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MANILA BULLETIN:

Agri damage of southwest monsoon, Typhoon Carina reached ₱203.38 M

BY JEL SANTOS

Jul 25, 2024 03:53 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

The agricultural damage wrought by the southwest monsoon and Typhoon Carina reached ₱203.38 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) disclosed on Thursday, July 25.

Based on the DA's Bulletin No. 8, the affected areas in the said figure cover Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen and Caraga regions.

A total of 9,198 farmers were affected by the typhoon and the southwest monsoon, the agency added.

The DA reported that the typhoon and southwest monsoon caused a production loss of 2,574 metric tons (MT) and impacted 10,688 hectares (ha) of farmland.

Per the agriculture department, it has provided 72,174 bags of rice seeds, 39,546 bags of corn seeds, 59,600 pouches and 1,966 kilograms of vegetable seeds.

The DA has made the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) available, providing loans of up to ₱25,000, payable over three years with no interest.

As such, the Quick Response Fund (QRF) is now available to affected farmers for the rehabilitation of affected areas.

The agency added that the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) funds were made available to indemnify farmers who were impacted.

According to the state weather bureau PAGASA, Typhoon “Carina” (international name: Gaemi) left the country's area of responsibility on Thursday morning, July 25.

Meanwhile, PAGASA said southwest monsoon, or “habagat,” strengthened by Carina, may cause “strong to gale-force” gusts in regions of Luzon.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/25/agri-damage-of-southwest-monsoon-typhoon-carina-reached-203-38-m>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Super typhoons and rising sea levels

BY REY ILAGAN

Jul 26, 2024 06:50 AM

EDITORS DESK



With the onslaught of Super Typhoon Carina on July 24, we witnessed enormous floods, persistent downpours, and challenging rescue operations on news channels and social media. We saw people stranded on top of a bus along Araneta Avenue, several barges colliding with the Caruncho Bridge due to strong currents, and people being swept away by the flood in Montalban Heights, San Jose in Rizal. Carina halted work and classes and even led to the suspension of stock market trading.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) declared Carina (international name: Gaemi) a super typhoon on July 24. In response, the Metro Manila Council placed the National Capital Region in a state of calamity. Carina packed maximum sustained winds of 185 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gusts up to 230 kph. In 24 hours, the state weather bureau recorded 323.9 millimeters of rainfall brought by Carina. In 2009, Ondoy brought 455 millimeters of rainfall.

According to PAGASA, Carina did not make landfall in the Philippines. However, even without landfall, the super typhoon caused significant damage to parts of the country. Alongside tropical cyclone Butchoy and the southwest monsoon or “habagat,” Carina affected over 880,000 people and caused ₱203.38 million in agricultural damage, as reported by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Department of Agriculture.

In December 2023, the University of the Philippines (UP) issued a stern warning that the country should “brace for potentially stronger and more destructive typhoons due to climate change.” This conclusion came from research conducted by the UP Diliman College of Science’s Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, led by Dr. Rafaela Jane Delfino, Dr. Gerry Bagtasa, and their colleagues from the United Kingdom.

The study examined three significant super typhoons in recent history: Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013, Pablo (Bopha) in 2012, and Ompong (Mangkhut) in 2018. Researchers considered several factors, including atmospheric temperature, sea surface temperature, pressure, and relative humidity. They conclusively linked climate change to the intensification of these typhoons.

“Based on our simulations, it is found that the most damaging tropical cyclones like Haiyan, Bopha, and Mangkhut will have higher wind-related damage potential in the future. Tropical cyclones of such intensity and damage potential in the future will have serious implications given the increasing exposure and vulnerability in the Philippines,” the study stated.

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) found that Metro Manila’s sea level rise is three to four times the global average of 3.4 mm/year, resulting in an average rise of 8.4 mm/year from 1901 to 2022. Excessive groundwater extraction, deforestation, and land reclamation have greatly contributed to this sea level rise.

The Climate Change Commission warned, “These projections will result in increased frequency and severity of storm surges, floods, landslides, and droughts, among others.” These changes will significantly impact agriculture, energy, water, infrastructure, and more.

Greenpeace East Asia’s 2021 study projected that the city of Manila could be submerged by 2030 due to sea level rise and coastal flooding. The study noted that Manila Bay’s sea level is rising at 13.24 mm per year, potentially affecting historical landmarks such as Luneta Park, Malacanang Palace, Intramuros, and Binondo.

In addition to government efforts to address these urgent issues, we all must educate ourselves on climate-related issues affecting our daily lives. Rising sea levels and intensified typhoons will continue to impact millions of Filipinos in the future. To know more information on hazard levels in your area, Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards) of the Department of Science and Technology provides comprehensive data on flood, landslide, and storm surge levels. This platform provides predictive tools to help communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

(Rey Robes Ilagan is the editor of Manila Bulletin’s Environment and Sustainability section.)

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/super-typhoons-and-rising-sea-levels>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Farmers need help ASAP after devastation caused by Carina, says party-list

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Jul 26, 2024 02:50 AM

AT A GLANCE

- Magsasaka Party-list nominee Robert Nazal has appealed for the immediate delivery of support to farmers in response to the significant agricultural damage caused by Typhoon "Carina" and the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat).



A flooded rice field.

Magsasaka Party-list nominee Robert Nazal has appealed for the immediate delivery of support to farmers in response to the significant agricultural damage caused by Typhoon "Carina" and the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat).

"The extensive damage to our agriculture sector, particularly in Mimaropa, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen, and the Caraga region, is a severe blow to our nation's food security and the livelihoods of our farmers," Nazal said in a statement.

"We must act swiftly and decisively to provide the necessary support to those affected," he stressed.

Initial estimates indicate that the calamity caused P156.79 million in agricultural losses, affecting multiple regions and thousands of farmers.

Agricultural damage includes the loss of 856 metric tons of rice worth P145.36 million, high-value crops amounting to P8.5 million, corn losses of P2.85 million, and livestock losses totaling P80,900.

To address this, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has planned the deployment of 72,174 bags of rice seeds, 39,546 bags of corn seeds, and 59,600 pouches and 1,966 kilograms of vegetable seeds.

Nazal emphasized the importance of these efforts, saying the timely distribution of seeds and other resources is crucial for our farmers to start the recovery process.

“I commend the DA for mobilizing their regional personnel for this urgent intervention,” he said.

In addition to seed distribution, farmers can avail of a P25,000 loan under the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program. This loan is interest-free and payable over three years, providing much-needed financial relief to those hardest hit.

"The SURE Loan Program offers a lifeline to our farmers, allowing them to rebuild without the burden of high-interest rates. We must ensure that this assistance reaches those in need promptly," Nazal noted.

To further support recovery efforts, the Quick Response Fund and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. have been activated. These measures aim to provide immediate financial aid and insurance payouts to affected farmers, helping to stabilize their income and support recovery initiatives.

"I urge both the national and local governments to expedite the delivery of all forms of aid, from seeds and loans to financial assistance through the Quick Response Fund and crop insurance. It is imperative that we stand with our farmers during this challenging time," Nazal said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/farmers-need-help-asap-after-devastation-caused-by-carina-says-party-list>

PNP: Carina death toll climbs to 21

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) - The Philippine Star

July 26, 2024 | 12:00am



A bus stalls in the middle of E. Rodriguez Avenue while rescue personnel from the QCDRRMO and Barangay Damayan Lagi in Quezon City ferry stranded commuters and residents across the heavy flood caused by torrential rains brought by Typhoon #CarinaPH and the southwest monsoon on July 24, 2024.

STAR / Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — At least 21 people died, 15 were injured and five reported missing in the wake of the southwest monsoon enhanced by Typhoon Carina, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported yesterday.

Col. Jean Fajardo, the PNP's chief information officer, said 11 of the fatalities were from Calabarzon and seven from Metro Manila. The other three were from Central Luzon. Among the causes of death are drowning, electrocution and landslide.

According to the tally of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) released yesterday, 14 people were confirmed dead, two injured and two others missing due to the combined effects of the monsoon, Typhoon Carina and Tropical Depression Butchoy.

