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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **FAO: Mindanao food security at risk from massive flooding**

**BY KEITH BACONGCO**

Jul 26, 2024 01:28 PM

DAVAO CITY – Since January this year, several provinces across Mindanao have experienced severe flooding due to heavy rains.



**DR. Lionel Dabbadie, chief of the Food and Agriculture Organization in the Philippines. (Keith Bacongco)**

Many of these inundated areas were not just simply low-lying areas but also among the top rice, corn, and vegetable producers in the region.

The massive flooding in agricultural areas may have a serious impact on the food security of the region, according to Dr. Lionel Dabbadie, chief of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the Philippines.

Dabbadie, who was in this city for the Mindanao Development Forum from July 24 to 25, said that the widespread flooding in Mindanao could have an adverse impact on food security of the region.

“The food security is a combination of the number of people and the production. Right now, the production has not been increasing so much practically due among many factors and flood is one of them,” he said.

In early February, a massive flood affected at least 20,000 hectares of rice farms in Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro, and Davao Oriental.

Hardest hit were the plains of Davao del Norte and Davao de Oro based on the report from the Department of Agriculture.

Following the flooding, many farmers in these areas were not able to resume rice production due to the onset of the dry spell.

Two weeks ago, at least 8,800 hectares of agricultural land have been damaged by the severe flooding in many parts of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The BARMM Rapid Emergency Action on Disaster Incidence (Bangsamoro READi) recorded that damage to the agriculture sector as of Wednesday, July 24, was estimated to be at least P338.5 million, affecting 11,500 farmers.

At least 186, 000 families from Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, and Maguindanao del Sur have been affected.

Hardest hit was Maguindanao del Sur which accounts for about half of the total affected families. It was also the same province that was placed under state of calamity last April to damage in agriculture amid the prolonged dry spell.

The severe flooding was due to the heavy rains as well as the swelling of the Pulangi River that stretches across Cotabato and Maguindanao del Sur.

Amid the widespread flooding, Dabbadie said that aside from the impact of natural disasters, poverty and the limited connectivity of food producers to the local market also contribute to the food security issues.

“If do not take into consideration the current limitations to the production, which includes poverty, the natural constraints like floods, it will have an impact on food security,” he said. “It is a combination of all factors, including the difficulty to reach the market.”

Due to poverty, the FAO official added, food producers do not have enough resources to produce high yield of rice. “There’s not a silver bullet to solve the problem. There’s no other way but include all the factors.”

Early this year, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) reported that BARMM was the area with the highest poverty incidence in Mindanao.

Based on the family income and expenditures survey in 2022, poverty incidence was 16.4 percent.

Dabbadie also emphasized the cycle of displacement due to pocket clan wars in the region could affect food production as well.

“Displacement has consequence on the environment, consequence on the poverty level, consequence on food security. That’s the challenge.”

To address these obstacles, Dabbadie said that FAO is currently working with the local governments in institutionalizing the anticipatory action approach in the region.

He said the anticipatory action is an innovative approach that systematically links early warnings to a set of interventions aimed at protecting families and their assets ahead of a hazard.

This approach is now implemented in selected areas in BARMM and Cotabato, the FAO official said.

“As our chief in FAO said, we need to have better production, better nutrition, better environment, better lives, leaving no one behind. We need to do everything at the same time. It looks complicated but we have tools to do that,” Dabbadie said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/fao-mindanao-food-security-at-risk-from-massive-flooding>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **UP Cebu pioneers AI-driven solution to mango sorting**

**BY JUNEP OCAMPO**

Jul 26, 2024 10:48 AM

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The manual classification of mangoes has long been a bottleneck in the mango supply chain, characterized by time-consuming efforts and subjective judgment.

Addressing this challenge, the University of the Philippines Cebu (UP Cebu) has launched the “Mango Automated Neural Net Generic Grade Assignor (MANGGA)” project, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to automate the labor-intensive task of sorting Carabao mangoes for the fresh export market.

Spearheaded by UP Professor Jonnifer Sinogaya, this two-year initiative is funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD).

Collaborating with the Department of Agriculture-Region VII (DA-VII), University of the Philippines Los Baños-Postharvest Horticulture Training and Research Center (UPLB-PHTRC), and the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP), the team is developing advanced data acquisition technologies for mangoes.

The project’s systematic approach has yielded an extensive dataset of 10,440 images from various angles and orientations, along with ethylene concentrations from 870 individual mangoes. This comprehensive dataset has been instrumental in training an AI model for sorting Carabao mangoes.

From scratch, the MANGGA team has developed a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) and an image data acquisition system. Preliminary training of their single-input CNN model achieved an impressive 94% accuracy in determining export suitability based on visual characteristics.

Guided by the Philippine National Standard for quality metrics, the team continues to refine the CNN and Computer Vision System (CVS) for greater efficiency in grading export-quality Carabao mangoes.

Midway through its second year, the project explores innovative preprocessing techniques and assesses multi-input CNN models to enhance precision.

The MANGGA project advocates for the adoption of smart postharvest systems within the local mango industry.

With plans for a conveyor system designed to sort mangoes based on marketability, this initiative aims to revolutionize mango grading, offering improved efficiency and safety for the fresh export market.



<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/up-cebu-pioneers-ai-driven-solution-to-mango-sorting-1>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Cropping system for rubber trees boosts soil health and productivity

**BY JUNEP OCAMPO**

Jul 26, 2024 09:13 PM

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A groundbreaking research program is transforming rubber farming in the southern Philippines with innovative cropping systems designed to enhance soil health and agricultural productivity.

The initiative, titled “Development of Rubber-Based Cropping Systems in Southern Philippines,” is spearheaded by Dr. Adeflor G. Garcia of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM).

The project, funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR), comprises six component projects aimed at revolutionizing rubber farming practices.

One key component, “Effective Rubber-Based Cropping System in Agusan del Sur and North Cotabato,” led by Joseph O. Castillo of USM, has been instrumental in designing and testing cropping models that integrate rubber trees with companion species such as cardava bananas, cacao, coffee, and lanzones.

Experimental farms have been established as part of this research. They showcase four innovative cropping models combining rubber trees with diverse intercrops. The scientists say initial results are promising: rubber trees have reached the recommended height for branch induction within 10-12 months, setting the stage for future latex production. Concurrently, perennial intercrops like cardava bananas have shown impressive yields, with harvests exceeding 25 kilograms per mat.



Robusta coffee, another crop in the system, is already blooming for its third fruit setting, indicating successful integration into the rubber-based cropping model. These early successes underscore the potential of these systems to enhance productivity and sustainability in rubber farming.

