety from SeedWorks Philippines, Inc., a private seed company.

Starting with a 300-square-meter seedbed enriched with 10 bags of rice hull, Tamon applied 10 kilos of complete fertilizer (14-14-14) to the growing seedlings after 10 days. Meanwhile, he prepared his one-hectare farm by applying 100 bags of chicken dung, purchased at P100 per bag, and 10 liters of soil conditioner after harrowing.

He transplanted the 20-day-old palay seedlings at a distance of 15 cm by 20 cm to optimize root and canopy growth, ensuring each square meter held 30 single rice seedlings. Fertilizer was applied in granular and foliar forms every 15 days, beginning on the fifth day after transplanting with 3 bags of complete fertilizer (14-14-14) and 2 bags of urea. Subsequent applications included combinations of urea, 16-20-0, 17-0-17, and 0-0-60 fertilizers at regular 15-day intervals.

Tamon also sprayed foliar fertilizer thrice during the tillering, booting, and flowering stages. He emphasized the importance of adequate fertilization for high yields in hybrid rice, stating, "Sunod sa layaw ang palay ko kaya binigyan din ako ng magandang ani. Kung magtatanim ka, dapat may target ka din na harvest."

He explained the significant difference between inbred and hybrid rice, noting that hybrid varieties can produce up to 500 grains per panicle, compared to the maximum of 200 grains in inbred varieties. However, he stressed that achieving such yields requires sufficient fertilizer application.

A long-time local farmer technician for the Department of Agriculture Bicol, Tamon was also the 2018 regional Gawad Saka outstanding rice farmer. At 61 years old, he currently serves as

the president of the Sta. Lucia Farmers Association, which comprises over 92 rice farmers cultivating approximately 210 hectares of rice farms in Magarao, Camarines Sur.



RECORD-SETTING RICE FARMER -- Genaro Tamon poses in the middle of his rice field in Camarines Sur. Photo courtesy of Eduardo Collantes, Jr.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/21/bicolano-rice-farmer-sets-record-harvest-of-hybrid-rice>

MANILA BULLETIN:

'Butchoy', 'habagat' fatalities rise to 8; state of calamity in 2 Cotabato towns

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

Jul 21, 2024 10:42 AM



Philippine Coast Guard personnel rescue a woman using a basin as deep floods caused by heavy rains due to the southwest monsoon (habagat) and low pressure area hit Zamboanga City on July 14, 2024. (Photo: PCG)

Widespread flooding and devastating landslides caused by the combined effects of the southwest monsoon (habagat) and tropical depression “Butchoy” already claimed the lives of eight persons, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday, July 21.

The latest fatality was a 22-year-old man who drowned in Brgy. Damalask, Pagalungan, Maguindanao del Sur.

Five other deaths were earlier confirmed by the NDRRMC: four in Zamboanga City who died due to landslides and a 47-year-old woman who drowned in Maramag, Bukidnon.

Meanwhile, two deaths were still undergoing validation by the NDRRMC.

The municipalities of Kabacan and Pikit in Cotabato have already declared a state of calamity due to the bad weather affecting the province since July 11.

A total 636,110 individuals (131,388 families) were affected by Butchoy and habagat, of which, around 384,000 persons (77,000 families) were displaced and being assisted in evacuation centers or by their relatives and friends.

The damage to agriculture also rose to P8.29 million and the affected regions were Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9) and Northern Mindanao (Region 10).

Meanwhile, infrastructure loss remained at P700,000 and the affected regions were Region 10, Davao (Region 11), Soccsksargen (Region 12), and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

The national government has already distributed P21.57 million worth of assistance to the affected individuals.

Authorities were also preparing for the effects of tropical storm “Carina”, whose last location was recorded at 545 km East of Casiguran, Aurora at 11 p.m. on Saturday, July 20.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/21/butchoy-habagat-fatalities-rise-to-8-state-of-calamity-in-2-cotabato-towns>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos: Bangsamoro can become one of PH's most progressive regions

BY BETHEENA UNITE

Jul 21, 2024 10:39 AM

President Marcos believes that the Bangsamoro has the potential to become one of the most progressive regions in the country.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Noel Pabalate)

Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is key to implementing the Marcos administration's flagship programs, particularly on food security, agriculture, and aquaculture.