In La Union, three persons reportedly drowned at the height of Carina (international name Gaemi) – one in San Fernando, one in Bacnotan town and another in Bauang municipality – while a fisherman is still missing.

In Manila, two died due to electrocution while another drowned. In Pasay City, a retired Philippine Air Force officer was found unconscious in the flooded basement of his home and later pronounced dead.

Up to 47,682 families or 202,015 people were displaced and have sought shelter in 14,872 evacuation centers put up in the areas hit by heavy rains and floods. Fajardo said at least 10,437 people were brought to safety in 245 search and rescue operations.

Members of the PNP were not spared by the typhoon's wrath, with about 1,855 police officers and non-uniformed personnel affected and needing assistance.

Carina exits PAR

Carina has weakened into a typhoon category and exited the Philippine area of responsibility yesterday, but the southwest monsoon will continue to bring rains over parts of the country.

Moderate to heavy rains of 50 to 100 millimeters are forecast over Zambales, Bataan, Pangasinan and Benguet.

Carina is still bringing rains with gusty winds over Batanes while the southwest monsoon is bringing rains over Ilocos region, Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Zambales and Bataan.

Occasional rains are forecast over Metro Manila, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas and Occidental Mindoro. The monsoon will also bring scattered rains over the rest of Luzon while the rest of the country may see isolated rainshowers.

Batangas placed under state of emergency

The province of Batangas has been placed under a state of emergency due to the damage caused by the Carina-enhanced southwest monsoon or habagat.

Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas approved the state of emergency effective on Wednesday upon the assessment of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Four persons have died in a landslide in Agoncillo, Batangas.

Up to 330 families or 1,218 people were affected across nine cities and municipalities in Cavite and Batangas. The evacuees are currently staying in 20 evacuation centers.

Agricultural damage reaches P203 million

The damage to the agriculture sector in seven regions due to rains and floods has further increased to P203.38 million, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In its latest report, the DA's Operations Center said that as of 8 a.m. yesterday, 10,688 hectares of rice, corn, high value crops plantations in Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga peninsula, Soccsksargen and Caraga regions were affected.

At least 2,574 metric tons of production loss were recorded, affecting 9,198 farmers, the DA said.

At least 72,174 bags of rice seeds, 39,546 bags of corn seeds, 59,600 pouches and 1,966 kilos of vegetable seeds will be given to affected farmers.

The DA said the farmers can avail themselves of the P25,000 loan under Survival and Recovery Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council. The P1-billion Quick Response can also be tapped, while the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. is ready to indemnify affected farmers.

Evacuees

In Manila, police said 9,741 families were brought to evacuation centers in the city as of 9:30 a.m. yesterday. However, the record of the Manila Department of Social Welfare was lower at an estimated 4,400 families, according to its director Ma. Asuncion Fugoso.

In Pangasinan, at least 88 families took temporary shelters in evacuation centers due to Typhoon Carina, according to a situational report from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office as of 10 a.m. yesterday.

Across Central Luzon, 517 barangays were submerged in floodwaters ranging from one to three-feet deep due to continuous rains, prompting at least 6,208 families to seek refuge in 248 evacuation centers, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said.

In Bulacan, 133 barangays in nine towns and three cities are still affected by floodwater while 1,167 families were staying in 61 evacuation centers across the province.

Benguet electric grid

Typhoon Carina's extreme heavy rainfall and strong winds since Wednesday evening left the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco) with damage worth P2.4 million.

Beneco said it has restored power to 97.50 percent to its affected Baguio City consumers while remaining towns of Benguet are almost 100 percent restored. – Ed Amoroso, Bella Cariaso, Cesar Ramirez, Ric Sapnu, Jasper Arcalas, Jun Elias, Ramon Efren Lazaro, Artemio Dumlao, Ghio Ong, Nillicent Bautista, Jose Rodel Clapano, Pia Lee-Brago, Romina Cabrera

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/26/2373100/pnp-carina-death-toll-climbs-21>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: Over 4 million households benefit from Kadiwa

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

July 26, 2024 | 12:00am



Individuals flock to a Kadiwa Market at the Department of Agriculture (DA) office in Quezon City on July 1, 2024, to purchase rice at P29 per kilo.

Michael Varcas / The Philippine STAR

ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 4.4 million households have benefited from the sale of various agricultural products through the government's different Kadiwa channels since President Marcos assumed office, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Citing DA data, the President's Report to the People 2022-2024 showed that 4.38 million households were serviced by almost 7,000 farmers cooperatives and associations (FCAs) as well as traders through Kadiwa activities from July 2022 until May of this year.

The report indicated that the DA conducted 12,554 various Kadiwa activities during the 23-month period with total sales amounting to P1.745 billion.

Kadiwa retail selling was the most conducted activity with 10,802 iterations, tallying total sales of P1.545 billion with beneficiaries amounting to 1,382 FCAs and 3.98 million households.

It was followed by Kadiwa ng Pangulo, which was rolled out from November 2022 until May 2024. It registered P150.55 million in sales across 800 activities.

About 3,876 FCAs and 399,586 households benefited from the Kadiwa ng Pangulo activities, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the Seafood KADIWA was conducted 952 times, registering P49.19 million sales for 1,727 suppliers that involved FCAs and traders. Some 67,012 customers benefited from the program, based on the DA data.

The government plans to further upscale and institutionalize Kadiwa with Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier disclosing that they plan to have Kadiwa stores in at least 1,500 municipalities or provinces nationwide.

The report pointed out that the Kadiwa stores provide a “stable and affordable” food supply to Filipinos while allowing farmers to sell directly to consumers, thus reducing market layers and earning more profit.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/26/2373110/da-over-4-million-households-benefit-kadiwa>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Not in Sona 2024: More rice imports, impact on PH farmers

By: [Kurt Dela Peña](#) - Content Researcher Writer / [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:34 PM July 25, 2024



RICE composite image from Inquirer file photos

MANILA, Philippines—As President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. addressed Filipinos for his third State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday (July 22), he made clear that local production, especially of rice, will be given priority by the government.

“Kaya patuloy nating sinusupportahan ang sektor ng agrikultura, upang mapabilis, mapadali, at mapalakas ang produksyon [...] upang maiwasan din ang pagkasira ng mga produkto,” he said in his third Sona.

(That is why we are continuously supporting the agriculture sector to accelerate, facilitate, and strengthen their production [...] to prevent their products from being damaged.)

But is this enough?

Marcos stated that in the past year, the government already distributed over 100 million kilos of seeds and fertilizers to farmers, and over 500 million fingerlings and 3,000 boats to fishermen.

He said, too, that by yearend, 1,200 kilometers of farm-to-market roads will be completed and that over 9,300 farm equipment and facilities will be distributed and constructed. Over 80,000 hectares of land are expected to be irrigated.

Over the past two years, he said that P9 billion was given to farmers and fishermen hit by El Niño, which, based on data from the Department of Agriculture (DA), caused P9.5 billion in damage and affected 175,063 agricultural workers.

However, as pointed out by the local think tank Ibon Foundation: “Are hyped support for agricultural producers substantial so that farmers and fisher[men] will be truly uplifted from being ironically the poorest sectors of the population?”

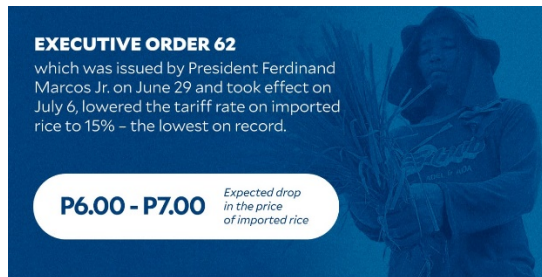
Based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), farmers and fisherfolk were still the poorest across all basic sectors in 2021, having a poverty incidence rate of 30 percent and 30.6 percent, respectively.

Disregarded

As the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) stressed, while Marcos was expected to brag about everything he has done as yet, most of his programs “are not real solutions to systemic problems.” They are “not even palliatives,” KMP said in a statement.

Last month, in a bid to tame inflation, Marcos issued Executive Order (EO) No. 62, slashing the tariff rate on imported rice from the already lowered 30 percent to 15 percent.