Given that rubber trees take six to eight years to mature, the program focuses on extensive research and field trials to optimize the intercropping strategy. The research evaluates various intercrops, including corn, mungbean, eggplant, bell pepper, sweet potato, and cassava, while also monitoring the health and growth of rubber trees. This approach not only fosters soil



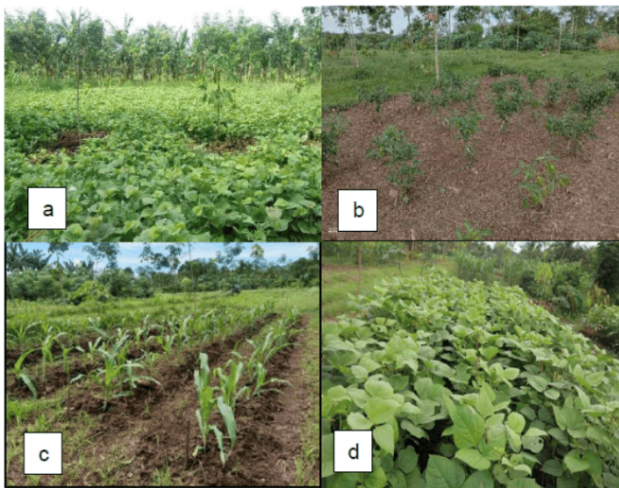
resilience but also provides crucial income during the trees' immature phase, thereby boosting overall agricultural productivity.

The program has achieved three crop cycles of corn and mungbean within the first two years. While cassava shows promise, its potential shading effect on rubber rows requires careful management to optimize growth conditions.

The project's impact extends beyond immediate beneficiaries. The five rubber-based farming system models established in Kabacan, North Cotabato, and Mabuhay, Bayugan City, Agusan Del Sur, serve as living examples of the system's feasibility and benefits. These models have also become training grounds for extension workers, agricultural students, and farmers. Additionally, they have been showcased at the National Organic Agriculture Conference, benefiting 55 farmer-participants from various regions.

This initiative not only improves soil management and diversifies yields for smallholder farmers but also contributes to the empowerment of marginalized communities. By aligning with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP 2023-2028), the program promotes natural resource-based industries and modernizes agriculture, demonstrating that scientific innovation and collaboration can address the challenges of poverty and inequality.

As the program continues to evolve, it highlights the economic viability and environmental benefits of diversified cropping systems. With its potential to improve soil health, enhance productivity, and provide economic opportunities for farmers, this research program stands as a testament to the transformative power of science and partnership in agricultural development.



**Annual intercrops (a. sweet potato, b. bell pepper, c. corn, d. mungbean) planted in the 1-ha rubber farm.** (Image credit: University of Southern Mindanao)

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/cropping-system-for-rubber-boosts-soil-health-and-productivity>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# HOPE FOR ONION FARMERS: Nanopesticide from CLSU 100 percent effective vs. Armyworms

BY JUNEP OCAMPO

Jul 26, 2024 07:17 PM



Onion farmers in the country may soon be breathing a sigh of relief as a groundbreaking nanobiopesticide formulation developed by the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) has shown a 100 percent efficacy in eradicating the deadly “Harabas” or Armyworms within just 48 hours of application.

This breakthrough was announced by Dr. Danila Paragas, the project leader at CLSU, during a recent project review meeting and field monitoring visit in Nueva Ecija.

The development of the nanobiopesticide is the culmination of extensive research funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD).

Dr. Paragas shared that the final formulation emerged from experiments with over 11 different plant extracts and nanoparticles.

Laboratory trials revealed that the nanobiopesticide treatment resulted in a 90% mortality rate for first-instar larvae and a 100% mortality rate for second to third-instar larvae within 48 hours of exposure.

Armyworms, notorious for their rapid destruction, attack onions from the leaves down to the bulb, causing significant damage particularly during the late cooler hours of the night and early morning. The infestation has plagued onion farms, leading to substantial losses for farmers.

A hectare of onion requires only 1.2 liters of the nanobiopesticide, or 200 milliliters per 16-liter knapsack sprayer. This application rate is notably lower compared to traditional chemical pesticides, which typically range from 1.62 to 3.65 liters per hectare. Field experiments have demonstrated the nanobiopesticide's potential not only in eliminating armyworms but also in increasing onion yield by an impressive 28.9%.

“This technology marks a significant advancement in sustainable and environmentally friendly pest management for onions,” Dr. Paragas remarked. “It promises to reduce chemical pesticide application by 75 to 100 percent, offering a safer and more effective alternative for farmers.”

The urgency of this innovation is underscored by the recent report from the Bureau of Plant Industry, which highlighted that over 12,000 hectares of onion farms have been infested by armyworms as of April 30. The most affected regions include the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan). Central Luzon reported the highest affected land area at 6,980.49 hectares, though only 18 hectares sustained total damage due to the timely treatment of partially damaged plantations.

In stark contrast, Cagayan Valley suffered the highest total losses, with 612.40 hectares completely devastated, followed by the Ilocos Region with 43.80 hectares.





<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/hope-for-onion-farmers-nanopesticide-from-clsu-100-percent-effective-vs-armyworms>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Agricultural damage from 'Carina', 'habagat' swells to ₱251.21 million

BY JEL SANTOS

Jul 26, 2024 03:36 PM



(KEITH BACONGCO/MB FILE PHOTO)

The damage incurred by the agricultural sector due to the relentless rains brought about by Typhoon Carina and southwest monsoon or habagat rose to P251.21 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) bared on Friday, July 26.

The agency said the weather disturbances have affected a total of 11,003 farmers.

According to the DA, the regions affected were Central Luzon (Region 3), Calabarzon (Region 4A), Mimaropa (Region 4B), Western Visayas (Region 6), Eastern Visayas (Region 8), Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9), Soccsksargen (Region 12), and Caraga (Region 13).

The agriculture department said a total of 12,764 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas have been devastated by Carina and the southwest monsoon.

Per the DA's report, the most affected crop was palay or rice at 90.85 percent, followed by corn at 5.61 percent, and high-value crops (HVC) at 3.48 percent.

The agency reported that 2,348 livestock with an estimated value of around ₱143,000 died, including chickens, swine, cattle, and goats.