“And iyon, nakita namin talaga iyong Bangsamoro government has a lot of potentials kasi nakita ni Presidente in terms na iyong tinatawag natin iyong kaniyang mga flagship programs (We and the President saw that the Bangsamoro has a lot of potentials in terms of flagship programs),” Galvez said in a news forum in Quezon City.

“For example in food security – BARMM can answer those cattle; second, in terms of agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries,” the official added.

Galvez said that “more or less 30 percent” of the country's fisheries and other food products are from BARMM.

According to BARMM Cabinet Secretary Mohd Asnin Pendatun, investors are considering the potential of the Bangsamoro to become an investment hub, citing the "relatively better peace and security situation in the region."

"We are happy to share that in 2023, P 3.1 billion worth of investment was recorded in the region and this translates to 1,927 job opportunities," Pendatun said.

"For 2024 po, we are now at 3.5, at least 3.5 billion. We have already surpassed 42 percent of our target at hindi pa po natatapos iyong taon (and the year is not even over)," he added.

Pendatun reported they welcomed 558,000 tourists with 1,394 foreigners.

Galvez also cited developments in BARMM's peace and security which was mentioned in the Global Peace Summit.

"I just came from Oslo last month at napakaganda ng nakita kong reception na talagang iyong Bangsamoro Peace Agreement is a different agreement (and the reception for the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement is a different agreement is good)," Galvez said.

"Nakikita natin na isa ito sa mga nagiging ehemplo ng ibang bansa in terms of the implementation at saka in terms of the conception of the agreement (We saw that this is going to be an example for other countries in terms of the implementation and of the conception of the agreement)," Galvez added.

The official also said the "BARMM peace process has a bright future," noting that the country is set to reach another major milestone as it prepares for the holding of the first BARMM parliamentary election which will be held on May 12, 2025.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/21/marcos-believes-bangsamoro-can-become-one-of-ph-s-progressive-regions>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Taho story: A hot-and-cold scoop of brewing success

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

July 21, 2024 | 12:00am



The Taho Story owners at the opening of their second branch at Century City Mall in Makati.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — All stories have a beginning. And for this up-and-coming food business, it all started with a sort of a “why not?” experiment.

It was at the tail end of the birthday celebration of Jude’s daughter at a buffet when his pal, Charlie, made a dessert of sorts.

Charlie scooped up some layers of soybean curd, locally known as taho. Added some arnibal or sugar syrup and the usual sago.

Next thing, he did the unimaginable. He asked for a few scoops of ube ice cream to be topped on his taho mix. It did not stop there. Charlie added some macapuno from the halo-halo section.

Voilà! An affogato of its own, just how Charlie describes it. Only that it was reversed: the hot component is added first before the cold one.

Charlie held up his dessert concoction, went to his pals, and told them with a grin: Bakit hindi?

Prologue: From balling to serving

It was March 1 when Charlie made taho with ice cream... and toppings. Weeks before that, Charlie, Jude and their gang have been wanting to put up a business. The only problem was, what type of business to invest in?

But Charlie's dessert innovation paved the way for PHIBESome Food Inc.'s business venture: taho with ice cream.

PHIBESome traces its roots in the basketball rivalry among seven people: Jude Espinas, Charlie Hernandez, Paulo Perez, John Angelo Hernandez, Mico Inobaya, Edgar Palacio and Christian Bulalaque.

They used to play basketball against each other. Eventually, as they grew old, got jobs and had families, things changed. They became teammates.

They formed Team Bluey basketball, an organization envisioned to provide a platform to aspiring young Filipino ballers to compete at higher stakes. Filipino youth who do not have the opportunity yet to play in bigger leagues.

But joining leagues comes at a cost. To make the team sustainable, they thought of forming a business that would provide a stable source of income, not just for the team but also for themselves.

At first, five of the seven chipped in, hence the name of the corporation: PHIBESome (fivesome). Eventually, the two others joined as well as the wife of Jude, making them eight, which they say, is considered lucky in Chinese culture since the number has been associated with wealth and fortune.

Chapter One: What's in a name?

But what should they name the business? The friends listed more than 50 names, Jude said, but they cannot pick the right one.

Not until he asked his daughter's insight about it. At that time, Jude's kid, and namesake, was watching the animated film series Toy Story.

"She said Taho Story!" Jude told The STAR.

Lo and behold, they had an enterprise name.