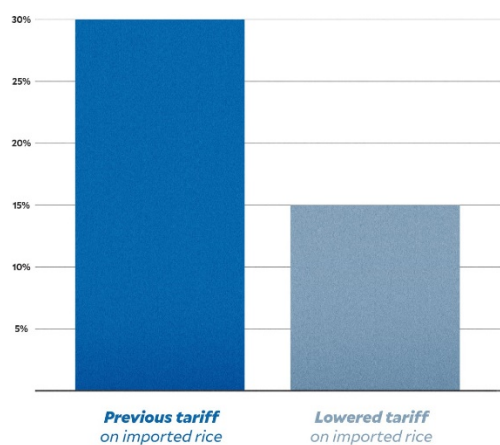
While this is expected to bring down the retail price of rice by P6 to P7 a kilo, the reduced rate is seen to hurt millions of local farmers who are already finding it tough to lift themselves out of poverty.



EXECUTIVE ORDER 62
which was issued by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on June 29 and took effect on July 6, lowered the tariff rate on imported rice to 15% – the lowest on record.

P6.00 - P7.00 *Expected drop in the price of imported rice*

The infographic features a blue background with a faint image of a woman holding a bundle of rice. The text is white and yellow, providing details about Executive Order 62 and the expected price drop for imported rice.



INQ | SOURCES: MALACAFANG, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GRAPHIC: Ed Lustan

Based on data provided by Dr. Teodoro Mendoza, a retired professor of crop science at the University of Los Baños, only a week after EO No. 62 took effect, the farm gate price of palay had already decreased by P6 to P7.

From P23 to P25 a kilo, it is now P17 to P18, he said.

“It is anticipated that palay prices will decrease further come November to December, when palay planted in July to August shall be harvested,” Mendoza told INQUIRER.net.

Losers

While Malacañang explained that EO No. 62 was issued to control inflation and make the grain more affordable, especially to the poor, the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) previously pointed out that local producers will once again be disadvantaged.

As pointed out by Mendoza, who calculated the net income for every hectare in varied palay prices from P15 to P25 and rice yields from 4 to 10 metric tons every hectare, local farmers will soon be discouraged from producing rice.

Only a week after Executive Order 62 took effect, palay price had already decreased from P23 to P25/kg to P17 to P18/kg, leaving local farmers with only P2,940 to P6,460 net income for a harvest of 4 tons/hectare.

Palay price/kg	tons per hectare						
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
P15.00	-4,100	9,100	22,300	35,500	48,700	61,900	75,100
P16.00	-580	13,500	27,850	41,660	55,740	69,820	83,900
P17.00	2,940	17,900	32,860	47,820	62,780	77,740	92,700
P18.00	6,460	22,300	38,140	53,980	69,820	85,660	101,500
P19.00	9,980	26,700	43,420	60,140	76,860	93,580	110,300
P20.00	13,500	31,100	48,700	66,300	83,900	101,500	119,100
P21.00	17,020	35,500	53,980	72,460	90,940	109,420	127,900
P22.00	20,540	39,900	59,260	78,620	97,980	117,340	136,700
P23.00	24,060	44,300	64,540	84,780	105,020	125,260	145,500
P24.00	27,580	48,700	69,820	90,940	112,060	133,180	154,300
P25.00	31,100	53,100	75,100	97,100	119,100	141,100	163,100

INQ | SOURCE: DR. TEODORO MENDOZA

GRAPHIC: Ed Lustan

He said that at an average rice yield of 4 MT per hectare, farm gate palay price of P15 to P16 a kilo will make rice farming unprofitable with average incomes of P4,100 and P580. As he said, farmers will certainly lose money.

“They will lose motivation to work harder to increase their yield,” he said, stressing that in some provinces, producers are already saying that they will no longer till their land for selling, but only for their consumption.

Mendoza explained that while 5 MT per hectare is achievable and that farmers will have a “respectable income” of P53,100 at P25 a kilo farm gate price, the problem is that only a few provinces are able to produce that yield.

Then at P15 to P16 a kilo of farm gate, farmers will also lose interest since their income would still be “very low” at P9,100 to P13,500 for 5 MT per hectare and P22,300 to P27,580 for 6 MT per hectare.

Wake up

Mendoza said that it is only at a very high yield of 8 to 10 MT per hectare when farmers would be able to earn P75,100 to P83,900 even at a farm gate price of P15 to P16 a kilo.

But “the reality is that there are only a few farmers who are getting 8 to 10 MT rice yields for every hectare,” he stressed, stating that “the average area of our rice farm is less than one hectare, or 0.84 hectare.”

For Raul Montemayor, FFF president, “any new tariff reduction will be useless if our foreign suppliers jack up their prices, especially since they know that we have no choice but to buy their rice.”

A petition for certiorari and prohibition was already filed at the Supreme Court on July 4, but no Temporary Restraining Order was issued before EO No. 62 took effect on July 6.

This was not tackled by Marcos in his latest Sona, except when he said that the government extended reduced tariff rates to facilitate the importation of rice, corn, and pork until the end of this year.

He said this as he pointed out that while last year’s palay output was higher than 19.76 million MT in 2022 at 20.06 million MT, it only translated to 13.5 million MT of rice, which he said, is still 1.85 million short of the required 16 million MT.

Visit our [Sona 2024](#) live coverage to stay updated with the latest #SONA2024 news and stories.

[https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1965645/not-in-sona-2024-more-rice-imports-impact-on-ph-farmers?utm_source=\(direct\)&utm_medium=gallery](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1965645/not-in-sona-2024-more-rice-imports-impact-on-ph-farmers?utm_source=(direct)&utm_medium=gallery)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DBM: P11B available for relief efforts in Typhoon Carina aftermath

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:50 PM July 25, 2024



Residents check their belongings at a village in Manila on July 25, 2024, a day after heavy rains fuelled by Typhoon Gaemi and the seasonal monsoon lashed Manila and surrounding regions in recent days. (Photo by Ted ALJIBE / AFP)

MANILA, Philippines — The government still has an P11-billion calamity fund that can be used for relief efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Carina (international name: Gaemi), according to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The DBM on Wednesday said the government still has P11.123 billion in the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF) out of the P22.736-billion allocation under the 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

“Our government is prepared. We are ready to support all operations for disaster rescue and relief with the necessary budget. Identified frontline government agencies may mobilize their Quick Response Fund (QRF) allocated in their respective budgets,” said Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman.

The QRF is a standby fund that agencies use to assist calamity-stricken communities.

Agencies with QRF under the 2024 GAA can request a replenishment to DBM once 50% of the fund has been used. These are the following:

- Department of Education: P3 billion
- Department of Social Welfare and Development: P1.75 billion
- Department of Agriculture: P1 billion
- Department of Public Works and Highways: P1 billion
- Department of Health: P500 million
- Office of Civil Defense: P500 million
- Philippine Coast Guard: P75 million
- Bureau of Fire and Protection: P50 million
- Philippine National Police: P50 million

The DBM also said agencies may use the NDRRMF under the 2024 GAA upon completion of damage assessment, recommendation by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and approval by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

According to the Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act, the NDRRMF is allotted for “disaster risk reduction, mitigation, prevention, recovery, and reconstruction efforts to address the impact of natural or human-induced calamities.”

Interior Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr. on Thursday said Metro Manila, Batangas, Cavite, Oriental Mindoro, Bataan, and Bulacan were placed under a state of calamity due to the onslaught of Carina.

Carina exited the Philippine area of responsibility Thursday morning.

Support Typhoon Carina Victims

The Inquirer is extending its relief and fund drive to help families affected by Typhoon Carina. Donate to Inquirer Foundation Corp. at BDO Current Account No: 007960018860. For inquiries, email foundation@inquirer.com.ph.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1965765/dbm-p11-b-available-for-relief-efforts-in-typhoon-carina-aftermath>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Is there hope for PH dairy industry?