To help the devastated farmers, the agriculture department distributed seeds, made available the Survival and Recovery Loan Program with loans up to P25,000 at zero interest, provided the Quick Response Fund for area rehabilitation, and allocated funds from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that "Carina" (international name: Gaemi) exited the country's area of responsibility on Thursday morning, July 25.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/agricultural-damage-from-carina-habagat-swells-to-251-21-million-1>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **PBBM prioritizes agri rehabilitation in 3 typhoon-hit Central Luzon provinces**

**BY RAYMUND ANTONIO**

Jul 27, 2024 01:33 PM

The restoration of the agricultural sector in Typhoon Carina-hit Bataan, Pampanga, and Bulacan will be the priority of the Marcos administration to ensure harvest and food security, President Marcos said on Saturday, July 27.



*President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. conducts an aerial inspection of typhoon-hit areas in Central Luzon on Saturday, July 27, 2024. (Photo from the Presidential Communications Office)*

The President did an aerial inspection of the three Central Luzon provinces to personally see the extent of the damages brought by the enhanced southwest monsoon and Super Typhoon Carina to the agricultural sector there.

“The three governors agree that agriculture muna ang aayusin natin (that will fix agriculture first),” he said during a situation briefing held at the Bulacan Provincial capitol after the inspection.

“So, mamadaliin natin yan. Iyan ang susunod na gawin ko. Para mahabol ‘yung season. Mahirap naman dahil nagkabagyo walang ani (we will do that quickly. That’s what I’ll do next. For the season to catch up. It will be difficult to have harvest because of the typhoon),” the Chief Executive added.

Although he assured that “we are all right” in the short term, Marcos underscored the need for long-term solutions.

“Kagaya ng sabi ninyo nagsisimula pa lang magtanim kaya mahahabol pa natin ang planting season (As you said, they’re just starting to plant so we can still catch up with the planting season),” the President said.

The provincial governments of Bulacan, Bataan and Pampanga have already placed their respective provinces under a state of calamity because of the extensive damages brought by Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon to the lives and livelihoods of the residents and the various sectors there.

A state of calamity will allow the provinces to access additional funds, as well as impose a price freeze on basic goods.

Based on latest reports, Bulacan lost P103 million and P789 million in its agriculture and infrastructure sectors, respectively, while more than 400,000 families or one million individuals were affected.

Some 7,571 hectares of agricultural land, including 4,494 farmers throughout the province, were affected in Pampanga.

In Bataan, a total of P92.92 million was recorded in agricultural losses, while 208,371 families from 237 flooded barangays were badly affected.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) also announced that the agricultural damage from Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon already reached P400 million, and also affected some 21,785 farmers in Ilocos region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol region, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen, and Caraga.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/27/pbbm-prioritizes-agri-rehabilitation-in-3-typhoon-hit-central-luzon-provinces>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Agriculture damage from 'Carina', habagat nears ₱400 million

**BY JEL SANTOS**

Jul 27, 2024 12:46 PM



(NOEL PABALATE/MB FILE PHOTO)

The agricultural damage from Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon or habagat has reached to nearly ₱400 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) on Friday afternoon, July 26.

In a statement, the DA said the weather disturbance also affected 21,785 farmers in Ilocos region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen and Caraga.

It noted that a total of 23,256 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas have been devastated by Carina and the southwest monsoon.

The agency said 67.64 percent of the total affected areas, or 15,730 ha, have a chance for recovery.

Meanwhile, 7,526 ha, or the remaining 32.36 percent, have no chance of recovery.

The volume of production loss is at 5,599 metric tons (MT), the DA stated.

The DA reported that palay, or rice, suffered the most damage at 89.09 percent, followed by high-value crops (HVC) at 6.04 percent, and corn at 4.77 percent.

According to the agency, the damage to rice, with a volume loss of 4,579 MT, is valued at ₱356.28 million.

The damage to corn is valued at ₱19.07 million, with a volume loss of 545 MT.

High-value crops sustained damage worth ₱24.15 million, with a volume loss of 477 MT.

The DA noted that 2,508 livestock perished due to the weather disturbances, with a total value of ₱411,950.

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

The agency also made available the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), offering loans up to ₱25,000, payable over three years at zero interest.

As such, it provided the Quick Response Fund (QRF) for area rehabilitation and allocated funds from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/27/agriculture-damage-from-carina-habagat-nears-400-million>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos wants more water impounding systems to address Central Luzon flooding

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Jul 27, 2024 02:37 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- In Bulacan alone, the recent calamity caused P103.7 million in damages to the agriculture and fishery sectors. It also brought damages to the province's infrastructures worth P895.6 million.

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Following the massive flooding that submerged many parts of the region, President Marcos has directed building more water impounding systems in Central Luzon (Region III) to address its flooding issues.



**'CARINA' AFTERMATH** — President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. conducts an aerial inspection in Bataan, Pampanga, and Bulacan on July 27, 2024, following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon. (Malacañang photos)

Marcos said this as he led on Saturday morning, July 27, a situation briefing at the Bulacan Provincial Capitol in Malolos City to determine the impact of Super Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon in the region.

In his remarks, the President said he had observed that water in the region had nowhere to go, thus affecting many areas.

"Wala talagang pupuntahan. Mataas yung tubig ng dagat. Mataas yung tubig ng ilog, may baha pa dun sa mga farmlands (The water has nowhere to go. The water level in the sea and the river is high, there's also flood in the farmlands)," he noted.

"Ang laki ng bumaba na tubig, sabay sabay, bigla. Hindi na nakayanan ng ating mga slope protection, ng ating flood control, ng ating mga dike (So much water came down at the same time. Our slop protection, flood control, and dikes could not accommodate it)," he added.

According to Marcos, having more water impounding systems would mitigate flooding in Central Luzon.

"We have to find another way to do it. Kaya palagay ko yung impounding talaga ang pinakamagiging solusyon d'yan (I believe impounding is our best solution)," he said.

In Bulacan alone, the recent calamity caused P103.7 million in damages to the agriculture and fishery sectors. It also brought damages to the province's infrastructures worth P895.6 million.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/27/marcos-wants-more-water-impounding-systems-to-address-central-luzon-flooding>



# Locally made rice transplanter promises efficiency for farmers

**BY JUNEP OCAMPO**

Jul 26, 2024 09:30 PM

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A locally-made riding-type rice transplanter has been unveiled, promising to transform the way rice is planted across the country.

Developed by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) with funding from the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), this innovative machine offers a range of benefits that could revolutionize rice farming practices.

The transplanter is capable of planting rice seedlings on up to two hectares of land per day, boasting an impressive average missing hill rate of just 9.3%.

Compared to traditional manual transplanting methods, this machine operates at an astounding 80% faster pace, significantly enhancing planting efficiency and reducing the labor required.