“And it has an impact. Every time we go live on social media, we ask our customers what is your taho story? We want people to tell their beloved stories with taho,” Jude said.

Chapter Two: Hot or chilled taho?

Taho Story debuted in the market on April 29 with a physical store at Gyud Fud Market in University of the Philippines - Diliman.

The business started with eight flavors: the classic taho, avocado loco, ube de leche, la presas (strawberry), frutas overload, banananut, oreoholic and mangga graham. Prices range from a P89 to P159, depending on the size, whether it is a medyo malaki or a malaki.

Taho Story wanted to target the active populace inside and within the vicinity of the UP Diliman campus since taho is a protein source.

Taho, or soybean curd, is mostly imported in the country since there is no substantial local production of the commodity. In fact, it is one of the country’s fastest growing imported agricultural goods.

This year, the country is projected to import 143,000 metric tons of soybeans, some of which would go to food use and that includes taho, according to an international unit of the US Department of Agriculture.

Taho Story sources its taho supply directly from vendors. The executives argue that they do this to ensure that the taho vendor would have guaranteed and stable income.

At first, the food business served only hot taho but eventually provided an option to consumers to opt for a chilled taho, which they said, have been more in demand than the former variety.

After a little over a month, another chapter unfolded: franchising. Taho Story wanted to open for franchising its business after setting up its first 10 company-owned stores. But things got accelerated because of the unexpected surge in demand for the product.

Chapter Three: 100 stores by year-end

Nearly three months in business, Taho Story would soon achieve opening up its 10 company-owned stores with the scheduled openings of its branches in the coming weeks across Metro Manila.

Taho Story is also expanding nationwide with at least 70 franchises set to open this year. Some of those would be in San Juan and Mandaluyong while others would be

located in areas outside Metro Manila such as Roxas City, Tacloban, Quezon, Cebu, Ilocos, Iloilo and Zamboanga, among others.

“80 percent of the franchisees never tasted the product but they already signed the contracts for franchising,” Jude said.

This year, Taho Story plans to open a total of 100 stores nationwide. Franchising Taho Story costs P280,000 for medyo malaki, P350,000 for malaki and P480,000 for mas malaki packages.

Taho Story also serves additional eight coffee-infused flavors like mocha and biscoff worth P129 to P189 per cup, depending on the variety and size.

Taho Story credited social media for its sudden rise to popularity. From time to time, the people behind Taho Story go live on their social media accounts to engage with their customers and potential franchisees. They also do online raffles for their Facebook followers.

Epilogue: Bakit hindi?

Like in a basketball game, the quick turnaround of success for Taho Story feels like a fastbreak, Jude and his partners say. The food business is just turning a quarter old this week, but it has been able to make shots after shots of success.

But all these are part of a bigger story arc: to go global. Like other homegrown businesses, Taho Story wants a bite of the international market. Taho Story wants it done in five years. And the first step toward that chapter is opening its second physical store.

The firm opened its second branch for the year at Century City Mall of Antonio-family led Century Properties Group Inc. in Makati City. It was a strategic location, according to the executives.

“We wanted to showcase our product to the foreign market, and there are a lot of foreigners around here,” Jude said on the sidelines of the opening of their branch last July 13.

“What we want is to eventually export our products to the global market. There are a lot of overseas Filipino workers across the world. And that is a huge market to serve,” he added.

That day, they held a special promo for the first 100 customers: P1 for a cup of taho with ice cream and a chance to win P5,000. They served over 100 cups and a barber won the cash prize.

Just after the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Tahoe Story executives celebrated in true basketball fashion: high fives and a huddle.

“Taho!” they cheered.

Perhaps, for Tahoe Story, their biggest chapter is yet to unfold.

“Our slogan is bakit hindi? because we believe in the potential of our product. It is straight out of tradition. The potential is limitless,” Jude said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/21/2371654/taho-story-hot-and-cold-scoop-brewing-success>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Rice parameters updated to improve policy-making

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

July 21, 2024 | 12:00am



A vendor arranges his rice products for sale at a public market along M. Dela Fuente Street in Sampaloc, Manila on July 14, 2024.

STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is updating its parameters on the rice value chain, particularly the milling recovery rate of palay, to improve the government’s statistics and decision-making in the sector.

The PSA said it conducted a focus group discussion (FGD) with various rice industry stakeholders, from academe to industry players, about updating its statistical parameters related to rice.