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:04 AM July 26, 2024



‘WHITE GOLD’ (From left) Cashmer Dirampaten, director of corporate and legal affairs of AMC; Liezel Atienza, professor at Institute of Human Nutrition and Food, UPLB; Magdalene Cariaga, registered nutritionist of Bureau of Learner Support, Services, Department of Education; Menandro Loresco, researcher at UPLB – Dairy Training and Research Institute; Estela Grace Estacio, AMC marketing director; Marielle Geraedts, Netherlands ambassador to the Philippines and Benjamin Albarece, agriculture assistant secretary and NDA officer in charge Gavino Alfredo Benitez toast with a glass of milk instead of wine. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Climate change and rapid urbanization are hampering the growth of the domestic dairy industry.

With the prolonged dry season and lack of feed centers, local cattle, carabaos and goats are not producing enough milk for the growing population, making Filipinos even more reliant on imported dairy.

“It’s a recurring problem for the farmers looking for quality feed. So most of the feeds are coming from their pasture. But now the trend is to buy from external sources, mainly consisting of corn [and] spent grains. But the materials are getting very expensive,” explains Menandro Loresco, professor at Dairy Training and Research Institute of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Benjamin Albarece, agriculture assistant secretary for ruminant livestock, says that the country does not have good hay. Neither does it produce much its own silage, or animal feed made from green forage crops, unlike dairy powerhouses New Zealand and Australia.

But Albarece says that the Philippines is working on creating its own silage. “Silage-making has become a new sunrise industry. Cooperatives are now producing silage mainly for the dairy industry,” he says in a forum hosted by Alaska Milk Corp. (AMC) in celebration of World Milk Day.

A drop in the bucket

The National Dairy Authority (NDA) says that as of 2023, the Philippines produced about 18,000 metric tons of milk, accounting for just 0.8 percent of the country’s annual milk consumption of 1.937 million metric tons. Local milk production last year saw a 5-percent decline.

With rapid urbanization, there’s a surge in demand to transform more agricultural lands into commercial, residential and industrial development. “In the ’70s, we had about 4 million hectares of grassland. Now we only have about less than a million or even lower than that,” Loresco adds.

Nonetheless, increasing local milk production is part of “a strategy to promote food security, help solve malnutrition and increase the income of farmers in the

dairy sector,” says lawyer Gavino Alfredo Benitez, NDA officer in charge and administrator.

The NDA is currently active in 67 provinces, managing 3,000 farmers with livestock and 250 cooperatives across the country. “Dairy farming is more than just an occupation. It is a way of life and a lifeline. Dairy farming supports thousands of families locally, providing a stable source of income and fostering rural development,” Benitez adds.

On the upside, Benitez notes that the local dairy herds are increasing albeit still much smaller compared with other dairy-producing countries. “Several large foreign companies have signified interest in investing in dairy in the country. They plan to put up large-scale integrated dairy farms within the millions of dollars and which require large plots of land,” he adds.



MILK FORUM (From left) Benjamin Albarece, agriculture assistant secretary; Liezel Atienza of Institute of Human Nutrition and Food, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); Menandro Loresco, professor at UPLB – Dairy Training and Research Institute; Magdalene Cariaga, registered nutritionist, Department of Education; Estela Grace Estacio, marketing director, Alaska Milk; and emcee Jing Castaneda tackle the challenges faced by the Philippine dairy industry. —VANESSA B. HIDALGO

What to do

Loresco says that sustainable dairy farming can ensure the uninterrupted supply of dairy products in the local market. He adds that the country needs a billion

cows in order to be self-sufficient. Other than high-feed production, the industry must also consider factors that directly affect soil fertility, he explains.

He also emphasizes the need to build more storage facilities, where feeds can be preserved especially during the dry season. “You might have a lot of good animals, but you don’t have [enough] feed to supply the animals,” he adds.

“We are now focusing on how to mitigate greenhouse gas production. So it’s another thing to reduce global warming, which is affecting not only the farming community but all of us,” he says.

Benitez adds that the NDA is building more regional feed centers and water pumping stations. Although just “temporary measures,” these are seen to help increase productivity.

Albarece notes that collaborations with various sectors will help accelerate the development of this industry.

Private firms such as AMC have been helping by training dairy farmers. In addition, AMC’s mother company, Netherlands-based Friesland Campina, intends to buy milk from the Philippines, in an effort to boost the global competitiveness of local dairy producers.

Liesel Atienza, professor at the Institute of Human Nutrition and Food of UPLB, notes that most Filipinos are lactose-intolerant. She says that this is due to the absence of milk and other dairy products in their daily consumption.

“We are not really milk drinkers in the Philippines. The prevalence of calcium deficiency is around 95 percent. So it’s like nine out of 10 of Filipinos are calcium-deficient,” she adds.

Undernutrition remains a serious problem among Filipino children aged 5 to 10, with about 2.7 million children being too short for their age, potentially affecting their cognitive and physical development.

AMC wants to promote milk consumption as part of a balanced and healthy diet. Tarang Gupta, managing director of AMC, describes milk as “white gold”—in its purest form a whole source of nutrition. “Dairy creates an impact from end to end in any community, whether you are in the farms raising cows or at home preparing a nutritious meal,” Gupta adds.

“By educating consumers about the comprehensive nutritional benefits of milk and ensuring access to high-quality yet affordable dairy products, we can contribute significantly to fostering healthier communities,” says Estela Estacio, marketing director of AMC.

<https://business.inquirer.net/471411/is-there-hope-for-ph-dairy-industry>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

4 Luzon provinces under calamity state

[Inquirer Luzon](#) / 05:06 AM July 26, 2024



FLOOD. More than 52 villages in seven towns of Bulacan suffered from flooding due to strong rains caused by typhoon Carina and the high tide in Manila Bay on Wednesday (July 24, 2024). Two roads in the towns of Bulakan and Guiguinto were also reported unpassable to all types of vehicles. (Screengrabbed from Karen Alvarez' FB Live)

The governments of Batangas, Cavite, Bulacan and Bataan have placed their provinces under a state of calamity due to the widespread destruction caused by Supertyphoon “Carina” (international name: Gaemi) and enhanced southwest monsoon (“habagat”), which brought heavy rains and strong winds to most of Luzon since Monday.

A declaration of state of calamity allows local governments to quickly access emergency funds and implement relief operations for displaced residents.

According to the Batangas public information office (PIO), the declaration was made after an assessment by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC) on Wednesday morning, prompting authorities to withdraw the earlier “state of emergency” declaration.

In a separate advisory on Wednesday, the Cavite PIO also announced the state of calamity declaration although details on the extent of the damage and the number of typhoon-affected residents have yet to be released.

In Bulacan, the provincial board on Thursday placed the province under a state of calamity as floodwaters reached up to 2.4 meters (8 feet) as a result of incessant rains from the enhanced southwest monsoon, Carina and high tide exceeding a meter.

Most of the 20 towns and four cities in Bulacan were submerged, causing nearly P3 million in initial agricultural damage.

Bulacan Gov. Daniel Fernando and Vice Gov. Alexis Castro convened an emergency meeting on Thursday at the Bulacan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) to assess the extent of damage, including the number of affected residents.

PDRRMO data showed 1,167 families (4,339 people) from 53 villages in the province were evacuated.

Rising dam level

As of 8 a.m. on Thursday, the Bustos Dam and Ipo Dam reduced their discharge rates to 162 cubic meters per second (cms) and 61.66 cms, respectively.

The current elevations of Bustos at 16.66 meters and Ipo at 101.13 meters were already close to their spilling levels of 17 meters and 101 meters, respectively. Meanwhile, Angat Dam’s elevation rose to 182.80 meters above sea level (masl), nearly 3 meters above its 180-masl low operational level. The normal high-water level for Angat is 210 masl.

In Bataan, the provincial board passed a resolution on Thursday placing the province under a state of calamity following massive damage to infrastructure and agriculture that was pegged at P35.7 million.

According to Bataan Gov. Joet Garcia, the move will help the provincial government keep the local economy on track as it helps typhoon-affected residents recover.

Reports from PDRRMO said 190,629 residents were affected by the floods, especially those living along coastlines and in vulnerable areas.

Thousands evacuated

On Thursday, three more fatalities, all of them due to electrocution in the province of Rizal, were added to the initial list of eight dead due to the onslaught of Carina and the impact of habagat.