One of the standout features of the transplanter is its ability to minimize the physical strain associated with manual planting. Designed to address the common issue of labor scarcity during planting season, the machine requires only one operator, thus easing the burden on farmers and allowing them to manage their resources more effectively.

Cost efficiency is another major advantage of this transplanter. Priced at 30% less than imported models, it also demonstrates impressive fuel savings, consuming 1–2 liters less fuel compared to its foreign counterparts. These cost savings make the machine a viable option for small to medium-sized farms looking to optimize their operations without breaking the bank.

Project Leader Arnold S. Juliano of PhilRice highlighted that while the initial prototype has already shown remarkable promise, further improvements are underway. The team is working on a more suitable, simpler, lighter, and cost-effective design, aiming to enhance mobility and planting capacity. These advancements were presented during the Field Monitoring and Evaluation Visit and Project Review meeting organized by DOST-PCAARRD's Agricultural Resources Management Research Division (ARMRD).

Currently, pilot testing of the improved prototype is in progress. Researchers are meticulously gathering data on various performance metrics, including theoretical and actual field capacity, field efficiency, seedlings per hill, spacing between hills, planting orientation, and fuel consumption. This data collection is conducted in accordance with the Philippine National Standards/ Philippine Agricultural Engineering Standards (PNS/PAES 152:2015) to ensure the transplanter meets high-quality benchmarks.

The project is set for completion in 2025, with the goal of delivering a lightweight and affordable transplanter that will boost farmers' incomes by reducing transplanting costs and improving plant density. By utilizing locally sourced materials and skilled labor in the

production of these transplanters, the initiative also aims to create job opportunities and stimulate economic growth in the region.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/26/locally-made-rice-transplanter-promises-efficiency-for-farmers>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Death toll from Carina, monsoon rises to 34

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) - The Philippine Star

July 27, 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 — The death toll following the southwest monsoon enhanced by Typhoon Carina has climbed to 34, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported yesterday.

Twelve of the dead were from Calabarzon, 11 were from Metro Manila, nine were in Central Luzon and two in Bicol.

Seventeen people were also reported injured, police said, while five are still missing in Central Luzon and Calabarzon.

PNP public information officer Col. Jean Fajardo said 22 died due to drowning while five were electrocuted, six were buried by landslide and one was hit by a fallen tree.

Eighteen people were injured, with eight in Metro Manila, six in Calabarzon, three in Central Luzon and one in Ilocos.

Six people across Luzon remain missing.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that 1.3 million people or 299,344 families were affected by the combined effects of the monsoon, Typhoons Carina and Butchoy in all regions in the country.

Of the total figure, 211,396 persons or 53,414 families are staying in evacuation centers, while 675,932 individuals or 114,735 families are taking shelter in other places.

A total of 317 houses were damaged – 240 partially and 77 totally – with an estimated damage to property amounting to P2,661,100.

Damage to agriculture has reached P9,706,852 while damage to irrigation facilities climbed to P6,560,000. For infrastructure, the reported damage was P1,298,974.

NDRRMC said that 1,244 families composed of 3,747 individuals were preemptively evacuated in Ilocos region, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao Region, Caraga and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

The government has so far extended P61,338,767 in assistance to the victims in region Cagayan Valley, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Soccsksargen, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Caraga and CAR, the NDRRMC said.

NDRRMC said that 29 cities and municipalities were placed under State of Calamity including 23 in Calabarzon; three in Mimaropa; one in Davao and two in Soccsksargen.

## **Search and rescue**

Fajardo said search and rescue as well as relief operations by the PNP are still ongoing with areas of concentration in Marikina, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

A man identified as 28-year-old Randolph Wite, who went missing during the onslaught of Typhoon Carina on Wednesday, was found dead by the search and rescue team along Tuman Dulo Riverbank in Barangay Bagong Silangan yesterday.

Wite, a construction worker, reportedly jumped into a creek near their residence before he went missing.

The body of an unidentified woman was also found by a rescue team in Quezon City on Thursday.

Police officers were deployed in evacuation centers to secure evacuees, especially women and children.

Police are also assisting in clearing roads of debris and mud as well other forms of humanitarian response.

Meanwhile, Philippine Army troops conducted rescue operations for 1,500 individuals in Rizal.

The Philippine Army was placed on red alert status and continues to deploy troops from line units while monitoring all human and material resources that are available for duty and deployment.

The Philippine Air Force also provided relief goods for affected families in San Mateo, Rizal on Wednesday.

Family food packs were distributed to evacuees at Dulong Bayan Elementary School and Maly Elementary School in Barangay Sta. Ana, San Mateo, Rizal.

## **Agriculture sector damage**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) yesterday identified Cotabato, Oriental Mindoro and Pampanga as the hardest hit provinces with P164 million in combined damage to the farm sector. Total damage to the agriculture sector in seven regions reached P251 million.

In a radio interview, Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said damage to the farm sector in Cotabato reached P65 million, followed by Oriental Mindoro, P59 million and Pampanga, P40 million.

“This is still small based on our experience in the past year but we are hoping that it will not dramatically increase with the expected onslaught of La Niña,” De Mesa said.

He added that among those affected by the rains and flooding were Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen and Caraga regions.

“Affected were more than 11,000 farmers, more than 3,000 metric tons of our production value and more than 12,000 hectares of plantations. Majority of the damage was recorded in the palay subsector,” De Mesa added.

In Pangasinan, more than P8 million in agriculture and P91 million worth of infrastructure projects were damaged due to Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon.

Forty-six villages in seven towns and a city were flooded due to the incessant rains brought by Carina and the southwest monsoon.

According to De Mesa, most of the damaged crops were in the early vegetative stage.

“We have prepositioned seeds and fertilizer as part of our buffer stock. Once our farmers are ready to plant, our regional field offices are ready to assist them,” he added.

De Mesa said the DA can replenish its P1-billion Quick Response Fund (QRF).

Affected farmers can receive P10,000 to P15,000 indemnity from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

Based on the latest bulletin of the DA, the damage to palay reached P228.23 million; corn, P14.08 million; high value crops, P8.75 million and high value crops, P143,300. — **Ramon Efren Lazaro Jose Rodel Clapano, Pia Lee-Brago, Bella Cariaso, Cesar Ramirez, Jun Elias, Ric Sapnu**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/27/2373306/death-toll-carina-monsoon-rises-34>



## Nature as fact-checker



### [The broader view](#) - [Harry Roque](#) - The Philippine Star

July 27, 2024 | 12:00am

I thought the great deluge of 2009 was a once-in-a-lifetime ordeal for the people of the Greater Manila Area. Fifteen years have passed but our politicians and public servants have not learned a thing from the Ondoy tragedy. The July 24 inundation has revealed a simple fact. Mother Nature, like Father Time, has become a truth-teller. Or, to be exact, the ultimate fact-checker against state propaganda.