“The PSA gathered experts from the rice industry from both the government and private sector to solicit inputs and vital information that are useful in the validation

of the current parameters used in the compilation of the supply utilization accounts (SUA),” the data agency said.

According to the PSA, the SUA is a comprehensive statistical framework for the physical accounting of agriculture and fishery commodities produced in the country.

Policymakers use the SUA in crafting programs and projects in the agriculture sector as it involves the country’s total supply of commodity, losses and wastage, production and imports, among others, in a given period.

The PSA said the FGD recommendations, field visits and critical information interviews would be inputs in its upcoming updated SUA parameters.

The results would be presented to the Technical Working Group on Crops Statistics, the Interagency Committee on Agriculture and Fishery Statistics, and finally, to the PSA board for approval and adoption.

“This activity is in line with the PSA’s commitment for continuous improvement in the production of statistics and indicators on agriculture and fisheries for food security planning and policy formulation in the sector,” it said.

“Likewise, the PSA acknowledges the importance of strengthening its linkages with its stakeholders that are involved in the improvement of the Philippine rice industry,” it added.

The PSA said the participants in the FGD were the University of the Philippines-Los Banos Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center, Bureau of Plant Industry, Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, International Rice Research Institute, National Irrigation Administration, National Food Authority, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Philippine Statistical Association Inc. and Philippine Rice Industry Stakeholders Movement.

Industry sources said that having updated parameters in the rice value chain is necessary to ensure that the government considers the latest on-the-ground data in its policy-making.

Raul Montemayor of the Federation of Free Farmers said that a one percent variance in palay milling recovery rate could translate to 200,000 metric tons (MT) of rice, which is already equivalent to about six days of consumption.

That variance, sources said, could mean whether or not the government would need to import more rice stocks.

“There are many factors affecting the recovery rate – palay variety, moisture content, purity and the milling equipment used,” Montemayor said.

“I am not sure if PSA wants to derive a single uniform milling recovery rate for the whole country or different rates for each area,” he added.

Currently, the PSA uses a 65.4 percent milling recovery rate for palay, meaning that 654 grams of rice is produced out of one kilogram of palay.

Industry players have pointed out that such a milling recovery rate is no longer realistic since many milling facilities in the country are already old.

“A recovery rate of 65 percent for well-milled rice can be achieved only with modern machines. The actual rate is probably lower given that many millers still use old machines,” Montemayor said.

“So the estimates of rice supply coming from local palay production could be overstated, maybe by two to four percent,” he added.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/21/2371659/rice-parameters-updated-improve-policy-making>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

ASF vaccine trial to proceed – DA

Bella Cariaso - The Philippine Star

July 21, 2024 | 12:00am



DA Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the procurement of P350 million worth of ASF vaccines will proceed despite the spread of the disease in Vietnam.

MANILA, Philippines — The trial for African swine fever vaccine will proceed despite the reported ASF outbreaks in source-country Vietnam, according to an official of the Department of Agriculture.

DA Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the procurement of P350 million worth of ASF vaccines will proceed despite the spread of the disease in Vietnam.

“The P350 million underwent the correct process. Of course (ASF outbreaks in Vietnam will not affect our trial),” De Mesa said.

De Mesa was reacting to reports that Vietnam culled 42,400 infected pigs this year – up by nearly five times the number in the same period last year. He said the DA continues to monitor the situation in Vietnam.

The Food and Drug Administration has already approved the controlled vaccination of hogs. Under the FDA order, De Mesa said, the DA would undertake the procurement of the ASF vaccines.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. also earlier said the FDA would approve this month the country's first vaccine against ASF.

Given this, De Mesa said the vaccines would probably be available by September as he noted that the "procurement process will take two months."

BAI warns vs bird flu vaccines sold online

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) is warning the public against buying avian influenza (AI) vaccines online.

Hyacinth Napiloy, BAI officer-in-charge, said in a memorandum that all bird flu vaccines must be registered and authorized by the FDA.

"The BAI cannot guarantee the quality and safety of this product. Therefore, the use of such non-conforming products may pose potential danger to the health of poultry and other bird species in the country," Napiloy said.

She noted that the illegal sale of AI vaccines is proliferating online and that these products could potentially do more harm than good.