At least 16,664 families, or 54,148 people, were evacuated in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon), the regional police reported on Thursday. The evacuees are staying in more than 189 evacuation centers.

Since Tuesday, the Calabarzon police has deployed 2,616 personnel to assist people in typhoon-hit areas in the region. Policemen had been asked to help in clean-up, relief and rehabilitation operations.

Brig. Gen. Paul Kenneth Lucas, Calabarzon police chief, said 623 police officers from the Regional Reactionary Standby Support Force were on standby should the situation in the region worsen.

In Bicol region, at least 8,288 people in Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Sorsogon provinces were affected by the typhoon, according to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). No evacuations, however, were reported as of 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

The OCD Bicol said 34 houses were damaged in Pio Duran, Albay. Reports said 12 flights were canceled affecting passengers in Moises R. Espinosa Airport in Masbate, Naga Airport in Camarines Sur and Bicol International Airport in Albay. —REPORTS FROM DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE, GREG REFRACCION AND REY ANTHONY OSTRIA
Support Typhoon Carina Victims

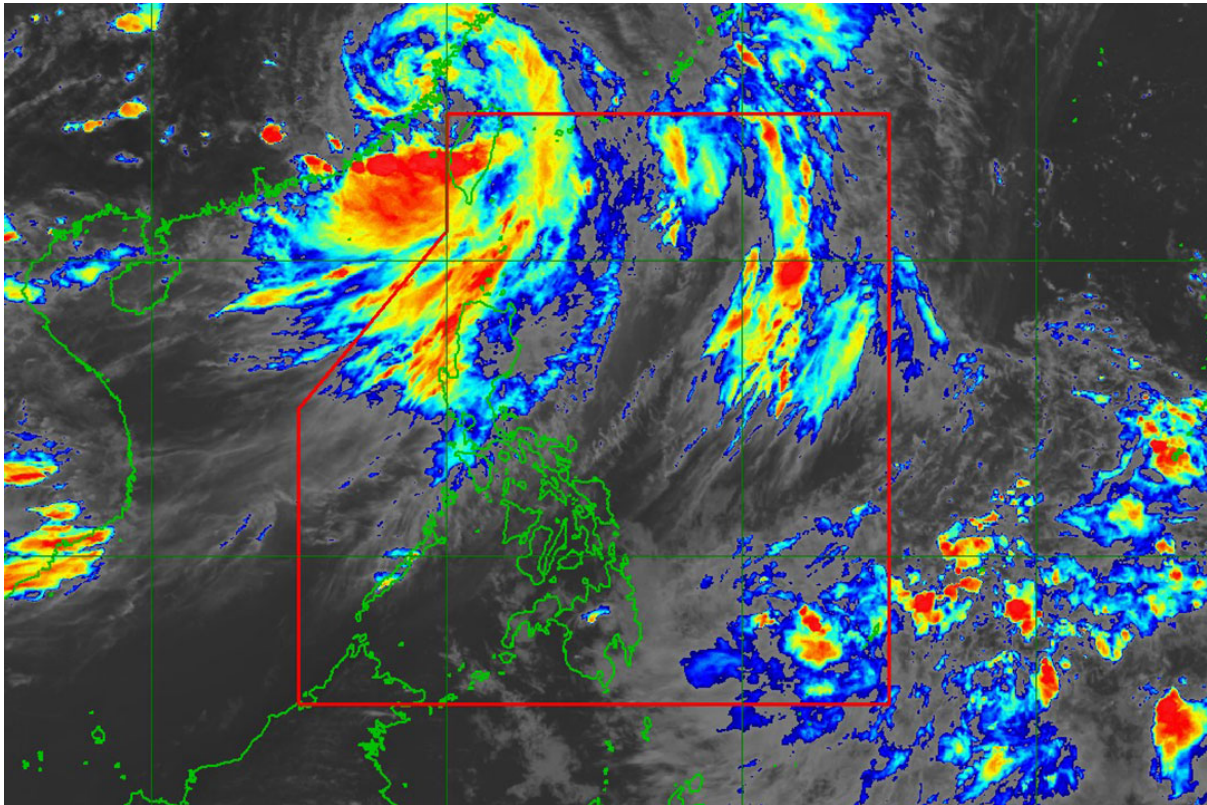
The Inquirer is extending its relief and fund drive to help families affected by Typhoon Carina. Donate to Inquirer Foundation Corp. at BDO Current Account No: 007960018860. For inquiries, email foundation@inquirer.com.ph.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1965858/4-luzon-provinces-under-calamity-state>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Damage to agriculture from typhoon, monsoon estimated at P203 million

July 25, 2024 | 8:38 pm



PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH

AGRICULTURAL damage due to the combined effects of the southwest monsoon enhanced by Typhoon Carina (international name: Gaemi) was initially estimated at P203.38 million, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In a bulletin on Thursday, the DA said that the damage was reckoned at 2,574 metric tons (MT) of crops across 10,688 hectares of farmland.

The DA said that about 61.7% or 6,595 hectares of affected crops were judged to have a chance of recovery, with 38.6% or 4,093 hectares no longer recoverable.

It added that about 9,198 farmers and fisherfolk were affected by the weather events.

The majority of damage was to the rice crop, which made up 97.2% of the total. Lost volume was estimated at 2,299 MT valued at P191.53 million, with the damage spanning 10,442 hectares.

“Most of the damage and losses to rice are in the newly planted, vegetative, and reproductive stages,” the DA said.

The DA valued corn losses at P3.27 million, with volume estimated at 56 MT.

Damage to high-value crops was tallied at 219 MT valued at P8.5 million. Livestock damage totaled 2,323 head valued at P80,900.

The DA said that its regional offices were ready to distribute 72,174 bags of rice seed, 39,546 bags of corn seed, and 1,966 kilograms of vegetable seed.

It added that farmers can borrow up to P25,000 from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, payable in three years.

The government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), said Typhoon Carina left the Philippine area of responsibility early Thursday.

It caused serious flooding in Metro Manila and neighboring areas, prompting the declaration of State of Calamity.

The Department of Trade and Industry has implemented a freeze on basic commodities such as rice, corn, bread, fresh vegetables, root crops, pork, beef, poultry, eggs, milk, coffee, sugar, cooking oil, salt, laundry soap, detergent, firewood, charcoal, candles, and medicine. — Adrian H. Halili

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/25/610387/damage-to-agriculture-from-typhoon-monsoon-estimated-at-p203-million/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL pork, chicken imports seen rising — USDA

July 25, 2024 | 8:38 pm



PORK AND CHICKEN imports by the Philippines are expected to increase this year as producers seek alternative markets in the face of falling China demand, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said.

In a report, the USDA said that major meat exporters like the European Union, Brazil, and the US will seek to sell more to the Philippines, Japan, and South Korea.

“However, these markets will only partially offset lower China demand,” the USDA added.

Philippine pork imports are expected to rise to 500,000 metric tons (MT) this year, against the 448,000 MT estimated by the USDA last year.

In the five months to May, imports of pork rose 10.6% to 253,548 MT, according to the Philippines’ Bureau of Animal Industry.

The USDA said Philippine hog production is expected to be flat after a 1.05 million MT (MMT) performance in 2023.

This would result in a shortfall in meeting demand of about 1.59 MMT this year. Demand is projected to grow 2% from last year.

On the other hand, shipments of chicken meat are forecast at 465,000 MT in 2024, against the 438,000 MT shipped in 2023.

Domestic chicken production was expected to rise 3% to 1.54 MMT this year, the USDA said, resulting in a shortfall with chicken consumption estimated at 1.99 MMT.

According to the Meat Importers and Traders Association, Executive Order (EO) No. 62, which extended low import tariffs, could stabilize meat import costs even with high international prices.