My heart goes out to every Filipino victimized by the destructive onslaught of Typhoon Carina and the habagat. I have been praying hard for the immediate rescue and subsequent rehabilitation of all affected individuals.

From America, I watched with deep concern and horror news reports and social media videos as the tropical storm and southwest monsoon battered Metro Manila and other hardest-hit provinces such as Bulacan, Cavite and Rizal. I was in the middle of a seven-day, five-city Maisug Prayer Rally in North America when the disaster struck 16 regions of the Philippines.

### **Grim statistics**

The calamity has claimed 32 persons, according to the Philippine National Police (GMA News). Several individuals are still reported missing. I expect the government, which looks more preoccupied with public relations crisis management than actual disaster and emergency management, to aid and comfort the victims' families speedily.

The STAR reported the Carina-enhanced habagat dumped 471 millimeters of rainfall between midnight of July 24 and midnight of July 25. It surpassed the 455 millimeters of rainfall recorded by PAGASA within 24 hours during Ondoy.

A quick look at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) situation report yesterday shows that the devastation has affected almost 300,000 families and 1.31 million individuals all over the country. There are currently 887,328 displaced Filipinos.

Declared under a state of calamity are 26 cities and municipalities. The affected areas include 53 provinces, 262 cities and municipalities and 1,596 barangays. The NDRRMC reported floodings in 689 areas in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12, as well as the Cordillera Autonomous Region and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao caused by Carina, habagat and Tropical Depression Butchoy.

The extreme weather disturbances massively damaged the agriculture (P16.2 million) and infrastructure (P1.29 million) sectors. At least 1,453 farmers and fisherfolk have been affected. Meanwhile, 234 roads, 21 bridges, 21 seaports and an airport were damaged.

## **Notorious typhoon season**

The months from July to October are notoriously known for having the worst typhoons hitting the country. While every Filipino is used to braving these strong typhoons, which perennially wreak havoc on human lives and properties, our country never seemed resilient enough to come to terms with these extreme weather conditions. This week, the Philippines and the rest of the world witnessed in real time how typhoons and monsoons cause immeasurable damage to our country.

Unfortunately, the severe flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces has served as a natural fact checker to the Chief Executive's boast in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 22. Curiously, a few days before the SONA, President Bongbong Marcos Jr. proposed ten flood control projects worth P500 billion between 2024 and 2037. Last May, he promised to fix the country's flood control system amid the La Niña threat (Inquirer).

Two days after proudly claiming that his administration completed 5,500 flood control projects, the deluge in GMA happened. The irony of ironies? A case of speaking too soon? A big slap on his face? Unwittingly, Mother Nature has unraveled a state-driven deception foisted on an unsuspecting citizenry.

If the country has constructed thousands of flood barriers, how can the government explain the massive flooding on July 24? In the flooding aftermath, PBBM has sidestepped, if not laughed off, media queries on the flood control projects. Should he not be made accountable for his claim?

I recall that last year, Senator Chiz Escudero questioned why the budget earmarked for flood control in 2024 was too big for "tubig." He was aghast that the P255-billion

allocation was even bigger than the entire appropriation for the agriculture, social welfare and defense departments. The Senate President is now asking the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metro Manila Development Authority and local government units for an explanation. The Senate should launch an investigation on the issue.

Meanwhile, Senator Imee Marcos disclosed that both congressional chambers provided sufficient funds for flood control. She said Congress provided a P1.4-billion budget per day for flood control to DPWH and related agencies (GMA News). Like Senators Chiz and Imee, I would like to know: where did the money go? What happened to the 5,500 flood barriers? Why did they fail to protect the people of GMA from the inundation?

## **Corruption-prone**

All those involved in this mess should explain to every taxpaying Filipino and every disaster victim.

I also agree with my co-Maisug prayer warrior Glenn Chong and popular vlogger Maharlika that this disaster exposed corruption and incompetence in the current dispensation. As former party-list congressmen, Glenn and I know that several legislators prefer getting budget allocation for their pet flood control projects.

This type of infrastructure project is prone to corruption, given its questionable project monitoring and evaluation process. For instance, a dredging project contract may require a contractor to excavate 100 tons of sediment and debris from a certain body of water. An unscrupulous contractor in cahoots with erring government officials can easily get away with dredging only five tons of sediment. Obviously, this does not result in effective flood control to safeguard the people and their properties. It only results in fiscal or financial control for corrupt individuals in government.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/07/27/2373250/nature-fact-checker>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Central Luzon bears brunt of super typhoon Carina

By: [Jun A. Malig](#), [Tonette T. Orejas](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:06 AM July 27, 2024



RESCUE Policemen help evacuate members of a family living along a river in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan on Wednesday as Supertyphoon “Carina” batters Luzon. —PHOTO COURTESY OF POLICE REGIONAL OFFICE 3

MABALACAT CITY—Despite leaving the Philippine area of responsibility on Thursday, Supertyphoon “Carina” (international name: Gaemi) left 502 villages flooded in Central Luzon region, affecting 1.137 million people while claiming the lives of at least nine people.

Carina enhanced the southwest monsoon (“habagat”) as it cut a path of destruction over Luzon, triggering landslides and floods at its peak early this week.

Data from the regional police on Friday showed that six of the fatalities recorded in the region were from Bulacan, while the rest were from Pampanga, including Angeles City.

In Bulacan, Norberto Alfonso was found dead in the compound of his residence, while the body of Roy Xavier Dumas was found beside the Linawan River in San Jose del Monte. Jarrel Pangan died after falling in a river in Bocaue.

Village councilman Conrado del Rosario died in a deep flood while helping constituents evacuate in Barangay Abangan Sur in Marilao, while Jennalyn Leoncio drowned in a flood in Tuktukan village in Guiguinto town. The body of an unidentified woman was also seen floating along the Angat River.

In Pampanga, Maria Timbang-Nigas died after floodwater swamped her house in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Lubao.

At 7:10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sweet Dimple Pelayo, 24, and her daughter Diana Joy, 5, were sleeping when rocks and soil buried their house along the bank of Abacan River in Barangay Pampang, Angeles City. They died while the father, Nestor Cerezo Jr., survived.

## **Missing**

In Zambales, authorities were still looking for Narciso Damaso who was swept by the strong current of the Vega River in Natividad village, San Narciso town.