The memorandum said the vaccine, known as MEDIVAC AI H5N1, is neither registered nor authorized for sale or use in the Philippines.

According to the BAI, the vaccine is imported from Indonesia and is sold for P423 to P714, depending on the volume. It is also categorized as a dog and cat essential.

"The use of these (unauthorized) vaccines could be poisonous both to animals and humans," De Mesa said at a press briefing.

In April, the BAI also warned against the unauthorized use of bird flu and ASF vaccines, noting that these were smuggled in travel bags from Vietnam and other neighboring countries. — **Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/21/2371781/asf-vaccine-trial-proceed-da>

REMATE:

3 lugar sa Aklan isinailalim sa ASF Red Alert

July 21, 2024 08:52



MANILA, Philippines – Tatlong munisipalidad sa Aklan ang nasa ilalim ng red zone category dahil sa African Swine Fever, habang ang 12 iba pang bayan ay nasa pink zone o buffer zone.

Ayon sa ulat ng Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industries, ang mga sumusunod na lugar ay nasa ilalim ng red zone o mga lugar na may kumpirmadong kaso ng ASF:

Ibajay
Altavas
Tangalan

Habang ang mga sumusunod na lugar naman ay nasa ilalim ng pink zone o buffer zone, na nangangahulugang ASF-free ang mga ito ngunit nasa loob ng probinsya o lugar na malapit sa Red Zones:

Kalibo
Malinao
Libacao
Balete
Madalag
Makato
Banga
New Washington
Numancia (downgraded from red)
Lezo (downgraded from red)
Batan (downgraded from red)
Nabas (downgraded from red)
Malay (downgraded from red)

Habang nananatili naman sa yellow zone o surveillance zone dahil sa high risk ng ASF sa malaking populasyon na sangkot sa swine at pork trade.

Patuloy na minomonitor ng DA ang sitwasyon ng ASF sa mga nabanggit na lugar. **RNT/JGC**

<https://remate.ph/3-lugar-sa-aklan-isinailalim-sa-asf-red-alert/>

ABANTE:

Murang pagkain hatid ni PBBM sa mga magsasaka, mangingisda- Speaker Romualdez

- Abante News
- July 21, 2024



Pinuri ni Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez ang programa ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. na nagbibigay ng direktang tulong pinansyal sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda sa buong bansa.

Sumama ang lider ng Kamara de Representantes na mayroong mahigit 300 kinatawan, kay Pangulong Marcos sa pamimigay ng tulong pinansyal sa may 10,000 benepisyaryo sa ilalim ng kanyang Presidential Assistance to Farmers and Fisherfolk (PAFF) program.

Isinagawa ang pamamahagi ng tulong sa benepisyaryong residente ng Palawan at kalapit na lalawigan ng Marinduque sa Edward S. Hagedorn Coliseum sa Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Dumalo rin sa event sina Palawan Rep. Jose Alvarez at mga lokal na opisyal kabilang sina Palawan Gov. Victorino Dennis Socrates at Vice Gov. Leoncio Ola, Marinduque Gov. Presbitero Velasco Jr., at Puerto Princesa City Mayor Lucilo Bayron.

Ipinaliwanag ni Speaker Romualdez ang layunin ng pamamahagi ng tulong pinansyal para sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda kasabay ng kanyang pagpapakiiala sa Pangulo sa event.

“Kayo po – ang ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda – ang nagpapakain at bumubuhay sa buong bansa. Obligasyon ng ating gobyerno na tiyaking busog din lagi ang inyong mga pamilya at may maliwanag na kinabukasan para sa inyong mga anak,” ang pahayag ni Romualdez sa mga benepisyaryo.

“Sa pagbibigay ng suporta sa inyo, mapapalakas natin ang produksyon ng pagkain at masisiguro na abot-kaya ang presyo ng mga ito para sa ating mamamayan,” dagdag pa ng mambabatas.

Tiniyak ni Speaker Romualdez kay Pangulong Marcos ang patuloy na suporta ng Kamara de Representantes sa kanyang mga makabagong programa upang magpatuloy ang pagtulong sa mga nangangailangang Pilipino.

“We are very, very proud to be working under your leadership. I assure you, in the upcoming budget, these programs and projects of yours will be fully supported by the House of Representatives,” ayon pa sa pinuno ng Kamara.