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%.
— Adrian H. Halili

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/25/610386/phl-pork-chicken-imports-seen-rising-usda/>

MANILA STANDARD

Rice mill



By Manila Standard Business

July 25, 2024, 11:10 pm

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) inaugurate a P56.5-million rice mill designed to help 1,000 farmers increase their income by up to 30 percent. PhilMech director Dionisio Alwindia led the launching of the state-of-the-art multi-stage rice mill, which is part of the P71-million postharvest facilities turned over to the Piddig Basi Multipurpose Cooperative.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314476241/rice-mill.html>

MANILA STANDARD

No rice price increase despite ‘Carina,’ monsoon rains — DA

By Manila Standard

July 25, 2024, 10:25 pm

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has said there is no reason for rice retail prices to go up despite the enhanced southwest monsoon and super typhoon Carina.

“There’s no reason to worry that the prices of rice will increase because our harvest is good during the last dry season. We have enough harvest. our importations (of rice) are also on a high level,” DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in an interview.

The price range of local regular-milled rice in Metro Manila remained at P45 to P55 per kilo for well-milled rice as of this week. according to the DA-Bantay Presyo (price watch).

Imported regular-milled rice, meanwhile, ranges from P46 to P52 a kilo, and P51 to P53 for imported well-milled rice.

De Mesa said the latest import volume of rice hit 2.4 million metric tons (MMT).

As of June 1, the country has an estimated volume of 2.16 million metric tons (MMT) of rice stock inventory, according to the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA).

The PSA reported earlier that the country had 4.68 MMT of palay (unhusked rice) production for the first quarter of 2024, which was slightly lower than the 4.78 MMT harvest for the same period last year.

Meanwhile, De Mesa, gave assurance of continuing aid to 9,198 affected farmers, as agricultural damage hit P203.38 million.

The DA regional offices have so far distributed 72,174 bags of rice seeds, 39,546 bags of corn seeds, 59,600 pouches and 1,966 kg. of vegetable seeds to affected farmers.

About P25,000 worth of loan under the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, with zero interest, payable in three years is made available, as well as the activation of funds under the government's quick response fund and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

According to the DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center, the rice sector incurred the highest damage at P191.53 million or 2,299 MT in terms of volume, with North Cotabato and Oriental Mindoro being the hardest-hit areas.

De Mesa noted, however, that the reported damage is still far from the 500,000 to 600,000 MT annual projected volume loss in palay production due to natural calamities in the country.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314476280/no-rice-price-increase-despite-carina-monsoon-rains-da.html>

Bicol authorities assess damage, aid affected families in the aftermath of ‘Carina’

By Rosas Olarte

July 26, 2024, 12:35 am

Bicol region is grappling with the aftermath of super typhoon ‘Carina’ as 8,288 individuals or 2,895 families across Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, and Sorsogon face challenges following its exit from the Philippine area of responsibility.

While no evacuations were reported, coastal communities saw significant property damage, and transportation disruptions continue to affect the region.

At least 40 shoreline houses in Pio Duran, Albay and Sipocot, Camarines Sur, were partially damaged due to high waves and coastal flooding. Gremil Alexis Naz, spokesman for the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol, confirmed that 34 houses in Pio Duran and six in Sipocot were affected.

Severe weather conditions stranded 106 passengers, five rolling cargoes, and nine land vessels/bus liners at ports in Pasacao, Camarines Sur, Aroroy, and Masbate City earlier this week.

Additionally, six sea vessels sought shelter at San Pascual Port in Masbate Province. The inclement weather also led to the cancellation of 12 flights across Bicol’s airports, with two at Moises Espinosa Airport, four at Naga Airport, and six at Bicol International Airport.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office in Bicol, in collaboration with local government units (LGUs) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), provided P353,959.80 worth of assistance to affected families and stranded passengers.

Norman Laurio, Director of DSWD-Bicol, reported that P265,864.80 worth of family food packs and non-food items had been distributed.

The Department of Agriculture (DA5) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH5) are currently assessing the damage caused by ‘Carina.’

Meanwhile, stranded passengers bound for Catanduanes received hot meals on Wednesday from the Disaster Response Management Division of the DSWD before sea travel resumed.

At the Tabaco City port, 178 passengers were stranded, while 164 passengers, 43 rolling cargoes, and 16 vessels and bus liners faced similar issues in Camarines Sur and Masbate ports due to the south winds brought by Typhoon Carina. However, the PCG has now allowed sea voyages to Catanduanes.

The DSWD Municipal Action Team also provided hot breakfast meals to 104 stranded passengers in Pasacao, Camarines Sur. Disaster relief efforts remain systematic, with prepositioned coordination between response agencies ensuring efficient aid distribution.

Laurio earlier said the DSWD Bicol office prepared 182,249 family food packs and 335,733 non-food relief items at various local government offices and warehouses. The agency is also closely coordinating with LGUs affected by the inclement weather.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314476303/bicol-authorities-assess-damage-aid-affected-families-in-the-aftermath-of-carina.html>

MANILA STANDARD

NFA bares P5-b investment for post-harvest tech, equipment

By Othel V. Campos

July 25, 2024, 9:25 pm

The National Food Authority (NFA) announced a P5-billion investment strategy to improve post-harvest technology and equipment in the Philippines.

“Future investments of the NFA will be geared towards postharvest. For this year, we have P5 billion to retrofit or construct warehouses. Next year, we’ll bring in the dryers and milling facilities. Hopefully, these can be completed within two years’ time,” said NFA administrator Larry Lacson.

Lacson assured farmers during a three-day visit to Davao by the NFA Council that the government will start prioritizing post-harvest programs to reduce crop losses and improve farmers’ income.

National Economic Development Authority undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon, who joined the council in Davao, said the visit provided NFA council members better appreciation of the impact of their decisions to farmers’ lives and better insights for future policy formulations.

“This was very useful because it gave us an idea of how it is happening on ground, what the concerns of the farmers are, and also to see the current state of NFA facilities,” she said.

The Davao Del Sur Provincial Farmers Action Council expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to engage directly with the NFA Council.

Lacson said that the NFA will continue to buy palay at competitive rates to ensure they enjoy the financial gains from their hard work.

The NFA Council recently raised the agency’s palay-buying price to a range of P23 to P30 per kilo.

Both the NFA and the NFA Council emphasized the importance of aligning policies with the realities on the ground to advance sustainable agricultural development.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314476238/nfa-bares-p5-b-investment-for-post-harvest-tech-equipment.html>

MANILA STANDARD

Solon urges passage of anti-agri economic sabotage bill

By Manila Standard Business
July 25, 2024, 9:15 pm

A lawmaker and hog raiser asked President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to sign into law the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Bill, which the House of Representatives and the Senate passed.

“We have all heard about the government’s program for agriculture—the release of swine fever vaccines, and added irrigations, among others. But why this Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act was not mentioned by the President?” said AGAP Partylist Rep. Nicanor Briones in a press briefing Wednesday.

“This bill would protect farmers, fisherfolks, as well as livestock, and poultry raisers from the menace of agricultural smuggling, as well as its perpetrators such as cartels, saboteurs, and smugglers. We just want to know,” said Briones.

Senators approved Senate Bill No. (SBN) 2432 or the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Bill in December 2023, which repeals Republic Act No. 10845, otherwise known as the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016.

The President saw the need to immediately pass the measure by certifying it as urgent in his SONA 2022, citing the rising prices of agricultural products caused by hoarding, smuggling, and other illegal activities.

Under the bill, the crime of agricultural smuggling as economic sabotage is committed when the value of each, or a combination of agricultural and fishery products smuggled by a person is at least P3 million using the daily price index computed at the time the crime was committed.

Private citizens can also file a case against profiteers, smugglers, and hoarders, as there are rewards for the tipster or whistleblower from P1 million to P20 million or 20 percent, whichever is higher.

The President said during his SONA “we mean serious business,” pertaining the government’s drive against smugglers.

Briones said these strong words would be futile if the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Bill would not be immediately enacted into law.

Briones was the principal sponsor of the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act in the House of Representatives.

Briones said the bill was yet to be transmitted to the Office of the President.

The Senate ratified on May 22, 2024, the bicameral conference committee report on the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Bill, contemplating that someone or some groups are blocking the way for the bill from reaching the table of the President.

The President in his SONA also reported that with modernized customs procedures and heightened enforcement efforts, more than P2.7 billion worth of smuggled agri-fisheries products were seized by the government.