Bataan reported 134 flooded barangays; Bulacan, 162; Pampanga, 143; Zambales, 41; Nueva Ecija, 14; and Tarlac, eight, according to the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) in a report released at 11 a.m. on Friday.

The report of the Pampanga DRRMC on Friday counted 215 flooded barangays in 13 towns and a city.

Water levels in portions of the downstream Pampanga River in Arayat, Candaba and Apalit breached the alert levels.

## **State of calamity**

Only the provincial governments of Bataan and Bulacan and the local government of Macabebe town in Pampanga placed their localities under a state of calamity.

As of Friday, 29,883 people sought refuge in evacuation centers while 59,070 people found safe grounds elsewhere but were being served by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Four dams in the region remained below normal water levels except for Bustos and Ipo dams in Bulacan, with authorities ordering several gates to be opened for the slow release of water.

Seven roads are still not passable as of Friday, the RDRRMC said. In Bulacan, these are the Balagtas to Matungao Road in Bulakan, San Juan and Wawa in Balagtas, and Pandayan and Banga in the City of Meycauayan. In Tarlac, these are in Cacamilangan Sur and Sawat in Camiling.

In Pampanga, the provincial DRRMC reported 51 destroyed houses while 45 others were damaged.

Losses to fisheries in the region were pegged at P17.149 million based on the data of the RDRRMC but the Pampanga DRRMC had already reported damage to palay and fisheries reaching P121.607 million and P185.661 million, respectively.

The regional DSWD reported releasing P26.015 million worth of assistance. The regional Office of Civil Defense provided nonfood items to the City of Meycauayan.

In Tarlac, damage to agriculture reached P52 million, data from the provincial government showed on Thursday.

According to the Tarlac DRRMC, close to 7,000 hectares of farmlands planted with rice, corn and high-value crops were mostly affected.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1966260/central-luzon-bears-brunt-of-carina>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# ‘Nib’ it in the bud: Why PH cacao industry is ahead of the game

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:10 AM July 27, 2024

A value chain approach is necessary for agriculture to succeed. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. is strongly advocating this approach for all subsectors. One perfect example of this is the cacao industry.

When the purely private sector-led Philippine Cacao Industry Association (PCIA) was starting under the leadership of its president, Honorary Consul to Russia Armi Lopez-Garcia, an existing government advocacy was to plant cacao in an area meant for coconut trees spanning 2 million hectares.

PCIA cautioned this should be done only in areas where climate and soil conditions were appropriate. Aside from this, we have not used the correct production technology, leading to an average cacao plant yield of only 0.7 tons. To break even, a plant should produce 2 tons.

In addition, our drying and fermentation processing methods were suboptimal and often defective. These resulted in poor product quality.

Lastly, our cacao is generally not packaged and marketed well.

Three cacao congresses, beginning in 2022, are able to address these three critical parts of the value chain.

## **Production (2022)**

The right soil and climate conditions for proper production had to be taught and emphasized. In addition, several different production technologies being propagated had to be reviewed to determine which had scientific basis.

Consequently, the public-private Philippine Cacao Industry Council or PCIC (chaired by the private sector and cochaired by the Department of Agriculture or DA, and the Department of Trade and Industry or DTI), together with PCIA, assembled cacao experts to examine the different production technologies.

They came out with a harmonized technical cacao production to guide growers on which technologies, specifically those with scientific basis, to use. An extensive training of trainers soon followed.

### **Processing (2023)**

Even if production target yield is achieved, using defective drying and fermentation technology will still lead to poor quality output.

Christopher Fadriga is a model for us to follow. He won the gold medal in a worldwide global cacao competition, crediting this to the mentoring of world-famous cacao and chocolate expert Steven DeVries, whom he met online.

PCIA looked for DeVries and convinced him to help make the Philippine cacao industry a global winner. He taught us his winning drying and fermentation technology at an extremely low cost.

University of Southern Mindanao's Edward Barlaan did an independent test of DeVries' technology and found it to be indeed excellent. PCIA, with the guidance of the DA's Bureau of Plant Industry, later convinced DeVries and Barlaan to share this technology with 33 of our top food scientists from 26 state universities and colleges around the country. All of them vowed to work for our nation to produce the best quality fermented beans in the world.

To make this a reality, PCIA forged several agreements with various government agencies. Key behind all these efforts were the DA, the DTI and the Philippine Coconut Authority.

### **Marketing (2024)**

Finally, <sup>[[[</sup>marketing (including packaging!) has to be addressed.

PCIA now works with Philip Young, special assistant for export development to the Agriculture Secretary.

They are also working with the Department of Science and Technology's Industrial Technology Development Institute on packaging, selling to the local market such as restaurants and fast food outlets, and marketing to the global market through foreign buyer representatives. All this will be covered in the third National Cacao Congress to be held in Cebu City from July 30 to July 31. This will be open to all. For more details, contact PCIC-PCIA's Mary Grace Cepillo (0945-5411501).

Cacao as a dream product is now being transformed into a profitable global winner by using this value chain approach. It is this approach that is necessary—not the usual production-centric way—for all our products if we are to achieve true agriculture development.

The author is Agriwatch chair, former secretary of presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry. Contact is [agriwatch\\_phil@yahoo.com](mailto:agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com)

<https://business.inquirer.net/471478/nib-it-in-the-bud-why-ph-cacao-industry-is-ahead-of-the-game>

**REMATE:**

## **ASF lulutasin ngayong taon – DA chief**

July 26, 2024 17:50



NAIS ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na mawakasan na ang problema ng African Swine Fever (ASF) ngayon taon upang matulungan ang industriya ng baboy na makabangon.

”We are hopeful na ma-solve na unti-unti iyong issue sa ASF and hopefully by the end of the year, halos wala na ito,” aniya sa post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) forum.

Nauna nang sinabi ng DA na naglaan ito ng P350 milyon na badyet para sa pagbili at paglulunsad ng bakuna sa ASF, na ang bukas na proseso ng bidding ay naka-target sa Agosto.

“Isa lang talaga ang akreditado na bakuna. So malamang iyon doon mapunta” sabi ni Laurel sa hiwalay na ambush na tinuran ang nakaraang approval ng Food and Drug Administration (FDA) para sa ASF vaccines mula sa Vietnam.

Aniya, ang target ay para sa isang government-controlled vaccine rollout noong Setyembre sa red at yellow zones sa bansa, o mga lugar na itinuturing na hotspot para sa ASF, upang masubaybayan ang epekto at bisa nito bago magpatuloy sa malawakang paggamit.