Kumpiyansa rin si Speaker Romualdez na ang mga ipinatutupad na programa ay makatutulong sa pagtaas ng produksyon ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda na magdudulot din ng pagbaba sa mga produktong inaangkat ng bansa.

“Ang misyon ng ating Pangulo: malaking kita para sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda, mataas na produksyon ng pagkain para hindi na tayo mag-import nito mula sa ibang bansa, at maayos na supply chain para maging abot-kaya ang presyo ng inyong mga produkto sa merkado,” dagdag pa ng kongresista.

Binigyang-diin ng pinuno ng Kamara na ang programa ay naglalayong tulungan ang lahat ng magsasaka at mangingisda sa buong bansa.

Ayon pa kay Speaker Romualdez, “Ang programang ito ay ang Presidential Assistance To Farmers and Fisherfolk o PAFF na laan para sa lahat ng magsasaka at mangingisda sa buong bansa. Ito ay bahagi ng pagsisikap ng gobyerno na palakasin ang sektor ng agrikultura at pangingisda.”

“Layunin ng inyong gobyerno hindi lamang ang magbigay ng direktang tulong at suporta sa ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda. Misyon din naming lahat na paghusayin ang imprastruktura para sa inyong sektor. Dadalhin din natin ang mga makabagong pamamaraan sa pagsasaka at pangingisda upang tumaas ang produksyon sa buong bansa,” dagdag pa ng mambabatas.

Ayon kay Speaker Romualdez tiniyak ng Pangulo na kasama ang Palawan sa mga unang lalawigan na makikinabang sa programa dahil sa likas na yaman nito.

“Siniguro ng ating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na isa ang Palawan sa unang mabibigyan ng pagkakataon na mapaunlad ang agrikultura at pangingisda. Alam nating lahat na ang Palawan ay kilala sa kanyang

masaganang likas na yaman at magagandang tanawin, kaya't dapat lamang na bigyang pansin ang potensiyal nito sa kaunlaran," sabi nito.

Si Speaker Romualdez ay ang kasalukuyang tagapangasiwa ng una at ikatlong distrito ng distrito ng Palawan.

"Mga kababayan ko dito sa Palawan, ang PAFF program ay para sa bawat Pilipino na nagnanais ng mas maginhawang buhay at masaganang ani. Magtulungan tayo at suportahan ang programa na ito para sa mas masaganang Pilipinas," saad pa nito.

"Naparito ang panauhin natin ngayon para dalhin ang biyayang hatid ng gobyerno direkta sa inyong lahat," ayon pa kay Speaker Romualdez, na tinutukoy ay ang Pangulong Marcos.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/07/21/murang-pagkain-hatid-ni-pbbm-sa-mga-magsasaka-mangingisda-speaker-romualdez/>

BFAR lifts shellfish ban in Bataan

By Ernie Esconde

July 21, 2024

SAMAL, Bataan — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Central Luzon on Friday lifted the shellfish ban that it imposed in nine coastal towns of Bataan on Wednesday.

BFAR said that no harmful organisms were found from the last three consecutive tests from shellfish samples taken from the nine areas in Bataan.

BFAR, however, said it will continue to monitor the waters of Central Luzon and immediately warn the public if they find harmful algal blooms.

On July 17, BFAR released an advisory that refrained the public from gathering, eating and selling all types of shellfish from the coastal waters of Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Pilar, Orion, Limay and Mariveles, and the city of Balanga.

Shellfish vendors along the MacArthur Highway in Samal said they immediately removed the green mussels or tahong and oysters or talaba from their stalls after receiving the advisory.

On Saturday morning, however, the vendors say people remained reluctant to buy mussels and oysters despite the lifting of the ban.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/21/regions/bfar-lifts-shellfish-ban-in-bataan/1958792>

Bulacan gets P10M worth of equipment

By Frederick Silverio

July 21, 2024

CITY OF MALOLOS — The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) turned over P10 million worth of farm equipment including two units of combined harvesters and five units of mini-4-wheel tractors to the provincial government of Bulacan (PGB) on Thursday.

Pagcor Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Alejandro Tengco formally turned over to Gov. Daniel Fernando the machineries which will be managed by the Provincial Agricultural Office.

The released of farming equipment were successfully made through the initiatives and in collaboration with Bulacan's 1st District Rep. Danilo Domingo and Governor Fernando for the benefits of farmers from the city of Malolos and the towns of Bulakan, Calumpit, Hagonoy, Paombong and Pulilan.