The President also declared that the government is bent on launching other measures to strengthen the drive against smuggling.

“Soon, we will be implementing the pre-border technical verification and cross-border electronic invoicing of import commodities. This will send a strong message that we mean serious business,” he said.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314476232/solon-urges-passage-of-anti-agri-economic-sabotage-bill.html>

Shrimp farming tech ensures operational efficiency



With i-POND, farmers can remotely monitor the water quality essential for shrimp survival. (DOST Photo)

The future of shrimp farming has taken a leap forward.

A new technology uses long-range wide area network to provide real-time monitoring of critical water quality essential for shrimp survival.

Called the i-POND, farmers can remotely monitor the water quality of their ponds using smartphones, tablets or laptops wherever internet connection is available.

With the technology, shrimp growers make informed decisions swiftly, enhancing operational efficiency, ensuring optimal conditions for shrimp growth, and optimizing financial gains.

Traditional shrimp farmers rely on manual monitoring methods, such as visual observation or tools like thermometers, to assess water quality parameters. However, these conventional techniques are susceptible to human error and inconsistency, posing significant challenges for farm owners and operators.

The i-POND monitoring system developed by the Metals Industry Research and Development Center, Department of Science and Technology.

“With the i-POND, we can test on real time if there are significant changes in water quality,” said Renato Gaudencio Goco, owner of Aqua Tierra Farm where the first i-POND prototype was installed.

A technology demonstration on the relevance of i-POND was given to shrimp farm owners, operators, and academe in Oriental Mindoro.

“We need not wait anymore for shrimps to die and float to the surface, we can already proactively respond with corrective action,” said Goco, an engineer.

One of the farmers was hesitant. “It means a big investment, although in business one needs to take risks,” said Beatriz Masangcay, a shrimp farmer in Calapan City, capital of Oriental Mindoro.

As shrimp farming continues to play a vital role in the economic landscape of the country, more farmers are starting to recognize the need to adopt modern solutions to enhance farm efficiency and financial returns, Goco said

The integration of advanced monitoring solutions like i-POND empowers farmers with the tools and technologies they need in the aquaculture industry, he points out.

Today, Giant Black Tiger Shrimp, locally known as “sugpo,” contributes about 60 percent to total shrimp production in the country. The Pacific White Shrimp (suati) contributes 30 percent.

Freshwater prawn contributes less than 1 percent but its potential remains as new technologies for its production become available, according to the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) Shrimp Industry Road Map 2021-2040.

Currently, the country retains its spot among the top 10 shrimp producers in the world and fourth in Southeast Asia.

At least 90 percent of the total Philippine shrimp produce is consumed locally while less than 10 percent is exported.

The primary goals for the Philippine shrimp industry are: steady and sustainable shrimp production as well as a globally competitive shrimp export.

The DA estimates that P2.5 billion is needed to achieve these goals, most of it (35 percent) allocated to the National Comprehensive Shrimp Breeding Program that involves, among others, the use of genetics and genomics.

The second biggest allocation (31 percent) goes to processing, mostly for upgrading processing plants and for new cold storage facilities as seasonality of production is the biggest constraint in the industry.

Farm production gets a third (17 percent) of the P2.5-billion pie for investments focused on farm mechanization and infrastructure investments, and so on.

The i-POND will play a role in shrimp farm production.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/shrimp-farming-tech-ensures-operational-efficiency/

Smaller sugar surplus seen

By Reuters

July 26, 2024

NEW YORK- The global sugar market is expected to have a smaller-than-anticipated supply surplus in 2024/25 (Oct-Sept) despite rising production in Asia, due to a significant reduction on the Brazilian crop, broker StoneX said on Wednesday.

StoneX cut its projection for Brazil's Centre-South sugar output by nearly 2 million metric tons to 40.5 million tons due to this year's lower quality of the sugarcane and a smaller-than-expected cane allocation to sugar production.

The broker said Brazilian mills are keeping a relatively high level of ethanol production, answering to higher domestic demand, so they are not earmarking the amount of cane to sugar production that was expected at the start of the harvest in March.

It cut its view on total cane allocation to sugar, the so-called sugar mix, to 50.5 percent for the crop from 52 percent projected in May.

Other major changes for large producers included an increase of 500,000 tons for China to 11 million tons and a reduction of 200,000 tons for Russia to 6.8 million tons. India's number was kept at 28.8 million tons.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/smaller-sugar-surplus-seen/

PHL spent 25% of state funds on food security— SOFI

Ada Pelonia
July 26, 2024



File photo shows a Kadiwa market, a marketing initiative by the Department of Agriculture. It was set up in front of Pasay City Hall, offering rice at a price of P25 pesos kilo.

THE Philippines allocated a quarter of its public spending on food security and nutrition to bolster the resilience of vulnerable sectors facing economic adversity, according to the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report.

“These [middle-income countries] MICs allocate a much higher share of their public spending on food security and nutrition to strengthen the economic resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity,” the report read.

“For example, Brazil’s share is an impressive 63 percent, and that of Georgia, the Philippines and South Africa is around 25 to 30 percent,” said the report.

Figures from SOFI showed that a 60 percent annual average of the total public spending on food security and nutrition in the Philippines for the 2019 to 2023 period went to addressing the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition.

However, this was higher than the 40-percent annual average allocated to food consumption (food availability, access, and utilization) and health status (practices and health services and environmental health).

“In some MICs more spending is allocated to address the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition [69 percent in Brazil, 60 percent in the Philippines] than to support food consumption and health status.”

Among these drivers were conflict, climate variability and extremes, economic slowdowns and downturns, lack of access to and unaffordability of nutritious foods and unhealthy food environments, and high and persistent inequality.

Meanwhile, the 2024 SOFI report said the world remains far from achieving zero hunger, with the global prevalence of undernourishment persisting at nearly the same level for three consecutive years.

It added that hunger is still on the rise in Africa, but it has remained relatively unchanged in Asia, while notable progress has been made in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

With regard to economic access to nutritious food, the SOFI noted that about 2.8 billion people—a third of the world’s population—could not afford a healthy diet in 2022.

Data from the report showed that in 2022, 48.1 percent of the Philippines’s population was unable to afford a healthy diet. This translates to about 55.6 million Filipinos.

The SOFI said achieving the goal to end global hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition would require increased and more cost-effective financing.

“Innovative, inclusive and equitable solutions are needed to scale up financing for food security and nutrition in countries with high levels of hunger and malnutrition,” it read.

However, it noted that the current food security and nutrition financing architecture is “highly fragmented” and requires a shift from a siloed approach to a more holistic perspective.

“Enhanced coordination among actors is needed on what is essential considering national and local policy priorities. To that aim, transparency and harmonizing data collection are crucial for improving coordination and targeting financing effectively.”

Image credits: [Nonie Reyes](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/26/phl-spent-25-of-state-funds-on-food-security-sofi/>

ABANTE TONITE

Agri exec kinalma mga binagyo sa presyo ng bigas

July 25, 2024

Pinawi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pangamba ng publiko na baka tumaas ang presyo ng bigas dahil sa pananalasa ng bagyong Carina at habagat.

“There’s no reason to worry na magtaas iyong presyo ng bigas dahil sa ngayon maganda iyong harvest natin noong dry season. We have enough harvest. Iyong ating importation, mataas din iyong level,” ayon kay DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa isang panayam sa telepono nitong Huwebes, Hulyo 25.

Base sa Bantay Presyo ng DA, nasa P45 hanggang P50 per kilo ang local regular-milled rice sa Metro Manila habang P45 hanggang P55 per kilo naman ang local well-milled rice.

Nasa P46 hanggang P52 per kilo naman ang imported regular-milled rice habang P51 hanggang P53 per kilo ang imported well-milled rice.

Ang pinakahuling import volume aniya ng bigas ay umabot sa 2.4 milyong metriko tonelada.

Samantala, tiniyak ni De Mesa ang pagpapatuloy ng kanilang ayuda sa mahigit 9,000 magsasaka sa bansa pagkatapos ng pananalasa ng bagyong Carina.