“For government use, for trial, mass trials. Pero after six months of the trials, kung okay lahat at walang nakikitang problema ayon kay Laurel.

Idinagdag pa ng DA chief na ang mga commercial mass vaccination ay maaaring maging posible sa bansa sa 2025.

Kaugnay nito bukod sa paglulunsad ng bakuna sa ASF, nauna nang inihayag ni Laurel ang mga plano na patakbuhan ang unang cold examination facility sa agrikultura (CEFA) sa Angat, Bulacan noong Enero 2025.

Ang CEFA ay isang sanitary phytosanitary inspection facility para sa mga imported na hayop, isda, halaman at iba pang produktong pang-agrikultura upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng pagkain at maiwasan ang pagpasok ng mga peste at sakit ng hayop tulad ng ASF, avian flu at Q fever, bukod sa iba pa.

Sinabi ni Laurel na isinasagawa na rin ang mga plano na magbukas ng apat na karagdagang CEFA sa Setyembre 2025 sa Manila, Subic sa Zambales, Davao Region at General Santos City. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/asf-lulutasin-ngayong-taon-da-chief/>

**REMATE:**

# Permanenteng Kadiwa sites na patatakbuhan ng farmers coop target ng DA

July 26, 2024 13:05



MANILA, Philippines – SINABI ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang planong pagtatatag ng “permanent” at mga tindahan ng Kadiwa na patatakbuhan ng mga kooperatiba ng magsasaka upang higit pang isulong ang mga target ng seguridad sa pagkain at abot-kaya ng administrasyon.



Nabatid sa post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) forum, sinabi ni Laurel na layunin ng DA na magtayo ng 1,500 tindahan ng Kadiwa sa susunod na tatlong taon upang mapagsilbihan ang lahat ng munisipalidad at lungsod sa buong bansa bilang pagsunod sa mga direktiba ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. tiyakin ang napapanatiling operasyon ng mga sentro ng Kadiwa para makapagbigay ng mas murang mga produktong pang-agrikultura sa mga Pilipino.

“Ang gagawin natin ay ile-level up natin from mere pop-up stores, gagawin nating permanent brick and mortar stores from all over the Philippines, ” sinabi ng Kalihim.

Ayon pa kay Laurel sa katagalan, ang mga operasyon ng mga tindahan ng Kadiwa ay nasa ilalim ng mga kooperatiba ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda upang matiyak na ang mga mamamakyaw at retailer ay magiging “tapat,” at makatulong na maiwasan ang pagkakakitaan.

“Ang plano natin ay magiging cooperative-run ito eventually. So iyong mga farmers at fishers mismo ay makaka-diretso sa consumers para lumaki ang kita ng farmers at fisherman at bumaba naman ang bilihin,” sabi ni Laurel.

Kaugnay nito nangako naman ang Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) na pakilusin ang mga local government units para tumulong sa pagsasakatuparan ng mga programang ito at isulong ang food security at economic development ng administrasyon.

Samantala, nagpahayag naman ng optimismo si Laurel na maabot ang paglago ng produksyon ng agri-fishery sa bansa sa tulong ng mga imprastraktura ng irigasyon.

Ito ay sa kabila ng epekto ng El Niño phenomenon at ang nagbabadyang La Niña.

”Marami pa tayong irigasyon na lupa gaya ng binanggit ng Pangulo. Sa Jalaur, 32,000 hectares and another 45,000 hectares na nabigyan ng solar irrigation na tiyak na tataas ang production,” ayon pa sa Kalihim.

Nauna nang nagpahayag ng kumpiyansa ang DA sa pagkamit ng 20.4 million metric tons (MMT) ng palay (unhusked rice) production para sa taon, mas mataas kaysa noong nakaraang taon na 20.06 MMT production. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/permanenteng-kadiwa-sites-na-patatakbuhi-ng-farmers-coop-target-ng-da/>

**REMATE:**

## **24/7 DRRM ops para sa disaster-affected farmers tiniyak ng DA**

July 27, 2024 14:44



MANILA, Philippines- Tiniyak ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang 24/7 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) ops para sa mga disaster-affected farmers.

Layon nito na maayos na suriin ang epekto ng pinalakas na southwest monsoon o Habagat at bagyong Carina sa buong sektor.

“Lahat po ng concerns ay pwede pong tanggapin sa bawat regional field office, nakatutok,” pahayag ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa isang panayam.

Sinabi pa ni De Mesa na maaaring dumirekta ang mga magsasaka sa DA regional offices at municipal agriculturists.

Kabilang naman sa available na tulong ay ang 72,174 bags ng rice seeds; 39,546 bags ng corn seeds; 59,600 pouches at 1,966 kg ng vegetable seeds; P25,000 halaga ng loan sa ilalim ng Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan program mula sa Agricultural Credit Policy Council, na may zero interest at maaaring bayaran sa loob ng tatlong taon; at aktibasyon o pagpapagana sa pondo sa ilalim ng quick response fund at Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

“Sa ngayon, 11,003 magsasaka ang apektado, may agricultural damage na P251.21 million,” ayon sa DA-DRRM Bulletin No. 9.

“Maliit pa ito kumpara sa, base sa mga nararanasan natin sa mga nakalipas na taon. Umaasa rin tayo na hindi masyadong magiging malala iyong pagpasok ng La Niña,” ayon kay De Mesa.

Ang rice sector ang nagtamo ng ‘most damage’ na may P228.23 million o 2,912 MT (metric tons) pagdating a volume, sinundan ng mais na may 297 MT (P14.08 million), high value crops na may 228 MT (P8.75 million) at livestock na may P143,300.

Nauna rito, sinabi ng DA na may 500,000 MT hanggang 600,000 MT production ang inaasahan na magiging lughi sa bawat taon dahil sa natural calamities. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/24-7-drrm-ops-para-sa-disaster-affected-farmers-tiniyak-ng-da/>

# Brace for next flood during La Niña period



CARINA' AFTERMATH. President Marcos conducts an aerial inspection of the floodway in Rizal to assess the extent of the damage and address the severe flooding in the province caused by Super Typhoon 'Carina.'

By Charles Dantes, Rio N. Araja, Rex Espiritu, Maricel Cruz, Macon Ramos-Araneta & Othel V. Campos

July 27, 2024, 12:50 am

President Marcos ordered national and local governments to prepare for future floods following the onslaught of Super Typhoon “Carina” and the enhanced southwest monsoon or “habagat” in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

“Let’s prepare for the next flood. This is the first typhoon during La Niña, and we still have a long way to go during this rainy season. So, we have to prepare for that,” the President said during a briefing in Mauban, Quezon where 986 families were displaced.