MACHINERY FOR BULACAN FARMERS (Inset) Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Alejandro Tengco (right) formally turns over to Bulacan Gov. Daniel Fernando (center) and Rep. Danilo Domingo P10 million worth of farm equipment, including two units of

combined harvesters and five units of mini-4-wheel tractors for farmers from the first district at the Provincial Capitol Building on July 18, 2024. PHOTO BY FREDERICK SILVERIO

Meanwhile, Fernando expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Tengco for his big help in boosting the agricultural sector of the province.

"Chairman, thank you so much for the love that you showed to our province, especially in the first district. We need these machineries for our farmers," said Fernando.

The governor also highlighted the programs of the PGB, including Bulacan Farmer's Productivity Center and training school, and the Provincial Government Multiplier and Breeding Center to achieve food security and sufficiency.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/21/regions/bulacan-gets-p10m-worth-of-equipment/1958788>

Brazil halts all chicken exports to China as virus takes toll

[Bloomberg News](#)
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Chickens at the Chicken and Vegetables Farm Meranti facility in Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia, on, March 14, 2022.

Brazil has halted all chicken exports to China after a virulent poultry disease was found on a commercial farm, expanding a previous ban and dealing a blow to meat packers including BRF SA.

The self-imposed restrictions—which also include a full ban on exports to the European Union and Argentina—may curb total chicken shipments by as much as 15 percent while in place, according to producers group ABPA. The move comes after the world’s largest chicken supplier detected Newcastle disease at a farm in Rio Grande do Sul state.

The ban is a major setback for Brazilian producers, which are yet to fully recover from years of depressed profit margins due to a combination of surging costs and a supply glut. The restrictions have the potential to tighten global supplies of the protein, benefiting competitors in places like the US.

China imported about 276,000 metric tons of chicken from Brazil in the first half of 2024, or 11 percent of the nation's total shipments. Brazil chicken exports generated revenues of \$4.6 billion in the first half of 2024, according to government data.

Newcastle disease, which attacks the respiratory, nervous and digestive systems of birds, was reported on Wednesday. The case seems to be isolated as there is no sign the virus is spreading, according to Brazil's agriculture minister.

Ghana cocoa purchases

Ghana is seeking to limit some cocoa purchases for next season, a sign that severe shortages that have plagued the market and sent futures prices to a record may be far from over.

In a letter to buyers this week, the world's No. 2 producer said it will determine how much of the next crop can be sold as specialty cocoa based on total production, and that the regulator will allocate beans "equitably" among buyers. Specialty cocoa beans include the ones with certification such as Fairtrade, UTZ and Rainforest Alliance, along with traceable beans.

The move to restrict some purchases signals there's concern the next crop in Ghana may not recover as significantly as some market watchers expect, even with favorable weather and timely supplies of pesticide and fertilizer. Cocoa futures traded in New York broke record after record this year, but have declined more than 30 percent since finally peaking in April.

"Volumes to be traded as specialty during the 2024-25 cocoa year will be determined as a percentage of total production and allocated equitably" to registered buyers, Emmanuel A. Opoku, deputy chief executive responsible for operation at the Ghana Cocoa Board, said in the letter dated July 16 and seen by Bloomberg.

A spokesman for Ghana Cocoa Board didn't respond to telephone calls and a text message seeking comment.

Ghana has had to postpone deliveries of at least 250,000 metric tons of cocoa to the 2024-25 season that starts in October after production plunged. The country and its neighbor Ivory Coast, the world's largest producer, have been battling the spread of swollen shoot disease.

Still, Ivory Coast expects its harvest in 2024-25 to rebound to 2 million tons, from an estimated 1.8 million tons by the end of the current season, while Ghana sees production reaching 700,000 tons from about 425,000 tons.

The Ghana Cocoa Board is now requesting buyers who seek to purchase specialty cocoa for next season to provide information including off-take agreements and shipment plans, as well as details on the amount of cocoa and the type of specialty beans companies plan to buy, according to the letter.

The regulator, known as Cocobod, "will provide the approved tonnage for specialty cocoa for each" registered buyer "after the submission of their projections for the season," Opoku said.

Image credits: [Samsul Said/Bloomberg](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/21/brazil-halts-all-chicken-exports-to-china-as-virus-takes-toll/>