Sa tantiya ng DA, umabot na sa mahigit P200 milyon ang pinsala sa sektor ng agrikultura dahil sa hagupit ng bagyo at pagbaha. (PNA)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/07/25/agri-exec-kinalma-mga-binagyo-sa-presyo-ng-bigas/>

‘Di pagbanggit sa Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act sa SONA, ikinadismaya

[Doris Franche-Borja](#)

July 26, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nagpahayag ng pagkadismaya si AGAP Partylist Rep. Nicanor Briones sa katatapos na State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. nang hindi mabanggit ang Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, sinumang mapapatunaysng sangkot sa smuggling, hoarding, at profiteer ay mananagot sa batas maging ang kanilang mga broker, storage at iba pang mga gamit ay maaring kumpiskahin ng pamahalaan.

Bukod pa ito sa pagkakakulong ng habambuhay at pagmumulta ng tatlong beses na halaga ng nakakumpiska o nahuling kargamento.

Para kay Briones, kahit anong gawing ayuda, pondong ibigay sa magsasaka, walang mangyayari kung patuloy na pagsasamantalahan ng smugglers, hoarders, cartel at profiteers. Mawawalang saysay din anya ang utos ni PBBM na habulin at panagutin ang mga sangkot sa smuggling ng agri products sa bansa kung ang BOC pa rin ang mag-iimbestiga at magsasampa ng kaso base sa walang silbing Anti-Agri Smuggling Act at walang nasasampolan na maparusahan ng habambuhay na pagkakulong.

Kaya hinihiling ni Briones at ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda kay Pangulong Marcos na sana maisakatuparan na ang “Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act”.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/07/26/2373018/di-pagbanggit-sa-anti-agricultural-economic-sabotage-act-sa-sona-ikinadismaya>

REMATE:

DA: Agri damage mula sa Habagat, Carina sumampa sa P203M

July 25, 2024 17:48



MANILA, Philippines- Nagdulot ang Southwest Monsoon o Habagat na pinalakas ng Super Typhoon Carina ng P203.38 milyong halaga ng agricultural losses, base sa Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Huwebes.

Sa bulletin ng DA, sinabi nitong ang mga apektadong lugar ay Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur, Agusan del Sur, at North Cotabato.

Anang DA, mayorya ng agricultural loss ay palay, pumalo sa 2,299 metric tons (MT).

Kabilang pa sa apektadong agricultural commodities ang high value crops, mais, at livestock at poultry.

Nakapagtala rin ang DA ng 2,323 animal losses.

Samantala, ang agricultural losses mula sa Carina-enhanced Habagat ay nakaapekto sa 9,198 magsasaka, na may volume of production loss na 2,574 MT.

Subalit, binanggit ng DA na beberipikahin pa ang datos.

Nauna nang iniulat ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) na nagtamo ang bansa ng P9,706,852 halaga ng agricultural damage mula sa weather disturbance kamakailam.

Sinabi ng DA na tutulungan nito ang mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng pamamahagi ng 72,174 sako ng rice seeds, 39,546 sako ng corn seeds, 59,600 pouches, at 1,966 kilo ng vegetable seeds.

Dagdag ng ahensya, aasistihan din nila ang mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng Survival and Recovery Loan Program, Quick Response Fund, at ng pondo ng Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

Lumabas si Carina ng Philippine Area of Responsibility nitong Huwebes ng umaga subalit umiiral pa rin ang Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 sa Batanes. RNT/SA

<https://remate.ph/da-agri-damage-mula-sa-habagat-carina-sumampa-sa-p203m>

REMATE:

Price gouging, price freeze binabantayan kasunod ng state of calamity declaration

July 25, 2024 16:00



MANILA, Philippines- Kasunod ng deklarasyon ng state of calamity sa Metro Manila at Batangas nitong Hulyo 24, mahigpit nang binabantayan ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ang mga presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihin (basic necessities) na naka-freeze.

Ayon sa DTI, maaring patawan ng multa ang mga tindahang lalabag sa price freeze, bukod pa sa posibleng kasong kriminal, alinsunod sa Price Act. Binabalaan din ang mga negosyo, kabilang ang mga hotel at transient homes, laban sa “price gouging” o hindi makatwirang pagtataas ng presyo.

Babala ng DTI, nakamatyag ito sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sa pamamalakad at pagtrato sa mga konsyumer.

Hinihikayat ang publiko na iulat ang anumang insidente ng overpricing at mga katulad na paglabag sa DTI Consumer Care Hotline 1-384 o sa email address: consumercare@dti.gov.ph. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**

<https://remate.ph/price-gouging-price-freeze-binabantayan-kasunod-ng-state-of-calamity-declaration/>

REMATE:

4 coastal areas sapul ng red tide toxin

July 25, 2024 14:31



MANILA, Philippines- Nagpositibo ang apat na coastal areas sa bansa para sa Paralytic Shellfish Poison o toxic red tide na lampas sa regulatory limit, base sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) nitong Huwebes.

Sinabi ng BFAR sa bulletin nito na natukoy ang red tide toxins sa shellfish na nakolekta at sinuri mula sa mga sumusunod na lugar:

- Dauls at Tagbilaran City sa Bohol
- Dumanquillas Bay sa Zamboanga del Sur
- coastal waters ng San Benito sa Surigao

“All types of shellfish and Acetes sp. or alamang gathered from the areas above are not safe for human consumption,” babala ng BFAR.

“Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for human consumption provided they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking,” dagdag nito.

Inihayag naman ng BFAR na wala nang toxic red tide sa coastal area ng Honda Bay, Puerto Princesa City sa Palawan. RNT/SA

<https://remate.ph/4-coastal-areas-sapul-ng-red-tide-toxin/>

ABANTE:

Red tide positibo sa 4 na baybayin

- Abante News
- July 25, 2024



PINAG-IINGAT ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang publiko laban sa pagkain ng mga shellfish mula sa apat na baybayin sa bansa matapos na magpositibo ang mga ito sa red tide o paralytic shellfish poison.

Sa inilabas na bulletin ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang apat na coastal area sa bansa na kontaminado ng nakalalasong red tide ay ang Dauls at Tagbilaran City sa Bohol, Dumanquillas Bay sa Zamboanga del Sur at baybayin ng Benito sa Surigao.

“Ang lahat ng uri ng shellfish, kasama ang alamang na nakukuha mula sa nasabing mga lugar, ay hindi ligtas para sa pagkonsumo ng tao,” babala ng BFAR.

“Ang isda, pusit, hipon at alimango ay ligtas na kainin ng tao basta’t sariwa at hinugasan nang maigi habang ang mga internal organ tulad ng hasang at bituka ay tinanggal muna bago lutuin,” dagdag nito.

Samantala, sinabi ng BFAR na ligtas nang kainin ang mga shellfish mula sa baybayin ng Honda Bay sa Puerto Princesa City Sa Palawan dahil nawala na ang nakalalasang red tide sa tubig nito. (Riz Dominguez)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/07/25/red-tide-positibo-sa-4-na-baybayin/>

ABANTE:

Ayuda sa mga binagyong magsasaka pinatutukan

- Abante News
- July 25, 2024



Pinatututukan ng lider ng Magsasaka party-list na si Robert Nazal sa gobyerno ang pagbibigay ng ayuda sa mga magsasaka na labis na naapektuhan ng pananalasa ng Bagyong Carina at ng habagat.

Batay sa paunang pagtataya ay nasa P156.79 milyon ang pinsala sa sektor ng agrikultura kabilang ang P145.36 milyong halaga ng bigas at P8.5 milyong halaga ng high-value crops.

“The extensive damage to our agriculture sector, particularly in Mimaropa, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula,

Soccsksargen, and the Caraga region, is a severe blow to our nation's food security and the livelihoods of our farmers," sabi ni Nazal.

"We must act swiftly and decisively to provide the necessary support to those affected," dagdag pa nito.

Pinuri naman ni Nazal ang naging pahayag ng Department of Agriculture na mamingay ito ng 72,174 bag ng rice seeds, 39,546 bag ng corn seeds, at mga buto ng gulay. (Billy Begas)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/07/25/ayuda-sa-mga-binagyong-magsasaka-pinatutukan/>