A low pressure area over the east of southern Mindanao will likely trigger rains on Monday as students troop back to school, the state weather bureau said.

Weather specialist Ana Clauren-Jorda said the LPA is forecast to cause rainy weather conditions on Monday in the eastern section of Southern Luzon, Bicol, Eastern Visayas and other parts of Visayas, Caraga, Davao Region and parts of Mindanao.

PAGASA, however, said there is only a slim chance the low pressure area could intensify into a tropical cyclone in the next 24 hours.

Mr. Marcos emphasized the need for a coordinated flood control strategy considering the changing weather patterns and rising sea levels.

He noted that previously flood-free areas are now experiencing flooding, highlighting the need for comprehensive, long-term projects and a reassessment of existing systems to adapt to changing conditions.

“We’re trying to assess what the significant changes are because all our flood control projects were designed based on past flooding...The areas that used to be safe from flooding – now everything has changed. So that’s what we need to figure out,” President Marcos said.

A total of 253 areas in the country were still submerged in flood due to the “habagat,” Typhoon “Butchoy” and “Carina,” the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Friday said.

The agency said Central Luzon still holds the highest number of flooded areas at 202, followed by Miraopa with 22 areas.

There are still 90 roads and 6 bridges across the country that were not passable and 24 areas still have power interruptions, NDRRMC said.

The Department of Agriculture, for its part, reported initial losses of P251.21 million across 12,764 hectares of affected farmland.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314476785/brace-for-next-flood-during-la-nina-period.html>



# Rabbit industry gets boost in Nueva Vizcaya

By Leander C. Domingo

July 27, 2024

**BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya** — A cooperative in this municipality has collaborated with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to help the rabbit industry "hop into new heights."

Lawyer Michael Paggabao, DTI Nueva Vizcaya provincial director, said the agency is "giving the rabbit industry a bunny boost and hop into new heights" with the Nueva Vizcaya Rabbit Breeders Agriculture Cooperative (NVRBAC).

Paggabao said his team recently met with NVRBAC members led by its chairman Rusty Cabacungan in this town to listen to their concerns related to low rabbit production in the province.



BUNNY BOOST DTI Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Director Michael Paggabao commits to giving the rabbit industry a 'bunny boost' as the DTI team recently met with the members of the Nueva Vizcaya Rabbit Breeders Agriculture Cooperative on July 22, 2024, in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

During the meeting, Paggabao said the members of the NVRBAC highlighted several concerns, including low production rates, market challenges, and the public's lack of awareness about the health benefits of rabbit meat.

"We are helping the cooperative ensure food safety through the provision of personal protective equipment kits under Project Safe particularly to micro, small and medium enterprises," he said.

"Under Strengthening Advocacy on Food Safety Enhancement or Project Safe, our team gave assurance that we will support the members of the NVRBAC through a range of interventions."

Paggabao also cited research results proving that rabbit meat is one of the healthiest, leanest and most environmentally friendly meats to eat.

"Our intervention includes featuring them in our marketing campaigns which aim to promote the industry and its opportunities, and raise public awareness about the health benefits of rabbit meat," he said.

"It has the highest percentage of protein, the lowest percentage of fat, and the fewest calories per pound."

Initially, the DTI provided the NVRBAC with a Rabbit Meat Processing Facility provided under the agency's shared service facility or SSF program and assisted its MSME members with packaging and labeling improvements.

**ADVERTISEMENT**

"The DTI Nueva Vizcaya's comprehensive support strategy is set to boost the rabbit industry by addressing critical challenges and seizing growth opportunities," Paggabao said.

He also underscored that enhancing public awareness and providing essential resources will position the rabbit industry to a prosperous future, benefiting both local farmers and consumers alike.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/27/regions/rabbit-industry-gets-boost-in-nueva-vizcaya/1960104>

# Malaysian palm oil makers explore opportunities in PHL tourism, food

Andrea E. San Juan  
July 26, 2024

MALAYSIAN palm oil producers aim to “redefine” business operations with the Philippines’s private sector as they explore opportunities in the country’s tourism and food industries which they said could pave the way for higher consumption of palm oil in the country.

“Although palm oil is mainly used for food manufacturing in the Philippines, there are other areas where you can expand it and this is what I think it’s important,” Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino said at the Trade Networking and Business Matching hosted by the Malaysia Palm Oil Council (MPOC) in Makati City on Friday.

Castelino said the private sectors of Malaysia and Philippines could explore “various” opportunities to “redefine our business operations and to ensure that we form strategic alliances and discover new ways of how to expand the market both in terms of product and in terms of technology.”

The Malaysian ambassador said palm oil opportunities could be explored in the tourism and food industries.

“The increasing number of hotels, chains and restaurants will boost the usage and demand of palm oil and cooking oil which will pave the way for higher consumption of palm oil refinery in the country,” said Castelino.

Castelino said these as 10 Malaysian palm oil suppliers, representing all sectors of the industry including bulk exports, packed products, and finished products, have flocked to Manila to participate in a Trade Networking and Business Matching session to look for more opportunities in the Philippines.

Rina Mariati Gustam, Regional Manager of Asia Pacific Region at Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC), revealed that in 2023, the Philippines imported around 441,000 metric tons (MT) of palm oil from Malaysia, which she noted is

equivalent to 11 percent of Malaysian palm oil export to the Asia Pacific region or around 4.08 million MT.

Citing Oil World, Gustam said palm oil is the main imported oil in the Philippines with the share of 83 percent from the total oils and fats import in 2023.

“Import of palm oil is influenced by the production of local coconut oil,” she added, noting that the Philippines is the number one producer of coconut oil in the world with a share of 39.5 percent.

With this, she highlighted that the Philippines is poised for “rapid economic growth” should there be growth in the middle class, saying this will increase “discretionary spending.”

“This spending boost will benefit the hotel, restaurant, and catering industries,” Gustam noted.

Highlighting the market potential of palm oil in the Philippines, Gustam noted the Filipino consumers’ demand for food and beverages is expected to continue to increase year by year. “Hence, palm oil also has bright growth in the development of food sectors in the Philippines.”

She added that the savory snacks market in the Philippines is forecasted to increase to US\$1.2 billion in 2026, with compound annual growth rate (CAGR) at 11.9 percent from 2023 to 2026.

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) official also unveiled opportunities for palm oil growth in the country which could rely on: packed edible oil market; growth in baked goods; growth in packaged food and growth in food service.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/26/malaysian-palm-oil-makers-explore-opportunities-in-phl-tourism-food>